



MENGQI ZHANG

Soprano

In June 2022, Mengqi Zhang created the part of Ermittlerin in the world premiere of Leuschner's *Einbruch mehrerer Dunkelheiten* at Staatstheater Kassel, having previously created Mowgli in the world premiere of Sollima's *The Dschunglebook* at Oper Kiel in 2020. The soprano created Gourzi's *Rezitativ der Antigone* op. 81 in 2020 and will perform this work again at Konzerthaus Berlin in September 2022. September 2022 will see her debut at Oper Bern, where she will create the part of Ariel in Haas' world premiere *Sycorax*.

Mengqi Zhang grew up in a small town in south-west China and now holds a German passport. 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.

The 2022/23 season will await Mengqi Zhang's debut at Staatsoper Hannover and she will return to Oper Bern for *Le Feu* and *Le Rossignol* in a new production of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. In March 2022, the coloratura soprano made her role debut as La princesse Eudoxie in Halévy's *La Juive* at Oper Kiel. In 2017, Mengqi Zhang performed Contessa di Folleville in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* for the first time in a production at Universität der Künste in Berlin.

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. Her repertoire as a concert soloist includes works by Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mozart. She was awarded for her creation of 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.

Mengqi Zhang worked with directors including Patrick Bialdya, Marco Dott, Frank Hilbrich, Daniel Karasek, Ingo Kerkhof, Florentine Klepper, Pier Francesco Maestrini, and Dirk Schmeding. She performed under the baton of Francesco Angelico, Enrico Fresis, Fausto Nardi, Benjamin Reiners, and Lior Shambadal.