

Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Limited

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Boosey & Hawkes acquires major ballet scores

Boosey & Hawkes has signed a publishing agreement with Thom Willems, composer of electronic scores for classic ballets by William Forsythe.



Photo: Jodokus Driessen

Boosey & Hawkes, part of the Imagem Music Group, is delighted to announce a new agreement with Dutch composer Thom Willems, who has been the musical muse for renowned choreographer William Forsythe since 1985. Under the deal, Boosey & Hawkes has acquired the copyrights in Willems' music for over 60 Forsythe ballets.

Thom Willems commented on the new agreement: "When I began to look for the right long-term home for my music, I was impressed by Boosey & Hawkes for its active engagement with the world of ballet and dance and its catalogue of iconic works. I know that my music is in good hands."

Janis Susskind, Boosey & Hawkes Managing Director, said: "With *The Rite of Spring* as the foundation stone of our catalogue, we have ballet music in our DNA, and it is a pleasure to add Thom Willems' innovative scores to our offering."

Thom Willems' close collaboration with William Forsythe has been likened to that between Stravinsky and Balanchine, with the new dance theatre works they have created together marking a radical development in both the movement and sound of classical ballet. Willems' electronic scores – characterised by subtle soundscapes, insistent rhythms and urban sonorities – form an intrinsic part of the architecture of these ballets. In the words of Forsythe himself: "Thom Willems gives you acoustic space to dance... He makes acoustic environments. We have done away with the sets. We have acoustic environments."

The most popular of the Forsythe/Willems ballets, *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*, was commissioned by Rudolf Nureyev for Paris Opera Ballet in 1987 and featured the rising star Sylvie Guillem. Rapidly established as a classic, this 25-minute work has since travelled the world and is in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company. Other widely-performed works include *The Loss of Small Detail* (1991) with costumes by Issey Miyake, *the second detail* (1991), *Herman Schmerman* (1992) with costumes by Gianni Versace, *Duo* (1996), *Approximate Sonata* (1996), *Pas./Parts* (1999), and *One flat thing, reproduced* (2000).

66 companies in 25 countries have performed Forsythe/Willems ballets, including the Mariinsky Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Teatro alla Scala Milano, Royal Ballet Covent Garden, Wiener Staatsoper, Semper Oper Dresden, Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon and Paris Opera Ballet, which alone has danced 320 performances.

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AN IMAGEM COMPANY

Highlights next season include performances of *Impressing the Czar* in Dresden in September, the US premiere of *Pas./Parts* at San Francisco Ballet in January, and performances of *Approximate Sonata* and *Of Any If And* at the Paris Opera Ballet in July, within a triple bill marking Forsythe's new appointment as Associate Choreographer. *the second detail* receives performance by National Ballet of Canada in Montréal in October and by Stuttgart Ballet in January, while *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* is staged by Ballet Zürich in September, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater in October and Washington Ballet in February.

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Notes to Editors

About Thom Willems

Born in Arnhem in the Netherlands in 1955, **Thom Willems** studied at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague: composition with Louis Andriessen and electronic music with Jan Boerman and Dick Raaijmakers. He first collaborated with William Forsythe in 1985 and their work together centred on Ballet Frankfurt during the choreographer's 20-year residency. Since 2004 their most recent ballets have been performed widely by The Forsythe Company in Germany and on tour.

About the Iagem Music Group

Iagem Music Group (André de Raaff, CEO and Co-founder) is the number one independent music publishing company in the world, unique for its leadership role in classical music, Broadway, and pop/rock. **Boosey & Hawkes** represents the world's leading classical composers from Aaron Copland and Igor Stravinsky to such contemporary artists as John Adams, Steve Reich and Karl Jenkins. **Rodgers & Hammerstein** controls the rights to the world's most popular stage and film musicals, including *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma!* and *The King And I*, as well as representing works by Irving Berlin, Andrew Lloyd Webber and more. **Iagem Music's** expanding pop catalogue includes such writers as Pink Floyd, Elvis Presley, Phil Collins, Genesis, Iron Maiden, Mark Ronson, Temper Trap, Bombay Bicycle Club and Daft Punk. The **Iagem Music Group** has offices in New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Milan, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels and Amsterdam, and exclusive agents throughout the world.
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