

The **NUTCRACKER** 2022
at Zoellner

*Pennsylvania Youth Ballet
Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley*



Hub Willson

Karen Kroninger Knerr, *Artistic Director*
Eugene Albulescu, *Music Director*



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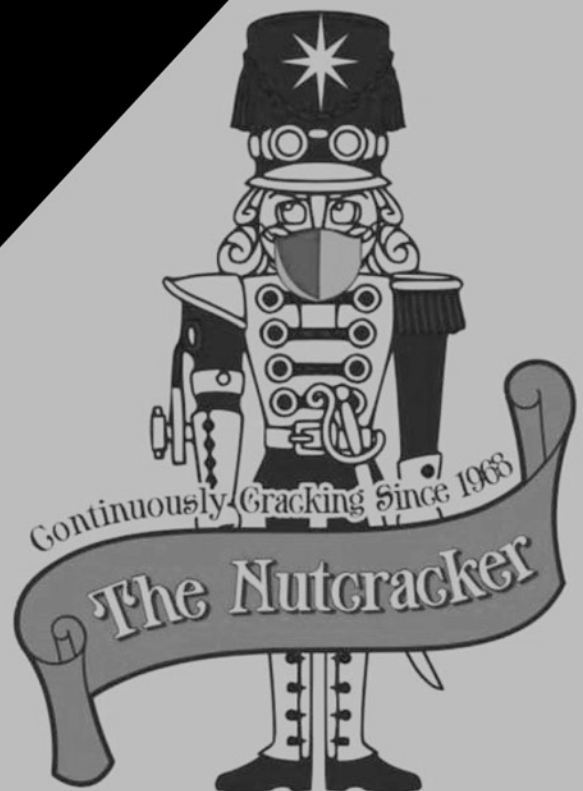
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The Story of Our Nutcracker Production

Performances of *The Nutcracker* have grown in a great American and Lehigh Valley tradition. The Lehigh Valley's *Nutcracker* tradition began fifty-four 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-four 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 54th consecutive *Nutcracker* production. Thank you for experiencing the magic and precision that we call *The Nutcracker*. Enjoy the show.



The Story of The Nutcracker

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*.



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Photos by Hub Wilson

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The

NUTCRACKER

Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley

Marjorie Berlin Fink, Founder –1958

Oleg Briansky & Mireille Briane, Artistic Directors Emeriti

Karen Knerr, Artistic Director

Eugene Albulescu, Conductor

Guest Artists

Amanda Smith and Da'Von Doane

and

Stephaen Hood, Tevin Johnson

Saturday, December 10, 2022 – 1:00 & 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, 2022 – 2 p.m.

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

Music..... P. I. Tchaikovsky
Based on a Story by E. T. A. Hoffman
Choreography & Staging Karen Knerr
Costumes by Kristin Dundon, with Margaret Anderson, Olga Dvorozenko,
Joanna Hoke, Drew Howard, Fritz Masten, Ruth McCormack, Erin Miller-Todd
Lighting Design Kolby Clarke
Production & Stage Manager..... R. Elizabeth Miller
Ballet Mistress Natalie Hedrick
Wardrobe Mistress Kristin Dundon
Sets..... J. Richard Fox, Grosh Scenic Studios
Act I Living Room Design..... Carl Sprague
Act I Living Room Scenic Art Services..... Michael Hagen, Inc.
Act II Kingdom of the Sweets Design Carl Sprague
Act II Kingdom of the Sweets Scenic Painting Cobalt Studios, Inc.
Christmas Tree Scott Mathiesen
Technical Director..... Scott Mathiesen
Photography Hub Willson
Videographer..... Video Theater

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

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers prior to the start of the performance. All casting is subject to change..

Act I

Scene I "The Christmas Party"

ClaraKelsey Bolash (Sun), Ainsley Wright (Sat)
FritzJacob Hart
Maids.....Willow Barberis, Mina Hyndman, Felicia Reyes, Hope St. Amour
Dr. and Mrs. StahlbaumIan Lovell and Joyce Pencek Yoder
Herr DrosselmeyerKristopher Yoder
Karl, his nephewCharles Bond
Party GuestsKaren Amate, Trevor Colahan, Steve Davies, Dave Ebert,
Kaitlyn Fritz, Patrice Kasten, Erin Vavra, Phillip Wallens
Children.....*Girls:* Sophia Belet, Natalie Chamberlin, Aubrey Cressman,
Jillian Maruscak, Caitlyn Miller, Zoe Ryan-Sheerer,
Gianna Soares, Olivia Yeich, Lorelei Zanelli
Boys: Oliver Bond, Graham Fleming, Manny Fraser, Everett Mason,
Guarionex Rios-Davies, Yaguez Rios-Davies, Dylan Stevenson,
Kevin Zhao, Vison Zhao
Cousins: Adalynn Breen, Eva Sollog
Columbine.....Linnea Crouch (Sat 4:30), Anna Yorgey (Sat 1:00; Sun)
Harlequin.....**Tevin Johnson**
Soldier DollsAva Baraket (Sat 4:30), Olivia Quiros (Sat 1:00; Sun)

Scene II "The Battle"

Toy SoldiersKyra Fisher, Vera Hegedus, Sophia Mellendorf, Emeline Nebzydoski,
Greta Scalora, Cozette Strouse, Emilia Winmill, Olivia Yeich
Mouse King.....Andy Alulis
MiceOhaya Brosky, Malia Bruckner, Juliana Conklin, Phoenix DeGiovine,
Nicky Fraser, Jacob Hart, Kieran Hughes, Eve Yorgey
The Nutcracker.....Zeby Fraser
The PrinceCharles Bond

Scene III "The Land of Snow"

Snow Queen.....Brianna Dougherty (Sat 4:30), Ella Ebert (Sat 1:00; Sun)
Cavalier.....**Stephaen Hood**
SnowflakesDanielle Aslan, Ava Baraket, Linnea Crouch,
Brianna Dougherty (Sat 1:00; Sun), Ella Ebert (Sat 4:30),
Gwendolyn George, Finola Hieter, Mai Hukuoka, Kate Jellison,
Lauren Kunkle, Isabel Stana, Olivia Quiros, Anna Yorgey
Understudies: Taryn Bullard, Marley Gidusko, EllaMary Groller,
Mina Hyndman, Francesca Reto, Kayla Stahlnecker

~ *Intermission* ~

Act II

"The Kingdom of Sweets"

Angels	Zoe Kemmerer, Graciela Manzanares, Mackenzie McMullan, Ellamae Nebzydoski, Giulia Scalora, Persephone Shimmel, Olivia Winmill, Evelyn Zelrick
Chocolate from Spain	Brianna Dougherty (Sat 1:00; Sun), Lauren Kunkle (Sat 4:30), Olivia Quiros
Coffee from Arabia	Stephaen Hood , with Finola Hieter <i>Attendants:</i> Andy Alulis, Zeby Fraser, Marley Gidusko, Francesca Reto
Tea from China	Willow Barberis (Sat), Kelsey Bolash (Sat), Taryn Bullard (Sun), EllaMary Groller (Sun), Mina Hyndman (Sat), Kate Jellison (Sun), Felicia Reyes (Sat), Avery Shear (Sun), Hope St. Amour (Sat), Kayla Stahlnecker, Isabel Stana (Sun) <i>Dragon:</i> Oliver Bond, Jacob Hart, Kieran Hughes
Candy Cane	Tevin Johnson , with
Candy Canes	Sophia Belet (Sat), Natalie Chamberlin (Sat), Aubrey Cressman (Sat), Kyra Fisher (Sun), Jillian Maruscak (Sat), Sophia Mellendorf (Sun), Caitlyn Miller (Sat), Emeline Nebzydoski (Sun), Zoe Ryan-Sheerer, (Sun), Gianna Soares (Sat), Emelia Winmill (Sun), Ainsley Wright (Sun), Olivia Yeich (Sat), Lorelei Zanelli (Sat)
Marzipan	Danielle Aslan, Ava Baraket, Linnea Crouch, Ella Ebert, Gwendolyn George (Sat 1:00; Sun), Mai Hukuoka (Sat 4:30), Anna Yorgey
Mother Ginger.....	Ian Lovell
Little Polichinelles	Graham Fleming, Manny Fraser, Nicky Fraser, Everett Mason, Dylan Stevenson
Polichinelles.....	Ohaya Brosky, Malia Bruckner, Juliana Conklin, Phoenix DeGiovine, Vera Hegedus, Nabila Paonessa, Greta Scalora, Eve Yorgey
Dew Drop.....	Gwendolyn George (Sat 4:30), Mai Hukuoka (Sat 1:00; Sun)
Waltz of the Flowers	Danielle Aslan, Ava Baraket, Taryn Bullard, Linnea Crouch, Brianna Dougherty, Ella Ebert, Gwendolyn George (Sat 1:00; Sun), Mai Hukuoka (Sat 4:30), EllaMary Groller, Finola Hieter, Lauren Kunkle, Olivia Quiros, Anna Yorgey <i>Understudies:</i> Marley Gidusko, Kate Jellison, Francesca Reto, Kayla Stahlnecker, Isabel Stana
Sugar Plum Fairy and Her Cavalier	Amanda Smith and Da' Von Doane

FINALEALL

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Artistic Director



Karen Kroninger Knerr, Artistic Director since 2007, holds a BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School where she trained in Graham, Taylor, and Limon techniques. She was a principal dancer with the Albany Berkshire Ballet, where she performed lead roles in *Cinderella* and *Coppélia*, as well as performing *Girl At Mirror* for the opening of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA. In addition, Karen was a member of the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company. She has worked with and performed works by Dennis Nahat, Laura Dean, Frances Patrelli and Bill T. Jones. Karen holds an Intermediate Certification in Labanotation and is an ABT Certified Teacher, having completed intensive training in the American Ballet Theatre National

Training Curriculum, a high-quality artistic training that is combined with the basics of dancer health and child development. She has developed the outreach program, “Discover Dance”, for the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley. Karen teaches students from beginner level to advanced level for BGLV and has choreographed various works including Youth programs for the Allentown Symphony. In August 2019, Karen received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.

Artistic Director Emerita



Mireille Briane entered the Paris Opera Ballet School at age seven, and studied there until her graduation. At the Opera Ballet school, she studied with some of the great teachers and artists of the day, but also found time to major in French literature. By the time she was eight, Mireille was performing regularly on stage, and by age sixteen she had become a Principal Dancer at the Grand Theatre of Bordeaux, France. Later, while appearing with Roland Petit’s ballet company, she met and married dancer Oleg

Briansky. The artistic team became world-renowned as ballet teachers and coaches. Mireille Briane also directed children’s ballets for television in France and Britain and taught for George Balanchine’s School of American Ballet, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and many other prestigious dance organizations. Her version of *The Nutcracker* has been performed in the USA and abroad. From 1995 to 2006, the Brianskys served as artistic and educational directors of the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. They were the founders and directors of the Briansky Saratoga Ballet Center summer ballet intensive at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, which was in operation for 43 years.

Music Director



Eugene Albulescu is an award-winning performer who combines a blazing technique with the artistic integrity and originality to express musical emotions at their most personal level. His emergence on the international scene came in 1994, when his debut recording (*Albulescu Plays Liszt*, MANU1446) earned him the Grand Prix du Disque Liszt, awarded for the best Liszt recording of the year, adding Albulescu’s name to that of legendary recipients such as Horowitz and Brendel. Noted New York Times critic Harold Schonberg praised Albulescu in the American Record Guide for his “infallible fingers of steel,” declaring that “nothing, anywhere, has any terrors for him.” His performances in New York at BargeMusic in 1996 attracted the attention of

WNYC, which broadcast Albulescu’s *Hammerklavier* interpretation live; he later gave his Carnegie Hall debut in the Stern Auditorium in 2001 performing Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 1.

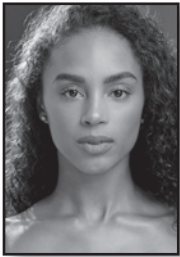
Since then, Albulescu has worked as conductor and soloist with numerous major orchestras including the New Zealand Symphony, the Romanian National George Enescu Philharmonic, the New York Chamber Orchestra, the Manukau Symphony Orchestra, and Christchurch Symphony. He toured the US with the Barbizon Chamber Orchestra and later led two US tours as music director with the French Chamber Orchestra. His recordings have been released on Ode/Manu label, Ode/BMG, Trust, Downstage Recordings, and on the Naxos label with the New Zealand Symphony featuring the “Rock Concerto,” composed for Albulescu by celebrated New Zealand composer Jenny McLeod. His most recent release on the AMP label, featuring performances of Beethoven’s Piano Concertos 1 and 5, has earned significant acclaim and unanimously positive critical reviews.

Albulescu’s outreach in over one hundred US high schools has been significant, and his program “Inside the Piano” linking technology and creativity earned him coverage from the major media, including articles in the

Washington Post and *Philadelphia Inquirer*, as well as the cover of *Clavier Magazine*. His work as conductor, soloist and recording artist spans four continents.

Albulescu started his piano studies in Romania at age six, at the Enescu Music School in Bucharest. His family moved to New Zealand in 1984 to escape Romania's Communist regime. He completed his musical studies at Indiana University where, at nineteen, he was the youngest person ever to teach as an assistant instructor. Eugene Albulescu is a Steinway Artist who currently teaches on the music faculty at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA

Guest Artists



Amanda Smith (*Sugar Plum Fairy*) has been studying dance since early childhood, beginning with ballet, tap and jazz at California Dance Academy, in Anaheim. By the time she was 12, she was training seriously with Charise Moses in Yorba Linda, CA. This eventually led her to the Anaheim Ballet, where she had the chance to train and perform with company dancers and at the Anaheim International Dance Festival, with artists like Clifton Brown, Maria Kotchekova and Misty Copeland.

Her dance journey next took Amanda to New York's SUNY Purchase. There, her instructors included well-known dance teachers and performers such as Rosanna Seravalli, Bettijane Sills, Stephanie Tooman, Megan Williams, and Ted Kivitt. These years gave her the chance to widen her dance repertoire and study abroad. After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Amanda auditioned for Jean Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride, directors of the Charlotte Ballet. She became part of the 2nd Company of Charlotte Ballet and, a year later, was promoted to the 1st Company. During this time, she performed in works by George Balanchine, Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, Dwight Rhoden, Mark Diamond, Mark Godden, Sasha Janes, Alonzo King, and others.

Summer 2015 saw Amanda back in New York City. Early the following year, she began performing with New York Theatre Ballet, under the direction of Diana Byer. Besides dancing in works by legendary choreographers such as Jerome Robbins and Antony Tudor, she spent time teaching and working on various freelance projects. In 2017, Amanda Smith was hired by Virginia Johnson to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem and was featured on the April 2019 cover of *Dance Magazine*. She has also done work in commercials and is a professional ambassador for Bloch Dance USA.



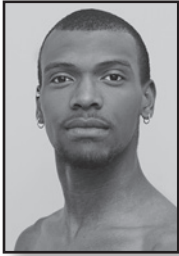
Da' Von Doane (*Sugar Plum Cavalier*) began his dance studies at the Salisbury Dance Academy, training with Betty Webster, Tatiana Akinfieva-Smith and Elena Manakhova. At age 15, he entered the Atlantic Contemporary Ballet Theatre as a full-time academic student. In 2008, Da' Von moved to New York City to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble and appeared the following year with Ballet Noir and at Jacob's Pillow. In Fall 2009, he started dancing as part of Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble (DTH), and that winter performed with DTH as a part of its Dance for America Tour. That year, he was also a guest artist with choreographer Ja' Malik in his E-moves Emerging Choreographers Showcase. After dancing again with Ballet Noir in the 200th Anniversary Chopin Celebration and the 2010 World Dance

Gala in Kielce, Poland, Da' Von joined the newly reborn Dance Theatre of Harlem in 2012. Two years later, he was featured as one of *Dance Magazine's* 'Top 25 to Watch' and appeared in a Dance Web Series 'For the Love of Dance,' with Sarita Lou, and in a music video for Artist Estelle titled "Conqueror."

While with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Da' Von has been seen in Principal roles in *Black Swan Pas de Deux*, *Raymonda Act III Pas De Dix*, *Dancing on The Front Porch of Heaven* by Ulysses Dove, Balanchine's *Agon*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, *Glinka Pas de Trois* and *Valse Fantaisie*. Additional works performed while a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem included pieces by Robert Garland, Tanya Wideman and Thaddeus Davis, Helen Pickett, Donald Byrd, Billy Wilson, Arthur Mitchell, Darrel Moultrie, Francesca Harper, John Alleyne and others. Da' Von has been invited as a guest artist of the Vail International Dance Festival's International Evenings of Dance as well as their Now: Premieres Program alongside dancers from NYCB, ABT, The Royal Ballet and more. As an independent artist, he has performed with numerous companies.

Da' Von Doane has choreographed original dance works presented by Bryant Park, Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center, Dance Theatre of Harlem's Sunday Matinee series, Periapsis Music and Dance, The CUNY Graduate Center: Composers now Festival, Symphony Space: Wall to Wall John Coltrane Celebration, Long Island University Post, and YAGP. University of the Arts and will premiere a new work for American Repertory Ballet Fall 2022.

In 2017, Da' Von was featured in *Dance Magazine* as a standout performer, for his work in Robert Garland's *Brahms Hayden Variations*, and as a cover star in 2019. At present, Da' Von is pursuing his MFA in Dance at The University of The Arts, where he hopes to build the foundations for his work as a choreographer and educator. He is committed to understanding the fundamentals of the relationship between the mind-body and spirit and how we as beings are able to shift between modes of being and exist with one another and our universe.



Stephaen Hood (*Snow King, Arabian*), a native of Baltimore, began his formal classical training with the Mid-Atlantic Youth Ballet. He later went on to study at the Rock School for Dance Education as a full scholarship recipient. In 2013, he graduated from the University of the Arts receiving a B.F.A. in Classical Ballet. Upon graduation, he performed and studied under Christopher Fleming with Ballet-Fleming. Stephaen was a member of Ohio's Verb Contemporary Ballets for three seasons. He performed works by Anthony Kruztcamp, Heinz Poll, Diane McIntyre, William Forsythe & trained under Cuban National Ballet Director Laura Alonso. He has been a guest artist for the Poetic Expression Dance Company, Carbon Dance Theater & Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley. He has performed lead roles in ballets such

as *Coppélia*, *La Bayadere*, *The Nutcracker*, *Spartacus*, & *Spring Waters* to name a few. Stephaen has also performed as a soloist for the Ballet Theatre of Maryland for two seasons. Stephaen is currently a freelance artist while working full time as a dance teacher for Anne Arundel County Public Schools.



Tevin Johnson (*Harlequin, Candy Cane*), a Syracuse, New York native, began his training at the age of 15. Johnson attended the Alvin Ailey's Professional Division Summer Dance Intensive on a scholarship in 2013 and attended in 2014; where he has worked with Christian Von Howard, Freddy Moore and Pedro Ruiz Jr. graduating Montclair State University with a BFA in dance; where he has been featured in works such as *Running Spirits* and *Wild and Free* (Draft5) by Fredrick Earl Mosley, Larry Keigwin, Christian Von Howard, Stacey Tookey and Camille A. Brown. He soon joined Roxey Contemporary Ballet company in New Jersey for two seasons and worked alongside their outreach programs. In 2020, Tevin became faculty for City College of Manhattan theater department, while teaching at various studios in

New Jersey. Some of his many awards and honors include the Jenni-Lynn Watson Scholarship, Cento Amici Scholarship, and the 2014 National NAACP ACT-SO Gold Medal for Dance. He was also a featured Young Artist on *Extraordinary People and Places in Central New York* with Carrie Lazarus and featured in the 2016 calendar of *Dancer's Among Us* by photographer Jordan Matter.

Adult Cast

Karen Amate (*Party Guest*), retired math and physics teacher at Lehigh Career & Technical Institute, has danced since age three and was a soloist at Ballet Theatre of Scranton, where she studied with Constance Reynolds. She taught ballet for 20 years in Hillsborough, NJ. Karen's many interests include adult ballet classes at BGLV, performing in *The Nutcracker*, playing handbells, performing liturgical dance, and helping prepare Polish foods and other goodies for her church's fundraisers. She is the mother of two sons, Daniel and Jeffrey, both Eagle Scouts. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren Rosie, Ben, Campbell, and Jill.

Trevor Colahan (*Party Guest*) was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley. He is a lifelong performer having had his first ballet classes in his youth followed by years of theatre, music, and other dance styles. Trevor shares his passion for the arts with his wife Diana, whom he met when cast as boyfriend and girlfriend in their high school musical, *The Music Man*. They both returned to ballet as adults at the Ballet Guild and continue to share their love of dance with their son Patrick. When not performing, Trevor can be found on the Hurling pitch with the Allentown Hibernians or at his day job as a Senior Capital Project Manager for Bristol Myers Squibb. This holiday season Trevor can also be found performing in Pennsylvania Playhouse's production of *Holiday Inn*.

Stephen Davies (*Party Guest*) is cast members Rex and Yago's dad. He's a former actor, co-founder of the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and producer of the hit independent feature film, "Tattoo, A Love Story."

Dave Ebert (*Party Guest*) is the proud parent of Ella Ebert, who has been dancing for PYB for nearly 10 years and who has achieved the honor of being cast as Snow Queen. Dave is thrilled to be dancing with his daughter, joining the ballet for the first time as a party parent during Ella's senior year with PYB. Long a fan of the ballet, Dave is a digital designer by day and a performing musician by night (lead singer and guitarist for local band RadioOne), and wishes to thank not only the wonderful teachers and staff at PYB, but the other party parents for their patience and guidance during the rehearsal process. Being a part of something this magical and meaningful is something Dave will never forget.

Patrice Kasten (*Party Guest*) is excited to return to *The Nutcracker* this season. She has previously performed from 2016-2018 in various roles, including: Big Polichinelle, Candy Cane and Maid. During her years at PYB, she volunteered to help teach younger students' classes and she is proud to see them dancing in their Nutcracker roles. Patrice is a senior at Liberty High School in Bethlehem, class of 2023. She is a Co-Captain of the Majorette Squad, a principal Highland Dancer, and a Varsity Volleyball Player. She plans to attend a local college and pursue a degree in the medical field. She is thankful to Miss Karen and the faculty of the Ballet Guild for the training she has received over the years to become the performer she is today.

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 seventh performance with Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, having performed in *The Nutcracker* the past six years, and in *Cinderella* for the Spring 2015 season.

Erin Vavra (*Party Guest*) is a life-long admirer of ballet. She has been taking adult ballet classes at the Ballet Guild since 2014. She has performed in the Guild's production of *Coppélia* in 2019. Erin debuted as a party parent in the 2020 virtual performance of *The Nutcracker*. She is thrilled to be performing to the live orchestra this year. Erin also enjoys swing dancing and is the owner/ director of A Child's Choice Montessori School located in Bethlehem.

Phillip Wallens (*Party Guest*) is back on stage with the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley for his fourth consecutive performance of *The Nutcracker*. Phillip teaches K-8 general/vocal music at Dover Public Schools in New Jersey. Despite moving to New Jersey more than a year ago, Phillip returns to Pennsylvania to continue advocating for arts education. He is a music director for two theaters, Star of The Day in Emmaus and Rebels Stages in The Delaware Water Gap. He is the President of The Friends of Music of Bethlehem, a non- profit dedicated to supporting classical music education in the Lehigh Valley since 1928. Phillip has a deep appreciation of the arts and enjoys serving children, teens, and adults in discovering their own love of the arts. He would like to thank the directors, office managers, and other performers, both young and seasoned, for their hard work and dedication to the arts.

Joyce Yoder (*Mrs. Stahlbaum*) is humbled to mark fifteen years appearing as Mrs. Stahlbaum, sharing the stage with hundreds of student and professional dancers. A lifelong ballet enthusiast, Joyce 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 and has appeared in several featured dance roles with Pennsylvania Youth Theatre. She has served as choreographer for Trexler Middle School's musical productions and is a former ballet instructor for Muhlenberg College's Community Dance Center. Joyce was featured as Arabian and Dew Drop in previous BGLV/PYB productions of *The Nutcracker*. She has also participated in their productions of *Cinderella*, *Coppélia*, *Four Seasons*, *Our Town*, and *Peter Pan*. Joyce is honored to be a member of PYB's Board of Directors.

Kristopher Yoder (Herr Drosselmeyer) is honored to be appearing in PYB's *The Nutcracker* once again. He appeared as the flight-less Mr. Darling in last year's Spring production of *Peter Pan*, as well as Drosselmeyer in last year's *The Nutcracker*. When he's not showing up late for parties, Kristopher can be found huddled over dusty old tomes at the Trexler Masonic Library, or scratching cats at the Lehigh Valley Humane Society. He looks forward to continuing his relationship with PYB and the Ballet Guild.

Ballet Mistress



Natalie Hedrick, also a BGLV/PYB faculty member teaching ballet, grew up in the Lehigh Valley and has been studying ballet for over 18 years. She started her initial dance training with Miss Tanya in Nazareth, and later studied ballet at The Pennsylvania Youth Ballet under the artistic direction of Karen Knerr. At age 13, Natalie was invited to attend the pre-professional division at The Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School of Ballet, with American Ballet Theatre, under the direction of Franco De Vita. There, she had the opportunity to perform with American Ballet Theatre in Alexi Ratmansky's *The Nutcracker*, at The Brooklyn Academy of Music, as well as in multiple productions with the company at The Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. In 2015, Natalie moved to Boston to train at Boston Ballet School in their pre-professional program, and the following year was promoted to the trainee program under the direction of Margaret Tracey. In 2017 Natalie was accepted into Indiana University's The Jacobs School of Music ballet department. While at Indiana University she was chosen to perform principal and soloist roles in works by George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon, and Twyla Tharp. She also choreographed in various showcases and taught regularly for the Jacobs Academy Pre-College Program. Natalie earned a Bachelor's of Science in Ballet in 2020.

Our Faculty



Kaitlyn Fritz, *Dance Instructor* - "I believed I could, so I did." That's a philosophy of life that has served Kaitlyn Fritz well in her academic, business and dance careers. She received much of her early dance training at the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley and the Arts Academy Charter School for the Arts, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This was supplemented by training at New York's Joffrey Ballet School, The Rock School of Dance, in Philadelphia, and Burklyn Ballet in Johnson, Vermont. Over the years, Kaitlyn has performed in numerous ballet productions with these dance groups, and in Pensacola, Florida, as well. The discipline and creativity Kaitlyn learned in Dance have also been applied to other fields of endeavor. Her interest in film and broadcasting led her to study at Bethlehem's PBS Media Academy and Penn State media film camp, and she later earned a Walt Disney Marketing externship. While in college, Kaitlyn worked as a personal trainer, group fitness instructor, and established a children's dance program. In 2021, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Cum laude, from Moravian College.



Meghan McCutcheon, *Dance Instructor*, began her dance training at Twin Rivers Dance Academy in 1997, under the direction of Kathryn Stout. She continued her passion for dance at Radford University, where she earned a BFA in Dance with a Ballet Concentration. While at Radford, Meghan studied the Vaganova Syllabus under the guidance of Inessa Plekhanova, along with modern dance techniques from Danah Bella, Margaret Devaney, Deborah McLaughlin, and Bob Boross. Meghan performed in several ballet selections, including Snow and Arabian in *The Nutcracker*, the Pas de Quatre in *La Bayadere*, *Don Quixote*, and *Paquita*. Meghan also established her love of choreography and her work show-cased in student productions. In the fall of 2012, Meghan returned to Easton. She continued teaching ballet under the guidelines of the Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus as an instructor for Twin Rivers Dance Academy Summer Dance Intensives. Following, she became a permanent instructor, actively contributing to the story ballet choreography. Meghan's choreography premiered at the Easton Riverside Arts Festival, Lehigh Valley DanceExposure Showcase, Ten Tiny Dances, and for Twin Rivers Dance Academy productions. In August of 2019, Meghan received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.



Adriane Orcutt-Fraser, Dance Instructor; hails from a family of teachers and is as passionate about the Art of Teaching as she is about the Art of Dance. Having grown in a family where education was a way of life, as well as being a homeschooling parent, Adriane knows first-hand about the need to balance strict with fun and structure with creativity. Caring about her students' health, well-being, and artistic development is essential to Adriane's teaching style and choreographic goals. Adriane began her ballet training at Budzynski Studios/Dance Theater of PA. She studied Ballet, Pointe, and Ukrainian Folk dance and was able to perform demi-soloist and soloist roles alongside professional dancers. Adriane was accepted into the school of Philadanco, where she received training in Graham and Horton modern technique from Milton Myers and Pat Thomas, and continued her training in ballet and pointe. Adriane was a scholarship student at BalletMet and Joffrey Ballet School Summer Intensives where she studied with Melinda Baker and Francesca Corkle, among others. As a high senior, Adriane was accepted on scholarship into the BFA dance program of De Sales University. She studied and performed with university seniors and received college credit for her dance courses. Adriane was also invited to train and rehearse with Danco II, Philadanco's Second Company and she was involved in a youth performance group that toured and performed in West Africa. After high school, Adriane attended Fordham University. While studying for an academic degree in Philosophy/History, and because a dual major in dance was not an option at the university at that time, Adriane studied dance in the Alvin Ailey/Fordham BFA program by audition as a non-major. She was privileged to receive training in ballet, pointe, modern and jazz and perform works from world-renowned teachers and choreographers, including Celia Marino, Denise Vale, Ana Marie Forsythe and Carl Paris. Adriane has taught Ballet, Pointe, Modern, Jazz, Contemporary/Lyrical and Folk Dance in New York, Long Island, and Pennsylvania. She enjoys teaching students of all ages, from toddlers to adults, and is passionate about instilling the love of dance and artistic expression to all dancers, whether recreational students or professionally bound.



Arielle Ridley, Dance Instructor; developed a passion for teaching dance at age 14 while a student at Miss Autumn's Dance Class, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. She began teaching there and helped to develop the curriculum—everything from ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary dance, musical theater, and hip hop—and has been working steadily ever since to deepen her knowledge of the art and her commitment to producing fine young dancers. After completing high school, Arielle graduated with honors and a B.F.A. in Dance Theatre from AMDA College of the Performing Arts, New York and Los Angeles. While she studied almost every form of dance, Arielle's primary focus there was Contemporary and Jazz. After graduation, she gained performing experience with companies such as Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers, JWCK Dance Lab, Dance Kerr and Dancers, and several other theater projects. Arielle also explored the world of film and television when a student at AMDA LA and AMDA NY. "I teach with love, kindness, but with enough discipline to encourage children and teenagers to grow. I try to connect with every student as best I can, so that no one feels unseen, unheard, or unimportant," she says. Arielle Ridley's interests aren't limited to dance, however. She enjoys film editing, choreography, creative writing, and is a published YA author.



Carol Jolley Sarik, Dance Instructor; received her early training at Princeton Ballet under founder Audrey Estey. (She was thrilled to dance the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker* for two years as a young student). A graduate of the Walnut Hill School of Performing Arts, she was then accepted into the Banff School of Fine Arts Summer Intensive in Alberta, Canada where she performed in their summer festival production of *Les Sylphides*. Receiving her teacher training from the Royal Ballet School in London, England, Carol returned to the United States where she opened and operated her own school in Jamesburg, New Jersey for seventeen years. While teaching, Ms. Sarik also danced professionally as a soloist with the Shore Ballet Company, performing such roles as Swanhilda in *Coppélia* and the lead role in *Cinderella*. She danced with the Carolyn Dorfman Company in its early years. She continues to attend teacher training programs such as the Dance Teacher Web Conference in Las Vegas, as well as injury prevention seminars. In 2019, Carolyn received her Certification in Progressing Ballet Technique.

Our Staff

Tanja Fetzer Howard, the Ballet Guild's indefatigable Office Manager, is something of a Renaissance woman. She has many interests, and pursues them all with enthusiasm. Among her most favored ways to spend time she counts dance, music, and history of all eras. She had a chance to combine two of these when she assisted prominent dance historian Patricia McAndrew in preparing some translations from the Danish. Tanja goes beyond a purely intellectual appreciation of the arts to performance. She has taken courses in African dance, country line dance, Middle Eastern dance, and tap dancing, as well as African Djembe drumming and frame drumming. In addition to performing with Tahya's percussion group at Mayfair and Musikfest, she has also danced with Star City Tribal and PURE dance troupes. However, none of her interests mean more to her than her two children, Brenna and Drew Howard. Tanja comes to her present job with the Ballet Guild through a long and grueling apprenticeship as a Ballet Mom.

Kristin Dundon, Costume Mistress, is grateful for her "sewing squad" of volunteers who help bring the costumes to life on the Zoellner Stage for the 2022 Nutcracker! She has a degree in Theater from DeSales University. The wardrobe room at the Guild brings back fond memories of her childhood ballet classes with Miss Marjorie B. Fink. Her new costume designs for the Ballet Guild's 50th Anniversary of *The Nutcracker* held in 2018 were inspired by the early costumes designed for the Ballet Guild by Mrs. Zimmerman! She has recently started working as a stylist and wardrobe supervisor in the world of film.

Patricia McAndrew, Office Assistant/Archivist/Historian, is a lifelong resident of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. An Honors in History graduate from Moravian College, she was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship as an undergraduate. She lived in Denmark for five years while researching the Royal Danish Ballet Master August Bournonville and his works. Over the years, she has translated a number of Danish dance writings, most recently Erik Ashengreen's landmark biography of the choreographer Harald Lander. Although she is best known for her writings about ballet, Pat has also pursued her interest in Dance in more practical ways: as general manager, production manager, and eventually as a board member of the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. She recently retired as Coordinator of Volunteers and Museum Education for Lehigh University Art Galleries.



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The Sunday, December 11, Nutcracker show features:

The Emmaus High School Bella Voce
Directed by Julia Wallace

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Victoria Angelino
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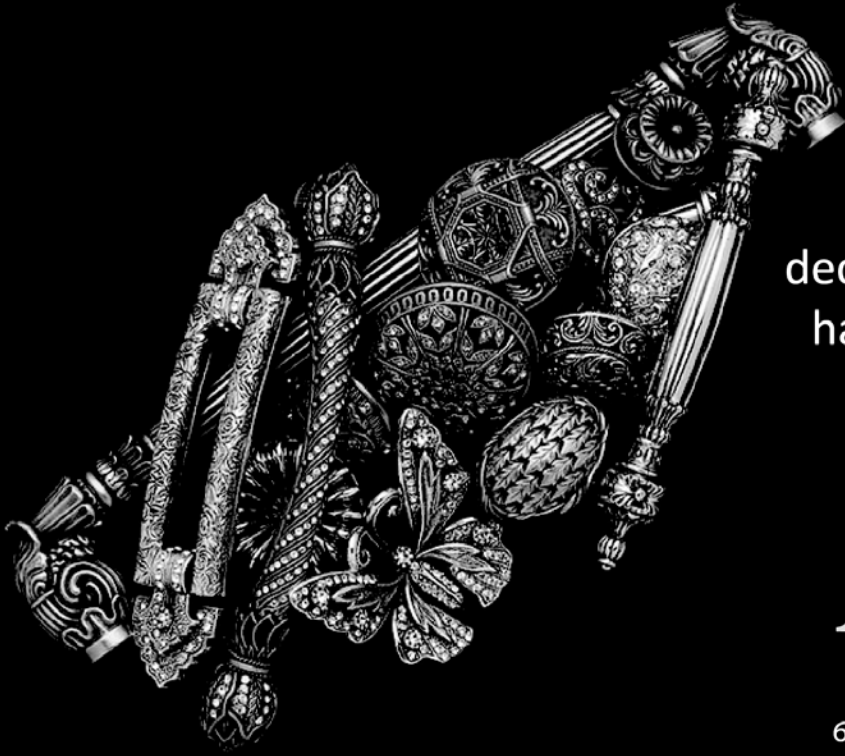


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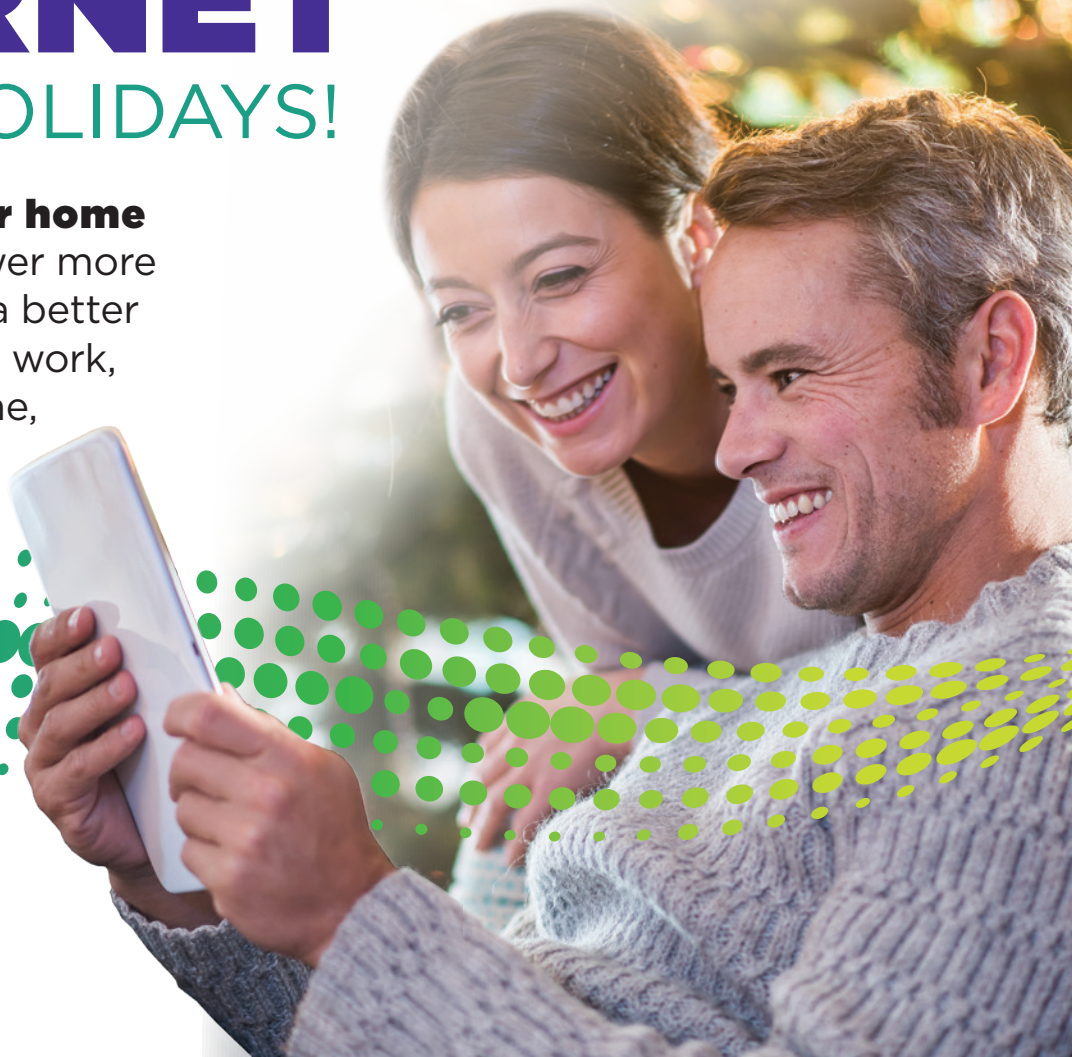


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