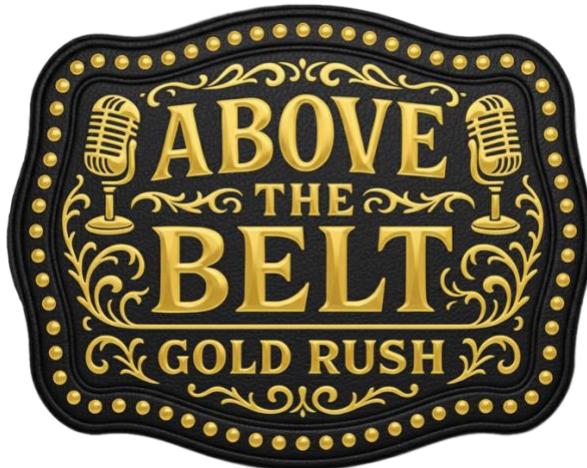


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cheryl Ruettiger or Erik Ball - Owners, StageBender LLC
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Las Vegas Students Invited to "Go for the Gold" in City's Premiere Country STUDENT SINGING COMPETITION

LAS VEGAS, NV – StageBender LLC is proud to announce the Las Vegas premiere of **ABOVE THE BELT – GOLD RUSH**, a high-energy Country/Western student singing competition designed to find the next great voices in the valley.

Open to all Las Vegas middle and high school students - in the spirit of "American Idol" - the event offers young performers the chance to take the stage, receive professional feedback, and compete for a **\$2,500 scholarship**. (One middle school winner and one high school winner will each receive \$2,500.)

"I've spent over twenty years telling stories in this city, and there is nothing more rewarding than providing a platform for our local students to share theirs," says Erik Ball, co-owner of StageBender LLC. Cheryl Ruettiger and co-owner agrees, "This isn't just a contest; it's an experience designed to build confidence, community, and a little bit of country magic! We're hoping the winners will use the scholarship to pursue their artistic endeavors!"

Event Details:

- **Auditions:** March 24 & 25, from 2:30 pm to 10:00 pm (By appointment).
- **Audition Location:** Dynamic Performing Arts Center in Downtown Summerlin.
- **Final Showcase:** Friday, March 27 at 7:00 pm.

- **Final Performance Location:** Faith Lutheran Middle & High School – Chapel / Performing Arts Center.
- **To Register, Visit:** www.Stagebender.com
- **Questions regarding ABOVE THE BELT, email:** Stagebenderstaff@gmail.com.

Participating students will receive professional adjudication, a digital "pro-shot" of their performance, an industry-led performer's workshop, T-shirt, and a chance to be one of the Top Ten Finalists featured in the live spectacular on March 27.

Registration is \$250 per student, with payment plans available to ensure every aspiring artist has a chance to participate.

About StageBender LLC: Founded by award-winning director / producers and storytellers Cheryl Ruettiger and Erik Ball, StageBender LLC creates innovative theatrical programs, camps, and competitions that foster creativity and build collaborative communities through compelling, live experiences.

For more information, to book an audition, or to purchase tickets for the Final Showcase, visit www.StageBender.com.

Get that gold—sign up and sing!