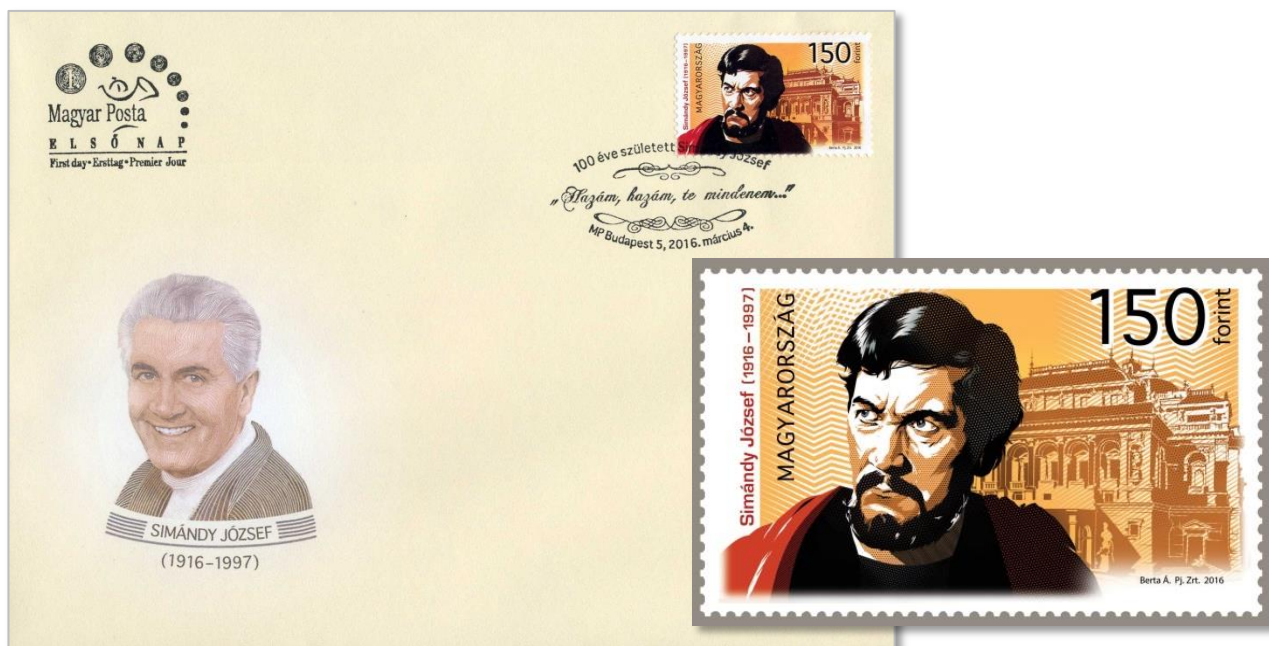


## JÓZSEF SIMÁNDY WAS BORN 100 YEARS AGO



Magyar Posta is issuing a commemorative stamp in honour of the centenary of the birth of the opera singer and teacher József Simándy, winner of the Kossuth Prize, Artist of Merit and Artist of Excellence. Simándy was among the most famous Hungarian tenors, whose voice and figure were indelibly associated with the title role of Ferenc Erkel's opera *Bánk bán* in the minds of several generations of Hungarians. He is portrayed playing this part on the stamp, with the building of the Opera House in the background. Two hundred thousand copies of the stamp with a face value of HUF 150 designed by the graphic artist Ágnes Berta were produced by the banknote printing company Pénzjegynyomda Zrt. The new issue will be available while stocks last at first day post offices and Filaposta in Hungary from 4 March, but may also be purchased from Magyar Posta's online store.

József Simándy was born on 18 September 1916 in Kistarcsa. After four years of elementary and four years of higher elementary schooling, he trained as a car mechanic at a taxi company, where he worked until the autumn of 1939. He studied singing first at Emília Posszert's private school, and then attended the Academy of Music between 1943 and 1945. During the war years he was a member of the chorus at the Opera House. He premiered as a solo tenor in the role of Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* in the National Theatre in Szeged.

Simándy became a private singer working independently of the Opera House in 1947 and a life member of the Opera House in 1990. Between 1956 and 1960 he appeared at the Staatsoper in Munich. He taught at the Academy of Music between 1978 and 1986. The tenor's presence, disposition, rich voice and inner strength made him particularly suitable for the heldentenor roles. He made numerous records and was highly acclaimed for his appearances in Europe's major opera houses and concert halls as well as being a great favourite with domestic audiences. His name and memory is respected and treasured throughout the country. Interestingly, while the renowned singer wrote his surname Simándi, his fans and the singing profession changed the last letter to a "y" as a mark of respect because the surnames of noble Hungarian families often have this ending. Source: [hegyvidekujsag.eu](http://hegyvidekujsag.eu); [mediaklikk.hu](http://mediaklikk.hu)

### SIMÁNDY 2016:

#### Order code:

2016030010011 (stamp)  
2016030060012 (FDC)

#### Issued on:

4 March 2016

#### Face value:

HUF 150 (non-priority,  
domestic other letter up to  
50 g)

#### Printing method: offset

#### Number of copies: 200 000

#### Perforated size:

40 x 25 mm

#### Number of stamps in sheet:

50 (5 bar codes per sheet)

**Paper type:** gummed  
postage stamp paper

#### Printed by

Pénzjegynyomda Zrt.

#### Designed by

Ágnes Berta