



MENGQI ZHANG

Soprano

In June 2022, Mengqi Zhang will create the role of Ermittlerin in the world premiere of Leuschner's *Blitze sprechen Deutsch* at Staatstheater Kassel, having previously created Mowgli in the world premiere of Sollima's *The Jungle Book* at Oper Kiel in 2020. In March 2022, the Chinese coloratura soprano with German passport will make her role debut as La princesse Eudoxie in Halévy's *La Juive* at Oper Kiel.

Born in 1992, Mengqi Zhang grew up in a small town in south-west China. At the age of 16, she moved to Beijing to study Chinese folk songs and singing at the conservatory. In 2011, she presented China in Russia, where she encountered classical music for the first time. This inspired her to move to Germany to study classical singing. After private studies with Silvia Koncza in Stuttgart and participation in 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 to 2019. During her studies, she also worked with the departments of musical theatre and sacred music as well as with contemporary music and in contemporary opera productions.

Mengqi Zhang has held Paul Hindemith Society and DAAD scholarships and refined her studies in masterclasses with Jeanette Favaro-Reuter, Christiane Iven and Helmut Lachenmann. In 2020, she was awarded the Elsa Wera Arnold Foundation Prize for Interpretation of a Commissioned Work at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Academy Competition.

In 2017, Mengqi Zhang 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, she performed the leading role in a semi-staged production of Mozart's *Die Gans aus Kairo*, accompanied by the Berliner Symphoniker conducted by Lior Shambadal. In 2019, the coloratura soprano sang 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 as at Stadtkirche Müncheberg. At Junge Oper Schloss Weikersheim she made her debut as Musetta in Puccini's *La bohème* in 2019.

In 2016, Mengqi Zhang took part in a birthday concert for composer Aribert Reimann and gave a solo concert in her hometown of Chuxiong. She also appeared in a production of Bruno Maderna's *Satyricon* presented by Universität der Künste in Budapest.

Mengqi Zhang's repertoire as a concert soloist includes works by Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mozart. The soprano created Gourzi's *Rezitativ der Antigone op. 81* in 2020. She is also a dedicated recitalist 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.