Casey Abrams Bio

Casey Abrams was born on February 12, 1991, in Austin, Texas, and then spent his early years in the Chicago area, first in Evanston, Illinois, then in Wilmette, where he attended McKenzie Elementary School. Abrams later moved to California and attended Idyllwild Arts Academy in Idyllwild, California, where his father teaches film production. At Idyllwild Arts, he studied classical bass instruction and improvisation, and participated in the jazz ensembles, gaining a foundation in music history, piano, and jazz piano, and learning to write musical scores for films. After graduating from Idyllwild in 2009, he attended University of Colorado at Boulder as a music major. He worked as a film camp counselor at Idyllwild Arts Summer Camp prior to his appearance on *American Idol*.

Abrams auditioned for the tenth season of *American Idol* in Austin, Texas. He was selected as one of the Top 24 semi-finalists, but two days before he was due to perform for the semi-finals, he suffered severe stomach pains and was rushed to the hospital. He was well enough to perform on performance night, and was one of the five male vote receivers to advance to the Top 13; however, he missed the Top 13 results show due to his illness. He was the lowest vote receiver on the Top 11 result show, but was saved by the judges; they chose to save him immediately, stopping his supposedly last performance on the show halfway through it. He is the third finalist to be saved by the judges in three seasons. Abrams suffers from ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease which causes ulceration and inflammation of the colon, which resulted in his having been hospitalized while on *American Idol*.

Abrams was eliminated from the competition on April 28, 2011, and finished in 6th place. During his last performance he sang "I Put a Spell on You" by Screamin' Jay Hawkins, a song which he previously sang during the top 24. During the performance he kissed audience members, rolled onto the stage, thanked the judges and sang the last two words to fellow contestant, Haley Reinhart.