Shenyang

Bass-baritone

From the moment Shenyang won the prestigious BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition in 2007, his ascent to international prominence was assured. His career, defined by elegant and precise singing, was launched with early acclaim for interpretations of Mozart, Rossini, and Handel and in recent years, Shenyang has ventured into more dramatic and psychologically complex repertoire, embracing the works of Beethoven, Strauss, and Wagner.

Recent performances as Don Pizarro (*Fidelio*) with Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel and Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich under Paavo Järvi, have marked a major evolution in both his vocal power and dramatic intensity and his portrayal of Jochanaan (*Salome*) with Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Liebreich was hailed for its visceral force.

Shenyang’s affinity for Wagner has become a defining feature of his calendar and his performances as Gunther (*Götterdämmerung*) with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra under Jaap van Zweden (released on Naxos), Klingsor (*Parsifal*) at La Monnaie under Alain Altinoglu, Heerrufer (*Lohengrin*) at Opéra national de Paris under Alexander Soddy, and Kurwenal (*Tristan und Isolde*) at the Glyndebourne Festival under Robin Ticciati have demonstrated his mastery of the composer's complex vocal and dramatic demands. His portrayal of Wotan (*Das Rheingold*) with Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, and his upcoming debut in *Die Walküre* as part of Bayreuth in Shanghai under Xu Zhong, further confirm his growing stature in this repertoire.

Further highlights this season include his debut as Amonasro (*Aida*) at Washington National Opera under Kwamé Ryan, concert performances of *Fidelio* at Ludwig van Beethoven Association Easter Festival under Leopold Hager, Kullervo with London Philharmonic Orchestra under Robin Ticciati and Bluebeard’s Castle with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra under Hannu Lintu.

Shenyang’s concert work has been distinguished by acclaimed performances of Beethoven, Symphony No.9 with leading orchestras around the world including with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and the New York Philharmonic under Alan Gilbert. His interpretations of Verdi’s Requiem with Orchestre National de Lyon under Simone Young and at the Bergen International Festival under Ed Gardner, as well as Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* with Boston Symphony Orchestra under Andris Nelsons, and Berlioz’s *Roméo et Juliette* with Berliner Philharmoniker under Daniel Harding have showcased his expressive power and vocal richness.

Shenyang has also explored the expressive possibilities of 20th-century repertoire with notable performances including Stravinsky, *Oedipus Rex* with Munich Philharmonic under Santtu-Matias Rouvali and Mussorgsky, *Songs and Dances of Death* with Helsinki Philharmonic under Klaus Mäkelä.

A passionate advocate for Chinese vocal music, Shenyang has brought contemporary Chinese repertoire to international stages with distinction. He created the title role in Tan Dun’s *Buddha Passion*, premiered at Dresdner Musikfestspiele and subsequently performed with orchestras in Los Angeles, Melbourne, and London under the composer’s baton. He also premiered Yao Chen’s *Autumn: Sentiments (Jia Lu)* at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing and recorded Xiaogang Ye’s *The Song of the Earth* for Deutsche Grammophon.

His acclaimed recital programme, *Variations of Jade – The Journey of Tang Poetry*, has been presented at the Macau International Music Festival, Shanghai Symphony Hall, and Wigmore Hall, where *The Guardian* praised his “velvet voice and elegant phrasing.”