

Bass-Baritone Evan Hughes, 22, Wins Grand Prize at Marilyn Horne Foundation's Vocal Competition July 27, 2006



Winners of the 2006 Marilyn Horne Foundation Awards Vocal Competition at the Music Academy of the West Summer Festival: (front row, left to right) Michelle Johnson, soprano; Daveda Karanas, mezzo-soprano; Keun-A Lee, vocal piano; Marilyn Horne, Music Academy voice program director; and Rena Harms, soprano. (back row, left to right) Alek Shrader, tenor; Evan Hughes, bass-baritone; Edward Parks III, baritone; and Eugene Chan, baritone. © David Bazemore 2006

Evan Hughes, a twenty-two year old bass-baritone hailing from Santa Barbara, has been awarded the grand prize in this year's Marilyn Horne Foundation Awards Vocal Competition, held annually at the Music Academy of the West Summer Festival.

"The field of singers was extremely strong," said Horne, director of the Academy's voice program, "and as usual, it was not an easy deliberation, but we've chosen the winners."

Twenty vocalists and vocal pianists from the Music Academy of the West took part in the competition on Saturday, July 22, with awards going to artists who "demonstrate excellence in performance of song repertoire as well as a unique gift for audience communication."

Aside from Hughes, "encouragement awards" went to pianist Keun-A Lee, as well as vocalists Eugene Chan; soprano Rena Harms; soprano Michelle Johnson; mezzo Daveda Karanas; baritone Edwards Parks III; and tenor Alek Shrader. The foundation requests that the recipients use the award funds for lessons and coachings.

As part of receiving the grand prize, Hughes, who is the son of Academy alumna and vocal coach Agatha Carubia, is to take part in a New York City recital produced by the Marilyn Horne Foundation's series, "On Wings of Song" at an unspecified date.

Judges for this year's competition included Barbara Hoher, the foundation's executive director; classical music publicist Mary Lou Falcone; Seattle Opera general director Speight Jenkins; Robery White, renowned tenor and faculty member at the Juilliard School; and Marilyn Horne.

The vocal program at the Music Academy offers twenty-two young vocalists schooling by Horne each summer in technique, diction, interpretation, style and presentation. Likewise, the Academy's vocal piano program, run under the tutelage of pianist Warren Jones, gives training to six pianists in collaboration, coaching and conducting, for both opera and song repertoire.

The Marilyn Horne foundation was founded by the celebrated mezzo to encourage, support and preserve the art of the vocal recital, a cornerstone of Horne's own career. □

More information can be found at the [Marilyn Horne Foundation](#) and the [Music Academy of the West](#).