



Callum Thorpe

Bass

British bass Callum Thorpe initially obtained a PhD in Immunology before focussing on his vocal studies at the Royal Academy of Music. From 2017 to 2021 he was a member of the solo ensemble at the Bayerische Staatsoper Munich where roles included Banco *Macbeth*, Pistola *Falstaff*, Il Re d'Egitto *Aida*, Colline *La Bohème*, Zuniga *Carmen*, Farfallo *Die Schweigsame Frau*, Truffaldin *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Masetto *Don Giovanni*.

Highlights this season and beyond include his debut at Teatro Real Madrid singing Valens *Theodora* in a Katie Mitchell production conducted by Ivor Bolton, his debut at Welsh National Opera singing Hobson in a new production by Melly Still of *Peter Grimes* and a return to the Glyndebourne Festival in 2025 and 2026.

Last season saw Callum in the demanding role of Polifemo in Handel's *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo* conducted by Laurence Cummings at the London Handel Festival, prompting Rachel Halliburton in *The Times* to write *the astonishing, cavernous range of Callum Thorpe, who plays Polifemo. The famous aria ranges over two and a half octaves, and Thorpe imbues it with a rich anguish that elicits unexpected pity.* He also appeared in a new production by Sir David Pountney of Purcell *Masque of Might* at Opera North and sang Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* at the 2024 Glyndebourne Festival. Concert highlights included Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Edward Gardner; Schubert Mass No. 5 with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra; and excerpts from Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles* and Gounod's *Faust* in concert for Scottish Opera.

Recent operatic engagements include Sparafucile *Rigoletto*, Angelotti in *Tosca* and Poacher in Janáček *The Cunning Little Vixen* at Opera North; Basilio in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for Garsington Opera; Talbot *Maria Stuarda* for Irish National Opera; Sarastro and Banco *Macbeth* at Theater Basel; Antinoo and Il Tempo *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* with Emmanuelle Haïm; and Plutone *Orfeo* for the Royal Opera House. Callum has also performed *Hunding*, in concert, in Wagner's *Die Walküre* with the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra and Eric Nielsen.

His repertoire ranges from the baroque to the 20th Century. Callum created the role of Gibarian in the world première of Fujikura's *Solaris* at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées and has also sung works by Peter Maxwell Davies and Viktor Ullmann. Past performances with William Christie have included Purcell *The Fairy Queen* and *The Indian Queen*, Rameau *Hippolyte et Aricie*, Phobeter in Lully's *Atys* and Pluto in Charpentier's *La descente d'Orphée aux enfers*.

On the concert platform his wide-ranging repertoire includes Bach *St John Passion* and *St Matthew Passion*, Handel *Messiah*, and the Mozart and Verdi Requiem, with conductors including Marc Minkowski, Sir Mark Elder, Ivor Bolton, Jonathan Cohen, Masato Suzuki, Christian Curnyn and Edward Gardner.

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