

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's classical singer Katherine Jenkins

**The prized possession you value above all others...** My wedding ring [she married American artist Andrew Levitas in 2014]. It's a platinum band with diamonds around it. Andrew is really romantic and had it engraved on the inside. I cried when I read it, but I won't share what it says here!

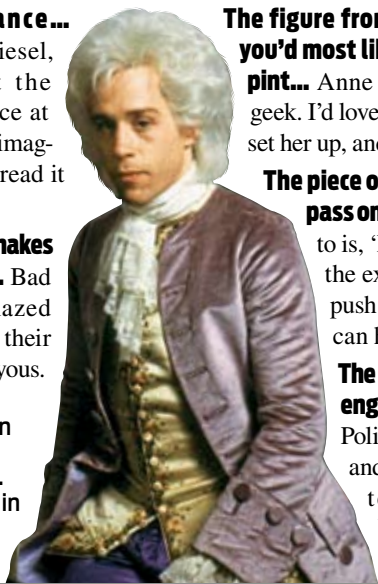
**The biggest regret you wish you could amend...** That my dad Selwyn didn't live to see what happened with my career. He died from lung cancer at 70 when I was 15. He was a stay-at-home dad while my mum worked, so he was the one who shuttled me to music and singing lessons. He would have loved every minute of my success.

**The temptation you wish you could resist...** Watching trash TV like Hollywood Medium on the E! channel.

**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...** Night by Elie Wiesel, which is about the author's experience at Auschwitz. I can't imagine anyone could read it and not be moved.

**The pet hate that makes your hackles rise...** Bad manners. I'm amazed how people forget their pleases and thank yous.

Right: Tom Hulce in Amadeus. Above right: an elephant. Far right: a sunset in the Hamptons



**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day...** I'd wipe out the poaching gangs killing rhinos and elephants. I support charities such as TUSK which are trying to stop the illegal ivory trade.

**The film you can watch time and time again...** Amadeus (1984). I first watched it on video when I was ten and I was absorbed by the story. Mozart's music has played an important part in my life.

**The person who has influenced you most...** My mum Susan, who's 65 now. She told me and my sister Laura, who's two years younger, that we could do anything in life if we worked hard.

**The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint...** Anne Boleyn. I'm a Tudor geek. I'd love to know if Cromwell set her up, and if she had affairs.

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...** My motto is, 'It's never crowded on the extra mile.' When you push yourself, great things can happen.

**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...** Politics. I'm a news junkie and I go to Prime Minister's Questions at Westminster.



'I'm fascinated by politics – I'm a news junkie and I go to Prime Minister's Questions at Westminster'

**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...** The ability to worry less. I used to be chilled, but since our daughter Aaliyah was born in September last year I've started to worry about the most ridiculous things if they concern her.

**The unending quest that drives you on...** To be a good role model to my daughter, like my mum was to me.

**The poem that touches your soul...** I Carry Your Heart With Me by e.e. cummings. It's so romantic. It was read at our wedding and has become our special poem.

**The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase...** That I'm a diva! I've read that I threw water bottles at people, ordered six meals just for myself and that I insist on £1,500 a day for hair and make-up. They're all lies. I'm pretty hard on myself, but apart from that I'm very easy going.

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...** Getting my first record deal in 2003. I was a singing teacher when I went for an audition at Universal and an hour later they offered me a six-album deal. I cried for the rest of the day!

**The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...** I'd steal a great painting by the German artist Anselm Kiefer and give it to Andrew.

**The song that means most to you...** Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, Wales's National Anthem. I'm proud to be Welsh.

**The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...** I'd wake up at home in London – because that's rare! – and have cuddles with Andrew and Aaliyah. Breakfast would be green tea, porridge and blueberries, then we'd go to Shamwari Game Reserve in South Africa and see rhinos, giraffes and lions. I'd have lunch with friends at Katsuya in Hollywood – baked crab rolls and spicy tuna on rice. In the afternoon I'd have a box at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, packed with my family to see Wales thrash England at rugby. Later I'd have a glass of rosé while viewing the sunset in the Hamptons, New York. In the evening Andrew and I would watch Tosca at La Scala, Milan, then head to the

Maldives. We went there for our honeymoon and had dinner on a sandbank. It was the most romantic thing ever.

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** The birth of my daughter. Professionally, it was getting the BRIT award for Album of the Year for Second Nature in 2005.

**The saddest time that shook your world...** Losing my dad was such a shock. I still miss him and think of him all the time, and I feel strongly that he's been guiding me ever since.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** To play Carmen at Llangollen Musical Festival. I had to pull out this year after getting a virus.

**The philosophy that underpins your life...** Nothing worth having comes easily. That goes for friendships, marriage, children, health and work.

**The order of service at your funeral...** I want a celebratory mood at St David's Church in my hometown of Neath, with hymns including Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind and Calon Lan. I want funny speeches and for me to be sung out by a gospel choir.

**The way you want to be remembered...** A devoted and loving wife, mother and – hopefully – grandmother, who could belt out a tune from time to time.

**The Plug...** Katherine's Celebration tour begins in Swansea on 1 December and she performs at London's Barbican Hall on 27 December. Visit [katherinejenkins.co.uk](http://katherinejenkins.co.uk). ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



## PS...

*JK Rowling's Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them, with Eddie Redmayne, is in cinemas Friday. Bruno Mars's third album, 24K Magic, is out the same day. And it's the opening night of King Lear at The Barbican on Tuesday*



## NEXT WEEK

- Royal Wedding cake maker Fiona Cairns kicks off the festive period with her Stir Up Sunday Christmas pudding and cake recipes
- Comedian Sarah Millican on the saddest time that shook her world
- PLUS Britain's best TV listings guide