

# CARMEL *BACH* and Beyond FESTIVAL

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## **2008 CARMEL BACH FESTIVAL VIRGINIA BEST ADAMS FELLOW WINS 5<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL BACH VOCAL COMPETITION FOR AMERICAN SINGERS**

Carmel, CA, May 12, 2008

The Carmel Bach Festival is proud to announce that 2008 Virginia Best Adams Vocal Master Class Fellow Joshua Copeland won the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Bach Vocal Competition for American Singers.

Last Sunday, May 11, the day after the final performance of the 101<sup>st</sup> Bethlehem Bach Festival in Eastern Pennsylvania, an audience at Bethlehem's First Presbyterian Church heard the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Bach Vocal Competition for American Singers. Co-sponsored by the American Bach Society and the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the competition winner receives a \$3,000 cash stipend and a solo appearance next season with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem.

The competition is designed to encourage young American artists in the repertoire of Bach. A total of 10 finalists of 30 years of age or younger took part in the auditions. David Gordon, Carmel Bach Festival Education Director and Master Class Director administered the selection of the finalists from demo CDs and resume/applications submitted in January and February.

Five of the 2008 finalists have Carmel Bach Festival connections. Tenor Matthew Anderson, Soprano Kristen Watson, and Bass Douglas Williams have all appeared in recent seasons at the Carmel Bach Festival as members of the Festival Chorale. Tenor Scott Mello was a Virginia Best Adams Master Class Fellow in 2008 and Baritone Joshua Copeland will be an Adams Fellow at the 2008 Carmel Bach Festival.

The Second Prize went to former Festival Chorale member Matthew Anderson.

Past winners of this competition include:

2000: Margaret Bragle (mezzo-soprano), CBF Adams Fellow 1999  
2002: Christopher Burchett (baritone), CBF Adams Fellow 2001  
2004: Nathan Davis (tenor), CBF Adams Fellow 2004  
2006: Sasha Cook (mezzo-soprano)

Judges on May 11 included Greg Funfgeld, Music Director and Conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, J Reilly Lewis, Director of the Washington Bach Consort, members of the ABS Board, and other Bach luminaries.

The Virginia Best Adams Vocal Master Class 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, Sanford Sylvan, and pianist Michael Beattie. The Adams Fellows will give audiences a final performance at the Adams Master Class Showcase on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM at the Sunset Center.

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.

Adams Master Class Showcase tickets for Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM at the Sunset Center are \$20.

2008 Carmel Bach Festival Tickets prices range from \$20 - \$65. 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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