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NEWS RELEASE

A star is born at the Calgary Stampede Talent Search

Calgary – The stars of the future were shining brightly at the Calgary Stampede Talent Search this year. The event, which has often been the first to direct the spotlight on impressive rising talent, was again full of gifted individuals.

But it was Calum Graham who stood out from the competition with his performance of “Classical Gas” on guitar to capture the 2009 title Saturday night.

“This is the 29th year for the Calgary Stampede Talent Search Contest and the talent just keeps getting better,” says Roxanne McKendry, chair for Calgary Stampede Talent Search. “Calum has competed against over 200 other performers, progressed through three sets of professional judges and represents the highest caliber of talent and showmanship seen during this year’s auditions. The future looks very bright for this young performer!”

The first runner-up was Meg Contini who sang “How High the Moon”. Hannah Kerbes was the second runner-up with her musical theatre piece of “Whatever Happened to My Part”. The third runner-up was Rachelle Fullerton. She sang “Cry Me a River”.

Open auditions were held earlier this year and the successful candidates were invited to compete during the Calgary Stampede at the Boyce Theatre. This year, 70 amateur youth performers (aged 13 to 21) from across southern Alberta demonstrated their singing, dancing, acting and musical talents to compete for over \$10,000 in prizes and a chance to take part in the Canadian Youth Talent Competition to be held in Charlottetown, PEI in November, 2009.

Participants were able to compete in the following categories: vocal solo, vocal group, instrumental solo, instrumental group, dance solo, dance group, variety solo, variety group and drama performance.

To see Calum’s performance, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ3FSSrMReI>

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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit www.calgarystampede.com.

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