

SOUND CHECK

Take the Stage!

This season, H-Town took TV singing competitions by storm! Meet the Houstonians who had *American Idol* and *The Voice* rocking and rolling. —Tara Seetharam



"AMERICAN" MADE
Holcomb performs on *Idol*.

Amber Holcomb

Backstory The leggy Spring native, 19, was the dark horse on *American Idol*, receiving no airtime before the live rounds.

On the Show Reminiscent of a young Whitney Houston, Holcomb did numbers like Beyoncé's "Love On Top" with a brassy swagger she attributed to her H-Town upbringing. Holcomb placed fourth.

Since Then Along with the other 10 finalists, she'll begin the *Idols Live* tour this month, which hits Houston July 28.



Danielle Bradbery

Backstory The shy, fresh-faced Cy-Ranch High student's hairdresser mom had to talk her into trying out for *The Voice*.

On the Show The country sweetheart, 16, came out of her shell working with coach Blake Shelton, who cited her among the "most important artists" ever on the show. Her surprising composure and pitch control in performances like Sara Evans' "A Little Bit Stronger" earned her the season 4 crown, making her the show's youngest winner ever and the only one without a previous record deal.

Since Then

The *Voice* champ signed with Big Machine Label Group, home to country superstars Taylor Swift and Reba McEntire, and will begin recording soon.



Kree Harrison

Backstory The 23-year-old from Woodville was a Nashville demo singer before *Idol*.

On the Show Her bluesy-country blend made a fan of judge Nicki Minaj, who called her "worldly" and compared her to Adele. During her homecoming concert, she visited her childhood home and dedicated a song to her late parents. She finished second.

Since Then She's on the *Idols Live* summer tour and is promoting her single, "All Cried Out." Expect an album later this year.



Vincent Powell

Backstory

The Texas Southern grad, 29, took

his experience as a

pastor at Houston's Fallbrook Church to TV on *Idol*.

On the Show His first live performance of Lenny Williams' "Cause I Love You," drew a standing ovation from the judges, who loved his throwback R&B style. He was eliminated after making it to the Top 20.

Since Then He's back working as a minister and has recently performed in Nashville and Dallas.

Savannah Berry

Backstory

Prior to *The Voice*, Sugar Land's Berry, 18, caught the attention via YouTube of country group Sugarland, who asked her to join them in a video duet of their hit "Stuck Like Glue," which was shown at the 2011 ACM Awards.

On the Show She was praised for her folksy voice and creativity during performances like "Safe and Sound" from *The Hunger Games*. Berry was eliminated during the show's knockout rounds.

Since Then She's been performing regularly around the state, and sings at this month's Freedom Over Texas celebration at Eleanor Tinsley Park.



BAG IT!

Letter Perfect

The three-part body of **Louis Vuitton's** latest summer tote suggests the geometric shape of a W—not the luxe brand's trademark LV. Bookended with enhancements of rare leathers and embroidery, this bag begs for a read-through. Vuitton hasn't abandoned its vocabulary altogether, though—several versions of this soon-to-be classic feature its familiar monogram. \$5,150, at *Louis Vuitton, Aventura Mall* —IFS

NUMBER CRUNCH

17

The number of reasons Houston is the "best city in America," according to the news website *Business Insider*. Reasons like H-Town is "the country's No. 1 city for job creation" and "Houston has more parks than any other top-10 metropolitan area" are backed by stats, studies and news reports. A recent *New York Times* editorial calling Houston one of the nation's most exciting food towns was among the sources cited.

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