

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 March 2016

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SOUTHERN VERMONT IDOL COMES TO ROCKINGHAM

Keene Idol has now become Southern Vermont Idol! For twelve years, the premiere amateur singing competition known as Keene Idol was a signature event in Keene, NH. In 2016, producer Susan MacNeil, who has relocated to Bellows Falls, VT will present the 13th year of the event under its new name. Although the five-week timeframe of July and August will remain the same and contestants do not have to reside in southern Vermont to compete, other aspects of the event will change in its new location beginning with the audition process.

Age Categories: Youth ages 6-12 – Teen ages 13-19 – Young Adults ages 20-30 – Adults 31+. Age category is determined by contestant age during the event. *For instance, if someone is 12 when they audition but turns 13 in July, they would be considered a Teen contestant.*

Audition/Event Location and Dates: Auditions will be held on the stage at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT on three Saturdays: April 23, May 14 and June 18.

Audition Times: Youth and Teens from 2-4pm -- Young Adults and Adults 6-8pm.

Music: Two-minute audition. Bring your own CD, email MP3 with advance paid registration or perform acapella.

Audition Fee: Adult \$30. Youth \$10.

Registration: Registration preferred online in advance or at the door.

Repeat Auditions: Contestants may audition up to three times by paying additional entry fee. The highest score achieved will be considered.

Audition Audience Voting: The audience will now have input about which contestants compete in the event. Audience scores count for 75%. A mystery judge's scores will count for 25%.

Audition Audience Ticket: \$10 General Admit, \$5 Seniors 62+, Youth 12 and under free. Voting ballot comes with paid admission.

For the purposes of this event, "amateur" is defined as a performer who engages in singing occasionally, paid or unpaid, rather than as a sole profession.

Twenty adult and 12 youth contestants will be notified no later than June 25. The event competition begins on Saturday, July 9 and continues on July 16, 23, 30 and August 5. Adult grand prize of \$1500. Four adults and four youth will receive prizes, awarded at the August 5 finale.

Net proceeds benefit the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), a nonprofit organization in Bellows Falls, Vermont. RAMP celebrates 20 years of commitment to integrating the arts into the long-term sustainability of the community by creating effective partnerships that initiate and support accessibility, affordable housing, artist town meetings, public art initiatives and policy making.

Visit the website at <http://southernvermontidol.com> for all details and ticket purchases. To be added to the email list and/or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, contact MacNeil at susan@svidol.com or call 603-313-0052.

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