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For immediate release  
**Classical Action Releases *FLESH & STONE:*  
*SONGS OF JAKE HEGGIE***

Contact Glenn Petry (212) 625 2038  
gpetry@21cmediagroup.com

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***FLESH & STONE: SONGS OF JAKE HEGGIE*, THE FIRST CD IN FOUR  
YEARS TO BENEFIT CLASSICAL ACTION, WILL BE AVAILABLE ON  
OCTOBER 15**

**ALBUM FEATURES AN IMPRESSIVE ROSTER OF ARTISTS INCLUDING ZHENG  
CAO, JOYCE CASTLE, MARY PHILLIPS, FEDERICA VON STADE, EUGENIA  
ZUKERMAN, AND JAKE HEGGIE, AMONG OTHERS**

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE RECORD WILL BENEFIT CLASSICAL ACTION:  
PERFORMING ARTS AGAINST AIDS**

**CD LAUNCH EVENTS SET FOR OCTOBER 15 IN NEW YORK CITY AND  
NOVEMBER 12 IN SAN FRANCISCO**

In January 2007 the heralded composer and pianist Jake Heggie led a group of extraordinary artists in recording sessions at Skywalker Sound's state-of-the-art studios in northern California. The result – ***FLESH & STONE: SONGS OF JAKE HEGGIE*** – is only the second recording of songs by the composer of the internationally acclaimed operas *Dead Man Walking* and *The End of the Affair*. The album also marks the first benefit CD for **Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS** in four years. The recording on the Americus Records label features an impressive roster of artists, all of whom donated their services for the recording, including Zheng Cao, Joyce Castle, Mary Phillips, Frederica von Stade, Eugenia Zukerman, Carey Bell, David Henderson, Dawn Harms, Emil Miland, Richard Worn, and Jake Heggie himself.

The songs run the gamut of musical styles, reflecting lyrics that have been drawn from a wide array of authors and sources, including the late Anne Sexton, Raymond Carver and Emily Dickinson, as well as excerpts from the letters of painter Vincent van Gogh. In addition, Gene Scheer, Sister Helen Prejean (whose personal journey was the basis for *Dead Man Walking*), and Miss von Stade all wrote texts specifically for the compositions represented on *Flesh & Stone*.

***Flesh & Stone*** can be purchased online by visiting the **Classical Action** section of the web-store on the Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS web site [www.broadwaycares.org](http://www.broadwaycares.org) or by contacting Americus Records [www.americuscd.com](http://www.americuscd.com). Proceeds from the sale of this CD will wholly benefit Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS, a fundraising program of Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS.

A celebration of the release of ***Flesh & Stone: Songs of Jake Heggie*** will be held on **Monday, October 15, 2007** in New York City. The event will launch sales of the CD and feature performances by composer and pianist **Jake Heggie** along with several artists heard on the recording. The event will be held in an elegant penthouse apartment in Tribeca and will feature performances of songs from the CD by mezzo-sopranos Joyce Castle and Mary Phillips, Eugenia Zukerman (flute), Andrew Shreeves (clarinet), Vince Gnojek (saxophone), Dawn Harms (violin), Emil Miland (cello), Richard Worn (bass), and Jake Heggie (piano). In addition

to performances of selections from the recording, the exclusive event will include a pre-concert cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres on the apartment's rooftop terrace overlooking Manhattan and a post-concert champagne and dessert reception.

On **Monday, November 12, 2007 Jake Heggie** will return to the Bay Area, where the recording was made, for a West Coast launch event for ***Flesh & Stone*** to be held at an exquisite private home in the Noe Valley section of San Francisco. Performers for this event will include Zheng Cao, Mary Phillips, and Jake Heggie, among others.

Tax-deductible tickets for both the New York and the San Francisco launch events can be purchased by visiting [www.classicalaction.org](http://www.classicalaction.org) or by calling (212) 997-7717.

**Jake Heggie** is known for his operas *Dead Man Walking* (2000), *The End of the Affair* (2004), and *To Hell and Back* (2006). His new stage work, *Last Acts*, which was written for Miss von Stade, will receive its world premiere at Houston Grand Opera in February 2008. The composer has also written more than 200 art songs and a number of chamber and concert works. Frederica von Stade, Bryn Terfel, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Audra McDonald, Patti LuPone, Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, and many other acclaimed vocalists champion his music.

**Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS** is a not-for-profit organization that draws upon the talents, resources and generosity of the performing arts community to raise vitally needed funds for AIDS-related services across the United States. Funds are raised through special events, private house concerts, recording and merchandising projects and individual donations, as well as through foundation and corporate support.

Since its founding in January 1993, Classical Action has distributed more than \$7 million to AIDS-related organizations nationwide. In October 1997, Classical Action became a fundraising program of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the nation's leading performing arts industry-based AIDS fundraising and grant-making organization.

One of Classical Action's most successful fundraising endeavors is the production of private house concerts in which supporters host concerts in their homes featuring some of the most prominent artists in music today, all of whom donate their time and talent. More than one-hundred private benefit concerts have been produced in homes across the country, from New York, Boston, Buffalo, Cleveland and Chicago to Houston, Santa Fe, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

### **Appearances by Jake Heggie and performances of his musical compositions:**

#### **2007 - 2008 season**

September 3 & 6, 2007

*Dead Man Walking* performances at the  
Dresden Semperoper

September 26, 28 &  
October 1, 4, 7 & 10, 2007

*Dead Man Walking*  
with Frederica von Stade as Mrs. Patrick de Rocher  
Theatre am der Wien, Austria

October 12, 2007

Jake Heggie performs with Heidi Grant Murphy in  
San Francisco Performances's opening gala  
Yerba Buena Theater, San Francisco, California

October 21, 2007

Recital with Frederica von Stade

Carmel Music Society, Carmel, California

Oct 26 & 27, 2007      *Dead Man Walking*  
University of Colorado at Boulder (first college production)

January 8, 2008      Recital  
with Frederica von Stade, Samuel Ramey & Jake Heggie  
National Arts Center, Ottawa

January 18, 2008      Recital with Frederica von Stade  
Brigham Young University, Utah

February 29;  
March 2, 5, 7, 9, 11,  
13 & 15, 2008      *Last Acts (world premiere)*  
featuring Frederica von Stade  
Houston Grand Opera, Texas

March 30, 2008      Recital with Frederica von Stade  
Wisconsin Union Theater, Madison, Wisconsin

April 9, 2008      Recital with John Mark Ainsley and Malcolm Martineau  
Jake Heggie song cycle (**world premiere**; poetry Gene Scheer)  
Wigmore Hall, London

April 11, 2008      Recital with Frederica von Stade  
St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri

June 7-18, 2008      Frederica von Stade and Jake Heggie perform on the  
Crystal Symphony Baltic Cruise  
celebrating Classical Action's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
For details call: (800) 828-4813

This season, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is also featuring a new work by Jake Heggie on her extensive North American farewell tour. It is titled "Final Monologue from Master Class" (text by Terrence McNally).

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[www.jakeheggie.com](http://www.jakeheggie.com)

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