

Finalists Compete in The Sound Star Search 2008 at Creek Casino in Atmore

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Atmore, Alabama – February 29, 2008. Creek Casino in Atmore, Alabama has presented The Sound Star Search 2008 singing competition in January and February. Twelve contestants competed to win the \$5,000 Grand Prize each week during the two months. These contestants were evaluated on singing talent, presentation and performance.

The last Semi-finalist competition will be held Friday, February 29th at 8:00 PM. The three semifinalists are Kristen Gronewold from Pensacola, FL; Dewayne “Dew” Pendleton from Jay, FL; and Kelton French from Molino, FL.

Kelton French was born in Augusta, GA. and is 18 years YOUNG! Kelton has lived in Milton, FL. for the last 13 years of his young life. Kelton began singing at The First Apostolic Church of Milton, FL. at 14 years old. At 15 he was the winner of his first competition "The Colgate Country Showdown" for 2005. From there he was in high demand for local events such as the Relay For Life and home town festivals. Kelton loves to sing and it shows. He began guest singing at the Farmers Opry in Chumuckla, FL after his CCSD win in 2005 and continued to do so every Friday and Saturday night because he loved to sing. In July of 2006 Kelton was made an official member of the Sawmill Band which is the Farmers Opry house band. Kelton has a large group of fans ranging from very young to, well, much OLDER! There are about 30 of them who have faithfully been at the Sound Star Search in support of Kelton. Kelton auditioned for Nashville Star on the 17th and will be going to Nashville, TN for the 3rd step in hopes of making it all the way to the Nashville Star show in August. Ask any one of his faithful fans that attend the Opry every weekend and they will tell you "Kelton is a great kid who keeps himself humble regardless of how far he goes" He never wants his competition to think that he thinks he is all that! He knows there is some great competition out there and is just thankful to be able to be apart of it and to find himself in the top of a competition such as the Sound Star search is an honor.

Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Kristin Gronewold has been entertaining audiences since the age of four. She has been singing, acting, and dancing professionally for 10 years, and has obtained several credits in Theatre, Television, Modeling, and Film. In 2004, Kristin was a cast member in the International Tour of West Side Story, working with Times Square Productions, New York, NY and Stairway

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Productions, The Netherlands. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting/Directing, and studied vocal performance with Dr. James Brown, a Julliard graduate and a regular in New York City's opera and theatre scenes. More recently, Kristin has been a dance instructor, teaching, hip hop, jazz, tap, gymnastics, and ballet to hundreds of students, and has also choreographed many musical theatre reviews and professional stage shows. Now living in Pensacola, FL with her husband Lance Corporal Michael Gronewold, United States Marine Corps, Kristin is energetically pursuing her career in music and dance. She is excited to be living in the Gulf Coast, and anxiously awaits discovering the many opportunities this holds.

Dewayne Pendleton, known as Dew, was born January 31, 1982 in Brewton, AL and raised in rural Sellersville community in north Santa Rosa County. He describes his beginnings as humble, "but we never thought we were poor, because we had so much love. I started singing as far back as I and my mom can remember." Dew entered his first talent contest at Munson elementary at age 12, and was asked to come and sing at the graduation that year. Dew learned to sing in church and tries to take that conviction and passion to every song that he performs. He started writing music when he was 13 and started playing the piano when he was 17. He has written over 300 songs, and writes most days. As Dew explains, "I draw from personal experiences and take that soul from gospel and tell the story like only country music can. I put that on a rock beat with a lil' rhythm & blues... I love experimenting with my music and expanding daily. I wrote the best music after my divorce and thru the worst times in my life... I have "music in my blood", all my family sings and plays instruments. The Atmore Casino has given me an awesome opportunity because I have tried out for "Nashville Star" and they said I wasn't country enough. I tried out for "American Idol" and they told me I was too country. And then last year I tried out again and they said they didn't have time to develop me? (laughs) So I have been 'developing' as I perform in Atmore at the Creek Casino! I'm grateful, and in a good place in life."

Dewayne Pendleton was featured on the WKRG TV News 5 morning show Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Kelton French and Kristin Gronewold were interviewed by Zack Davis on WABB 97.5 Radio on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

The three semi-finalists will sing four different songs with four different styles of music (Country, Rock, Disco, R&B). One contestant, the 3rd place winner, will be eliminated and will receive \$1,000 in prize money.

The Grand Finale for the winner of the Sound Star Search 2008 is Saturday March 1st, at 8:00 PM. The final two contestants will sing ten different songs of their choice. The winner will then be announced and the prize money for the winner (\$5,000) and the 2nd place contestant (\$2,000) will be given out.

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