Hongni Wu

Mezzo-Soprano

Having spent two seasons with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, Hongni Wu made her house debut as Flora in Richard Eyre’s popular production of *La traviata* under Antonello Manacorda, with further roles on the main stage including Mercédès in *Carmen,* Zweite Dame in *Die Zauberflöte*,Siébel in Gounod’s *Faust* and, most recently, an unanimously acclaimed Kuchtik in a new staging of *Rusalka* under Semyon Bychkov. At the Linbury Theatre, she was praised for her gritty interpretation of Hans Werner Henze’s *Phaedra* and as part of the Young Artists’ Summer Showcase she performed scenes from *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Of Hongni Wu’s sensational recent debut as Der Komponist in Ariadne auf Naxos at Opéra National de Montpellier, Forum Opéra wrote, ​“the timbre of the voice is fresh, radiant, and assured.” She has enjoyed further recent acclaim as Bao Chai in Bright Sheng’s Dream of the Red Chamber at San Francisco Opera, for her spirited Angelina in *La Ceneretola* at Teatro Carlo Felice di Genova under Riccardo Minasi, for her debut as Dorabella in *Così fan Tutte* for Pacific Opera Victoria as well as for the creation of the dual roles of Comrade Chin and Shu Fung in the world premiere of Huang Ruo’s M. Butterfly at Santa Fe Opera.

Operatic highlights of Wu’s 2023/24 season include Rosina in *Il barbiere di siviglia* at both Macau International Music Festival and with Opera Theater of Saint Louis under Jonathan Brandani, a reprise of Dvorak’s Kuchtik with Opera Royal de Wallonie under Giampaolo Bisanti, and a return to Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in her role debut as Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, conducted by Kevin John Edusei.

Equally comfortable on the concert platform, last season brought success in Mahler’s Symphony No.3 at London’s Royal Festival Hall with Paavo Järvi conducting the Philharmonia Orchestra, further expanding her Mahler repertoire with performances of *Das Lied von der Erde* under both Yu Long with Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra and Tan Dun with Shanghai Symphony Orchestra as well as *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra. Hongni Wu previously joined the soloist line-up in Tan Dun’s epic *Buddha Passion* on a national tour of China, and will debut with Accademia di Santa Cecilia this season in the same work, conducted by the composer himself, for its Italian premiere. Additionally, she will join Philharmonia Baroque for concerts and a recording of Schumann’s *Requiem* under Richard Egarr, and presents a recital of Strauss, Mahler and Chinese song together with pianist Patrick Milne in Stadt Waiblingen under the auspices of Opera for Peace.

Whilst studying at the Manhattan School of Music, Hongni Wu gave performances as Angelina, Sesto in *La clemenza di Tito* and La libellule in *L’enfant et les sortilèges*, garnering praise from the *New York Times* for her “technical agility, warm colourings, and ample sound,” and was a 2018 winner of The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.