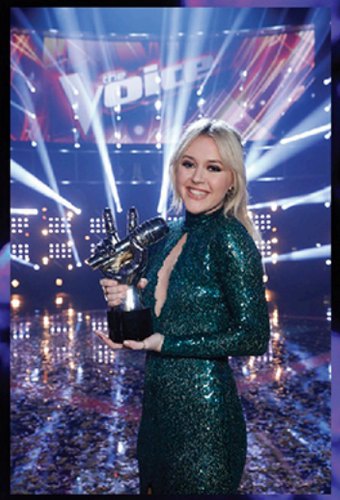
Voices

OUR 2017 WOMEN-OF-THE-YEAR

EXCLUSIVE POST-SEASON INTERVIEWS WITH THE VOICE'S TOP 3

CHLOE KOHANSKI, ADDISON AGEN & BROOKE SIMPSON

Voices carry a different weight for everybody. We are born into the world and somehow immediately attach ourselves to the sounds of life. One of the sounds that capture us unequivocally first is music, and whether it's by voice or instrumentation, it is now a part of our individual thought patterns. Music is everything, it is everywhere, and it is everyone. For the final three women on Season 13 of NBC's *The Voice*; Addison Agen (16), Brooke Simpson (26) and Chloe Kohanski (24), it was easy to tune in and quickly vibe on the inevitable outcome. Yes, this was a year of great contestants, but as the show has eluded to verbally on several occasions, finding talent is one things - finding that unique artist that can produce a library of music is few and far between. Team Adam's Addison, Team Miley's Brooke and Team Blake's Chloe are as unique as it gets and we couldn't wait to catch up with these three amazing superstars and discuss their futures and us tagging them as "Women of the Year" (2017) as a group.



CHLOE KOHANSKI...

MMM: I think we got a little cocky on Season 13 and called you, Brooke and Addison as Top 3 from the jump. Dig our premonition skills?
CK: *Laughs* It's funny that you say that you knew because (of course) I had no idea that I was gonna win! That's not even, like, a rehearsed answer either. I just told myself that I'll do it week by week...and then it happened!

MMM: Would you agree with the assessment that you kind of you played it safe after the blind auditions? You seemed to show more fire early, rode the flame a bit on the side, according to the flow of the show and then turned on the heat towards the end. Are we right?
CK: Well, I think you're extremely observant because the truth of the matter is that my voice was in a better state during the blind audition than it was for the live shows. I actually submitted "Rhiannon" (also by Fleetwood Mac) to be my blind audition song but someone already auditioned with it. I think singing "The Chain" instead was a big moment for me, but I had to work really hard to make that song something that one person could stand on solidly because, you know, normally it's not just one person singing it. I decided to jump around with the melody a lot and come in low, which is what's easy for me. The low notes are easy and they don't hurt vs. the ones where I push a little bit more and open up. It's not so much that I didn't choose to do that it was that I didn't have my full range as the live shows went on each week. I lost a big section of my voice. I was going to the doctor, getting put on steroids, I was really struggling there for a second. I was on vocal rest for three days at one point and didn't speak. But, it was really hard because on a reality singing show, when we're not singing, we're interviewing and we're doing commercials, and behind the scenes stuff. Then we're doing our outfits, hair and makeup and, you know, planning everything. I talked more than I feel like I sang, and that was what blew my voice out over the course of the show.

"I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR ONE PERSON TO TURN A CHAIR JUST SO I KNEW THAT I WASN'T CRAZY."
- CHLOE KOHANSKY

Carry

MMM: We remember you saying on the show that there was a point in your life prior to *The Voice* where you almost gave up on music. What changed and made you submit your audition tape?
CK: Before I decided to try out for the show I was really just hitting a wall because some musical projects I was involved in just never really felt like me. I was always silencing myself to make it work for everybody else because I'm a chronic people pleaser. So I just thought, okay, should I go back to school or try something else. I just wanted to create, and it just wasn't working with music. I just decided to try out for *The Voice* as a last-ditch effort. I was just looking for one person to turn a chair just so I knew that I wasn't crazy!

MMM: The switch from Team Miley to Team Blake. That had to have been an intense moment combined with an odd feeling overall, right?
CK: Well, I went into the audition thinking it would be really cool to work with Miley Cyrus just because she's really outside of the box, and people have told me that we're kind of similar. Then I picked her when I got past the first round, but I really didn't get to work with her that much before I wasn't on her team anymore. I wasn't crushed when she chose Ashlyn Craft over me in the Knockouts, but I was definitely caught off guard. Before I knew it, Jennifer Hudson and Blake Shelton hit the save button. I knew nothing about Blake Shelton, but there was just something about him and we just came out and said, "do you want to win this show?" I was like, "well yeah, I do!" It was the best decision I could have made for myself because he was involved with the songs in a way that was great. He would bounce ideas off of me, but he didn't creatively direct any of the songs. He just let me be me. I directed the songs I chose, how I wanted to sing