

Jaka Mihelač
Baritone



Born in 1994, Slovenian baritone Jaka Mihelač studied at the Music Academy Ljubljana with Prof. Matjaž Robavs.

Between 2019 and 2021, he was a member of the International Opera Studio at Staatsoper Berlin, where his roles included Marullo/*Rigoletto*, Dancaïro/*Carmen*, Notar/*Der Rosenkavalier*, Perückenmacher/*Ariadne auf Naxos*, Varsonofyev/*Khovanshchina*, 2nd Philistine/*Samson et Dalila*, Fiorillo/*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Sciarrone/*Tosca*, Don Alfonso in Jobst Liebrecht's *La Piccola Cubana*, Kilian/*Der Freischütz*, Sid/*Fanciulla del West* and the title role in Georg Friedrich Haas' *Thomas*.

Engagements prior to him joining Staatsoper Berlin include a staged version of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, produced by Christoph Hagel, in Berlin and the Meistersängerhalle in Nuremberg, Ottokar/*Der Freischütz* at Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg, Yamadori/*Madama Butterfly* at the Slovene National Opera in Ljubljana and Valentin/*Faust* at the Slovene National Theatre in Maribor. He has also premiered new operas by Dušan Bavdek, Aleš Makovac und Tom Kobe.

Jaka Mihelač's concert repertoire ranges from Bach's Passions to works by Britten and Michael Tippett. He has performed with the Staatskapelle Berlin, the orchestras of the Gran Teatre Liceu, Teatro Real Madrid and Slovene National Theatres Maribor and Ljubljana, the Berliner Symphoniker, the Slovenian Philharmonic orchestra, the Orchestra of Radio Serbia and worked with conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Vladimir Jurowski, Peter Ruzicka, Thomas Guggeis, Massimo Zanetti and Alessandro De Marchi and directors such as Claus Guth, Alvis Hermanis, Bart Sher and Martin Kušej.

Jaka Mihelač has won several awards, including 1st prize in the 2016 Slovenian national singing competition, 1st prize and Mozart prize in the 2017 Ferruccio Tagliavini competition, the Wil Keune prize in the 2018 Belvedere Competition and 4th prize in the 56th Francisco Viñas competition in Barcelona in 2019.

In 2021/22, he will give his house debut at Opera National de Montpellier as Marullo, perform Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with the Slovenian Philharmonic and



return to Staatsoper Berlin as a guest for the world premiere of Peter Eötvös' opera *Sleepless*, as Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and in the title role in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

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