

THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES CO-COMMISSION *UNKNOWN*—A NEW WORK IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

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DALLAS—(November 10, 2021) **The Dallas Opera** joins Washington, D.C.-based UrbanArias and commissioning partners Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Opera Colorado, Minnesota Opera, Opera Birmingham, and Stephen E. and Dorothy P. Bird in the virtual premiere of *UNKNOWN*, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, on **Thursday, November 11, 2021**.

Written by Chicago-based composer Shawn Okpebholo with texts by poet Marcus Amaker, the dramatic song cycle is scored for three solo voices and chamber ensemble. The work was premiered live at Wolf Trap in October, with additional footage added for the film version. *UNKNOWN* explores the ideas of war, honor, and memory through the eyes of soldiers, family members, and Tomb Guards who are connected to each other and the Tomb through their mutual service and sacrifice. Okpebholo recently described the work to the *Washington Post*: “This appealed to me because it was something different, but it’s also something we can all relate to,” Okpebholo said by phone from Wheaton, Ill., where he is a music professor at Wheaton College. “War, as complicated as it is, as Americans we have to deal with it—whether you’re antiwar or from a military family.”

Unknown will be available for 30 days on [thedallasopera.TV](https://thedallasopera.tv) and is free to subscribers to the site. Monthly subscriptions are available for \$4.99 and include a free seven-day trial.

UNKNOWN

Shawn Okpebholo, composer
Taylor Raven, mezzo-soprano
Michael Mayes, baritone

Schuyulet Vargas, baritone
Marcus Amaker, poet
Kristine McIntyre, director

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