

# The McCandless Company

Public Relations & Marketing Communications

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## ROBINSON WINS VIRGINIA LIONS 41ST BLAND MUSIC COMPETITION

RICHMOND, VA. - June 21 - Reston South Lakes High School senior Tobie Robinson recently walked away with the Virginia Lions highest music scholarship award (\$1,500) in the 41st Annual State Bland Music Competition held at the Richmond Marriott, according to Virginia Lions State Chairman John Fiorino.

Impressed with black composer James A. Bland's 1938 creation "Carry Me Back To Ole Virginny," The Virginia Lions began a campaign which resulted in the 1940 General Assembly officially adopting the song as the Virginia State Anthem.

As a permanent, living memorial, the Virginia Lions established the Bland Music Scholarships Program in 1948 to provide two scholarships for musical excellence (one vocal, one instrumental). Since that time, the number has climbed to twelve scholarships today which are financed by or through voluntary contributions from the Virginia Lions.

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Robinson, who made his professional stage debut at age six in the Graz (Germany) Opera Company's production of Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier," was a member of the All Virginia Honors Chorus (1988 & 89), and was voted the "Most Talented" in his South Lakes class.

Son of opera star Marie Robinson, Tobie, this year, was offered music scholarships to Shenandoah College of Music, Westminster Choir College and James Madison University. A few weeks ago he accepted a \$10,000 scholarship to study voice in the fall at Shenandoah College of Music.

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