



SEÁN TESTER

TENOR

BIOGRAPHY

A graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, **Irish tenor Seán Tester** has entered the 2025/26 season with a series of significant engagements that mark major steps forward in his career. He has been named a recipient of the **Danone Young Outstanding Artist Award** at **Wexford Festival Opera**, where he joins the **Wexford Factory** to debut as **Conte di Libenskof** in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* and to take part in the world premiere of *Urban Legends* by Andrew Synnott and Colm Tóibín. He also makes his debut with **National Symphony Orchestra Ireland** as **El Remendado** in Bizet's *Carmen* at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, and begins work as an **Accademia dell'Opera Italiana Artist** in Nardò, Puglia. Seán also very much looks forward to making his **Royal Festival Hall** debut in London performing as tenor soloist in Mozart's *Requiem, K.626* with the **Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra**. In addition to his performance schedule, he undertakes his role as the inaugural **RIAM Emerging Artist Fellow**, recognising his distinction among the Academy's most promising alumni. He also proudly serves as **Series Ambassador** for Drogheda Classical Music Series.

Recent seasons have seen Seán's profile rise steadily across Ireland and abroad. In 2025 he returned to the **Blackwater Valley Opera Festival** as **Snout** in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, while also appearing in the festival's recital series. His earlier work with **Irish National Opera (INO)** includes productions of *Guillaume Tell*, *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *Faust*, *Der fliegende Holländer* and *Rigoletto*, where he additionally covered **Il Duca di Mantova**. His international role debut came as **Rodolphe** in Rossini's *Guillaume Tell* in a co-production between INO and **Nouvel Opéra Fribourg/Neue Oper Freiburg**. Other notable roles include the 'Man with an Old Suitcase', 'Puppet No. 1', and 'Operetta Singer' in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, and **Mopsa** in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* at the **Korkyra Baroque Festival**, Croatia and **Sligo Baroque Festival**, Ireland. A strong advocate for accessibility, he has brought opera to new audiences through performances at Electric Picnic, **Limerick Opera Festival**, and community-centred initiatives.

As a concert and oratorio soloist, his repertoire includes *Messiah*, *Johannes-Passion*, *Carmina Burana*, and Haydn's *Seven Last Words*. Recent highlights include performances with the **Dublin Bach Singers**, **Drogheda Classical Music Series** with Celine Byrne and David Munro, and the **Dublin Song Series** with Dearbhla Collins. He made his international recital debut at the **Franz Liszt Academy**, Budapest, with his collaborative partner Ella Nagy, performed Brahms's *Liebeslieder Walzer* at the **Dublin International Chamber Music Festival**, and appeared at **RIAM ChamberFest 2025** performing Chausson's *Poème de l'amour et de la mer* with pianist Rowel Friers.

Seán's artistic journey began in the vibrant musical community of Drogheda. He first trained at the **Drogheda School of Performing Arts (The Little Duke Theatre)**, followed by formative years with **St Peter's Male Voice Choir**, where his passion for ensemble singing grew. He went on to study at the **Royal Irish Academy of Music**, completing the **Recital Artist Diploma** and later the **Master's in Music Performance**, graduating with distinction as a **BVOF|RIAM John Pollard Bursary** recipient. A notable early milestone came in May 2024, when he performed at the **State Dinner at Áras an Uachtaráin** hosted by President Michael D. Higgins in honour of the President of Italy.

Looking ahead, Seán continues to build an international career grounded in curiosity, craft, and a commitment to imaginative, emotionally rich storytelling in opera, recital, and community performance.