

JOSÉ CARRERAS



JOSÉ CARRERAS occupies a privileged position in the music world. Born in Barcelona, he studied music in his hometown. In 1970 he started his professional career in the Gran Teatre del Liceu of Barcelona with Nabucco and Lucrezia Borgia.

His meteoric musical career resulted in early debuts at the world's most prestigious opera theatres and festivals, including the Teatro alla Scala of Milan ("Un Ballo in Maschera", 1975); the New York Metropolitan Opera House ("Tosca", 1974); San Francisco Opera ("La Bohème", 1973); the Vienna Staatsoper ("Rigoletto", 1974); London's Royal Opera House ("La Traviata", 1974); The Oper of Munich ("Tosca", 1974); Chicago's Lyric Opera ("Un Ballo in Maschera", 1976); and the Festivals of Salzburg ("Don Carlo", 1976); Aix en Provence ("Roberto Devereux", 1977); Edinburgh ("Verdi Requiem", 1982) and Verona ("Carmen", 1984).

José Carreras has collaborated with the most renowned orchestra conductors, among others Herbert von Karajan (an artistic and personal relationship which lasted over twelve years and included performances in Salzburg, Berlin and Vienna), Claudio Abbado, Riccardo

Muti, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Chailly, Colin Davis, Giuseppe Sinopoli, James Levine, Carlo Maria Giulini, Leonard Bernstein and Zubin Metha, and with pre-eminent stage directors such as: Franco Zeffirelli, Jean Pierre Ponnelle, Giorgio Strehler, Luigi Comencini, Harold Prince.

His repertoire includes over sixty operas, of which the following stand out: Andrea Chenier, La Bohème, Tosca, Werther, Don Carlo, Carmen, La Forza del Destino, I Pagliacci, L'Elisir d'Amore and Un Ballo in Maschera.

Together with his opera activities, he has given frequent recitals in the world's most famous concert halls. He has for instance performed at Carnegie Hall and the Avery Fisher Hall of New York; the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall in London; the Salle Pleyel in Paris, at the Musikverein and Konzerthaus of Vienna, the Berlin Philharmonie, Suntory Hall and the NHK Hall in Tokyo, the Grosses Festspielhaus of Salzburg, the Philharmonie and the Hercules Saal of Munich, The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Palau de la Música of Barcelona, the Teatro Real of Madrid and the Accademia Santa Cecilia of Rome. His wide concert repertoire includes over 600 titles of the most diverse styles ranging from the baroque to contemporary music.

His extensive discography includes over 150 recordings, notably 50 complete operas, oratorios, popular and classical recitals. He has been awarded many Gold and Platinum Discs world-wide. Altogether approximately 60 million recordings with José Carreras have been sold worldwide.

José Carreras has performed the leading role in several operatic films for Television, Cinema and Video, including La Bohème, I Lombardi, Andrea Chenier, Turandot, Carmen, Missa de Rèquiem de Verdi, Don Carlo, La Forza del Destino, Stiffelio, Fedora and Jerusalem.

As for his cinema activities, two films stand out: *Romanza Final*, in which José Carreras portrays the life of Julián Gayarre and *A Life Story*, a report on Mr. Carreras life and artistic career. *A Life Story*, nominated in Hollywood, was awarded an International Emmy Award in 1993 by the Academy of Arts and Sciences of the US Television.

Among the numerous national and international prizes and distinctions which have been bestowed upon José Carreras, there are the Grand Prix du Disque from the Academy of Paris; the Luigi Illica Prize; a 1991 Grammy Award; the Sir Lawrence Olivier Award for his performance in "Stiffelio" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Kammersänger and Lifetime Honorary Member of the Vienna Staatsoper; Honorary Member of the London Royal Academy of Music; he received the Gold Medal of the New York Spanish Institute; the Gold Medal of the City of Vienna ; the Gold Medal of Fine Arts bestowed by His Majesty the King of Spain; the Gold Medal of the City of Barcelona; the Gold Medal of the Generalitat of Catalunya; Prince of Asturias Award 1991; and The Albert Schweitzer Music Award 1996. He is President of the Jury of the Concorso Internazionale Voci Verdiane "Città di Busseto" and Honorary President of the London Arts Orchestra.

He is Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur de la République Française; Gran Croce di Cavaliere and Grande Ufficiale della

Repubblica Italiana; Honour Medal of the Bavarian Government, Grand Honour Award of the Austrian Republic, Komandor's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Polish Republic, Commandeur de la Médaille du Sahametrei of the Royal Cambodian Government and Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO. IN 2004 he received the Civil Order Golden Cross of the Social Solidarity bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, doña Sofía; the National Order Steaua Romaniei (Etoile de la Roumanie) of Romania in a degree of Grand Officer and the Big Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

He has also been awarded the title Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Barcelona (Spain), the Universities of Loughborough and Sheffield (United Kingdom), the University Mendeleev of Moscow (Russia), the University of Camerino (Italy), the Napier University in Edinburgh (Scotland), the Rutgers University (United States), the Miguel Hernández University of Elche (Spain), the University of Coimbra (Portugal), the National University of Music in Bucharest (Romania) , the University of Marburg (Germany) and, most recently, the University of Pécs (Hungary).

He is Honorary Member of the European Society for Medicine, of the Leukaemia Support Group, the European Haematology Association and the German Society of Paediatric Oncology and Haematology. He is also Honorary Patron of the European Society for Medical Oncology. He has been awarded the Golden Medal of the Catalan Transplant Society, the Diamond Tulip Award of the Stichting Day by Day Foundation of the Netherlands and the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation 1996 International Award.

Since 1988, in addition to his professional activities, he presides with total dedication and enthusiasm over the "José Carreras International Leukaemia Foundation" established in Barcelona and with branches in the United States, Switzerland and Germany. Currently the international José Leukaemia Foundation is one of his most important goals and priorities.

In 1992 José Carreras was engaged as Musical Director of the memorable Olympic Games held in Barcelona.

The 3 Tenors concerts offered by José Carreras together with his colleagues Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti to the world are now legendary. Followed by world-wide audiences of over **two billion**, they have created an unprecedented impact in the world of opera.

2001 he performed as starguest in a huge Open Air concert with the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra on the famous Palace Square in Vienna under the direction of Zubin Mehta.

Together with Placido Domingo and the Norwegian star Sissel Mr. Carreras participated 2003 in Moscow in a legendary Christmas Concert at Gostinny Dvor.

He also starred among others in the spectacular Open Air Gala concert „A Tribute To Lehar“ together with his colleagues Placido Domingo, Thomas Hampson, Eva Lind and Andrea Rost. Conductor Marcello Viotti.

To mark the 30th anniversary of his stage debut at the Vienna State Opera he returned in February 2004 to the famous Viennese opera house. In this memorable evening Carreras

gave a most moving portrayal of the poor poet "Sly" in the opera of Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari. The last part of the program was the Don José in „Carmen" in Zefirellis production. The audience showed its appreciation with standing ovations of 35 minutes! The Austrian Mail honoured this remarkable evening with a "José Carreras" stamp, which benefits the José Carreras Leukaemia foundation.

In the years 2005/06/07 Mr.Carreras performed in memorable concerts around the globe, especially in Japan, Korea, Singapore, China, the Emirates, Latin America, Russia, Germany, Austria, Italy, England, Greece, Spain, Czech Republic, Romania, Latvia, Hungary, Scandinavia, etc.

Together with Gloria Estefan, Quincy Jones and Andy Garcia, Mr. Carreras performed 2006 at the opening of the new concert Hall in Miami/Florida.

In 2007 José Carreras performed the opening hymn for the “New 7 World Wonders” in the Benfica stadium in Lisbon, an event which was broadcasted worldwide.

He also gave concerts at prestigious Festivals like Salzburg, Hampton Court, Baden Baden, and Pecs for the inauguration of the cultural capital of Europe 2010, to name a few.

In 2007 the outstanding CD “Belle Epoque” containing works of composers such as Satie, Ravel, Schreker, Schönberg, Puccini etc. was released by SonyBMG.

A program which José Carreras performed 2007/08 very successfully in concerts, for instance on tours in Germany and FarEast.

In April 2009 Sony released the new Carreras recording “Mediterranean Passion”. The CD consists of beautiful songs from Italy, Spain and his homeland Catalonia. And the duet “Solamente una vez” with the legendary Gloria Estefan.

2009/10 performed José Carreras with the new programme „Mediterranean Passion“ concerts in China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapur, Korea, USA. Concerts in Marocco, Jordania, Arab Emirates. In Europe followed with great Open Air concerts in Berlin, Gendarmenmarkt, Schloß Schwerin, Festival Erfurt, and Schloß Pillnitz, Dresden. Open Air in Athens at the Herodes Attikus, Saloniki, Istanbul, Lissabon (with Jennifer Lopez), Santarem, Porto, London, Festival Cap Roig, Barcelona, Zadar Open Air, Zagreb (Christmas concert for 12.000 people), Copenhagen, Temesvar, Bucurest, St. Petersburg, Naples (70.000 people!), Romania, Ukraine, Belarus, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Ireland and in 2010 also Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Argentinaetc.

The CD “Mediterranean Passion” (Sony)was praised by “Classic fm” magazine, UK, as one of the best CDs. Quote: “... it’s clear from this new release that a return to the romantic song repertoire will guarantee packed concerts. With this material, his lyrical vocal qualities are reminiscent of Caruso, with that trademark impassioned delivery...”

On 16.12.2010 was the 16th (i) anniversary celebration of the „José Carreras-Gala“ which is annually broadcasted live by the German TV station ARD. The program was seen by over 7

million people in Germany, Austria and Switzerland which donated 6,6 million Euros to the Carreras Leucemia Foundation!

Stars like Andrea Bocelli, Sting, Elton John, Liza Minelli, Andre Rieu, Anne Sophie Mutter, Kiri Te Kanawa, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, David Garrett, Il Divo, Harry Belafonte, Lionel Richie, Klaus Meine (Scorpions), Paul Potts and many more performed in the Carreras galas.

Together with his colleague Placido Domingo, Sting and Andrea Bocelli , José Carreras performed in Petra (Jordan) in a tribute concert to his great colleague Luciano Pavarotti. On the occasion of the opening of the EXPO Shanghai 2010 José Carreras performed together with chinese soprano Zu Hai in a gala for CCCTV which was seen by approx. 700 million people.

2009/10 José Carreras received in London the prestigious BRIT AWARD: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Placido Domingo and the Duchess of Cornwall presented the award to Mr. Carreras. He also received in Germany the most important ECHO-Award and the St.Georgs award at the Semperopera in Dresden.

In 2011 Jose Carreras received the prestigious Crystal Award at the **World Economic Forum** in Davos.