

Callum Thorpe

Bass



"...and Callum Thorpe was absolutely thunderous as Polifemo – the air practically shook when he sang."

Richard Bratby, *The Spectator*

British bass Callum Thorpe was previously 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*. Recent career highlights include his debut at Teatro Real Madrid singing **Valens** in *Theodora* in a Katie Mitchell production conducted by Ivor Bolton, and his debut at Welsh National Opera as **Hobson** in *Peter Grimes* in a new production by Melly Still. He has sung many roles for Glyndebourne Festival, most recently **Sarastro** in *Die Zauberflöte* (2024), **Pistola** in Richard Jones's production of *Falstaff* (2025), and last season, **Caronte** in *L'Orfeo*. In the 2026/2027 season, Callum sings the role of **Sparafucile** in *Rigoletto* for Opera North, **La Voce** in *Idomeneo* and **Dr Grenvil** in *La Traviata*, both at Glyndebourne Festival. On the concert platform he performs Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with Wroclaw Baroque Orchestra and Jaroslaw Thiel, and *Acis and Galatea* with Les Arts Florissants and Paul Agnew.

Callum has a wide-ranging repertoire from the baroque to the twentieth century. Among his many notable performances are **Polifemo** in Handel's *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo* at the London Handel Festival under Laurence Cummings, **Sarastro** *Die Zauberflöte* and **Banco** *Macbeth* (both for Theater Basel). For Opera North he has sung **Sparafucile** *Rigoletto*, **Angelotti** *Tosca*, the **Poacher** in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and appeared in Sir David Pountney's new production of Purcell's *Masque of Might*. He has collaborated many times with William Christie including Purcell's

The Fairy Queen and *The Indian Queen*, Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie*, **Phobos** in Lully's *Atys*, and **Pluto** in Charpentier's *La descente d'Orphée aux enfers*. 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.

Other operatic roles have included **Basilio** *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Garsington Opera), **Talbot** *Maria Stuarda* (Irish National Opera), **Plutone** *Orfeo* (Royal Opera House), and roles in *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* with Emmanuelle Haïm. He has also performed **Hunding** (*Die Walküre*) in concert with the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra under Eric Nielsen.

On the concert platform, his repertoire includes Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Edward Gardner; Schubert's *Mass No. 5* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra; excerpts from Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles* and Gounod's *Faust* in concert for Scottish Opera; as well as Bach's *St John Passion* and *St Matthew Passion*, Handel's *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.

Callum initially obtained a PhD in Immunology before focusing on his vocal studies at the Royal Academy of Music.

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