

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* in 2024 and last season **Pistola** in Richard Jones's production of *Falstaff*. In the 2025/2026 season, Callum sings the role of **Colline** in *La bohème* for Scottish Opera, Zoroastre in a new Mariame Clément production of **Orlando** at Opéra de Lausanne, and **Caronte** in *L'Orfeo* at the Glyndebourne Festival. On the concert platform he performs Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Maxim Emelyanychev.

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*, **Phobetor** 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.

Valid for use until 1 September 2026
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