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PRESS RELEASE

English National Ballet and the Royal College of Music announce exchange of contracts for purchase of Markova House.

English National Ballet and the Royal College of Music announce today that they have exchanged contracts for the purchase of Markova House, the current headquarters for English National Ballet in Jay Mews SW7. The completion of the sale is expected to occur in Autumn 2018 in line with English National Ballet's planned move with English National Ballet School to London City Island, announced earlier this year.

Markova House, with its close proximity to the Royal College of Music, will enable the College to increase its practice rooms (by up to 40) as well as providing two large orchestral and opera rehearsal spaces. The Royal College of Music will use much of Markova House's 16,000 square feet to provide a new home for its leading Research department, offering a dedicated environment for work that includes research into the impact of music on health.

By repositioning many of the Royal College of Music's academic and administrative staff within the College's significantly enlarged estate, the iconic Blomfield Building will be returned to the sole core purpose of music-making – providing a unique facility for the Royal College of Music students.

Colin Lawson, Royal College of Music's Director said; *"The acquisition of Markova House is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the Royal College of Music significantly to expand its offer to future students as well as the general public; underpinning the vision that access to high-quality music-making should be available to all. Together with the planned development of the Royal College of Music's Blomfield Building, the acquisition of Markova House will contribute to a state-of-the-art creative infrastructure across both sites, supporting and sustaining the Royal College of Music as a world-leader in music education for generations to come."*

For English National Ballet, the sale marks the next phase of their planned move to London City Island, a new neighbourhood development from Eco World Ballymore, where they will build a new state-of-the-art home for English National Ballet and English National Ballet School. The new facility in East London will include eight large studios for rehearsals and teaching, including a unique theatre-sized studio space for the development and rehearsal of productions and creation of new commissions; and open spaces that will give the public access to parts of English National Ballet and English National Ballet School's archives, and encourage engagement with local communities.

English National Ballet Executive Director Caroline Thomson said; *"Leaving Jay Mews is a big step for us, and we have so enjoyed being a part of the 'Albertopolis' cultural estate. We are delighted to have exchanged contracts with*



the Royal College of Music, ensuring that Markova House remains in the family of arts and culture organisations.”

Bernard Taylor, Chairman of The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, which owns the freeholds of both Markova House and the Royal College of Music, added; *“I am delighted that the Royal College of Music has been able to acquire the lease of Markova House. The College is one of the earliest constituents of the 1851 estate, founded with the profits of the Great Exhibition to realise Prince Albert’s vision of a world-class centre for science and the arts in South Kensington. This expansion underlines their continuing success as a great conservatoire and will provide much needed additional space for their ambitious plans for the future. We look forward to welcoming them to their new premises and, at the same time, wish the English National Ballet every success with their exciting new development at London City Island.*

Commercial property consultancy Lambert Smith Hampton worked with English National Ballet to find a buyer for Markova House. Legal counsel has been provided by Slaughter and May. Savills worked with the Royal College of Music.

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Or

Robert James, PR Manager on robert.james@ballet.org.uk or call 020 7590 2933. For further information about English National Ballet visit www.ballet.org.uk

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Notes to Editors:

About Royal College of Music

The Royal College of Music (RCM) is one of the world’s great conservatoires, training gifted musicians from all over the world for international careers as performers, conductors and composers. Founded in 1882 by the then Prince of Wales to be ‘the recognised centre and head of the musical world,’ the RCM list of alumni and professors includes many of Britain’s most influential musicians, including Holst, Vaughan Williams, Britten, Tippett, Joan Sutherland, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sarah Walker, Thomas Allen, James Galway, John Lill, Barry Douglas, Mark Anthony Turnage, John Wilson and Alfie Boe. With over 800 students from more than 60 countries studying at undergraduate, masters or doctoral level, the RCM of the 21st century is a vibrant community of talented and open-minded musicians. RCM professors are musicians with worldwide reputations, accustomed to working with the most talented students of each generation to unlock their artistic potential.

About English National Ballet

English National Ballet has a long and distinguished history. Founded in 1950 as London Festival Ballet by the great English Dancers Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin, it has played a major role in the growth and history of ballet in the UK. Today, English National Ballet is renowned for taking world-class ballet to the widest possible audience through its national and international tour

programme, offsite performances at festivals including Glastonbury and Latitude, its distinguished orchestra English National Ballet Philharmonic, and being a UK leader in creative learning and engagement practice and delivery, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship programmes such as English National Ballet's Dance for Parkinson's. Under the artistic directorship of Tamara Rojo, English National Ballet has gained new acclaim as it introduces innovative new works to the Company's repertoire while continuing to honour and reinvigorate traditional ballet.