

'American Idol' Contestant Lazaro Arbos Says, "I've Always Been the Kind of Guy Who Wanted to Do Something Big With Myself"

By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

Lazaro Arbos was a fan favorite on this season of *American Idol* from his first audition, capturing our hearts with his rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." He struggles with stuttering when he speaks, but when he sings, it's not an issue. Ultimately, his talent carried him to a sixth-place finish, outlasting the other male contestants and leaving an all-female top five for the first time in the show's history.

During his time on the show, the Cuban-born singer says he got to meet a lot of amazing people who he'll be friends with for life. Plus, it helped improve both his confidence *and* his speech impediment. "It definitely gave me a stronger mindset," he explains. "My stuttering has subsided a bit, and I think it has a lot to do with me learning to control my nerves better."

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Arbos wasn't surprised that it was time to go, and he's excited for what the future holds. "I'm so far from sad. Winning the competition wasn't my main goal," he shares. "My goal was to become known and become a better performer, and I think I achieved that."

Still, saying goodbye is never easy. “The part that was the hardest was that I made such good friends with all of the remaining girls. So the thought that I wasn’t going to be with them anymore on the show really got to me.”

As for what comes next, Arbos says that he loves love songs and wants to record a pop album. Until the tour kicks off this summer, he’s excited to return home to Naples, Florida. “The first thing I’ll probably do is go to the park with my family. I miss them a lot,” he says. “Plus, my old high school has a pep rally planned for me, so I’m looking forward to that.”

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He has no plans to step out of the spotlight either: “I would love to be on *Glee* – that’s one of my goals after the tour. I’d love to be on *Modern Family* too.”

The contestant also shares that he’s hoping to sing with icon Cher on the *American Idol* finale. “I met her at the start of the show, and we’ve been talking back-and-forth since then. She follows me on Twitter, too.”

Despite some criticism from the judges and mentor Jimmy Iovine, Arbos has no regrets. “I believe that everything happens for a reason,” he says with optimism.

“My love for performing and for music motivated me to audition for the show,” he adds. “I’ve always been the kind of guy who wanted to do something big with myself.”

You can keep up with Arbos on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). You can also catch him on this summer’s *American Idol* tour.