

Boston City Singers performs
Dead Man Walking
in association with
Boston Opera Collaborative

Thirteen singers from four Boston City Singers divisions were cast in composer and pianist Jake Heggie’s highly acclaimed opera *Dead Man Walking*, staged in March at the Somerville Theatre by the Boston Opera Collaborative. The opera tells the tragic, emotional and spiritual story of a convicted murderer on Death Row and the nun who befriends him as she attempts to gain a stay of execution.

Boston Opera Collaborative and Boston City Singers both enjoyed the successful and rewarding collaboration. “*Boston City Singers exceeded my expectations with their incredible musicianship, work ethic, and enthusiasm,*” said Michael Sakir, Boston Opera Collaborative’s Music Director for the production. “*Their immense contribution cannot be emphasized enough.*”

Being a part of Boston Opera Collaborative’s opera allowed the young singers to grow musically, emotionally, and intellectually. They worked with inspiring opera singers, spoke with the composer, and also met Sister Helen Prejean, the author of the book *Dead Man Walking* that inspired both the movie and opera. Wendy Silverberg, Boston City Singers’ Director of Early Childhood Music and Director of the Cambridge Children’s Chorus, commented that the performance was a great development opportunity for the singers: “*They started this experience with the opera as starry-eyed children and ended as true performers and members of the cast.*”



Jake Heggie wrote “*I was absolutely thrilled with the way your young singers lit up the stage in Dead Man Walking. They are far and away the finest group of young singers I’ve ever seen or heard in those sections - and the most enthusiastically engaged. (Never have heard a more meaningful “Noooo!” from Jimmy!) I know that Sister Helen felt the same - she called me completely overcome with emotion after she’d seen the production, and raved in particular about the children. Please let them know how impressed we were by their participation and energy, not to mention their beautiful voices.*”

Boston City Singers in *Dead Man Walking* included:

Maddie Johnson-Harwitz | Molly Stone-Peterson
Cambridge Children’s Chorus

Chovy Cherbuliez-Orzack | Nafisa Farah | Chloe Lucien
 Wyatt Staton-Todaro | Foster Staton-Todaro
Cantare

Joshua Holtzman
Tour Choir

Aliana Forbes | Alaina Forbes | Alana Kramer Gomez
 Aidan Nunez O’Doherty | Guenevir Pichardo
Jamaica Plain Training Chorus

IMPACT

Boston City Singers collaborates with a wide range of remarkable individuals and organizations, broadening and strengthening our reach into local and global communities and enriching the overall experience for our members. Some of our key collaborators include the Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society (South Africa), the Australian Girls Choir, Community Music Center of Boston, The Boston Pops, Dioceses of Cape Town and False Bay, South Africa, the Boston Conservatory of Music, Berklee College of Music, Boston Classical Orchestra, Saengerfest Men’s Chorus, Yale Alumni Chorus, YOFES and Zamir Choral of Boston.