

THE NUTCRACKER FOR STUDENTS



Who...

Each year, approximately 4,000 area students thrill to the magic of our live production of *The Nutcracker*. Students are drawn from Northampton, Lehigh, Bucks, Berks, Montgomery, Carbon, Monroe, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties, PA; and Hunterdon and Mercer counties, NJ. Approximately 1,000 students in schools with a large concentration of low-income families attend for free. An additional 3,000 students receive heavily discounted tickets.

What...

The Nutcracker for Students, directed by Karen Kroninger Knerr, artistic director, is a unique arts education experience with student dancers and nationally-known guest artists; the Southside Sinfonietta, a 48-piece orchestra that performs the full score directed by Eugene Albulescu, music director; and school choirs. Performed at Zoellner Arts Center, *The Nutcracker for Students* will take place December 7-9, 2022. During intermission, guest artists take part in an informal curtain talk to discuss the production and ballet. A select number of students are invited on stage to participate in a ballet demonstration. A study guide, aligned to PA Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities, helps teachers extend this arts education experience.

Why...

Access to the arts is intrinsic to a high quality of life and positively and significantly affects school engagement, college aspirations and empathy. Despite these strong benefits, arts education has been in continual decline since the 1980s as school budgets have tightened and greater emphasis is placed on standardized testing.

How...

We invite you to support this tradition by making a contribution through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized *The Nutcracker for Students* as an innovative education program under the EITC program. By making a qualified corporate contribution, your company will be eligible for a tax credit equal to 75 percent of your contribution, up to \$750,000. For details, visit <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>.

We hope that we can count on your support. To provide this unique arts experience to 4,000 area school students, the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley must raise \$74,750. Thank you for your generosity!