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HOUSTON BALLET WELCOMES ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR SIMON THEW

HOUSTON, TEXAS [September 20, 2022] — Houston Ballet proudly announces **Simon Thew** as their newly appointed Associate Conductor, who joined Houston Ballet at the start of its 2022/2023 season. Over the last decade, Houston Ballet has worked with a variety of esteemed guest conductors, making Simon the first official Associate Conductor of the Ballet.

With over a decade of experience conducting orchestras that accompany ballet performances, conductor Simon Thew's expertise spans cornerstones of the ballet repertoire from time-honored classics to the more recent works of today. Hailing from Australia, Thew undertook studies in Sydney, Vienna, Berlin and Barcelona with mentors including Sebastian Weigle, Nicolette Fraillon AM, Harry Spence Lyth, Richard Bonyngé AC CBE and John Hopkins AM OBE. In 2007, Thew was the first and only conductor to date to be awarded the Dame Joan Sutherland/Richard Bonyngé Travel Scholarship from the Australian Opera Auditions Committee (now Australian Opera Awards Committee), culminating in his position as musical intern at the Bayreuth Festival in 2008. In 2010, Thew held the Hephzibah Tintner Fellowship, leading to performance and mentoring opportunities with The Australian Ballet, Opera Australia and the Sydney Symphony.

From 2013 to 2015, Thew was a regular guest conductor with The Australian Ballet before he accepted the invitation to become The Australian Ballet's assistant conductor in 2017, a position he held until mid-2022. Prior to joining the Houston Ballet, he has also worked as a guest conductor for the English National Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet. Thew is also an active concert and recording conducting career and is committed to the education of young conductors and instrumentalists.

For more information about Houston Ballet's 2022-2023 artistic staff, please visit houstonballet.org.

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

With more than 50 years of rich history, Houston Ballet returns to its home stage at the Wortham Theater Center for its 2021-2022 season with a company of 59 dancers. With a budget of \$33.9 million and an endowment of \$79.2 million (as of June 2019), it is America's fifth largest ballet company. Its \$46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space, Houston Ballet Center for Dance, opened in April 2011. Houston Ballet's reach is global, touring in renowned theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and more.

Houston Ballet attracts prestigious leaders in dance. Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003, raising the level of the company's classical technique and commissioning works from dance legends such as Julia Adam, George Balanchine, Aszure Barton, Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Edwaard Liang, Trey McIntyre and Justin Peck. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the organization, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the Company's General Manager for more than a decade.

Beyond its stage presence, Houston Ballet maintains a strong foothold in continuing to foster a love for dance in future generations. Its Education and Community Engagement program reaches more than 70,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 64 percent of the elite athletes that comprise Houston Ballet's current Company.

For more information on Houston Ballet, visit houstonballet.org.

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