

# 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** 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 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*, Phobetor 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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**info@rayfieldallied.com**