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by Brian Mansfield

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Nov 11, 2011

Lauren Alaina gets ready for the holidays

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By [Brian Mansfield](#), USA TODAY

Updated 1h 57m ago
 Lauren Alaina turned 17 on Tuesday -- and got to meet one of her heroes, Miranda Lambert, at the BMI Country Awards in Nashville. "I was at school a year ago and now I'm here and Miranda Lambert is standing 10 feet away from me," Lauren told *The Tennessean*.



CAPTION

By Rick Diamond, Getty Images

Before the awards dinner, the *American Idol* runner-up celebrated her birthday at Nashville's Legends Corner in Nashville with family, friends and about 100 guests. Lauren Alaina had a Cold Stone Creamery Cookies and Creamery cake that was decorated in her favorite zebra print, accompanied by baby blue and pink cupcakes in Chocolate, Sweet Cream and Cake Batter.



CAPTION

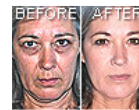
By Michelle Young

Thursday night, Lauren sang *My Grown-Up Christmas List* at the *CMA Country Christmas* taping (it'll air Dec. 1 on ABC, along with performances from Scotty McCreery and Kellie Pickler). On Thanksgiving Day, she'll sing the national anthem before the Detroit Lions/Green Bay Packers football game (Nov. 24 at 12:30 p.m. ET, FOX) and be joined by **PLAY 60** youth ambassadors from the NFL Youth Education Town - Boys & Girls Club at the Dick & Sandy Dauch Campus in Detroit.

See photos of: [Miranda Lambert](#), [Lauren Alaina](#)

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About Brian Mansfield

Nashville-based Brian Mansfield began writing about music for USA TODAY in 1997 and took over *Idol Chatter* just before the start of Season 8. He co-authored *Make Me a Star: Industry Insiders Reveal How to Make It in Music*, and while he has never auditioned for *American Idol*, he did sing *Boot Scootin' Boogie* at Disney World's American Idol Experience the day the attraction opened (he lost). [More about Brian](#) | [E-mail Brian](#)



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