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**CARMEL BACH FESTIVAL NAMES 2006 VOCAL MASTER CLASS FELLOWS**

Carmel, CA, March 16, 2006

The Carmel Bach Festival is proud to announce the 2006 Virginia Best Adams Vocal Master Class Fellows. David Gordon, Festival Education Director and Master Class Director, has selected four talented young professional singers to join the Festival ensemble to study and coach with Festival solo artists. The Adams Vocal Master Class was founded in 1984 through the generosity and vision of Virginia Best Adams, a longtime Festival friend and wife of photographer Ansel Adams, along with her friends and family.

The Adams Fellows receive six coaching sessions during the Festival that are free and open to the public. In a casual, light-hearted atmosphere attendees and Fellows experience a wealth of vocal music and examine all aspects of style, technique, communication, and artistry. The coaching sessions are hosted by Festival Education Director and Master Class Director, David Gordon with guest teachers Kendra Colton, Benjamin Butterfield, Sanford Sylvan, Michael Dean and pianist Michael Beattie. The Adams Fellows will give audiences a final performance at the Adams Master Class Showcase on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM at the Sunset Center.

The 2006 Adams Fellows include Baritone Mischa Bouvier, Soprano Sherezade Panthaki, Tenor Scott Mello and Countertenor Jonas Laughlin.

“This is one of the finest quartets this program has ever seen,” says Master Class Director David Gordon. “We have picked our participants from open auditions since 1993, and each year we are more impressed with the level of talent. Our audiences are in for a real treat at the 2006 Master Class!”

Mischa Bouvier is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music where he earned a Master’s in Voice. Mischa has performed with Cincinnati Baroque, Lebanon Symphony Orchestra, and the Lyric Opera Cleveland. Sherezade Panthaki was born in India and has a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois. Sherezade has performed with the Bloomington Early Music Festival, American Boychoir, Murten Classics Festival and the Boston Early Music Festival. Scott Mello holds a degree from Oberlin University and has served on the music faculties of Seton Hall University and The College of New Jersey. Scott has

appeared with the New England Symphonics Ensemble, West London Sinfonia, Akron Symphony, and the Aspen Opera Theater Center. Jonas Laughlin is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a James M. Johnston Scholar. Jonas has performed with the West Palm Beach Opera, Charlotte Opera guild, Adleburgh Festival and Boston Fine Arts Chorale.

The Carmel Bach Festival, a 23-day celebration of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, his contemporaries, and musical heirs, has brought the music of the Baroque to the communities of the Monterey Peninsula since 1935. The Festival offers its brilliant musical experience to new audiences through performances by international artists, a unique and stimulating slate of concerts, recitals, public master classes, instrumental and vocal music, lectures, informal talks as well as educational, social and family events.

Tickets prices range from \$20 - \$60. To purchase tickets or for further Festival information, log onto [www.bachfestival.org](http://www.bachfestival.org) or call 831-624-2046.

Photos available upon request.

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