



ENSEMBLE GERMAN DUO

Ying Zhang (BIOGRAPHY)

Native of China, Ms. Zhang started violin playing at the age of five and continued her musical education at the Shanghai conservatory of music, the Cologne Musikhochschule, the Karajan Foundation and the Berlin Academy of Arts. As a scholarship recipient, she studied with Prof. Saschko Gawriloff, Daniel Stabrawa, Prof. Thomas Brandis, Rainer Kussmaul, Herman Krebbers, and Nathan Milstein. In 1996 she was awarded the Brahms-prize by The Carl-Flesch-Academy.

She performed with the China National Symphony Orchestra, the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, the Baden-Baden Philharmonie, and the Staatskapelle Halle. Recordings have been produced with, among others, the Radio Berlin Brandenburg and the Central German Radio. She plays regularly at several European chamber music festivals, like Salzburger Festival, the Beijing Music Festival and the Händelfestspiele Halle. Among her musical partners are Eduard Brunner, Markus Groh, Ian Fountain, Ida Bieler, Maria Kliegel and others. Since 2005, she has been playing in Leipzig Piano Trio.

Ying Zhang plays a Violin made in 1690 by Francesco Rugieri, Cremona

Michael Wederberg (BIOGRAPHY)

Classical repertoire – from Bach to Schoenberg – comes just as naturally to conductor and pianist Michael Wendberg as his passion for new music. In 2016 he took up the position of "Erster Kapellmeister" at the Halle Opera, where in the current season he is conducting performances of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Verdi's Requiem as well as Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine* and Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Michael Wendberg has conducted renowned orchestras and ensembles including the Staatskapelle Berlin, Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra Ljubljana, Klangforum Wien, Remix Ensemble Porto, Musikfabrik Cologne and the Basel Sinfonietta. He has made guest appearances at the Lucerne Festival, Munich

Biennale, Bregenz Festival, Venice Biennale, Eclat Festival Stuttgart and Klangspuren Schwaz, as well as at Wien Modern. He made his debut with the WDR Symphony Orchestra, the Ensemble Modern and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra at the Beethovenfest Bonn as well as the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin at the Acht Brücken Festival Cologne. Since April 2018, after seven years as Music Director, he has been announced as first guest conductor of the Ensemble Contrechamps in Geneva.

Michael Wendeberg studied piano with Markus Stange, Bernd Glemser and Benedetto Lupo and conducting in Toshiyuki Kamioka's masterclass in Saarbrücken. During this time he worked as Toshiyuki Kamioka's assistant at the Wuppertaler Bühnen. After graduating Michael Wendeberg held positions at the Nationaltheater Mannheim and the Staatsoper Berlin, where he assisted Daniel Barenboim and guest conductors such as Pierre Boulez and Sir Simon Rattle, and was principal conductor at the Lucerne Theater.

His opera repertoire includes Bizet's *Carmen*; Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Handel's *Orlando*; Mozart's *Zaide*, *Clemenza di Tito* and *The Magic Flute*; Verdi's *La Traviata*, *Un Ballo in Maschera* and *Il Trovatore*; Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Don Pasquale*; Rossini's *La Scala di Seta* and *La Cenerentola*; Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*; Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*; Bernstein's *West Side Story*; and Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Tosca*. Michael Wendeberg gained national recognition early on in his career in 2006 with Michael Nyman's *The man who mistook his wife for a hat* in Wuppertal, as well as the world premiere of Enno Poppe's *ArbeitNahrungWohnung* in a production by Anna Viebrock in 2008 at the Munich Biennale, and Karl Amadeus Hartmann's *Des Simplicius Simplicissimus Jugend*, staged by the director Thomas Fiedler in Zurich in 2010. In 2016 he led the world premiere of Sidney Corbett's opera *Die Andere* at the Magdeburg Theatre. He also returned to the Staatsoper Berlin for the revival of *The Magic Flute* and a new production of Aribert Reimann's *Gespensersonate* in summer 2017. Last season in Halle he conducted Beethoven's *Fidelio* and Verdi's *Aida* as well as the premiere of a ballet set to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Since 2020 he is Chief conductor Halle Opera.

As a pianist, Michael Wendeberg has won several national and international piano competitions and performed as a soloist at renowned festivals and with prestigious orchestras under conductors such as Jonathan Nott, Marek Janowski and Daniel Barenboim. From 2000 until 2005 he was a member of the Ensemble intercontemporain and worked intensively with Pierre Boulez. In March 2018 he appeared at the Boulez Saal with the Boulez's complete works for piano, a feat he first pulled off as part of the late composer's 90th birthday celebrations at the Staatsoper Berlin in 2015. A CD production of the sonatas is planned for summer 2018.

In the 2018/19 season, Michael Wendeberg will return to the Ensemble Intercontemporain, this time on the conductor's podium rather than as a pianist. He will also conduct concerts with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group in Birmingham and Trier and return to the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Estonian Symphony Orchestra Tallin and the Ensemble Modern. Guest appearances will lead him to the Ultraschall Festival Berlin with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin as well as to Witten with the WDR Symphony Orchestra. 2018/19 Season