



MENGQI ZHANG SOPRANO

Mengqi Zhang is passionate for contemporary works and created several parts in the past few years: in 2022 the coloratura soprano created Ariel in Haas' *Sycorax* at Bühnen Bern and Ermittlerin in Leuschner's *Einbruch mehrerer Dunkelheiten* at Staatstheater Kassel. In 2020, she created Mowgli in Sollima's *The Dschungelbook* at Oper Kiel and Gourzi's *Rezitativ der Antigone* op. 81, she performed again at Konzerthaus Berlin in 2022. In November 2023, she will return to Staatsoper Hannover for the world premiere of Olivia Hyunsin Kim *Turning Turandot*.

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 saw the coloratura soprano's debut at Staatsoper Hannover in the title role in Ronchetti's *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and her return to Oper Bern for *La Princesse, Le Feu* and *Le Rossignol* in a new production of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and Brigitte in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*. In 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. She worked with directors David Bösch, Marco Dott, Frank Hilbrich, Daniel Karasek, Ingo Kerkhof, Florentine Klepper, Pier Francesco Maestrini, Dirk Schmeding.

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.

The coloratura soprano was accompanied by orchestras including Berliner Sinfoniker, Berner Symphonieorchester, Jewish Chamber Orchestra Munich, Jove Orquestra Nacional de Catalunya, Philharmonisches Orchester Kiel, Staatsorchester Kassel and performed under the baton of Francesco Angelico, Nicholas Carter, Enrico F्रेसis, Fausto Nardi, Benjamin Reiners, and Lior Shambadal.