

Qilian Chen was born in Dalian, in the North-East of China.

Graduating from Shanyang music conservatory with a Bachelor degree and with highest honours, she became a singing teacher in the same university afterwards.

Arriving in Brussels in 1986, Qilian quickly gained her higher degrees both for Chant-Opera and Chant-Concert at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels with Professor Jules Bastin and also became his assistant until 1998.

She won prizes in many major international singing competitions: Belvedere, Vienna (Austria); 's- Hertogenbosch (Netherlands); Pavarotti's Competition, Philadelphia (USA); Madame Butterfly Competition, Barcelona (Spain); Spiga d'oro, Sicily (Italy); Queen Elisabeth first Singing Competition (Belgium). Qilian quickly became a favourite of audiences with her appearance, radiant personality, magnificent voice and emotion.

After the Queen Elisabeth Competition, she was engaged for several roles at La Monnaie in Brussels and her first title roles were Madame Butterfly and Turandot. Since then she has sung around 200 times in theatres all over Europe and the United States to enthusiastic acclaim of audiences and press alike. To quote some reviews: the reputedly critical Frankfurt Allgemeine called her, "An ideal Butterfly". Another paper wrote, "Did you feel an angel wandering through the theater? This was splendid soprano Qilian Chen, an authentic expert of Bel Canto".

Qilian regularly appears at important music festivals, with repertoire ranging from Opera to Oratorio, Lieder and Melodies. Her recording of Chinese songs and the great Puccini Arias (Pavane ANW 7299 and 7366) have received warm critical acclaim from the international music press. Recently she made a new recording of "Famous Orchestra Songs by Richard Strauss" with Dirk Brosse, Music Director of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and Shanghai Opera House Orchestra.

Qilian is a professor at the Shanghai Music Conservatory since 2000. Meantime she has been

Invited as a jury member by different international singing competition in Europe.