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American Idol standout releases new single and video

SANTA BARBARA, CA—Singer/songwriter Jackson Gillies will release his new single today. “Girl, Oh Goodness Why” was recorded at Brotheryn Studio in Ojai, CA, with producer Jesse Siebenberg, a former member of Supertramp whose recent credits include contributions to the film “A Star Is Born.”

The song, with an R&B groove and background vocals by Hana Aluna, is the second single by Gillies. His first, “Miss Me Too,” was released in February and was described as “sonically perfect” by Jackson’s mentor, Kenny Loggins. The song has received steady airplay on K-LITE radio in Santa Barbara.

Accompanying the song premiere will be the release of the “Girl, Oh Goodness Why” video, filmed by Ryan Slattery and directed by Gillies.

Jackson was described as a “singing sensation” in a recent article in Diabetes Self-Management Magazine. A contestant in the 2019 “American Idol” TV show, his audition video has logged over 11 million views on Facebook and continues to climb by over 100,000 per day. Cited by Billboard as one of the 10 times contestants made the judges weep, it’s also proving to be an inspiration for people struggling with diabetes and hidradenitis suppurativa, a skin disease that afflicts Jackson and as many as 230 million others worldwide. “My daughter and I both have Type 1 diabetes and hidradenitis suppurativa,” wrote one commenter. “When we watched your audition I saw a light in her eyes that I haven’t seen for a long time. She then said, ‘Wow, he isn’t complaining about his struggles. Maybe I shouldn’t either.’ ”

In other news, the Teens Sing for Santa Barbara TV special filmed and edited by Jeff Martin of Santa Barbara Productions has been nominated for an Emmy in the Special Events Coverage category. Teens Sing,

mentored by Kenny Loggins and starring a very talented group of local teens, was staged in March of 2018, raising \$70,000 for the benefit of survivors of the Thomas fire and following mudslide. Gillies was co-creator, co-producer, and co-musical director of the production.

Starting soon, Jackson will be in rehearsals for the stage production of “Footloose,” celebrating the 35th anniversary of the debut of the Kenny Loggins song. The show will be staged at Marjorie Luke Theatre in July by Adderly School Presents, with a special appearance by Loggins.

“Girl, Oh Goodness Why” will be released on all music platforms today. The video will appear on YouTube.

Jackson’s website: <https://www.jacksongilliesmusic.com/>