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# Torrington Parks & Recreation



## **2016 FINALS**

**THE WARNER  
THEATRE  
AUGUST 13, 2016  
7:00 PM**

*Torrington Parks & Rec.  
153 South Main Street  
Torrington, CT 06790  
(860) 489-2274*

*The Warner Theatre  
68 Main Street  
Torrington, CT 06790  
(860) 489-1780*

# Who's Who

## Judges

Lynn Whittaker

Dan Ringuette

Bill Benson

## Hosts

Casey McKenna

Tim Urban

Sara Larkin

## The Band



# Special Thanks:

Casey McKenna

Jessica Storrs

Lynn Whittaker

Bill Benson

Vin Avallone, Semi-Finals ~ Sound & Music

Chris McKenna, Harwinton Photo ~ Photography Jacque Williams

Scott Whittaker ~ Additional Photos & Videos Theresa Channel

Sara Larkin

Donna Winn

Dan Ringuette

Opening Night Band

Tim Urban

The New Day Group, Inc. ~ Audio & Video

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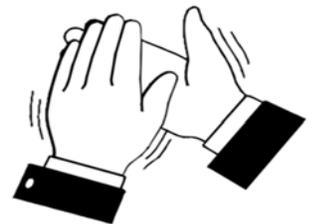
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# THE CONTESTANTS



## **HALI SOULIER BURLINGTON, CT**

I am looking forward to singing in the competition again as I got really great advise and coaching from the judges last year. I have been singing since I was little and it's what I want to do when I am older. Singing has helped me overcome many things in life. Some experiences I have are performing at the "Performance Hub" for PPRN (live radio), choir concerts. I performed in last year's competition and I'm very glad to be back in 2016. Experience - Finished in the 2015 NW Idol top 10.

## **AMANDA ZONTOK TORRINGTON, CT**



Amanda is a busy mother and file maintenance clerk who lives and works in Torrington. She graduated in 2007 from Oliver Wolcott Tech. With barely any music experience she placed third in the 2015 Northwest Idol Competition. Amanda's dream is to overcome her stage fright and be able to perform with talented musicians.

## Past Winners:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2006:	26 and up 16 - 25	Antwan Johnson Patrick Reardon
2007:	26 and up 16 - 25	Maxine Howard Sean McVerry
2008:	26 and up 16 - 25	Janette Dubray Mike Fedesco
2009:	26 and up 16 - 25	Ann Marie Beaver-Singletary Sara McVerry
2010:	26 and up 16 - 25	Brianna Engle Aubrey VanAllen
2011:	15 and up	Nodjela Cole
2012:	15 and up	Jessica Storrs
2013:	15 and up	Bill Benson
2014:	15 and up	Sara Larkin
2015	15 and up	Nehita Waller

# Northwest Idol 2016 is Sponsored by:

### Mayor:

Elinor Carbone

### Staff:

Brett Simmons,  
Superintendent Parks & Recreation

Joan Vergaro,  
Senior Secretary

Gladys Brennan,  
Office Assistant

Laoise Luciano,  
Office Assistant



153 South Main St.  
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### Commission:

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Fran DuCotey,  
Vice-Chairperson

Jim Pescatore,  
Secretary

Dan Lovallo,  
Commission Member

Gerry Carbone,  
Commission Member

### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:30PM

<http://www.torringtonct.org>

in conjunction with:



# Hosts - Finals/Semi-Finals

## CASEY MCKENNA

Casey McKenna is again co-hosting the final competition and show. He is no stranger to the Warner Theatre stage! Casey has performed in several theatre productions at the Warner as well as other theaters. His Warner credits include Nick Arnstein "Funny Girl" for which he was named Connecticut Actor of the Year. Other favorite roles include Henry Higgins in 'My Fair Lady' at Seven Angels Theatre and many others. Casey has been hosting the Northwest Idol Competition for 11 years since it was created back in 2006. As a loyal volunteer to Northwest Idol and the Parks and Recreation Department as a whole, Casey plays a vital role in the production of this very popular competition. The Parks and Recreation Department is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and professional volunteer!

## TIM URBAN

During the 2010 season of American Idol, Tim Urban emerged on the national music scene with a blend of his smooth vocals, all American charm and trademark smile. His talent, determination and upbeat attitude won the hearts of fans all over the world and earned him the number seven slot in the competition.

Tim's journey towards a music career began with his birth on May 1, 1989 in Washington State. His musical style was influenced by such musicians as Jim Croce, John Denver, Third Day, James Taylor, Michael Buble, Coldplay and Matt Nathanson. He continued to develop his love for music throughout high school, performing in various musical theater productions and playing at local music venues. Tim also discovered his talent for song writing during this time. He recorded his first CD of original music called Run Away in 2008. Since finishing the American Idol 2010 concert tour, Tim has continued to press forward with his career as a recording artist. An avid song writer, Tim immediately set to work composing and recording his own material for an album. He released his EP Heart of Me on November 8, 2010 through iTunes. He continues to write new music, pursue acting opportunities and perform concerts around the country. This is Tim's 2<sup>nd</sup> year Co-Hosting Northwest Idol!

## JESSICA STORRS

Jessica is a Torrington native and winner of the 2012 Northwest Idol and was a judge for the Kid Rock contest. She currently works as a Registered Nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Jessica began singing in the second grade at St. Peter's school and church and now volunteers to cantor for her church. She has sung for many events including the National Anthem for the Torrington Titans, Light Up Main, Toys For Tots, weddings and anniversaries. She sang in a country, rock and blues band and has also been a singer in selected concert choirs. Jess says "music speaks what cannot be expressed" she wants to wish all the contestants the best of luck tonight and remember.....sing from the heart and for the moment!



# THE CONTESTANTS

## GARYSSON LAPLANTE TORRINGTON, CT



I have sung in acda and regional choirs in High School and various musicals at Thomaston Opera House. I am also a song-writer. My preferred genres to sing and listen to vary greatly from rock and alternative, to opera and contemporary.

## JOMO MAYKA BURLINGTON, CT



I was born in Poland and migrated to the United States 25 years ago. I have been a singer since an early age.



## JAZMON LATOUR TORRINGTON, CT

Born in Torrington. My fourth year at Northwest Idol. I am currently working at Lowes as a pro-services associate, helping local contractors and businesses. I also play softball in the Torrington Women's League.

## JUSTIN NORMANDIN THOMASTON, CT

Justin "Ken" Normandin is thrilled to be back competing in Northwest Idol! He graduated from Waterbury Arts Magnet School last year and is ready to dive head first into the Art scene, and continues to write and perform his own music.



## VIVIAN JIMENEZ-RIJO TORRINGTON, CT

I am a fifteen year old aspiring actress, singer and dancer. I have done community and school theater for six years. I am also in my choir and on the Torrington High School Dance Team.

# THE CONTESTANTS

## **CJ BARBER BARKHAMSTED, CT**

I have been involved in local musical theater since I was five years old. Some of my recent roles include Hope Cladwell in Northwest Regional 7's Production of "Urinetown", which got 13 nominations at the Halo Awards. I also played Veruca Salt in TCC's production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and Rusty in Star 7's production of "Footloose". I plan to take a year off before college to pursue my acting and singing dream, and audition for various productions in NYC. Depending on where that goes, I have plans to go to a conservatory school for musical theatre and directing.



## **ALLISON DOBKINS WATERTOWN, CT**



This is my first year competing in Northwest Idol. I'm 15 years old and from Watertown CT. I sing and write songs, play volleyball, and participate in the musical theater program at my school. I've competed in other events such as Talent America, Barnum's Got Talent, and won first runner up in the National American Miss Talent competition.

## **BOBBI JO KLUG TORRINGTON, CT**

This is my 5th year competing in Northwest Idol, I sing the National Anthem at the Torrington Warrior Football games (where I am the team mom for the 8th grade team), I sing Karaoke with Sound Solutions in my spare time, and I have taken some singing lessons with Andrew Chadwick at Note Worthy Music this past year. I have a wonderful family that loves to come out and cheer me on. My favorite part of this competition is meeting amazing and talented people that just want to have fun and sing their hearts out.



## **SARA LARKIN**

Sara has been a Torrington resident for 9 years and has a long history with Northwest Idol. She was the winner of Northwest Idol in 2014 and helped to organize and co-host last year's show. Sara also helped to co-host the Kid Rock contest. She is an accomplished singer and can sometimes be seen hosting karaoke around town. She says she looks forward to many more years contributing in one way or another to this competition.

## **BILL BENSON**

# Judges

Bill is a Connecticut based singer-songwriter who performs music as a messenger of love, hope and passion. Bill's recently released debut studio album, "This Old House", tells the story of Bill's life and musical evolution, capturing current writings as well as his first song written at age 16. Bill performs throughout Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts at venues such as The Bitter End, The Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts Center, Towne Crier Cafe, and Bridge Street Live. He has regularly been featured on television and radio programs, including Better Connecticut on WFSB Channel 3, Cameras Rolling on WHCTV, and Area24Radio in NY, where in one year he received the most song plays, followed closely by Frank Zappa.

## **DAN RINGUETTE**

Dan Ringuette is the Music Director for Immaculate Conception Church in New Hartford, Voice, Piano & Woodwind Instructor at the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education in Torrington, and is very active in local community theatre. Recent MD credits: Rock of Ages, Peter Pan, Anything Goes, The Taffetas, and Gypsy (Warner Theatre); Sister Act, Les Misérables, Rent, and The Producers (Thomaston Opera House); Man of La Mancha (Clay & Wattles Theater Co.); She Loves Me (Wilton Playshop); The Marvelous Wonderettes, The Great American Trailer Park Musical (Carriage House Arts Center); Magic Tree House: The Musical national tour. Recent stage credits: Gould in Grey Gardens (Newington MainStage); The Cat in the Hat in Seussical (Thomaston Opera House); Mozart in Amadeus (Warner Theatre).

## **LYNN WHITAKER**

Lynn has been a judge with NW Idol for 10 of our 11 years. She is a graduate of the Hartt College of Music and has been a cantor at St. Joseph's Church in Winsted for the past 25 years. She was raised with music and it was an integral part of her upbringing. Lynn is a performer and has been teaching private voice lessons for over 25 years. Many of her students have gone on to Hartt College of Music and other university music programs. Lynn has collaborated with a number of well known musicians near and far such as The Paul Winter Consort, Pete Seeger and Joseph FireCrow to name a few. Lynn not only trains singers, she also is a professional dog trainer and owner of Bow Wow University.

# ADDITIONAL



**Lynn Whittaker**  
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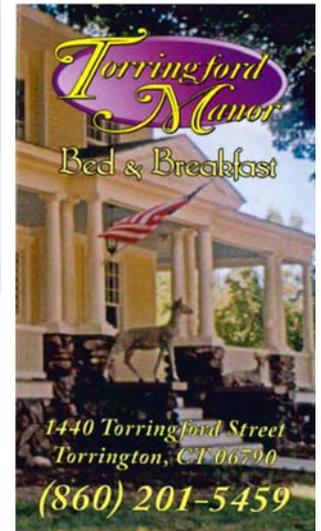
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