



THE 2008 PATSY MONTANA NATIONAL YODELING CHAMPIONSHIP

Pineville, MO – America’s newest yodeling champion is 14-year-old Emma Jane Pendleton of Tulsa, Okla.

Emma Jane has won this year’s **Patsy Montana National Yodeling Championship**, in which contestants sang and yodeled “I Want To Be A Cowboy’s Sweetheart,” the Montana-penned classic. Contestants also must wear cowgirl attire, perform to live music and possess a cowgirl flair.

“We look for the total package,” says Jane Frost, co-director of the 10-year-old event. She says that Montana understood the value of being a self-contained act ready to take the stage at a moment’s notice.

Emma Jane is no stranger to musical performance and competition. She is the reigning **Oklahoma Junior Fiddle Champion**, and recently captured the **Junior Championship** at the Grand Lake National Fiddle Fest in Grove, Okla.

Emma Jane’s sister, 13-year-old Marina, is also a polished performer and continued the Pendleton family tradition by winning the Silver Medal at the Patsy Montana National Yodeling Championship. In addition to playing violin/fiddle and guitar, as does Emma Jane, Marina is accomplished on mandolin.

Emma Jane and Marina have performed in concert with **Lyle Lovett** and were finalists in a national talent contest broadcast on CBS’s “The Early Show.” The homeschooled sisters regularly guest-star on a local children’s TV show. Last fall their band, **The Pendleton Family Fiddlers**, entertained **Garth Brooks** and guests at a gala in his honor.

The yodel competition takes place after Memorial Day in the Ozark Mountains a few miles from Montana’s home state of Arkansas. In the 1930s Montana gained a national following from appearances on the “National Barn Dance” program on Chicago radio station WLS. “I Want To Be A Cowboy’s Sweetheart” made her the first female country/western artist to sell one million records, says Frost, Montana’s biographer. Patsy Montana performed actively until passing away in 1996.

Contemporary stars like LeAnn Rimes continue to record the timeless “Cowboy’s Sweetheart”.

Emma Jane Pendleton: 918-749-7885

For photos: <http://www.PendletonFamilyFiddlers.com>