

BOSTON

OPERA

COLLABORATIVE

POST OFFICE BOX 230348

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02123

PHONE: 617.517.5883

BOSTONOPERACOLLABORATIVE.ORG

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brandon Milardo
brandon.milardo@bostonoperacollaborative.org

BOSTON OPERA COLLABORATIVE PRESENTS: ***DEAD MAN WALKING***

February 4th, 2013 - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Opera Collaborative is proud to bring the New England premiere of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* to the Somerville Theatre March 15th-18th. Based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean, *Dead Man Walking* has been a New York Times bestseller, and has been adapted to the screen and stage by Tim Robbins and to the opera house by Heggie. Premiered by San Francisco Opera in 2000, Heggie's poignant and thought-provoking story of a death row inmate and the nun who became his spiritual advisor is already considered to be an American operatic masterpiece.

"I am delighted beyond words and deeply honored that Boston Opera Collaborative will create a new production of *Dead Man Walking* as part of its upcoming season," said Heggie. "There is great energy and enthusiasm in the company to connect with the Boston audience with this big, demanding opera, including community dialogues. I can't wait to attend."

Former BOC Artistic Director David Gram returns after directing last season's *La bohème*, while conductor Michael Sakir makes his first appearance at the podium since 2010's *Little Women*. They will be spearheading a cast led by baritones John Arnold and Jonathan Stinson as Joseph De Rocher, the condemned murderer. Member artists and mezzo-sopranos Courtney Miller and Stephanie Scarcella will play opposite them as Sister Helen. In an exciting community collaboration, BOC will also be joined onstage by members of Boston City Singers, a nonprofit that provides singing classes and chorus rehearsals for young people ages 4-18.

"Our young singers are thrilled to take part in this production with BOC. We place special emphasis on providing the singers with opportunities to present their talents to new audiences and explore diverse topics through cultural expression," said Wendy Silverberg, Conductor and Director of Cambridge Children's Chorus, a division of Boston City Singers.

In order to inspire conversation in the community about the death penalty and the criminal justice system in the United States, BOC will be sponsoring a number of events around the performances that are open to the public. On Wednesday, March 6th, Professor Carol Steiker of Harvard Law School will moderate a panel discussion at the Public Library of Brookline at 6:30pm, exploring the non-musical perspectives of the opera. On Sunday, March 17th at 1pm, BOC member artists will take part in a masterclass taught by Jake Heggie (location TBA), and Sister Helen Prejean will be presenting a pre-show lecture on Monday, March 18th at 6pm to bring her unique perspective borne from years of counseling and working on behalf of death row inmates.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

DEAD MAN WALKING

Sung in English with English supertitles

Music by Jake Heggie

Libretto by Terrence McNally

Based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean

This opera was commissioned by the San Francisco Opera

March 15th-18th, 2013

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square, Somerville

Friday, Saturday, and Monday performances begin at 7:30pm. Sunday performance begins at 3pm.

Tickets: \$25 GA / \$20 Senior (65+) / \$15 Student with valid ID. Tickets are available online at our website or in person at the Somerville Theatre box office from 4pm-8pm.

DIRECTORS

Director: David Gram

Music Director: Michael Sakir

CAST

Joseph De Rocher: John Arnold, Jonathan Stinson

Sister Helen: Courtney Miller*, Stephanie Scarcella*

Sister Rose: Sarita Lilly, Christine Teeters*

Joseph's Mother: Oriana Dunlop*, Felicia Plunkett*

Father Grenville: David Hamilton

Owen Hart: Nathan Owen*

Kitty Hart: Allison Provaire*

Howard Boucher: Brendan P. Buckley*

Jade Boucher: Alexandra Dietrich*

Sister Lillianne: Erika Mitchell

Sister Catherine: Jessica Jacobs*

George Benton: Evan Ross

Older Half Brother: Morgan Chalue

Younger Half Brother: TBD

1st Mother: Holly Seebach*

2nd Mother: Leah Hungerford*

Prison Guard #1: Brandon Martinez*

Prison Guard #2: Brandon Milardo*

Motor Cop: Samuel Bowen*

Chorus: Samuel Bowen*, Morgan Chalue, Elizabeth Eyerer, Margaret Felice*, Ian Garvie, Leah Hungerford*, Jessica Jacobs*, Adrian Jones, Shannon Rose McAuliffe, Erika Mitchell*, Rebecca Rapoport-Cole, Chris Schroeder*, Richard Scott*, Holly Seebach*, Julia Snowden*, William Hicks, Laura Webb

Children's Chorus: Boston City Singers

*BOC Member Artist

SPECIAL EVENTS

Panel Discussion Around the Topic of the Death Penalty

Wednesday, March 6th, 2013 at 6:30pm

Public Library of Brookline

Free and open to the public. Attendees will receive a coupon for \$3 discount to any performance of *Dead Man Walking*.

Jake Heggie Masterclass

Sunday, March 17th, 2013 at 1pm

Location TBA

\$15 admission fee

Preshow Lecture with Sister Helen Prejean

Monday, March 18th, 2013 at 6pm

Somerville Theatre

Free to ticketed attendees of the opera

Boston Opera Collaborative is a non-profit membership organization managed by its vibrant artists, dedicated to cultivating exceptional performance opportunities beyond higher education and to producing dynamic opera that engages Boston audiences.