



The Next American Idol – Alexis Grace (middle) with Catrina Guttery (left) Music Foundation Business Manager and Cameron Mann (right) MRC Director

MRC Member in *American Idol* Finals

Alexis Grace, a member of the Memphis Music Foundation’s Memphis Music Resource Center, was announced tonight as one of the 36 finalists who will compete this year for the title of the next *American Idol*. Alexis competed against over 100,000 hopefuls nationwide and in the past several weeks has worked her way through the preliminary rounds to the coveted finals. The live broadcasts of the talent-search program start next week on FOX-13.

Grace is a 21 year old native Memphian and a 2005 graduate of Overton High School, where she first got into singing publicly as a participant in the school’s CAPA choir. Her Father, Randy Middleton, is a long time member of the Memphis Music family. Randy toured with Ann Peebles and is the one who taught Alexis guitar and piano. Grace is devoted mom and has a 2 year old daughter, Ryan Elizabeth.

“We were overwhelmed when we heard that Alexis had made it to the finals,” said Dean Deyo, President of the Memphis Music Foundation. “She’s a very talented musician and now we know why she has been working so hard at the MRC.” Grace has been a MRC member since the fall of 2008

Another Memphian, Lil Rounds, also made it to the final round. The Memphis Music Foundation is coordinating a VOTE FOR MEMPHIS MUSIC campaign to support our *American Idol* finalists.



The **Memphis Music Foundation** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to working with the community to cultivate a viable economic engine for Memphis by providing musicians and the music industry with resources and opportunities for growth and independence. The Foundation exists to educate the music community about music business systems and trends, help artists develop plans for future business growth, and create dynamic marketing and promotional opportunities for Memphis music. The Foundation's anchor program, the Music Resource Center is an interactive, living library that offers a devoted staff, tools, and educational programs to help area musicians and music professionals. The Foundation is funded, in part, by public and private funds provided through the Economic Development (MemphisED) Plan, designed to ensure economic growth and prosperity in Memphis and Shelby County. MemphisED is part of a broader growth initiative called Memphis Fast Forward, which includes programs advancing workforce/education, public safety, and government efficiency.