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THE DALLAS OPERA NAMES WALKER BEARD DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Technical Director Drew Field Announces Retirement at End of Current Season after 30-Year Tenure with the Company

DALLAS—The Dallas Opera (TDO) announces the appointment of Walker Beard as its Director of Operations, a new administrative position created with the recent restructuring of the Production, Technical, and Artistic teams.

“We are delighted to welcome Walker Beard to The Dallas Opera,” said Ian Derrer, the Dallas Opera’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. “It’s not easy to find someone who has the unique combination of skill sets for both artistic and production leadership, and Walker has a proven track record with both.”

Beard, a Texas native, joins TDO from Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where he served as Senior Manager, Artistic Programming Operations since 2017. Beginning October 1, Beard will work closely with Derrer, The Mrs. Eugene McDermott music director Emmanuel Villaume, and artistic consultant David Lomelí on artistic planning and will oversee both the TDO’s production team and its artistic administration.

TDO will also bid farewell to Drew Field, its longtime technical director who has served the company for three decades, in the spring at the conclusion of the 2021/2022 season.

“Retirement news is always bittersweet,” added Derrer. “Drew has been a fixture at the company for so long, and his contributions are too numerous to list. He will be missed by all of

us, but if there is anyone who deserves a wonderful retirement, it is Drew.”

The staff restructuring was made following by the recent departure of Director of Artistic Administration David Lomelí who joined the Santa Fe Opera as Chief Artistic Officer earlier this year, but remains with TDO as Artistic Consultant, having spearheaded the development and launch of the wildly successful digital initiatives of tdo network and new streaming service thedallasopera.TV.

While at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Walker Beard produced the entirety of the organization’s classical music output in the Great Performers series, White Light Festival, and Mostly Mozart Festival, and served as General Manager of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. Prior to joining Lincoln Center, Walker Beard was the Production Manager at the historic Trinity Church Wall Street in lower Manhattan where he managed operations and artistic planning for their resident and presented artists, venues, festivals, series, touring, live webcasts, recording projects, and communications. As a performer and educator, Beard held the trumpet professorship at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut from 2013-2016, and performs with the Nautilus Brass Quintet which he founded in 2010. Originally from El Paso, TX, he holds degrees and artist certificates from North Texas University, San Jose State University, and the University of Connecticut.

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#### **ABOUT THE DALLAS OPERA**

One of the leading opera companies in the country, The Dallas Opera has an extraordinary legacy of world-class productions and thrilling premieres featuring the greatest operatic artists of our time. Inaugurated in 1957 with a concert featuring the incomparable Maria Callas, TDO is known for the notable U.S. debuts of a host of legendary artists including Plácido Domingo, Dame Joan Sutherland, Jon Vickers, Franco Zeffirelli, and Sir David McVicar. The company has long been an industry leader and innovator through groundbreaking initiatives including the Hart Institute for Women Conductors, TDO Network, free public simulcasts, acclaimed art song recitals, the national vocal competition, special concerts, and outstanding family and award-winning education programs. TDO’s home is the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, a jewel in the Dallas Arts District. As one of the largest performing arts employers in North Texas, TDO is proudly committed to diversity, both onstage and off, and is a major contributor to the economic vitality and international cultural reputation of this region.

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