2020



The

UTCRACKER

at Zoellner

Pennsylvania Youth Ballet
Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley

in Partnership with

Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University

and

WFMZ-TV/MBC Teleproductions

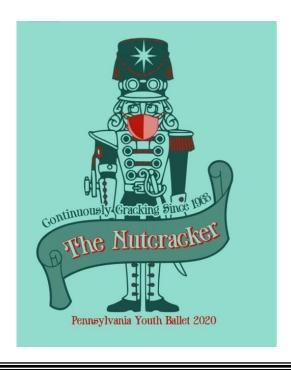


The Story of Our Nutcracker Production

Performances of *The Nutcracker* have grown in a great American and Lehigh Valley tradition. The Lehigh Valley's *Nutcracker* tradition began fifty-two years ago in 1968. It was sponsored by The Junior League of the Lehigh Valley and was initially performed at the Allentown Symphony Hall, under the direction of Alexi Ramov. Through the generous grant contribution from The Junior League of the Lehigh Valley, and countless volunteer hours, the Ballet Guild's *Nutcracker* began.

While the Ballet Guild has undergone numerous changes throughout its own sixty-two year history, one constant in the organization's seasonal calendar has been our annual *Nutcracker* production. Countless Lehigh Valley children and adults have performed in *The Nutcracker* production under the direction of Alexi Ramov, Oleg Briansky and Mireille Briane, Aram Manukyan and current Artistic Director, Karen Kroninger Knerr. In addition, several Ballet Guild students have returned as professional guest artists to appear in this annual holiday treat. These alumni include: Peter Degnan and Susan Taylor Degnan of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre; Richard Fritz of the Los Angeles Ballet Company; Leslie Jonas of the Boston Ballet; Karen Kroninger, then of the Juilliard School; and Joseph Fritz of the New Jersey Ballet/Metropolitan Opera Ballet. The Ballet Guild has also brought the magic of *The Nutcracker* to over 100,000 local school students as part of our popular school performances.

Because of the initial contribution of The Junior League of the Lehigh Valley, countless volunteers, the Ballet Guild's Board of Directors, the hard work and dedication of our previous and current artistic directors and dancers, the generous support of our sponsors and donors and the greater Lehigh Valley community, the Ballet Guild is proud to present its 52nd consecutive *Nutcracker* production. Thank you for experiencing the magic and precision that we call *The Nutcracker*. Enjoy the show.



With Special Thanks to Our Partner in the Arts

Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts – Lehigh Valley Arts Council



These performances are supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, through its regional arts funding partnership, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA). State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowments for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council.

The Story of The Nuteracker

It is Christmas Eve. There is a party in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum, who are decorating the tree with the help of the maids. Clara and Fritz, the children of the house, exclaim with delight as they peep through the keyhole. Relatives and friends arrive for the evening's festivities. Once everyone has settled in, Dr. Stahlbaum organizes games and dances. After the presents have been distributed, there is an ominous occurrence: when the clock chimes, a frightening old owl flaps its wings and lights flicker eerily. The startled children run to their parents, and Herr Drosselmeyer appears at the door. He is a family friend, but nonetheless mysterious, with a patch covering one of his eyes! He has brought his handsome nephew Karl with him, and two boxes, which produce a Mechanical Doll and a Soldier Doll. In addition, there is a Nutcracker for Clara, which he presents to her after he demonstrates how it works. When her brother Fritz mischievously snatches it away and stomps on it, Herr Drosselmeyer repairs the broken Nutcracker's head by tying it in a handkerchief. Soon, all the girls are rocking their dolls to sleep.

The boys harass them by noisily tooting their trumpets and bugles. Shortly it is time for everyone to go to bed. Once all the guests have gone, Clara retrieves the Nutcracker, and cradling it in her arms, falls asleep on the sofa, where her mother covers her and lets her sleep. Suddenly, at midnight, Clara is awakened by the chiming of the clock, and is terrified to see Herr Drosselmeyer on the Grandfather clock flapping his cape. She jumps up and begins to run but encounters mice scurrying in every direction. In the midst of her dream, the Christmas tree begins to grow! Herr Drosselmeyer appears again, and from the folds of his cape emerges a life-sized Nutcracker. Magically, toy soldiers appear. The Nutcracker marshals them into battle against the mice and their King. At the height of the battle, Clara throws her slipper at the Mouse King, striking and stunning him, and the Nutcracker runs him through with his sword!

Magically Clara and The Nutcracker are transported to The Land of Snow under the spell of the Snow Queen and her Cavalier. In The Kingdom of Sweets, the Sugar Plum Fairy makes a regal entry attended by angels. When Clara and Herr Drosselmeyer's nephew—transformed into a Prince—arrive, they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, who invites them to taste some sweets. The Prince and Clara are seated on the throne and view the sumptuous offerings of the Sugar Plum Fairy's Kingdom, including Chocolate from Spain, Coffee from Arabia, Tea from China, Candy Canes, and Marzipan treats. Mother Ginger and her little Polichinelles arrive, as well as Waltzing Flowers and a Dew Drop, and there is a beautiful pas de deux by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. At the end of the Finale, everyone bids farewell to Clara and the Prince, as a walnut-shell boat carries them off—to where and what we shall never know. Yet, this is the magic and the beauty of *The Nutcracker*.



Pennsylvanía Youth Ballet

Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley

in partnership with
Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh University
and
WFMZ-TV/MBC Teleproductions

Karen Kroninger Knerr, Artistic Director

Guest Artists Oksana Maslova & Sterling Baca

and

Lloyd Boyd, Tevin Johnson, Garritt McCabe

December 6, 2020

Baker Hall, Zoellner Arts Center - 420 E. Packer Avenue, Bethlehem, PA

Music	P. I. Tchaikovsky
Based on a Story by	P. I. Tchaikovsky E. T. A. Hoffman
	Karen Knerr
Costumes by	Kristin Dundon, with Margaret Anderson, Olga Dvorovenko,
	Joanna Hoke, Drew Howard, Fritz Masten, Ruth McCormack, Erin Miller-Todd
Lighting Design	Kolby Clarke
Production & Stage Manager	
Ballet Mistress	Kelli Yandolino
	Kristin Dundon
Sets	
Act I Living Room Scenic Art Services	Michael Hagen, Inc.
Christmas Tree	
Technical Director	
Photography	
Filming & Editing	WFMZ-TV/MBC Teleproductions

Unauthorized filming, videotaping or photographing of the performances is strictly prohibited.

All casting is subject to change.

Act I

Scene I "The Christmas Party"

Clara.....Ava Baraket

Understudy: Francesca Reto

Fritz......Charles Bond

Maids.....Lauren Kunkle, Anna Nowak

Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum......Ian Lovell and Joyce Pencek Yoder

Herr Drosselmeyer.....Kristopher Yoder

Karl, his nephew......Zeby Fraser

Party Guests...... Oxana Dubrovskaya, Vlad Dubrovski, Alois Himsl, Patricia Kennedy,

Sara Massa, Garritt McCabe, Erin Vavra, Phillip Wallens

Francesca Reto, Avery Shear, Isabel Stana

Boys: Oliver Bond, Manny Fraser, Nicky Fraser, Kieran Hughes,

Everett Mason, Nolan Nuhfer

Columbine......Mai Hukuoka

Harlequin.....Tevin Johnson

Soldier Dolls......Susannah Gruver, David Shively-Ertas

Understudy: Ella Ebert

Scene II "The Battle"

Toy Soldiers.....Sophia Belet, Kelsey Bolash, Charles Bond, Jillian Maruscak,

Francesca Reto, Gianna Soares

Mouse King......Emma Kelley

Mice......Natalie Chamberlin, Nicky Fraser, Kieran Hughes, Emeline Nebzydoski,

Cozette Strouse, Lorelei Zanelli

The Nutcracker......David Shively-Ertas

The Prince...... Zeby Fraser

Scene III "The Land of Snow"

Snow Queen......Olivia Lovell

Cavalier......Garritt McCabe

Ebert, Gwendolyn George, Kathryn Gianforcaro, Susannah Gruver,

Mai Hukuoka, Ella Laski, Olivia Quiros, Anna Yorgey

Act II

"The Kingdom of Sweets"

Angels	Natalie Chamberlin, Lily Holayter, Mariarosa Moll, Emeline Nebzydoski, Maya Reusser, Cozette Strouse, Olivia Yeich, Eve Yorgey	
Chocolate from Spain	David Shively-Ertas, Abigail Altemose, Ella Laski Understudy: Kathryn Gianforcaro	
Coffee from Arabia	Lloyd Boyd, Sarah Bailey	
Tea from China	Andy Alulis, Danielle Aslan, Emma Kelley, Lauren Kunkle, Isabella Massa, Anna Nowak, Sara Stanley-Brizuela	
Chinese Dragon	Taryn Bullard, Marley Gidusko, EllaMary Groller, Francesca Reto	
Candy Cane Lead	Tevin Johnson, with Candy CanesTaryn Bullard, Marley Gidusko, EllaMary Groller, Camryn Homa, Kate Jellison, Francesca Reto, Avery Shear, Isabel Stana	
Marzipan	Brianna Dougherty, Ella Ebert, Gwendolyn George, Kathryn Gianforcaro, Susannah Gruver, Mai Hukuoka <i>Understudy: Finola Hieter</i>	
Mother Ginger	Ian Lovell	
	Big PolichinellesCamryn Homa, Kate Jellison, Avery Shear, Isabel Stana	
	Little PolichinellesManny Fraser, Eve Yorgey	
	PolichinellesSophia Belet, Kelsey Bolash, Taryn Bullard, Jillian Maruscak, Emeline Nebzydoski, Gianna Soares, Olivia Yeich, Lorelei Zanelli	
Dew Drop	. Alexia Dice	
Waltz of the Flowers	Abigail Altemose, Sarah Bailey, Brianna Dougherty, Ella Ebert, Susannah Gruver, Finola Hieter, Mai Hukuoka, Emma Kelley, Ella Laski, Olivia Lovell, Olivia Quiros, Anna Yorgey	
Sugar Plum Fairy and Her CavalierOksana Maslova & Sterling Baca		
FINALE	ALL	

Guest Artists



Oksana Maslova (Sugar Plum Fairy). Her artistic development began early on with rhythmic gymnastics, which eventually led her to an intensive ballet program with Irina Sycheva, former ballerina of St. Petersburg Ballet. Oksana then went on to the Kiev Choreographic College, where she studied under renowned teachers and artists such as Anna Petrenchuk, Evgenyi Kaigorodov, Yana Gladkih, and Dmitriy Kaigorodov. While attending the Choreographic College, Oksana began performing with Kiev Youth Ballet, where she danced the part of Arabian in The Nutcracker, Kitri in Don Quixote, and Odette in Swan Lake. After graduating from Kiev, Oksana became a student at the Institute of Culture and Arts, where she received her master's degree as a choreographer and ballet master.

Oksana joined Pennsylvania Ballet as a soloist for our 2014/2015 season. She has since danced featured roles in Christopher Wheeldon's *Polyphonia*, as well as the role of Odile/Odette in Christopher Wheeldon's *Swan Lake*. In 2016, Oksana was promoted to principal dancer and has continued to perform a mixed repertoire of classical, modern, and full-length works, including David Dawson's *The Third Light*, Brian Sanders' *Chicken Bone Brain*, George Balanchine's *Western Symphony* (Second Movement), and Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella* (Cinderella).

Prior to Pennsylvania Ballet, Oksana was a member of Suziriya Dance Theater, which she joined after Kiev Youth Ballet. In 2004, she became a member of the Odessa National Opera House, where she rose to the rank of soloist and performed a variety of principal roles. In 2008, she joined Grand Rapids Ballet as a principal dancer, performing their entire classical repertoire. And, in June 2011, she joined the Connecticut Ballet Company as a principal dancer, where she created the role of Alice in Brett Raphael's *Alice in Wonderland*.



Sterling Baca (Sugar Plum Cavalier) grew up in Larkspur, Colorado. He began his training at the Academy of Colorado Ballet at the age of eleven and then studied with German Zamuel. Sterling moved to NYC at the age of fifteen to attend the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre on full scholarship in January 2009.

Sterling joined ABT II in September 2010 and ABT's main company as an Apprentice in May 2011. He was promoted to the Corps de Ballet in November 2011. Sterling performed multiple Soloist and Principal roles during his time with American Ballet Theatre including Ballroom Von Rothbart in Kevin McKenzie's Swan Lake and the Second Sailor in Jerome Robbins' Fancy Free, as well as featured roles in world premieres by Alexei Ratmansky, Liam Scarlett, Mark Morris, and Marcelo Gomes.

Sterling joined Pennsylvania Ballet as a Principal Dancer under the directorship of Angel Corella in August 2016. Since then he has performed Romeo in Kenneth Macmillan's 'Romeo and Juliet', Basilio and Espada in 'Don Quixote', Conrad, Ali, and Lankendem in 'Le Corsaire', Prince Desire in 'Sleeping Beauty', Siegfried and Von Rothbart in 'Swan Lake', Albrecht in 'Giselle', and Solor in 'La Bayadere', The Cavalier in George Balanchine's 'The Nutcracker', Prince Charming in Ben Stevenson's 'Cinderella'. Sterling has performed lead roles in contemporary works by choreographers such as Christopher Wheeldon, Jorma Elo, Helen Pickett, David Dawson, Nacho Duato, Matthew Neenan, Nicolo Fonte, Jiri Killian, Stanton Welch and Garrett Smith.

Sterling has performed in multiple international Ballet Galas including the Monterrey International Ballet Gala 2017, New Orleans Ballet Association Gala 2019 & 2020, YAGP Stars of Today Meet the Stars of Tomorrow Tampa Bay 2020, Panama Ballet Festival 2019, Dance St. Louis Gala 2019 & 2020 and the inaugural Puerto Rico Classical Dance Competition 2020. Sterling created the role of @Hilarion in Joshua Beamish's '@Giselle'. Sterling is also certified in ABT's National Training Curriculum and is on the faculty of the School of Pennsylvania Ballet. Mr. Baca is the Wyncote Foundation Principal Dancer.



Lloyd Boyd (Coffee from Arabia) is a graduate of The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, BFA in 2014. Since then he has toured internationally with Bad Boys of Ballet, world-renowned Ailey II, and The MET opera in NYC. He made his Broadway National Tour debut in 2019 with An American In Paris: The New Musical



Tevin Johnson (Harlequin, Candy Cane) began his dance training in his hometown Syracuse, New York. He was awarded a scholarship at the Alvin Ailey Professional Division Summer Dance Intensive, where he trained with many teachers such as Pedro Ruiz Jr., Christian von Howard, and Freddie Moore. He earned his BFA in dance from Montclair State University. He has been highlighted in works by Christian von Howard, Earl Mosley, Camille A. Brown, Alwin Nikolais and many more. Tevin was a featured young artist and choreographer on News Channel 9, Extraordinary People and Places in Central New York with Carrie Lazarus. His commercial work includes Jordan Matter's 2016 calendar of Dancer's Among Us as well as dancing in the independent film, Adult World.



Garritt McCabe (Snow Cavalier) is a current second company member with the Pennsylvania Ballet, and also a certified ISSA (International Sports Sciences Association) Group Fitness Instructor. Originally from Macungie, PA, he trained under Fran Evers in Trexlertown, PA until age 15. He has toured with "Artists Simply Human' as an assistant for the convention working closely with Dwight Rhoden, Desmond Richardson, and Judy Rice. At 16, he was accepted into Boston Ballet School Pre-Professional program. He became a Trainee from 2017-2019, performing with the company - most notably the principal role of 'Teacher' in Bournonville's Konservatoriet. Now as a member of Pennsylvania Ballet, he has danced the pas de duex from Celtic Fire, Spartacus, and the male principal in George Balanchine's Allegro Brillante. Garritt's first introduction to The Nutcracker and other famous ballets such as Coppélia, was under the direction of Karen Knerr and the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley. He is very excited to be back where his ballet career began.

2020 Community Volunteer Adult Nutcracker Performers

Oxana Dubrovskaya (*Party Guest*) arrived in the United States in 2011 with her husband and young daughter from Estonia where the entire family had grown up. A professional artist, painter, sculptor, and until recently a doll doctor and a collector of antique and author dolls, she tried ballet for the first time in the fall of 2017. She began attending Adult Ballet Classes at the Ballet Guild and since then has devoted her time to everything ballet-related. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to dance in this beautiful, magical production!

Vlad Dubrovski (*Party Guest*) is making his stage debut this year in the Guild's Nutcracker. He is thrilled to be able to partner with his wife Oxana as a party guest.

Aolis Himsl, Jr. (Party Guest) was born in New Jersey and raised in Austria and Germany as a child. He later lived in Parsippany, NJ and has been a resident of Easton, PA since 1984. He attended Northampton Community College, where he received an AA degree in liberal arts and later completed his studies in chemistry at East Stroudsburg University (B.S. in chemistry), and Lehigh University where he completed his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry. Alois worked for the federal government and is currently a full-time professor of chemistry at Warren Community College in Washington, NJ. He enjoys staying active and traveling.

Patricia Kennedy (*Party Guest*) is a creative individual who discovered the benefits and challenges of ballet instruction as an adult. She started with a beginner class at the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, fell in love, and has been faithfully attending classes ever since. Patty, as we call her, has performed many times in our annual production of The Nutcracker as well as several of our spring performances. Although she wants to do nothing more then dance, she does have a day job that occupies her time. Currently, she exercises her Interior Design skills by helping people with their lighting needs at Bright Light Design Center, a division of Colonial Electric Supply. When not at work or dancing, Patricia enjoys being outdoors, staying home, and spending time with her daughter and grandchildren ages 8,13, & 15.

Ian Lovell (Dr.Stahlbaum, Mother Ginger) has over twenty-five years of experience in the entertainment industry and a richly diverse background. In his native country of Trinidad and Tobago, Ian embraced music as a steel pan drummer and traveled the world as a sound engineer for the group TAXI. When the band separated, Ian remained in the entertainment industry living in NYC to pursue a career in acting and directing. While his first experiences in acting were through the Ujamaa Theatre Company in NYC, Ian quickly gained opportunities on screen. As a SAG and AFTRA member, Ian's repertoire includes work on TV shows such as the HBO prison drama OZ, the ABC soap opera All My Children, and NBC Law and Order as well as movies such as Down to Earth, Maid in Manhattan, Zoolander, and more. This is Ian's sixth performance with Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, having performed in The Nutcracker the past six years, and in Cinderella for the Spring 2015 season. Ian is proud to share the stage with all of the dancers including his daughter, Olivia Lovell.

Sara Massa (Party Guest). Sara Massa is delighted to return to The Ballet Guild's Nutcracker. This year marks her seventh year sharing the stage with her daughter Isabella. Sara grew up in CT, where she studied ballet at The Marsha Ismailoff Mark School of Ballet and The Connecticut Ballet Center. She now lives in Bethlehem where she is a full-time mother of four, part-time yoga instructor, and free-time student at the Ballet Guild. Sara is grateful to her husband who helps create time for her to be a part of this production and share the experience with their daughter. She is also thankful for her parents who make the yearly trek down from Connecticut to move in and take over during Nutcracker week. Without them, this would not be possible.

Erin Vavra (*Party Guest*) is a life-long admirer of ballet. She began taking adult ballet classes at the Ballet Guild in 2014 and debuted on stage as a peasant in the Guild's production of *Coppélia* in 2019. She is thrilled to return for this year's production of *The Nutcracker*. Erin is the owner/director of A Child's Choice Montessori School located in Bethlehem. https://www.achildschoice.net/

Phillip Wallens (Party Guest) is joining Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley for his second Nutcracker Season. He is grateful to be included in such a noteworthy production of this classic ballet. You can find Phillip around the Lehigh Valley as the president of the non-profit "The Friends of Music of Bethlehem" which services schools and music programs in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Phillip teaches elementary and middle school music in Dover, NJ and directs theatre at Dover High School. As a music educator, Phillip has a deep appreciation of the arts and enjoys helping children, teens, and adults discover their own love of the arts as well. He would like to thank the directors, office managers, and other dancers, both young and seasoned, for their hard work and dedication.

Joyce Yoder (*Mrs. Stahlbaum*) is proud to mark her thirteenth year appearing as Mrs. Stahlbaum. She received her early training with Ballet Theatre of Scranton and studied at the PA Governor's School for the Arts and Pennsylvania Ballet School's summer programs. She is a former professional member of the DanceGing Company, where she danced several original classical and contemporary works and lead roles in their productions of *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. She has appeared in several featured dance roles with Pennsylvania Youth Theatre, served as choreographer for Trexler Middle School's musical productions, and served as a ballet instructor for Muhlenberg College's Community Dance Center for nine years. Joyce was seen as Arabian and Dew Drop in previous BGLV/PYB productions of *The Nutcracker*. Joyce remains a lifelong ballet student, presently enrolled in BGLV's adult classes and is honored to serve on their Board of Directors.

Kristopher Yoder (Herr Drosselmeyer) is honored to be virtually appearing in PYB's *The Nutcracker*. He was seen, in person, in PYB's 2019 *The Nutcracker* and as Dr. Coppelius in *Coppelia*, as well as the previous year's 50th Anniversary production of *The Nutcracker*. He looks forward to continuing his relationship with PYB and the Ballet Guild... at least from 6 feet away.

They Made It Happen

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Advertising	Jennifer Altemose, Amanda Lovell, Emily Quiros
Development/Fund Raising	Joan Marcus, Jennifer Altemose, Lori George
School Performance Chair	Jennifer Altemose
Nutcracker Educational Guide	Amy Belet, Lori George, Karen Kroninger Knerr
Angel Wrangler	. Katrina Krallitsch
Dressing Room Monitors	Amy Belet, Wendy Nebzydoski, Adriane Orcutt-Fraser,
	Emily Quiros, Carolyn Sarik, Kelli Yandolino
Props	Peggy Soares
Wardrobe Committee	. Kristin Dundon, with Amy Belet (First Hand), EV Dundon,
	Madelyn Dundon, Karen Groller, Katrina Krallitsch,
	Wendy Nebzydoski, Emily Quiros, Kristy Wright
	Special thanks to Scaramouche (Bob & Mark)
Lighting and Stage Crew	Brian Achenbach, Tyler Bartron, Jocelyn Buchheister,
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	Colin Reynolds, Chelsey Scott, Tim Wayne
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