

Where Are They Now?

The following listing shows the artistic trajectory of some of the past Lamorinda Idol finalists and winners. Please send any updates or additions to idol@lamorindaarts.org.



Elliot Taylor, high school winner in 2006, pursued an acting and singing career.

Ben Freeman, high school winner in 2007, graduated from Brown where he studied writing performance. He then pursued cabaret singing while teaching in New York, and 2015 released his album, *Providence*. Currently, Ben is pursuing a Master of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School.

Sarah Ames, high school winner in 2008, advanced to the Hollywood round of American Idol and subsequently has been writing and performing in Nashville. She appeared in country star Dierks Bentley's "Tip It On Back" music video, and her songs include, "Grapevine" and "Good at Goodbye."

Suvi Gluskin, group winner in 2008, attended Carnegie Mellon, majoring in classical voice.

Erika Henningsen, high school winner 2009, attended the University of Michigan and obtained a BFA in musical theater. In 2015 she found success on Broadway, cast as Fantine in *Les Miserables*, then originated a role in Sheryl Crow's world-premiere musical, *Diner*, and then in 2017 was cast in one of the lead roles in *Mean Girls*. Erika is to be part of a new Broadway musical, *Flying Over Sunset*, scheduled to open post the pandemic closures.

Neris Newton, winner in various categories in 2007, 2009 and 2010, graduated from NYU in 2016 with a degree in early adolescent psychology, and is now contributing as a member of the Lamorinda Idol Committee while living in Germany.

Jacqueline Garell, winner in various categories in 2006, 2009 and 2010, graduated from USC in 2015, where she was a member of the a cappella group, *Troy Tones*. She currently lives in Los Angeles, where she performs in community musical theatre and sings with the a capella group, *Lolas*. Jacqueline works at Universal Pictures in film development.

Katie Marino was a record six-time winner in 2008 through 2011. Katie now works in real estate in Orinda and is a Lamorinda Idol audition judge.

Carter Soso, former high school finalist, graduated from University of Miami Frost School of Music with a degree in Media Writing and Production in 2016, and is now producing music for a roster of artists around the United States, as well as composing for film and TV locally in Los Angeles. He recently produced a song titled "White Rabbit" by Blythe Baines featuring Snoop Dogg (adult lyrics), which can be heard on all major streaming platforms, including Spotify under the playlist, *Produced by Carter Soso*.

Isabelle Johannessen, a member of *Urban Flare*, was the winner in the grades 6-12 group category in 2012. Isabelle graduated from Hult International Business School with a dual Masters degree in International Business and Disruptive Innovation, after having spent the past few years studying in Norway, Spain, and the UK. She has toured with Zendaya as a back-up singer and has continued to perform throughout her time in Europe.

Sabrina Chaco, a member of *Urban Flare*, was the winner in the grades 6-12 group category in 2012. Sabrina has toured with Zendaya as a back-up singer and is now a singer/songwriter working in LA.

Isaac Herron (né Taylor), a member of *Urban Flare*, was the winner in the grades 6-12 group category in 2012. Isaac is currently completing a Bachelor degree in International Business in Prague while pursuing modeling, acting and music. In the last year he has released multiple songs on Spotify and done numerous commercial photoshoots, including walking in Mercedes Benz Fashion Week in Prague.

Amrita Newton, winner in various categories in 2007, 2009 and 2010, started at Interlochen Arts Academy studying drama and soon went to UCLA where she was a part of the ICCA winning a Capella group, The Scattertones. She was featured as a backup singer on multiple albums including those of artists Kwaye and Watsky. She received her degree in acting and fashion photography at Bennington College, and is pursuing drama in graduate school.

Maritza Grillo, winner in various categories in 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013 was a member of the a cappella group, *Redhot & Blue*, while a student at Yale. Now living in Manhattan, Maritza works for the commissioner's office of Major League Baseball.

Tosca Maltzman, winner in various categories in 2012, 2013 and 2014, graduated from Tulane with a BFA in musical theatre and digital media production. She now works in San Francisco in the design industry and continues to perform locally.

Paige Powell, group winner in 2010 and multi-year finalist, graduated from USC in 2018 and worked for the talent management firm that managed John Legend, Raphael Saadiq and Alanis Morissette. She is now living in Hawaii.

Eleanor Roeder, winner in 2012 and Idol finalist for many years, graduated with a double major in theatre and political science at Northwestern, where she was the President of the a cappella group, *Purple Haze*, and performed in professional and Northwestern musical productions. Recently she has been writing and performing original music.

Jocy Purcell, a multi-year finalist and two-time winner, graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a degree in music therapy.

Lucy Clearwater, winner in the high school category in 2014, is a singer/songwriter in Los Angeles. Lucy appeared on American Idol in 2018, has performed to sold out shows at The Hotel Café, and has toured internationally. In 2020 she released her debut EP, *Feel Again*.

Jesse Epstein, a multiple-year finalist, studied musical theater at Pace University and Juilliard.

Leah Woodcox, winner in various categories in 2014, 2015 and 2016, studied theatre at UCLA where she was a member of the a cappella group, *Random Voices*.

Nathan Correll, a multiyear finalist, is, pursuing a BFA in theatre at University of Michigan.

Michaela Sasner, winner in various categories in 2011, 2015 and 2017, is training in Musical Theatre at The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis. In 2019, Michaela was cast in the film, *Aftermath*.

Evan Gabrielson, multi-year finalist, is studying USC, with a double major in mechanical engineering and opera. Evan is a member of the a cappella group, *Troy Tones*.

Arriana Glenn, a multi-year finalist and three-time group winner, is taking a gap year from her studies at the Boston Conservatory of Music. She has been a finalist in Bay Area Teen Idol and performed the role of the Baker's Wife in the ACT Strand Theatre production of *Into the Woods*.

Jen McFarlane, four-time winner in 2011-2018, is studying Performing Arts and Social Justice at University of San Francisco.

Liz Becker, five-time winner in 2015-2019, is majoring in songwriting and plans to minor in music production in USC's Popular Music Program.

Jenni Coletta, four-time winner, has been accepted to the Musical Theater Studio of the Tisch School at NYU.

Kiera Glenn, a record ten-time finalist, and two-time winner, is pursuing a gap year program in Worcester, Mass., before pursuing her studies at the Berklee College of Music.