



## MENGQI ZHANG

Soprano

Mengqi Zhang will create the part of Mogli in Giovanni Sollima's *The Dschunglebook* at Oper Kiel to be premiered in October 2020. In November 2020, the lyric coloratura soprano will sing Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelle Aventures* in Budapest under the baton of Peter Eötvös. In March 2021, she will create the part of Qinli in Ching's *Julie und Mao* at Theater Erfurt, based on Chow Ching's *Le Palanquin des Larmes* (Journey in Tears).

Mengqi Zhang, born in 1992, grew up in a small town in China's south-west. At the age of 16, she moved to Beijing to study at the conservatory Chinese folk songs and singing. In 2011, she presented China in Russia, where she got in touch with classical music for the first time. Through this experience her wish grew to move to Germany to study classical singing. After private studies with Silvia Koncza in Stuttgart and the participation of a Lotte-Lehmann-Week in Perleberg, where she was awarded a promotion prize, Mengqi Zhang studied with Julie Kaufmann at Universität der Künste in Berlin from 2013 up to 2019. During her studies, she also worked with the departments of musicals and sacred music as well as with contemporary music and contemporary opera productions.

Mengqi Zhang has held a scholarship of the Paul-Hindemith-Society, and a German scholarship of the DAAD. And refined her studies in master classes by Jeanette Favaro-Reuter, Christiane Iven und Helmut Lachenmann. In 2020, she was awarded the Prize for her interpretation of a commissioned work / Prize of the Elsa-Wera-Arnold-Foundation at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Hochschulwettbewerb.

In 2017, the Chinese coloratura-soprano made her debut as Contessa di Folleville in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* in a production at Universität der Künste in Berlin. In 2018, Mengqi Zhang performed the leading part in a semi-staged production of Mozart's *Die Gans aus Kairo*, accompanied by Berliner Symphoniker under Lior Shambadal's baton. In 2019, she performed Maria in Bernstein's *West Side Story* with the German-Polish Youth Orchestra Frankfurt/Oder during the German-Polish Music Festival in Gorzów as well at Stadtkirche Müncheberg. At Junge Oper Schloss Weikersheim she made her debut as Musetta in Puccini's *La bohème* in 2019. In early 2020, she was to sing Madeline Usher in Glass' *The Fall of the House of Usher*, accompanied by Jewish Chamber Orchestra Munich, with performances at Kammerspiele München, Theater Aschaffenburg and Theater Landsberg am Lech – this production will be postponed to the 2020/2021 season due to COVID 19 virus.

In 2016, Mengqi Zhang took part in a birthday concert for composer Aribert Reimann and has sung a solo concert in her hometown of Chuxiong. She joined in a production of Bruno Maderna's *Satyricon*, which was presented by Universität der Künste in Budapest. As a concert soloist, Mengqi Zhang's repertoire includes works by Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mozart. She is also a dedicated lied singer with a repertoire including works by Eva dell'Aqua, Gustav Mahler, Max Reger, Aribert Reimann, Wolfgang Rihm, Franz Schreker, Klara Schumann, Richard Strauss and Manfred Trojahn.