



SEÁN TESTER

TENOR



BIOGRAPHY

A graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Irish lyric 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 as tenor soloist in Mozart's *Requiem in D minor, K. 626* with the **Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra** at London's **Royal Festival Hall**. He also begins work as an **Accademia dell'Opera Italiana Artist** in Nardò, Italy. 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. He has also been selected as an Artist in Association with Droichead Arts Centre for 2026, reflecting his growing artistic profile and continued connection to cultural life in his hometown of Drogheda.

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.