



Press Release

**HOUSTON BALLET TO GRACE DUBAI OPERA STAGE IN OCTOBER 2018
WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STANTON WELCH'S *SWAN LAKE***

Dubai, UAE, 7th December 2017 – Dubai Opera, in partnership with Van Cleef & Arpels, is delighted to announce that it will welcome the esteemed Houston Ballet to the stage from 24th – 27th October 2018 for six magical performances of the iconic ballet, *Swan Lake*. Tickets will be available from Thursday 7th December at 12pm with prices starting from AED250.

One of the most beloved ballets of all time, *Swan Lake* has enchanted audiences across the globe for more than 100 years with its timeless tale of good versus evil, interwoven with love and tragedy. First performed in Moscow in 1877, it tells the story of Odette, a beautiful maiden who is transformed into a swan by an evil knight, and the prince who swears his eternal love for her.

Accompanied by a live orchestra, the emotionally powerful and visually stunning production is set to the hauntingly beautiful and iconic Tchaikovsky score. Choreographed by the acclaimed Australian dancer and Artistic Director Stanton Welch AM, the production is inspired by pre-Raphaelite painter John William Waterhouse's 1888 painting *The Lady of Shalott*. Lauded by the New York Times as "one of the nation's best ballet companies", audiences will be captivated by Houston Ballet's vibrant, modern and theatrical staging of a timeless classic.

Hailing from Houston, Texas, the acclaimed Houston Ballet is the fifth largest professional ballet company in the United States. Established in 1969, the company features 59 dancers and produces over 85 performances each year. Over the past fifteen years, Houston Ballet has performed at iconic venues in major cities and countries across the world including London, Moscow, Spain, Paris, Australia, Germany, Canada, Los Angeles, New York City, and Washington D.C. The company also maintains the Houston Ballet Academy, which teaches over one thousand students every year and trains more than half of the current company's dancers.

Jasper Hope, Chief Executive at Dubai Opera, commented: "*Swan Lake* is a ballet masterpiece and one of the most popular works for audiences today. I am delighted to announce that Houston Ballet will be bringing their brilliant production of this eternal story to the Dubai Opera stage in October, accompanied of course by Tchaikovsky's incredible score performed by a live orchestra, all-in-all a thrilling treat for ballet fans throughout the region."

Tickets for *Swan Lake* will be available to purchase from Thursday 7th December at 12pm from www.dubaiopera.com. *Swan Lake* is proudly sponsored by Van Cleef & Arpels.

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About Dubai Opera:

Dubai Opera is a truly unique venue and the city's first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre, situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. With an iconic dhow shaped design rooted in Emirati heritage, Dubai Opera offers the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2000m² flat floor event space, and is the definitive destination for quality entertainment productions and performances. Dubai Opera's stage will host an incredible array of world-class talent, with opera, ballet and classical music concerts and productions at the core, Dubai Opera will also stage musical theatre,



fashion shows, jazz, comedy, family shows and a full range of live entertainment.
www.dubaiopera.com

For more information, please contact:

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