

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

His meteoric rise in the music world saw him make his debut at a very young age at the world's greatest and most important theatres and festivals, such as La Scala in Milan ('Un Ballo in Maschera', 1975), the Metropolitan Opera House in New York ('Tosca', 1974), the San Francisco Opera ('La Bohème', 1973), the Vienna State Opera ("Rigoletto", 1974), the Royal Opera House in London ("La Traviata", 1974), the Munich Opera ("Tosca", 1974), the Chicago Opera ("Un Ballo in Maschera", 1976), and the festivals in Salzburg ("Don Carlo", 1976), Aix-en-Provence ("Roberto Devereux", 1977), Edinburgh ("Verdi's Requiem", 1982), and Verona ("Carmen", 1984).

José Carreras's close professional partnership with the renowned conductor Herbert von Karajan proved decisive over more than twelve years in concerts, festivals and operas, with performances in Salzburg, Berlin and Vienna, as well as in memorable recordings. We must also mention other great conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Chailly, Colin Davis, Giuseppe Sinopoli, James Levine, Carlo Maria Giulini, Leonard Bernstein and Zubin Mehta, with whom he also maintained significant collaborations. He has also worked with distinguished stage directors such as Franco Zeffirelli, Jean Pierre Ponnelle, Giorgio Strehler, Luigi Comencini and Harold Prince, amongst others.

His operatic repertoire comprises more than sixty compositions, including Andrea Chénier, La Bohème, Tosca, Werther, Don Carlo, Carmen, La Forza del Destino, I Pagliacci, L'Elisir d'Amore, Un Ballo in Maschera, and others.

Alongside his operatic career, he has given frequent recitals in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York; the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican Hall and the Royal Albert Hall in London; the Salle Pleyel in Paris, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Suntory Hall and NHK Hall in Tokyo, the Grosses Festspielhaus in Salzburg, the Philharmonie and Hercules Saal in Munich, the Palau de la Música in Barcelona, the Teatro Real in Madrid, the Accademia Santa Cecilia in Rome, etc. His vast

repertoire in this field comprises over 600 works in a wide variety of styles, ranging from Baroque to contemporary music.

His extensive discography includes over 150 recordings, notably 50 complete operas, oratorios, classical recitals, and also popular music. He has received numerous gold and platinum discs worldwide.

José Carreras has starred in several opera productions for television, cinema and video, including, amongst others, *La Bohème*, *I Lombardi*, *Andrea Chénier*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *Verdi's Requiem*, *Don Carlo*, *La Forza del Destino*, *Stiffelio*, *Fedora*, *Jerusalem*, etc.

In the world of cinema, two films are particularly noteworthy: *Romanza Final*, in which José Carreras portrays the life of Julián Gayarre, and *A Life Story*, a documentary about his life and artistic career, nominated in Hollywood, was awarded an International Emmy Award in 1993 by the Academy of Arts and Sciences of the US Television.

José Carreras has been awarded numerous national and international prizes and honours. First and foremost, we would highlight the honours he has received in Spain, such as the Gold Medal of the Government of Catalonia, the Gold Medal of the Parliament of Catalonia, the Gold Medal of the City of Barcelona, the Gold Medal of Fine Arts of Spain, and the Gold Medal of the Spanish Institute of New York. He has also received the Medal of Honour of Bavaria, the Gold Medal of Honour of Vienna, the Gold Medal of Honour of the Federal Capital of Vienna, the Medal of Honour of the City of Leipzig and the Gold Medal of the Argentine Senate in Buenos Aires.

He is Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters and Chevalier of the Order of the Legion of Honour of the French Republic, Grand Cross of the Order of Merit and Grand Officer of the Italian Republic, Grand Order of Merit of the Republic of Austria, and Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He holds the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, is Commander of the Sahametrei Medal of the Royal Government of Cambodia, and has also received the Gold Cross of the Civil Order of Social Solidarity of Spain, as well as the National Order of Steaua Romaniei (Star of Romania) of Romania in the rank of Grand Officer.

We would also highlight the awards and honours from the most prestigious opera houses, such as the Gold Medal of the Gran Teatre del Liceu; he is Kammersänger of the Vienna State Opera, as well as Life Honorary Member of

that same theatre and an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

He has been honoured with the Prince of Asturias Award, the Grammy Award, the Classical Brit Award, the Grand Prix du Disque from the Paris Academy, the Luigi Illica Award, the Sir Laurence Olivier Award, the Albert Schweitzer Music Award and the Giuseppe Di Stefano Award.

He is Honorary President of the London Arts Orchestra, an Honorary Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by the University of Barcelona, the Universities of Loughborough and Sheffield (Great Britain), from Mendeleev University in Moscow (Russia), from the University of Camerino (Italy), from Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland), from Rutgers University (United States), from Miguel Hernández University in Elche, from the University of Coimbra (Portugal), from the University of Music in Bucharest (Romania), by the University of Marburg (Germany), the University of Pécs (Hungary), the University of Porto

(Portugal) and, most recently, he has been awarded an honorary professorship by Hyunghee University in Korea.

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

In 1992, he took on the role of Musical Director for the memorable Olympic Games held in Barcelona.

The concerts of the Three Tenors performed by José Carreras and his colleagues Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti have become legendary, watched by billions of viewers across all continents and creating an unprecedented impact on the world of opera.

He has presided over singing competitions, including the Concorso Internazionale Voci Verdiane Città di Busseto in Italy, the Masterclass di Canto Lirico Pesaro, the Elena Obraztsova Competition in Moscow, the Montserrat Caballé International Singing Competition in Barcelona, and the Vinci Culture Masterclass in Shenzhen, China. Biographical books about him have also been published and translated into various languages.

José Carreras has been photographed by two of the world's most renowned photographers: Richard Avedon and Annie Leibovitz.

After recovering from leukemia, Mr. Carreras has devoted his time and energy to the fight against this disease. In 1988, together with his family and a distinguished group of scientists and professionals, he created the "Jose Carreras International Leukemia Foundation" in his hometown, Barcelona. His commitment in aid of patients and science led him to create other foundations in the United States, Switzerland, and Germany. Mr. Carreras is fully involved in all of them as President of their Boards and has offered more than 200 artistic charitable performances to raise funds in their favor.

To contribute decisively to find a definite cure to leukemia, Mr. Jose Carreras founded in Barcelona the "José Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute", which hosts more than 400 collaborators.

