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**NASHUA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF
JONATHAN MCPHEE
AS MUSIC DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR**

It is with great pleasure and excitement that the Nashua Symphony Association announces the appointment of Jonathan McPhee as Music Director and Principal Conductor. The NSA's Board of Trustees was unanimously in favor of Maestro McPhee's appointment; he will assume his post officially – under the terms of a two-year, renewable contract – on July 1, 2008. McPhee currently serves as Music Director of Boston Ballet, the Lexington Symphony, and the Longwood Symphony Orchestra, posts he will continue to maintain.

NSA Board Vice-President Richard Foemmel, who also served as Chair of the Music Director Search Committee, is thrilled with the results of his committee's work over the past two years. "There are many excellent reasons to feel good about our selection," Foemmel said, "but perhaps the most important one is the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received about Jonathan from the people who will have the privilege and responsibility of making music with him: our orchestra and chorus. Their thoughtful participation to this process was absolutely essential, as was the feedback we got from our audience throughout the season." McPhee was the highest-ranking choice of the audience, Foemmel added.

Eric Valliere, who has held the position of NSA Executive Director since 2005, sees McPhee's appointment as a rare and special opportunity for the organization. "Based on our time getting to know him and his accomplishments, we are confident in our selection of Jonathan McPhee – confident that he'll bring the right mix of musical preparedness, inventive programming, audience-building savvy, and experience building orchestras' relationships in the community," Valliere said. "We're confident that his more than 20 years on the podiums of ensembles of all sizes and descriptions will contribute to our strategic planning for the future, and to our vision of an organization of artistic merit, organizational stability, and social consequence."

Born in Philadelphia, McPhee received his Licenture of the Royal Academy of Music, and Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees from The Juilliard School. He is

equally at home as a conductor for the symphony, ballet, and opera. As Music Director for Boston Ballet, McPhee has received critical acclaim for his work with the Company and Orchestra, which is the second largest musical organization in Boston. McPhee is also Music Director for the Lexington Symphony, and the Longwood Symphony Orchestra (The Orchestra of Boston's Medical Community).

Guest engagements this past season included the Portland Symphony Orchestra, Plymouth Philharmonic, Youngstown Symphony, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife in Spain, and the Lithuanian National Orchestra. Other orchestras McPhee has conducted are the BBC Scottish Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, the Louisiana Philharmonic, The Hague Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Orchestre Colonne (Paris), the National Philharmonic Orchestra in London, the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Bergen Philharmonic in Norway.

Maestro McPhee has conducted for many of the world's most distinguished dance companies including the New York City Ballet, The Royal Ballet (England), Martha Graham Dance Company, National Ballet of Canada, and The Australian Ballet. In addition to a broad repertoire in the field of dance, McPhee has conducted pops concerts, musical theatre and operetta. He has also conducted grand opera with Opera Boston, the American Opera Center in New York, and Boston University Opera.

McPhee's works as arranger and composer are in the repertoires orchestras and ballet companies around the world. His edition of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* is the only authorized reduced orchestration of this work. Mr. McPhee's compositions and arrangements are published by Boosey & Hawkes, Inc. his edition of Stravinsky's complete *Firebird* for Boosey & Hawkes was recently performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony.

Over the next several weeks, McPhee will be working with Valliere, (NSA Director of Choral Activities) Diane Cushing, and the Board to put together a fresh and exciting 2008-09 season. "Opening Night – October 4 – is just six months away," Valliere noted, "and our patrons are eager to know what we'll be offering next season."