

DEAD MAN WALKING

Jake Heggie

First an award-winning book, then an Academy Award-winning major motion picture, *Dead Man Walking* now comes to the stage of San Francisco Opera with music by Chase Composer-in-Residence Jake Heggie and libretto by famed playwright Terrence McNally.

San Francisco Opera Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers leads the world premiere production with mezzo-soprano Susan Graham creating the role of Sister Helen Prejean (Kristine Jepson sings one performance) and baritone John Packard in his San Francisco Opera debut as the convict Joe de Rocher. (Teddy Tahu Rhodes takes his Company bow in one performance.) The inimitable mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade sings the role of the inmate's mother, Mrs. Patrick de Rocher. Nicolle Foland and Robert Orth appear as one victim's parents, Kitty and Owen Hart. Howard and Jade Boucher are portrayed by Gary Rideout and Catherine Cook. Theresa Hamm-Smith is Sister Rose. Joe Mantello director of McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!* creates the staging for *Dead Man Walking*, with costumes by Sam Fleming (in her Company debut), sets by Michael Yeargan and lighting by Jennifer Tipton.

This production is made possible, in part, by a generous gift from Mrs. Paul L. Wattis and by the support of The Chase Manhattan Private Bank with additional support by the National Endowment for the Arts.