



Paige Miles bids the audience farewell after she is eliminated Mar. 24 on American Idol

Photo by: Michael Becker/FOX



Miles performs Nat King Cole's *Smile* as part of the top 16 on American Idol Mar. 9

Photo by: Frank Micelotta/FOX



Miles' rendition of Free's *All Right Now* on Feb. 23 earned her a spot in American Idol's top 20

Photo by: Michael Becker/FOX

# Cy-Fair's Own *American Idol*

## Singer Paige Miles Shares About Competing on the Show

Written by Nancy Wozny, Photos courtesy of Fox Television

Paige Miles may be from Naples, FL, but she had a Cypress address when she stole our hearts with her big voice and warm smile on season 9 of the Fox hit television show *American Idol*. After a smashing audition in Dallas, Miles went on to make the coveted top 12. She caught up with Cy-Fair Magazine about the show, life in Cypress, and her future plans.

### What brought you from Florida to Cy-Fair?

I transferred to the University of Houston, where I was majoring in theater and psychology, and settled in Fairfield. I loved it there. I tutored at an after-school program with children right there in Fairfield, so it was very convenient and I just loved the area. I really miss all the kids so much. I ended up transferring to Prairie View but got to do some shows at Lone

Star College with Ron Jones. I performed in *Steel Magnolias* and a children's show.

### Why did you audition for American Idol?

People were always telling me to audition, but I always found a way to get out of it. Then my great aunt asked me to audition and shortly afterward she passed on. It was the last conversation we had. Another year went by before I got the courage to do it. I drove to Dallas to register then returned home to find out my hero, Michael Jackson, had died. I almost didn't go to the audition. In the final hour, I got in my car and drove back to Dallas, and I am glad I did.

### You did a good amount of singing in church early on. Is that where you got your big start?

I was way too shy to solo in

church. I didn't start to sing solo until I was in high school, so in the early years I hid in the choir. It took me a while to let my voice out. I was a closet singer for a long time. I would stay locked up in my room listening to my idols, Judy Garland, Tina Turner, Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin, Billie Holiday, Etta James, and Michael Jackson.

### What gave you the confidence to finally let that larger-than-life voice of yours out?

People started to notice me after I did some musical theater, which I love. It was a place where it was okay to be loud and everyone seemed to like it. I was a cheerleader at the time, and everyone told me I needed to change my priorities and start focusing on music. I always loved movie musicals.

### How did you feel after you made the top 12?


It meant everything to get that far. Every day was an adventure. It was a roller coaster for sure, but the most rewarding experience of my life. It went above and beyond. I went further than I ever imagined. I made lifelong friends, as well. It was a ton of work, but the most fun I have ever had. Every day was a good day.

### We loved your Rolling Stones song selection in the season's first theme week.

I was a little intimidated when I heard we were doing Rolling Stones songs, because they are so great. But I really liked *Honky Tonk Woman*. I had laryngitis at the time, but I managed to get through it.

### What did you learn from the experience?

Strength comes from inside. I told myself going into the experience that things were



Singing Phil Collins' *Against All Odds*, Miles performs as part of American Idol's top 11 on Mar. 23

Photo by: Ray Mickshaw/FOX

# American Idol

not going to be perfect. I knew I would be hearing comments that would be difficult. I learned to be graceful when you are being criticized. You won't survive in the music business if you don't learn to take comments and critique well.

#### **What advice would you give a future Idol contestant?**

Get a lot of rest before you begin the process. Get some performance experience under your belt so you are comfortable on stage. Be prepared to sing anything. Always be yourself and do what you are most comfortable with. No matter what anyone tells you, be true to yourself first and you can't go wrong.

#### **You are quite the football fan. You must have been completely at home in Texas.**

I did not think I could find a place more crazy about football than Florida, but I did here in Texas. I love all football - pro, college, even high school. I was amazed at the beautiful Berry Center where the [Cy-Fair ISD] high school teams play. Wow, that's amazing, and I know you

have some great teams out there. Cy Woods High School had a great season. I am in withdrawal right now. The season can't start soon enough. Basketball and baseball don't really do it for me.

#### **Longhorns or Aggies?**

Longhorns. I hope I don't offend anyone. I also love all the teams of the Southern Conference, especially The University of Florida.

#### **What's next for you?**

Well, I am based out of Los Angeles for the moment, but as soon as I get a chance, I want to visit all my friends in Cypress. I love it there so much. I really miss the food at Alicia's restaurant! I will be recording an album and I am excited about that. I don't know exactly what will be on it, but I know it will be songs that I love.

#### **Broadway?**

Why not?! CFM

*NANCY WOZNY enjoys living and writing about the arts and health in Cypress.*



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