

NASHVILLE STAR—Season Four
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Country music reality television will come to Taylorville when The '06 Nashville Star Tour performs at Nashville North USA on Sunday.

"We have a lot of different personalities and country styles represented within the tour," says '06 Nashville Star winner, Chris Young. "It's definitely a family show that offers a variety of country music that would appeal to audiences of all ages."

Nashville Star, a USA Network tv country music talent search show, concluded its fourth straight season with Young and the top three consecutive runners up -- Casey Rivers, Nicole Jamrose, and Matt Mason.



"The biggest thing, for me, on winning the '06 Nashville Star, is that my family, friends, and fans got to be part of the experience," Young says. "I had people calling me saying 'I voted for you,' or 'I really believe in your music.' Their support continues to play such an important role in all this."

The 90-minute concert opens with Mason, followed with individual sets by Jamrose, Rivers, and Young. The Nashville Star Band, the same group from the tv series, will provide back up for the four solo artists.

"The viewers that watched the show this past season only got to hear a minute and a half of each of our songs," Rivers says. "This tour allows us the opportunity to perform our songs in their entirety, and give audiences a feel for what we're all about musically."

Neo-traditionalist singer, Chris Young, 20, is amongst the brightest new stars to arrive on the Nashville scene. As winner of the '06 Nashville Star, the Murfreesboro, Tn., native received an RCA recording contract. Young's '06 Nashville Star Tour set includes hits by Tim McGraw and Randy Travis, as well as songs from his self-titled debut album, scheduled for an early October release. Young's self-penned debut single, "Drinkin' Me Lonely," is currently climbing the charts.

"Chris Young is a great singer, songwriter, and entertainer," Mason says. "He has a mastery of both heartfelt ballads and uptempo songs."

"Casey Rivers is the ultimate showman," Jamrose says. "He was influenced by music from the '50's, country, gospel, and Broadway, which makes his set more rockin' and upbeat."

Providing the female perspective, Nicole Jamrose, 33, adds a soul, R&B, and rock 'n roll vibe to the tour. The Schererville, In., native initially auditioned for the show in Chicago at The Hard Rock Cafe and went on to become one of ten finalists on the Nashville Star tv series. As the '06 Nashville Star third-place runner up, her tour set includes the self-penned song, "Greatest Day" and hits by Bonnie Raitt, Johnny Cash, and Lucinda Williams.

"Nicole Jamrose has a Sheryl Crow type sound that people just love," Mason says. "She really knows how to engage an audience and get them going."

Contemporary classic singer, Matt Mason, 20, uses his distinctive vocals to combine traditional country music with the outlaw edginess of rock 'n roll. The Indianapolis, In., native doesn't concern himself with conforming to popular trends, choosing instead to adhere to country music's honky-tonk history. As the '06 Nashville Star fourth-place runner up, his tour set includes the self-penned "Whiskey On Ice" and hits by Hank Williams Jr., Waylon Jennings, and Johnny Cash.

"Matt Mason is a modern day traditionalist," Rivers says. "He brings a quiet rebellion and deep country roots flavor to the show."

They all agree that their primary goals are to have a good time, entertain audiences with great country music, and maintain a loose atmosphere throughout the tour.

"Every once in awhile," Jamrose says, "a part of us still expects the Nashville Star judges to come out, pull up their chairs, and start giving us their comments and criticisms. That mindset always inspires us to give the best performance we can at each and every show."