Hongni Wu

Mezzo-Soprano

Chinese mezzo-soprano Hongni Wu joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden at the start of the 2018/19 season, subsequently making her house debut as Flora in Richard Eyre’s popular production of *La traviata* under Antonello Manacorda. Further roles on the main stage included Mercédès in Barrie Kosky’s acclaimed production of *Carmen,* Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*,and Siébel in Gounod’s *Faust*. At The Linbury Theatre, Hongni received strong praise for her portrayal of Hans Werner Henze’s *Phaedra* – “Wu is particularly impressive in the title role, singing this hugely difficult music with great skill and acting the role with great passion” (*The Express*) – and, in the Young Artists Summer Showcase, was heard in scenes from *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

In the 2021/22 season, Hongni will return to Covent Garden as Flora and make two important debuts in China: her first *Das Lied von der Erde* with Long Yu and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, and her solo recital debut at the Guangzhou Opera House in a programme of Mahler and Strauss.

During her time at the Manhattan School of Music, Hongni Wu performed the roles of Angelina (*La cenerentola*), Sesto (*La clemenza di Tito*), and La libellule (*L’enfant et les sortilèges*), garnering praise from the *New York Times* for her “technical agility, warm colorings, and ample sound”. Further performing experience includes Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with Opera Maine, Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*) with the Martina Arroyo Foundation, the title role in *Carmen* with the Xinghai Conservatory of Music, and Mrs. Umeya in *Qingling Song* at Guangzhou Opera House.

A 2018 winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Wu completed her Professional Studies and Master of Music Degree at the Manhattan School of Music (where she was also the recipient of the Stan Sesser Career Award), received her Bachelor of Music Degree from Xinghai Conservatory of Music, and has participated in the Scuola di Bel Canto summer programme in Urbania, Italy.

On the concert platform, Wu adds Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and Verdi’s Messa da Requiem to her repertoire with Wuhan and Hangzhou philharmonic orchestras respectively as well as Tan Dun’s *Buddha Passion* on a national tour of China, conducted by the composer himself. Hongni has given numerous solo recitals in North America and China and was featured in both the Martina Arroyo Prelude Gala Concert and Spring Luncheon Cabaret in New York.



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