

I'm not robot!





Twelve seasons of American Idol, the world's biggest talent show, have produced such top pop stars as Kelly Clarkson, Chris Daughtry, and Carrie Underwood. It has also generated amazing individual performances that will be remembered whether the singer ultimately won the contest or not. These 10 American Idol moments are a combination of tremendous talent, showmanship, and creativity. Mike Coppola/Getty Images Entertainment/Getty Images The performance of what will ultimately become the first single by an American Idol winner is rarely one of the best performances of the season. However, when season 11 winner Phillip Phillips first performed the song "Home," everyone sensed a bit of magic. The song eventually became the bestselling coronation song ever by an American Idol winner. Watch Video Haley Reinhart. Photo by Kevin Winter / Getty Images Haley Reinhart was battling to make it to the final three in season 10 of American Idol. Guest mentor Lady Gaga suggested she get a little "psycho" and throw a little Edith Piaf into her performance by taking a dramatic breath. The advice worked and Haley Reinhart turned what can sometimes sound like a creaky old-fashioned song into perhaps the most dramatic moment of the season. Watch Video Clay Aiken. Photo by Michel Boutefeu / Getty Images It still seems a wonder of nature that such a voice comes out of the wispy body of Clay Aiken. In an interview with People magazine, season two runner-up Aiken said, "I looked like Opie." This performance of the Simon & Garfunkel classic "Bridge Over Troubled Water" proves looks can indeed be deceiving. Watch Video Kelly Clarkson. Photo by Mark Mainz / Getty Images During season one we knew that Kelly Clarkson could deliver soul. She had performed multiple Aretha Franklin classics. Then she took the stage in a black and white polka dot dress and delivered this big band tune that gave us a good long look at the versatile artist we would all soon get to know a lot better. Watch Video Constantine Maroulis. Photo by Kevin Winter / Getty Images Constantine Maroulis, along with Bo Bice, was one of season four's two rockers among the finalists. While he ultimately only finished sixth, this performance of Queen's classic "Bohemian Rhapsody" connected instantly with the audiences and judges alike. This performance can still produce chills. Watch Video Adam Lambert. Photo by Kevin Winter / Getty Images It was already well established that Adam Lambert knew his way around a flamboyant high energy performance in season eight when he changed things around. Tears for Fears' classic "Mad World" was the vehicle for dropping the tempo while not losing an ounce of drama. This was one of the most outstanding examples of an American Idol contestant proving their range to any skeptics at home. Watch Video Jennifer Hudson. Photo by Kevin Winter / Getty Images With hindsight, it seems unbelievable that Academy Award and Grammy Award winner Jennifer Hudson only finished seventh in American Idol's third season. This performance is the one that ultimately resulted in Hudson's elimination. However, it is a re-interpretation of the Barry Manilow classic that finds a soulfulness missing in the original hit recording. Jennifer Hudson performed it with Barry Manilow himself at this year's pre-Grammy party honoring Clive Davis. Watch Video Chris Daughtry. Photo by Paul Hawthorne / Getty Images Before putting together his multi-platinum group Daughtry, Chris Daughtry finished in fourth place during season five of American Idol. He stunned the judges and viewers with this dark, somber rendition of Johnny Cash's classic "Walk the Line." Later revelations that his interpretation was taken from an earlier recording by the rock group Live did not diminish the long-term impact of this performance giving us a glimpse of the future star Chris Daughtry would become. Watch Video Elliott Yamin. Photo by Vince Bucci / Getty Images Elliott Yamin seemed one of the most unlikely of American Idol contenders. However, on the night he performed Donny Hathaway's signature song "A Song For You," Yamin proved he could hold his own with any American Idol contestants past, present, or future. Simon Cowell referred to the performance as a "vocal masterclass." Watch Video Fantasia Barrino's performance of "Summertime" from George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess during season three of American Idol is still in a class by itself. Fantasia's involvement with the song left her literally in tears. Ultimately, she won the competition and this performance proved American Idol could produce riveting television. Watch Video Carrie Underwood, Gabby Barrett and Thomas Rhett are among the star-studded bill of performers helping celebrate the Season 20 finale of American Idol. According to People, the three country superstars are just some of the all-genre roster of performers helping to celebrate the season's three-hour grand finale episode. Underwood and Barrett each have a special connection to Idol: Underwood won the televised singing competition in 2005, and she returned to the Idol stage on Sunday night (May 15) as a guest mentor. Barrett finished third on Season 16 of the show, and has since gone on to achieve crossover country superstardom with the success of songs like "I Hope" and "The Good Ones." Rhett's Idol finale performance will be a duet with show judge Katy Perry. The pair recently collaborated on a duet called "Where We Started," which is the title track of an album Rhett put out in April. All three of the judges are also performing during the finale, meaning that Luke Bryan and newly-minted Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Lionel Richie will take the stage, too. '90s country mainstay Deana Carter is also on the lineup, as are several more stars from a wide array of genres. Ben Platt, Flo Rida, Melissa Etheridge, Tai Verdes, James Arthur and Earth, Wind & Fire are also performing. Additionally, Michael Bublé will perform with Christian Guardino, a contestant who made it into the final seven on Idol. During Sunday night's semi-finals, the top five American Idol contestants were whittled down to a final three: HunterGirl, Noah Thompson and Leah Marlene. Those finalists will vie for the title of Idol champ — and a grand prize which includes roughly \$250,000 and a recording contract — during the finale episode. We cheered for them. We voted for them. We followed them. Then, these seven American Idol stars vanished. Or, at least it seems like it. What happened to some of country music's best American Idol contestants over the last 20 years? This list of country American Idol stars who disappeared includes a winner, a runner-up and a third place finisher, plus several early cuts who enjoyed radio success before losing touch with fans. Carrie Underwood invested her money wisely after winning American Idol in 2005. One of her first big purchases was a 3,099-square-foot home in the well-to-do Nashville suburb of Franklin, Tenn. Underwood paid \$384,000 for a luxurious 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom stone and stucco home in a private gated community. The house features a library, a vaulted ceiling and lovely amenities throughout, but while it's very nice, it's certainly not the kind of home you'd picture for a budding country superstar. Underwood wound up being a huge success right out of the gate with her debut album. Some Hearts, and she sold the home in Franklin for \$372,500 in 2007, when she purchased the Brentwood mansion that she would later share with her husband, Mike Fisher. Wow, what a great surprise! Before I left the office on Friday, one of my idols stopped by to say hi...Lindsey Vonn! You know her as the Olympic gold medalist in the downhill at Vancouver and also as the beautiful and strong, athletic and fierce competitor who made America proud. She won bronze in the super-G after being so injured that no one thought she would even

be able to put her ski boots on, much less all the competition on the slope that day.I adore her for being fast, ferocious and talented, and for being in the giant slalom event, after leading in the top half of the course on her way to what could have been gold.We can't all be gold medalists or even world-class athletes, but we can all relate to having to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and come back to the world with grace, good sportsmanship and a genuine smile. Which she did! I like to say: Anyone can be well-behaved or a good sport when things are going right, but the true test of character is how you act when things are going wrong. Lindsey showed us she is not only a great champion but a great person. Check out this video of our visit today. Before delivering her Top 5 performance on Season 20's American Idol, HunterGirl took some cues from country music royalty. The Tennessee native received professional advice from Carrie Underwood, who appeared as a mentor on the show on Sunday (March 15), guiding the finalists into the season finale.The first hopeful of the night to sing, HunterGirl chose to cover "Undo It," a 2010 hit from Underwood's third studio album, Play On. In rehearsals, Underwood challenged the singer to "work on her strut" and "bring the sass."And HunterGirl did just that after some coaching from Ms. Strut herself.She kicked off the song while standing in the middle of the audience, energizing the crowd with her country charm and spunky attitude. Wearing her new signature look of a fringed top paired with cowgirl boots, HunterGirl effortlessly made her way to the stage and belted out the song lyrics in front of judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan. Without losing any breath, she made her way across the stage and showed off her stage presence even further by incorporating flirtatious movements into her performance with the help of a guitar player. "Oh my goodness. Wait a minute. That was exactly what [Underwood] told you to do. Exactly!" Richie said, praising HunterGirl for her live delivery. "There is nothing better than owning the stage. You take the crowd. You take them with you. You were spectacular!" "You sound just as much of a star standing still as you do moving around," Perry added. "But when you move around, you engage us. You've invited us to your party. That was a party. That was hands-down the best performance you have ever done. You are a superstar." "Way to get inspired by Carrie Underwood," Bryan said, chiming in. "I mean, to sit there and get that time with her and to see what is coming on this show, starting your career on this show and what it has done for her, I mean and then for you too, I don't know, you were everywhere. It was amazing."HunterGirl's "Undo It" cover was the first of two performances she delivered during the two-hour telecast. She returned later in the episode with a rousing rendition of Little Big Town's "Girl Crush." Both of her performances earned her enough fan votes to secure her a place in the Top 3.HunterGirl is now vying for a chance to win the American Idol title, alongside fellow country singer Noah Thompson and fellow contestant Leah Marlene. A three-hour American Idol finale will air on Sunday (May 22) on ABC, during which a winner will be crowned.Bucky, Scotty and More: See Where American Idol's Country Finalists Are Now.These Country Singers Tried Out for American Idol But Didn't Make It!

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