



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Doctoral Lecture Recital | Monday, April 22, 2024 | 11:00 am | Recital Hall

Christopher Rodriguez, baritone
Stephen Dubberly, piano

**A PERFORMANCE GUIDE TO JAKE HEGGIE'S
SONGS FOR MURDERED SISTERS**

On September 25, 2015, baritone Joshua Hopkins' life changed forever when he received a call informing him that his older sister had been murdered, along with two other women at their respective homes in Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada by a crazed former romantic partner. To help process and cope with this traumatic event, Hopkins turned to the commission process to memorialize his sister in the song cycle that would become *Songs for Murdered Sisters* (2020), composed by Jake Heggie (b. 1961) on poems by Margaret Atwood (b. 1939). This cycle of eight songs was chosen as a focus for research due to the subject matter of the historical and cultural context of gender-based violence in Canada (and by extension society at large), the collaboration of a living composer, poet, and performer, and the technical challenges for the performers.

- Songs for Murdered Sisters (2020)..... Jake Heggie (b. 1961)
- I. Empty Chair
 - II. Enchantment
 - III. Anger
 - IV. Dream
 - V. Bird Soul
 - VI. Lost
 - VII. Rage
 - VIII. Coda: Song

Nine hundred sixteenth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited