



JUSTYNA RAPACZ (nee Ołów) **MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Justyna Rapacz made her Paris debut at Théâtre de Champs-Élysées in October 2023 under her maiden name Justyna Ołów, and will return to Semperoper Dresden for revivals during the 2023/24 season. The mezzo-soprano was a member of Semperoper Dresden's Youth Ensemble from 2021 until 2023 and her repertoire included parts in Bizet's *Carmen*, Dvořák's *Rusalka*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Rossini's *La cenerentola* and Strauss' *Elektra*.

Born in 1995 in Suwałki, she has been a member of the Polish National Opera Academy at Warsaw Teatr Wielki since 2017. Since 2018 she has been studying for a Bachelor's degree in singing at the Hanover Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien with Marek Rzepka, after obtaining a Bachelor's degree from the Frederic Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw, where she studied with Magdalena Idzik in 2014-18. Justyna Rapacz refined her training in masterclasses with Helmut Deutsch, Hedwig Fassbender, Izabella Kłosińska, Tomasz Konieczny, Mariusz Kwiecień, Thomas Lausmann, Francesco Massimi, René Massis, Fausto Nardi, Olga Pasichnyk, Eytan Pessen, Paul Plummer, Matthias Rexroth and Teresa Żylis-Gara.

In 2020, she was awarded a scholarship from the Dr Gerda Rohde Prize to Promote Young Musical Talents. In 2013, the mezzo-soprano was awarded First Prize and the Prize for the Best Female Voice in Poland at the 4th Halina Słonicka Competition in Suwałki, Second Prize in the CEA competition in Olsztyn and Second Prize at the international Music without Borders in Druskininkai in Lithuania.

The mezzo-soprano made her debut at Warsaw Teatr Wielki-National Opera in 2021, singing the part of Katharina Schratt in the ballet *Mayerling*, and returned in 2022. She sang the title role in Holst's *Sāvītri* at the 25th Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival in Warsaw in 2021 and Moska in Cherubini's *Faniska* at the 24th Festival as well as arias by Mozart and Rossini in the New Year's Eve Gala 2020 at Warsaw's Teatr Wielki. In 2021, she was to have sung her first Cherubino in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2021 – this debut was cancelled due to Covid-19. In 2015, she performed the Mistress of the Novices in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* at the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw. In 2018, she performed Olga in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* in a co-production between the Frederic Chopin University of Music and Teatr Wielki-National Opera.

Justyna Rapacz has sung Dębski's *Śpiewy historyczne* under the baton of the composer himself with Warsaw National Philharmonic in 2019 and the contralto part in Glass' *A Madrigal Opera* at the Opera Rara Festival in Kraków. In 2018, she sang Poniatowski's *F-Major Mass* at La Catedral de la Santa Creu i Santa Eulàlia in Barcelona and Brahms' *Alt-Rhapsodie* op. 53 in Helsinki's JohanneksenkirKKo and in 2021 she sang Virtue in Handel's *The Choice of Hercules* with Capella Cracoviensis in Bruges. Her concert repertoire also includes Bach's *Easter Oratorio*, *St John Passion* and *St Matthew Passion*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio* and Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. In 2023, she went on tour with Hofer Symphoniker and will make her debut with Narodowa Orkiestra Symfoniczna Polskiego Radia w Katowicach.

Justyna Rapacz has performed under the baton of conductors including Jan Tomasz Adamus, Marin Alsop, Benjamin Bayl, Fabio Bonizzoni, Łukasz Borowicz, Srba Dinić, Patrick Fournillier, Christoph Gedschold, Paul Goodwin, Michał Klauza, Ilija Korol, Andrzej Kosendiak, Jacek Kraszewski, Sebastian Perłowski sowie and Kai Wessel and with orchestras such as Capella Cracoviensis, Capella Regia Polona, Narodowa Orkiestra Symfoniczna Polskiego Radia w Katowicach, Orkiestra Filharmonii Narodowej, Filharmonii Poznańskiej, Orkiestra Polskiego Radia, Orkiestra Teatru Wielkiego – Opery Narodowej w Warszawie and Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden.