

Thursday, 5th November 2009

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In the running

Published Date: 22 October 2009

Blackpool vocalist Robert Lea and Oldham-based runner-up from the Stanley Bar & Cabaret talent contest Paul Speak-Heaton have made it through to the grand finals of the first national Open Mic UK competition.

The pair have battled thousands of other singers across the country to make it through to the finals on Sunday December 6 at The Willows in Salford, Greater Manchester, where they could win an impressive management and recording contract and be crowned the UK's Best On the Mic 2009.

The regional final saw an impressive performance from all of the acts as they competed on stage in a live head to head showcase in front of a capacity crowd and judging panel.

Over 8,000 singers entered the competition, with auditions touring across 12 regions throughout the UK.

Successful acts not only had to impress the judges at the auditions but also had to perform under pressure and wow hundreds of spectators at the live regional shows.

The overall winner of the competition will have the opportunity to record their album in professional studios with an industry vocal specialist, the potential of large investment for a single release and an aim to nationally chart.

* Now 25-year old

Ansdell-based Charlese Allen is hoping to join Robert and Paul by winning through from her regional final on October 25 at the Liverpool Liner Hotel.

Having sung since she was eight she went to Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA), been in various bands, entered Pop Idol when she was 17 and got through to the last round of Boot Camp on X Factor.

Recently she has uploaded a few tracks onto YouTube and one of them has had almost 111,000 hits.

If anyone wants to support her she has tickets available for the Liverpool event. Find her on YouTube or Facebook "Charlese to win Open Mic UK."



FINALIST: Paul Speak-Heaton

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