



Rotarian Idol

**March 27, 2021
7:00pm**

**Live from the
Drendel Auditorium
at the SALT Block**

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WELCOME

The Rotary Club of Hickory is proud to present tonight's 2021 Rotarian Idol to the community. This signature event is our showcase of the amazing talent from Hickory and overall North Carolina. This past year's closure of venues, social events and gatherings has not only impacted our club's fundraisers but so many other non-profit clubs and groups that fund and support local charities. We are so grateful to our sponsors, endorsers and advertisers that have chosen to continue supporting our efforts through our Rotarian Idol showcase of talent. We are equally as appreciative to those that have purchased tickets and are enjoying this evening's show. Your support does not go unnoticed.

This year marks our Centennial of Service encapsulating 100 years of history, service and philanthropic support to our beloved city. Founded in 1921, the Rotary Club of Hickory is Catawba County's first and most widely recognized service organization. We take great pride in our club's rich history of giving back to the community. The Rotary International motto of "Service Above Self," and the 2021 theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities" continues to push our club members to give more of their time, talent and treasure.

The funds raised from this evening's program will be distributed into the community to help with our mission to fund education by placing books in hands of area-preschoolers free of charge through the Catawba County Partnership for Children/Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, support our high school Interact Service Club, enable teachers through the "Wilmer Jenkins Teacher of the Year" award, support students through our "Service Above Self" college scholarships and showcase budding art talent through the Hickory Museum of Art "Paul Whitener Student Art Show. "

Thank you to our Rotarian Idol co-chairs Bonita Ferretti and John Rambo for pulling together this virtual event with the help of many behind the scenes Rotarian volunteers. Thank you also to our spectacular judges for your time and singers for showcasing your talent. Enjoy the show!

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Founded in 1921, the Rotary Club of Hickory is Catawba County's first and most widely recognized service organization. We take great pride in our club's rich history of giving back to the community that has given so much to every one of us. In adherence to Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self," our club's primary service avenue is education. In addition, we engage in a number of other service projects that benefit citizens in need, such as ongoing support of Catawba County's Partnership for Children Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Hickory Public Schools' Teacher of the Year, Service Above Self College Scholarships, Salvation Army bell ringing, providing meals and gifts and Christmas, and Red Cross blood drives, to name a few.

Since 2010, the Idol event has raised and distributed over \$400,000 for educational needs throughout Catawba County including, scholarships for deserving students, Teacher of the Year awards, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library which is distributed by the Catawba County Partnership for Children, and other community-based educational programs.

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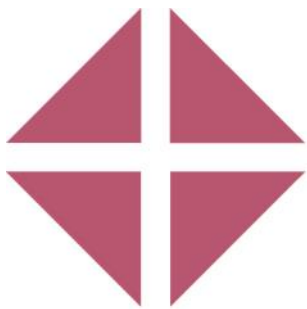


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Rotarian Idol

Order of Performance

Act I

Savannah Spencer

Devante Burch

Alicia Littlejohn

Bethany Spears

Paula Holdaway

Dontel Mills

Morgan Lee

Jeren Parker

Act II

Michael Brown

Kayla Harper

Samantha Sheets

Eric Phillips

LaBeth Smith

Luciel Hall

LaRhonda Carlton



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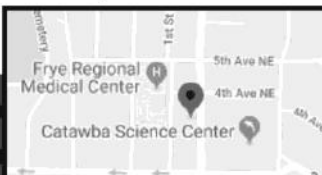


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Thank you, Hickory Rotary!

516,882

The number of free books that have been sent to Catawba County children since we brought Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program to Catawba County in 2011.

97%

The percentage of parents who read to their child several times a day, thanks to their participation with Imagination Library!

9,080

The number of children who have received a year's worth of Imagination Library books because of the ongoing commitment of the Hickory Rotary Club!

Imagination Library sends one free book to each enrolled child every month until the child turns five years of age.

A portion of the proceeds from Rotarian Idol are donated to our local Imagination Library program, putting books in the hands of children.

Together, we're building brighter futures for Catawba County children!

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Meet the Contestants—Part One



Michael Brown has enjoyed singing his entire life. Brown, a patient representative at Graystone Eye, has entered Rotarian Idol before but hasn't yet won. He enjoys the "riffs, runs, oohs and aahs" vocal music. Brown admits, singing is "my outlet".



Devante Burch enjoys everything about singing. He loves "the feeling you get when you make a beautiful sound come from within," says the singer. He is the founder and CEO of Black Tie Events, Catering and Entertainment.



LaRhonda Carlton says "Singing is a way of desensitizing to the world around me when I'm stressed". The Lenoir resident sees the Rotarian Idol competition as "an opportunity to display my passion and talent". She works for Alexander County Schools.



Luciel Hall has "always enjoyed the thrill yet serenity music has brought to my life", says Hall. In addition to singing, Hall enjoys reading, volunteering and gaming. She auditioned for Idol because she's always wanted to be in a talent competition.



Kayla Harper loves singing. "It's my passion", she says. She competed in Idol 2018 and auditioned this time because she "wanted another shot at first place". She's performed at Hickory Community Theatre and the Green Room.

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Meet the Contestants—Part Two



Paula Holdaway says “Singing is relaxing to the soul”. The Thomasville native worked in Nashville for a time as a demo recording artist. She and her husband David have a son and a ten year old grandson.



Morgan Lee says “singing is my greatest passion”. “I’m not very good at communicating and singing helps me express great emotions.” The Newton resident is currently in college and hopes to turn her singing into a career in the future.



Alicia Littlejohn moved to Conover from Chugiak, Alaska two years ago. “I really enjoy the emotional part of singing”, she says . “It’s a great stress reliever”. She heard about Idol from her voice teacher and thought it would be fun.



Dontel Mills says “singing has been a passion of mine since a karaoke contest at 4 years old. I love to perform and entertain people.” He has a BA in business from UNC Charlotte and is currently a machine operator at Tyson Foods in Claremont.



Jeren Parker says he “enjoys the freedom and calmness I have when I sing”. The singer is a native of Stony Point and has lived in Hickory for the last 13 years. Parker is a utility locator and a CNA. He loves music, the outdoors and laughter.



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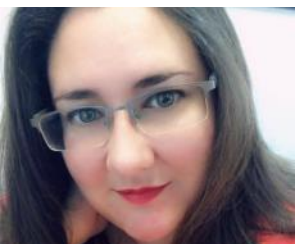
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Meet the Contestants—Part Three



Eric Phillips has been singing with bands since he was 16. “Music is my first love,” he says. He loves the creativeness, passion and story telling that are all a part of singing. In addition to singing, Phillips plays the guitar and drums.



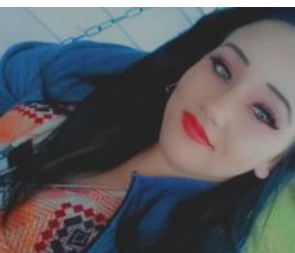
LaBeth Smith has been singing in church since she was very young. “Music is an outlet for any emotion you’re feeling” she says. She lives in Morganton with her husband James and their two children, Sara age 7 and Madison Rae age 3.



Bethany Spears has always enjoyed singing and “finally worked up the courage to audition,” she says. “I’ve had many friends who competed in the past and I’ve enjoyed their performances.” She works as a Young Toddler teacher at Hickory YMCA.

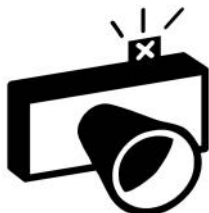


Savannah Spencer is competing for the sixth time this year. She took third place in 2015 when she was just 13 years old. Now she is a singer, songwriter and guitarist. She enjoys singing because “I love to tell stories that touch people’s hearts.”



Samantha Sheets has loved to sing since she was seven years old. She said she likes “to entertain people, to uplift my spirits and others.” She remodels homes with J&J Construction and has a three year old son named Wyatt.

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