



Giacomo-Meyerbeer-Gesellschaft e. V.
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Berlin, den 20. September 2025

Dear Mr. Bonyngé,

Today the Giacomo Meyerbeer Society has the great honor of awarding you with the honorary membership. We are a small but very devoted group and would like to thank you for accepting this recognition. It gives us real encouragement for our future work.

Over many decades, you have done extraordinary service to 19th-century bel canto opera, as your numerous recordings with your wife Dame Joan Sutherland testify so eloquently.

La fille du régiment, *Norma*, *La traviata*, *Orfeo ed Euridice* — so many marvelous hours of unforgettable joy!

Your legacy also reaches beyond the field of opera: you were also committed to instrumental compositions by Czerny and Balfe, which are almost forgotten today.

Your recording of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* is still considered the benchmark recording of this epoch-making grand opera and is the only studio production to date. Most recently, you devoted yourself to Meyerbeer's Italian opera *Semiramide*, which you performed with great verve and sensitivity in *Bad Wildbad* in July 2005. Fortunately, this performance has been released as a live recording on CD.

You have shown a lasting commitment to Meyerbeer's music, and we are delighted to honor you today.

With gratitude and admiration