



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA GUILD

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PRESENTS
"LIFE. CHANGING. AN EVENING WITH
FREDERICA VON STADE & JAKE HEGGIE," APRIL 28



Frederica von Stade; Jake Heggie (photo: Karen Almond); Gasia Mikaelian

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 21, 2021) — San Francisco Opera Guild will present a complimentary virtual livestream event *Life. Changing. An Evening with Frederica von Stade & Jake Heggie* on Wednesday, April 28 at 6 pm Pacific.

Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade ("Flicka"), American composer Jake Heggie and San Francisco Opera Guild students, alumni and teachers will share inspiring stories and uplifting songs, while celebrating music's power to change lives. The event includes an intimate Q&A that will give attendees the chance to ask Flicka and Jake questions. KTVU Mornings on 2 news anchor and longtime opera enthusiast Gasia Mikaelian will serve as emcee.

Life. Changing. is open to the public; complimentary advance registration required: give.sfoperaguild.com/LifeChanging.

Frederica von Stade said: "I love being with my pal, the wonderful Jake Heggie, to celebrate the great efforts of San Francisco Opera Guild in reaching out to the young people of the Bay Area. It means so much to me because I know firsthand of these efforts and have seen the amazing results. I applaud the Guild's Director of Education Caroline Altman and her work with the Opera Scouts and the amazing team at the Guild. Music changed my life, and I'm excited to celebrate how it changes the lives of our precious young people."

Jake Heggie said: "I'm delighted to join with my great friend Frederica von Stade to spotlight the important, ongoing work in music education made possible by San Francisco Opera Guild. Through the power of opera, music and theater, youngsters in the Guild's programs can experience wonder, possibility, new connections and unexpected, transformative journeys. Journeys that can empower them throughout their lives."

The co-chairs for the event are Lauren Erickson and Victoria Weatherford.

Sponsorship friends at the Aficionado level (\$500 and above) are invited to "Backstage with Flicka and Jake," an unscripted and unfiltered pre-event virtual cocktail reception from 5:30-6 pm Pacific, immediately preceding the livestream event. Sponsors will also receive a special gift the week of the event and will be recognized during the virtual program. All proceeds help make San Francisco Opera Guild's music education programs possible.

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PRESENTS
LIFE. CHANGING.
An Evening with
Frederica von Stade & Jake Heggie

What: A complimentary virtual livestream event celebrating music's power to change lives.

When: Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 6–7 pm Pacific

Featuring: Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade ("Flicka"), American composer Jake Heggie and San Francisco Opera Guild students, alumni, teachers and more. Emceed by Gasia Mikaelian, KTVU Mornings on 2 news anchor.

Program:

- Beautiful and rare performances by Flicka, Jake and San Francisco Opera Guild students
- Inspiring conversations with Opera Guild alumni, teachers and more
- Intimate Q&A for viewers with Flicka and Jake

Complimentary Registration Information:

Registration required: give.sfoperaguild.com/LifeChanging

Event sponsorships are being offered at the following levels:

Aficionado Sponsorship \$500

Advocate Sponsorship \$1,000

Activator Sponsorship \$2,500

Amplifier Sponsorship \$5,000

All proceeds help make San Francisco Opera Guild's music education programs possible.

For questions, please contact San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 565-3204 or sfoguild@sfoopera.com.

For more information about San Francisco Opera Guild, visit sfoopera.com/opera-guild.

Frederica von Stade

Recognized as one of the most beloved musical figures of our time, Frederica von Stade has enriched the world of classical music for three decades with her appearances in operas, concerts and recitals. Throughout her 16 seasons with San Francisco Opera, von Stade won acclaim in a wide range of leading roles in 14 operas, including major works by Mozart, Rossini, Strauss, Debussy and Berg, as well as world premieres by Conrad Susa and Jake Heggie. She also appeared in recitals and concerts on the War Memorial Opera

House stage. She is well known to audiences around the world through her numerous featured television appearances, including PBS specials and "Live from Lincoln Center." She appears on over sixty recordings with major labels, including complete operas, aria albums, symphonic works, solo recital programs and popular crossover albums. Her recordings have garnered six Grammy nominations, two Grand Prix du Disc awards, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Italy's Premio della Critica Discografica and "Best of the Year" citations by *Stereo Review* and *Opera News*. Von Stade was awarded France's highest honor in the arts when she was appointed as an officer of L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and in 1983 she was honored with an award given at The White House by President Reagan in recognition of her significant contribution to the arts.

Jake Heggie

Jake Heggie is the composer of the operas *Dead Man Walking* (San Francisco Opera, 2000); *Moby-Dick* (SFO, 2012); *It's A Wonderful Life* (SFO, 2018); *If I Were You* (Merola Opera Program, 2019); *Three Decembers* (SFO, 2008); *Great Scott*; and *Two Remain*, among others. He has also composed nearly 300 songs, as well as chamber, choral and orchestral works. The operas—most created with Gene Scheer or the late Terrence McNally—have been produced on five continents. His *Dead Man Walking* with librettist Terrence McNally has been recorded twice and in 2019 received its 70th international production, making it the most-performed American opera of our time. Heggie's *Moby-Dick* with librettist Gene Scheer was telecast throughout the United States as part of PBS' "Great Performances 40th Anniversary Celebration" in 2013 and released on DVD (EuroArts). His *Great Scott* was a 2019 Grammy Award nominee for Best New Composition, Classical. His song cycle *INTONATIONS: Songs from the Violins of Hope*, with texts by Gene Scheer, received its world premiere in 2019 and was documented on a live recording for Pentatone. *Songs for Murdered Sisters*, Heggie's song cycle to new poems by Margaret Atwood, premiered as a livestream in February 2021 and a recording from Pentatone was released in March. Heggie is currently working with Scheer on *Intelligence*, a new opera for the Houston Grand Opera. For more information: jakeheggie.com

San Francisco Opera Guild

San Francisco Opera Guild believes the life lessons drawn from creative expression are the foundation of confidence and integrity. Since 1939, the Guild has funded and

developed award-winning education programs, engaging with the community to recognize authentic voices as they emerge through the practice of music and storytelling. We support young artists in their development of world view, personal growth and leadership potential, creating a compassionate safe space for all voices.

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For further press information or to download publicity photos, visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

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