FROM: **AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE**
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THOMAS MONTGOMERY NEWMAN

Thomas Newman is widely acclaimed as one of today's most prominent composers for film. He has composed music for more than 80 motion pictures and television series and has earned fifteen Academy Award nominations, one Emmy Award and six Grammy Awards.

He is the youngest son of Alfred Newman (1900-1970), the longtime musical director of 20th Century Fox and the composer of scores for such films as *Wuthering Heights, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Diary of Anne Frank,* and *All About Eve*. As a child, Thomas pursued basic music and piano studies. However, it was not until after his father's death that the younger Newman, then age 14, felt charged with the desire to write. He later studied composition and orchestration at the University of Southern California with Professor Frederick Lesemann and noted film composer David Raksin, and privately with composer George Tremblay. He completed his academic work at Yale University, studying with Jacob Druckman, Bruce MacCombie, and Robert Moore. Newman also gratefully acknowledges the early influence of another prominent musician, the legendary Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim, who served as a great mentor and champion.

A turning point in Newman's career took place while he was working as a musical assistant on the 1984 film *Reckless*, for which he soon was promoted to the position of composer. And so, at the age of 27, Newman successfully composed his first film score. Since then he has contributed distinctive and evocative scores to many acclaimed films, including *Desperately Seeking Susan, The Lost Boys, The Rapture, Fried Green Tomatoes, The Player, Scent of a Woman, Flesh and Bone, The Shawshank Redemption, Little Women, American Beauty, The Green Mile, Erin Brockovich, Road to Perdition, Finding Nemo, Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events, Jarhead, Little Children, The Good*

(more)

German, Revolutionary Road, Wall-E, The Help, The Iron Lady, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Skyfall, Spectre, The Highwaymen, Steven Spielberg's *Bridge of Spies, 1917, Let Them All Talk, The Little Things, Operation Mincemeat, A Man Called Otto, Elemental*, and Chris Columbus's *The Thursday Night Murder Club*. Newman also composed the music for HBO's acclaimed six-hour miniseries *Angels in America,* directed by Mike Nichols. He received an Emmy Award for his theme for the HBO original series *Six Feet Under* and was recently nominated for his theme for the series *Feud: Capote vs. the Swans*. Recent television work includes the Netflix series *Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story*, co-composed with his daughter, Julia Newman.

In addition to his work in film and television, Newman has composed several works for the concert stage, including the symphonic work *Reach Forth Our Hands*, commissioned in 1996 by the Cleveland Orchestra to commemorate their city's bicentennial, as well as *At Ward's Ferry, Length 180 ft.*, a concerto for double bass and orchestra commissioned in 2001 by the Pittsburgh Symphony. His latest concert piece was a chamber work entitled *It Got Dark*, commissioned by the acclaimed Kronos Quartet in 2009. As part of a separate commission by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the work was expanded and adapted for symphony orchestra and string quartet, and premiered at Walt Disney Concert Hall in December 2009. In October 2014, Newman and musician Rick Cox released "35 Whirlpools Below Sound," an evocative, contemporary collection of avant-garde electronic soundscapes which the two collaborators developed over a period of 25 years, and which constitutes a fascinating departure from Newman's work in film music. Newman also was commissioned by the prestigious Joffrey Ballet in Chicago to compose the score for a new ballet adaptation of the Steinbeck novel *Of Mice and Men*, which premiered in April of 2022.

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