



Aquila: 'The Voice' of San Diego

The pop-soul artist landed a spot on Team Xtina in season 3 blind auditions.

By Michelle Guerin

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NBC's take on talent-driven reality TV is "**The Voice**." The season 3 blind auditions kicked off in a big way with three consecutive shows Monday through Wednesday. "The Voice" celebrity judges Christina Aguilera, Adam Levine, Cee Lo Green and Blake Shelton listened to dozens of aspiring artists this week, including a rising star from San Diego.

Aquila, the 24-year-old singer songwriter born in San Diego and raised in Wyoming, stole Aguilera's heart on Tuesday night's episode, earning him a spot on Team Xtina.

Aquila performed a smooth rendition of Elton John's *Your Song*, which was recently covered by Ellie Goulding, remaining relevant to today's audience. His soulful song prompted three judges to spin their chairs around: Aguilera, followed by Levine and Green at the last second. But it was obvious that Aguilera's enthusiasm topped the charts.

Aquila's subtle smirk left the *Dirty* singer wanting more. "Hands down, I was drawn to your voice from the second I heard it," said Aguilera. "I really 'got' you as a vocalist and I would love to have you on Team Xtina and to really take you to that place. I kinda want a private concert to be honest."

Viewers watching "The Voice" from home got a glimpse into the contestants' back stories. Aquile opened up to host Carson Daly that he broke his jaw during a bad fight just a few years ago. When he was 19, Aquile was punched in the face, and had to have his jaws wired shut for six weeks. Whether Aquile will become the next Kanye West is yet to be determined, but our local guy sure did have a *Through The Wire* experience like the Chi-Town hero.

Today, Aquile reached out to his San Diego fans via the ever-popular social media platform Twitter. He said: "Where's all my San Diego people @ let me hear from you!!! Let's celebrate our success this weekend!" You don't have to tell us twice. We'll definitely be celebrating Team Xtina, San Diego-style all weekend long. You can follow Aquile on Twitter @Aquila, or check out his website aquilemusic.com

Details: "The Voice" airs Mondays and Tuesdays at 8/7c on NBC.

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