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Teen Star Jackson Gillies releases first single

Rivers are converging at this moment for 19-year-old singer/songwriter Jackson Gillies of Santa Barbara, CA. They include:

- His first single, “Miss Me Too,” will appear on digital platforms on Tuesday, Feb. 19, with an accompanying music video to follow.
- He will be a contestant on Season 2 of “**American Idol**,” which premieres March 3.

Gillies, the 2016 winner of Teen Star USA in Santa Barbara, recorded his single with Jesse Siebenberg at his Ojai, CA, studio. Siebenberg is a former member of Supertramp and played lap steel guitar on “Shallow,” the recent Grammy-winning song from the film “A Star Is Born.”

Since his Teen Star win Gillies has appeared onstage with Kenny Loggins, Michael McDonald, Jim Messina, Tariq Akoni, Bill Champlin, and Tris Imboden, and many other music legends who have served as his mentors. “To say Jackson is extremely talented would not only be stating the obvious but also may be an understatement,” said Imboden, longtime drummer for the band Chicago.

At the same time, Gillies is receiving the TV Santa Barbara “Global Citizen Award” for his activism on behalf of many causes and benefits. Jackson “epitomizes strength through struggle,” said organizers.

Among other efforts:

- Gillies was a creator and musical co-director with Kenny Loggins of the **Teens Sing for Santa Barbara concert**, which raised \$70,000 for survivors of the mudslide that took 23 lives in Santa Barbara in 2018.

- He delivered a 2017 **TEDx talk** entitled “Bringing HS Out of the Dark,” about the skin condition hidradenitis suppurativa. Although the painful HS afflicts him and as many as 230 million others, Gillies was the first performer to come forward to raise awareness.

- Gillies opened for and performed with Jim Messina at the **William Sansum Diabetes Research Center benefit** in 2017. He was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 3 and has appeared in TV public service

announcements about the disease with Mary Tyler Moore, Nick Jonas, and Crystal Bowersox.

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