

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

## Bryn Terfel

Bass Baritone

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Welsh bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel has performed in all the great opera houses and concert halls of the world. He first became well known for his portrayal of **Figaro** and **Falstaff** but in recent years he has been acclaimed for his performances of Wagner roles such as **Wotan**, **Hans Sachs** and **Der Fliegende Holländer**.

He made his operatic début in 1990 as **Guglielmo** in *Così fan tutte* for Welsh National Opera. His international operatic career began in 1991 when he sang the **Speaker** in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels and in the same year he made his United States début as **Figaro** at the Santa Fe Opera. Other roles performed during his career include **Holländer** in *Der fliegende Holländer*, **Méphistophélès** in *Faust*, both the **Title Role** and **Leporello** in *Don Giovanni*, **Jochanaan** in *Salome*, **Scarpia** in *Tosca*, the **Title Role** in *Gianni Schicchi*, **Nick Shadow** in *The Rake's Progress*, **Wolfram** in *Tannhäuser*, **Balstrode** in *Peter Grimes*, **Four Villains** in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, **Dulcamara** in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, **Reb Tevye** in *The Fiddler on the Roof* and **Sweeney Todd**.

Bryn is also known for his versatility as a concert performer with highlights ranging from the opening ceremony of the Wales Millennium Centre, BBC Last Night of the Proms, and the Royal Variety Show to a Gala Concert with Andrea Bocelli in Central Park, New York. He has given recitals all around the world and for nine years hosted his own festival in Faenol, North Wales. He is a Grammy, Classical Brit and Gramophone Award winner with a discography encompassing operas of Mozart, Wagner and Strauss, and more than fifteen solo discs including Lieder, American musical theatre, Welsh songs and sacred repertory. Bryn was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for his services to Opera in 2003, was awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2006 and received a knighthood for his service to music in 2017. He was the last recipient of the Shakespeare Prize by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation and in 2015; he was given The Freedom of the City of London.

Bryn marked his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and twenty five years in the profession with a special one-off Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, presented by Hollywood star Michael Sheen. The celebrations continued at Cardiff's Wales Millennium Centre, where he sang the role of **Scarpia** in a concert performance of *Tosca* alongside the company with which he started his career in 1990, the Welsh National Opera. Operatic highlights in 2015 included his debut in the role of **Reb Tevye** in *Fiddler on the Roof* for Grange Park Opera, the **Title Role** in *Sweeney Todd* for English National Opera and **Méphistophélès** in *Damnation of Faust* for Opera de Paris. Highlights in 2016 include his début in the role of **Boris Godunov** for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, recitals in North America and concerts in festivals throughout Europe.

Other highlights include Bryn's debut in the role of **Hans Sachs** in the critically acclaimed production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for Welsh National Opera, his return to La Scala, Milan to open the 2011 season singing **Leporello** in *Don Giovanni* and **Scarpia** in *Tosca*. Highlights in 2012 included the role of **Wotan** in Wagner's *Ring Cycle* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and hosting a four day festival, Brynfest, at the Southbank Centre, London as part of the Southbank Centre's Festival of the World. In 2013, Bryn made his debut in concert at the Abu Dhabi Festival and the Royal Opera House, Muscat and performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and returned to the Sydney Opera House in recital. Highlights in 2014 included a semi-staged performance of *Sweeney Todd* at the Lincoln Center, New York and at the Llangollen International Music Festival and a concert tour of South Africa.

In the 16/17 season he will perform **Scarpia** in Paris and Berlin, **Hans Sachs** at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and **Dulcamara** and **Wotan** for Vienna State Opera.

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