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For Immediate Release

June 27, 2012

El Camino College Alumnus Becomes Finalist on ABC's "Duets"

El Camino College alumnus and Torrance native Jason Farol is singing with the stars. Farol, 23, is a finalist in the new television show "Duets," chosen from thousands of aspiring vocal artists after a lengthy process that included several auditions.

The ABC show is a singing competition where superstars Kelly Clarkson, John Legend, Jennifer Nettles and Robin Thicke individually set out on a journey across America looking for undiscovered talent worthy to be their protégés. Each week, the stars worked with the hopefuls, providing the scoring until two remained for each star. Farol is paired with Clarkson.

The performances will now be live, and the public will vote for the winner via phone, online, or Facebook. After each live episode, the duet partner who receives the lowest number of votes will be eliminated during the next live episode until the one remaining duet partner is named the winner of "Duets."

"Performing every week with Kelly was a highlight for me; she's been a huge idol of mine since I saw her at my first audition," Farol said in a recent TV interview. "Being up there and meeting all the contestants and superstars is really exciting."

Farol grew up surfing at the local beaches, and can usually be found hitting the waves near the Manhattan Beach Pier. He graduated from South High School in Torrance before attending El Camino College. He then transferred in 2010 to California State University, Dominguez Hills, where he is pursuing a degree in kinesiology. Singing has always been a passion for Farol, though he put school first to fulfill family expectations.

He has no formal training, except for karaoke. His musical heritage includes his father, an architect and a great singer, who used to own a karaoke bar. Farol's family has been very supportive of his musical aspirations.

"We are so excited for Jason, we have been at every show," said his older sister Eliza Farol. "We have a pretty big family, so we take up a lot of the audience when we cheer him on. We are just proud of Jason and happy to be a part of this journey with him."

Farol is working on his singing every day and enjoys performing on the show. The next show will be live on Thursday, June 28. Superstars and their duet partners will perform songs from this millennium. The American public will vote for their favorites.

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