

# BENJAMIN APPL

Full length: 650 words

Baritone **Benjamin Appl** is celebrated for a voice that *“belongs to the last of the old great masters of song”* with *“an almost infinite range of colours”* (Sddeutsche Zeitung).

A former BBC New Generation Artist (2014-16), Wigmore Hall Emerging Artist and ECHO Rising Star (2015-16), Benjamin was named Gramophone Award Young Artist of the Year in 2016. He signed exclusively to Sony Classical that same year and later began a multi-album deal with Alpha Classics, whose first release *Winterreise* (2021), won widespread acclaim.



Appl’s musical journey began as a chorister with the renowned Regensburger Domspatzen, later continuing his studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Mentored by the legendary Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Appl describes the partnership as an *‘invaluable and a hugely formative influence. He [Fischer-Dieskau] is an inspiration – someone who is always searching and seeking a deeper understanding of music and of life. He was a role model for how to prosper as an artist, never just delivering, but each time creating.’*

An established recitalist, Appl has appeared at major music festivals worldwide including Ravinia, Rheingau, Schleswig-Holstein, Edinburgh, Heidelberg Frühling, Oxford, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and the KlavierFestival Ruhr. His concert performances have taken him to many prestigious venues including the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, Vienna, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Musée du Louvre, Palau de la Musica, Philharmonie de Paris and Shanghai Symphony Hall.

In equal demand as soloist with orchestra, his recent collaborators include the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Klaus Mäkelä, Oslo Philharmonic/Klaus Mäkelä, Munich Philharmonic/Andrew Manze, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse/Ton Koopman, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra/Andreas Reize, NHK Symphony Orchestra/Paavo Järvi, Philadelphia Orchestra/Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Staatskapelle Dresden/Christian Thielemann, Philharmonia/Maxim Emelyanychev, Seattle Symphony/Thomas Dausgaard and Vienna Symphony/ Karina Canellakis. In the 2024/25 season, Benjamin was named Artist in Residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, making his conducting debut in a sold-out New Year’s performance of Handel’s Messiah.

Some of Appl's recent recital debuts include Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Performances, Dallas Opera, Boston Celebrity Series, New York's Park Avenue Armory (of all three Schubert song cycles), Sydney Opera House, Mozarteum Salzburg, Festival St. Denis, and three presentations of *Winterreise* by the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona. A creative and innovative programmer, Benjamin seeks out diverse and enriching onstage partnerships including with pianists James Baillieu, Graham Johnson, David Fray, Alice Sara Ott, Arthur & Lucas Jussen, and Kit Armstrong; the Armida String Quartet; accordionists Martynas Levickis and Ksenija Sidorova and lutenist Thomas Dunford.

A revered interpreter of early music, Benjamin enjoys regular collaborations with Les Talens Lyriques, B'Rock, Ensemble Masques and the Berliner Barocksolisten. Equally at home in new music, Benjamin has premiered compositions by Jörg Widmann, Nico Muhly, David Lang and Matthias Pintscher, as well as enjoying a significant long-term partnership with composer György Kurtág.

On the opera stage, Appl recently performed Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* at the Hamburgische Staatsoper and Opéra Rouen, made his role and house debut as Harlequin *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona and looks forward to his upcoming house and role debut at the Teatro Real Madrid as Mercutio *Roméo et Juliette*.

In 2025, Appl released two albums, each devoted to a significant figure in his musical career: *Lines of Life* dedicated to György Kurtág, and *For Dieter* to his longtime mentor and teacher Dietrich Fischer Dieskau. Other recent standout recordings include *The Christmas Album (2024)* with the Regensburger Domspatzen, *Forbidden Fruit (2023)*, Schubert Lieder with orchestra (Münchner Rundfunkorchester), Hans Sommer songs (RSB), Schumann duets with Ann Murray, and a Wigmore Hall Live Schubert recital with Graham Johnson. His Sony debut album *Heimat* was Gramophone-nominated and won the Prix Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (2017–18).

Beyond the concert hall, Appl has starred in a filmed realisation of Schubert's *Winterreise* in the Swiss Alps, commissioned by the BBC and SRF broadcast on BBC4 in 2022. He also presented BBC Radio 3's *A Singer's World* and appeared in *Breaking Music*, a film exploring the meeting of Argentinian tango and German Lied. Benjamin is Professor of German Song at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

**Medium length: 330 words**

Baritone **Benjamin Appl** is celebrated for a voice that “*belongs to the last of the old great masters of song*” with “*an almost infinite range of colours*” (Süddeutsche Zeitung).

A former BBC New Generation Artist, Wigmore Hall Emerging Artist and ECHO Rising Star, he was named Gramophone Young Artist of the Year in 2016. That year he signed with Sony Classical before beginning a multi-album partnership with Alpha Classics, whose first release, *Winterreise* (2021), won international acclaim.

Appl’s musical path began as a chorister with the Regensburger Domspatzen, later studying in Munich and at London’s Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Mentored by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, he recalls him as “*an invaluable and hugely formative influence... always searching and seeking a deeper understanding of music and of life.*”

An acclaimed recitalist, Appl has appeared at festivals including Ravinia, Rheingau, Edinburgh, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and KlavierFestival Ruhr, and in concert halls from Wigmore and the Concertgebouw to the Elbphilharmonie, the Louvre, Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House and Shanghai Symphony Hall. Significant orchestral partners include the Royal Concertgebouw, Oslo Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, NHK Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra and Staatskapelle Dresden, working with conductors such as Mäkelä, Nézet-Séguin and Thielemann. He was Artist in Residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in 2024–25.

On the opera stage, Appl recently performed Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* at the Hamburgische Staatsoper and Opéra Rouen, made his role and house debut as Harlequin *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona and looks forward to his upcoming house and role debut at the Teatro Real Madrid as Mercutio *Roméo et Juliette*.

Appl’s discography includes *Lines of Life* and *For Dieter* (2025), *The Christmas Album* (2024), *Forbidden Fruit*, Schubert Lieder with orchestra, and his Sony debut *Heimat*, winner of the Prix Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau.

Beyond the stage, he has starred in a filmed *Winterreise* (BBC4/SRF), presented BBC Radio 3’s *A Singer’s World*, and appeared in *Breaking Music* (a film that celebrates both Argentinian Tango and German Lied traditions). Benjamin is Professor of German Song at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

**Short length: 220 words**

Baritone **Benjamin Appl** is praised for a voice that “*belongs to the last of the old great masters of song*” with “*an almost infinite range of colours*” (Süddeutsche Zeitung).

A former BBC New Generation Artist, Wigmore Hall Emerging Artist and ECHO Rising Star, he was named Gramophone Young Artist of the Year in 2016. Having studied in both Munich and London, he was later mentored by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, whom he describes as “*an invaluable and hugely formative influence.*”

Appl appears regularly at major festivals and venues worldwide including Ravinia, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Elbphilharmonie and Carnegie Hall. Recent orchestral partners include the Royal Concertgebouw, Oslo Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Vienna Symphony and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with whom he was Artist in Residence in the 2024–25 season.

On the opera stage, Appl’s highlights include Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* at the Hamburgische Staatsoper and Opéra Rouen, his role and house debut as Harlequin *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona and he looks forward to his upcoming house and role debut at the Teatro Real Madrid as Mercutio *Roméo et Juliette*.

His recordings span Bach and Schubert to Hans Sommer and Sibelius. Recent releases for Alpha Classics include *Lines of Life, For Dieter* (2025) and *The Christmas Album* (2024) as well as award-winning *Heimat* (2017) for Sony Classics.