

May 18, 2025 American Idol The Top Three (Finale)

Congratulations to Jamal Roberts. Tonight, he became the 15th male to win American Idol (a 65% win-rate, compared to a win-rate of 35% for female idol winners); the 6th African American to win American Idol (a 26% win-rate); the second African American male to win American Idol (Reuben Studdard was the first) for a win-rate of 8.7%); and the 15th Southerner to win American Idol (a 65% win-rate). Idol has definite biases, both positive and negative. It clearly favors male contestants, so yes it has a gender bias. It clearly favors Southerners, so yes,, it has a regional bias. Idol also has a genre bias; e.g., it favors country music contestants over the other genres (9/23, or 39%) compared to pop (6/23 or 26% win-rate), R&B (5/23 or 22% win-rate), and rock (3/23 or 13% win-rate). I watched all 23 seasons of American Idol and think I liked this season best of all. There were so many talented singers, it was sad to watch some of them leave the show so early, I have some idea but no proof of how they were able to attract so many good singers this season. Let's hope it continues. P.S. I would have been happy with any one of these three winning it all.

Giving Up On My Computer Algorithm Utilized To Pick Future Idol Winners. I have been studying American Idol for years and harvesting data, hoping I could discover some trends, patterns, and critical factors needed to pick future American Idol winners. I have harvested a lot of data and have applied what I have learned to two algorithms that were utilized in seasons 22 and 23 of American Idol. And in both seasons, it failed to pick the winner. My algorithm picked Will Moseley last season and John Foster this season. Both times, it picked the runner-up. Because it is picking runners-up, it can be useful in picking front runners but in its present form, it cannot be used to pick future winners. Last season was a surprise as Abi Carter edged Will Moseley in a late comeback charge. This season, my algorithm failed because Jamal was a member of a group (African American males) with a 4% win-rate as of season 22). My algorithm would never pick a winner from a group with a 4% win-rate. That's just not how probability works. My algorithms are just not working as well as I had hoped.

Best Idol Contestant/Guest Singer Performance of the Night:

Hey Driver-----Thunderstorm Artis and The War & Treaty

(original artist, Zach Bryan and The War & Treaty). For those unfamiliar with this Zach Bryan song, the singer is asking the driver to take him back to the South where life is simple, the tea is sweet, the women are fine and love is fair. If you've never heard of The War and Treaty, they are a black husband and wife country music duo best known for their hit collaboration with Zach Bryan. Does Thunderstorm's collaboration with The War and Treaty indicate or suggests an interest in country music?

Best Guest Performance of the Night

Stuck on You, Lionel Ritchie, Carrie Underwood, and Luke Bryan*

*Luke could actually have a hit on his hands if he covered this Lionel Ritchie R&B crossover hit romantic ballad. It has a real pop country sound to it and Luke has a lot of experience in the pop country subgenre. Luke sounded great on this song tonight. It is perfect for his voice. Luke still has some of that fun loving Bro Country attitude in his blood but can absolutely be serious when he needs to be so I think Lionel's very serious romantic ballad would be a big hit for him. It is a perfect union of singer and song.

Best American Idol Contestant Performance Of The Season:

Her Heart (Anthony Hamilton)-----Jamal Roberts
(Hollywood Week)

Curious Behavior By Ryan Seacrest:

Is it me or did Ryan Seacrest (the best television host alive and the man who single-handedly saved Wheel Of Fortune) appear to be physically nudging and/or encouraging idol contestants to leave the stage quicker this season than previously? He's done it before on occasion when they fell behind schedule but he was encouraging them to leave the stage on every show this season. At least, it seemed to me he was rushing contestants off the stage. But I am old so I could be wrong.

I had a great time and a lot of fun this season. See you in season 24.