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The Story of Our Nuteracker Production

Performances of *The Nutcracker* have grown in a great American and Lehigh Valley tradition. The Lehigh Valley's *Nutcracker* tradition began fifty-five 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-five 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 55th consecutive *Nutcracker* production. Thank you for experiencing the magic and precision that we call *The Nutcracker*. Enjoy the show.



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. Herr Drosselmeyer's nephew brings Clara a toy bed so that she can tuck in the Nutcracker for the night, and 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!

Both Clara and the Nutcracker are whisked away by Herr Drosselmeyer; magically they 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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Marjorie Berlin Fink, Founder –1958

Karen Knerr, Artistic Director Darin Lewis, Music Director

Guest Artists

Seo Hye Han and John Lam

Courtesy of Mikko Nissinen Boston Ballet

Stephaen Hood, Tevin Johnson

Saturday, December 16, 2023 – 1:00 & 4:30 p.m. Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 1:00 & 4:30 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 Dvorovenko,
	Joanna Hoke, Drew Howard, Fritz Masten, Ruth McCormack, Erin Miller-Todd
Lighting Design	Justin Burns
	Mark Wilson
Production & Stage Manager	R. Elizabeth Miller
	Emelia Belet, Carolyn Lipper
	J. Richard Fox, Grosh Scenic Studios
Act I Living Room Design	
Act II Kingdom of the Sweets Design	
Act II Kingdom of the Sweets Scenic Painting	
	Scott Mathiesen
Technical Director & Deck Manager	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..

Het I

Scene I "The Christmas Party"

	greene 1 "The Unrollinas g array"		
Clara	Penelope Blomfield (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Aubrey Cressman (Sat 1:00,		
	Sun 4:30)		
Fritz	Oliver Bond (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00); Kevin Zhao (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30)		
Maids	Cara Beery, EllaMary Groller, Lucia Nowak, Hope St. Amour		
Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum	Mike Grigoruk and Joyce Pencek Yoder		
Herr Drosselmeyer	Kristopher Yoder		
Karl, his nephew	Kieran Hughes		
Party Guests	Karen Amate, Trevor Colahan, Dave Ebert, Patrice Kasten, Zander		
	Ritchey, Phillip Wallens, Erin Vavra		
Children	Girls: Natalie Chamberlin, Juliana Conklin, Jada Lewis, Abby Morgan,		
	Emeline Nebzydoski, Greta Scalora, Emilia Winmill, Eve Yorgey,		
	Lorelei Zanelli		
	Boys: Graham Fleming, Manny Fraser, Jacob Hart, Nolan Nuhfer,		
	Arlo Sanders, Conan Vail, William Vail, Vison Zhao		
	Cousins: Violet Fleming, Ellamae Nebzydoski, Evelyn Zelrick		
Columbine	Taryn Bullard (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30); Isabel Stana (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00)		
Harlequin	Tevin Johnson		
Soldier Dolls	Lauren Kunkle (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00); Francesca Reto (Sat 1:00,		
	Sun 4:30)		
	Scene II "The Battle"		
Toy Soldiers	Taryn Balogun, Lucy Fletcher-Horst, Sophie Przybylska, Catherine Rosenbloom,		
•	Stella Sams, Persephone Shimmel, Anna Winkler, Olivia Winmill		
Mouse King	Andy Alulis		
Mice	Cara Beery, Kyra Fisher, Jacob Hart, Mackenzie McMullan, Yaguez		
	Rios-Davies, Lydia Sams, Milania Turner		
The Nutcracker	Zeby Fraser		
The Prince	Kieran Hughes		
Scene III "The Land of Snow"			
Snow Queen	Ella Ebert		
Cavalier	Stephaen Hood		
Snowflakes	Danielle Aslan, Ava Baraket, Taryn Bullard (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00);		
	Linnea Crouch, Gwendolyn George, Marley Gidusko, EllaMary Groller		
	(Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Finola Hieter, Kate Jellison (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00),		
	Lauren Kunkle, Isabella Massa, Francesca Reto (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00),		

Avery Shear (Sat 1:00), Kayla Stahlnecker (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Isabel Stana (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Anna Yorgey (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00, Sun 4:30)

\sim Intermission \sim

Het II "The Kingdom of Sweets"

	That 11 The Ningdom of Eweets
Angels	. Everly Beck, Reese Beck, Lillian Brew, Johana Conklin, Rebecca Guthrie, Harper Longo, Liliana Matarazzo, Faye Murtha, Catia Rego, Giulia Scalora, Chloe Weikert, Evelyn Zelrick
Chocolate from Spain	. Andy Alulis, with
	Gwen George and Lauren Kunkle (Sat 1:00, Sun, 4:30) Ava Baraket and Anna Yorgey (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00)
Coffee from Arabia	. Stephaen Hood , <i>with</i> Linnea Crouch (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30); Finola Hieter (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00) AttendantsZeby Fraser, Kate Jellison, Zander Ritchey, Avery Shear
Tea from China	. Sophia Belet, Kelsey Bolash, Charles Bond, Yuula Estler (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Aidan Lazo, Alana Lewis, Jillian Maruscak, Isabella Massa (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Caitlyn Miller, Gianna Soares, Ainsley Wright <i>Dragon</i> Natalie Chamberlin (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Juliana Conklin (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Emeline Nebzydoski (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Greta Scalora (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Emilia Winmill (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Eve Yorgey (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00)
Candy Cane Lead	. Tevin Johnson, with
Candy Canes	. Penelope Blomfield (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Natalie Chamberlin (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Juliana Conklin (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Aubrey Cressman (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Yuula Estler (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Isabella Massa (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Abby Morgan, Emeline Nebzydoski (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Greta Scalora (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Hope St. Amour, Emilia Winmill (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Eve Yorgey (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Lorelei Zanelli
Marzipan	. Danielle Aslan, Ava Baraket (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Taryn Bullard (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Ella Ebert, Finola Hieter (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Marley Gidusko (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Francesca Reto, Isabel Stana (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00)
Mother Ginger	. Dave Ebert
=	. Graciela Manzanares, Ellamae Nebzydoski, Giulia Scalora, Evelyn Zelrick
	. Oliver Bond (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Manny Fraser, Jacob Hart, Vera Hegedus, Jada Lewis, Nolan Nuhfer, Persephone Shimmel, Cozette Strouse, Kevin Zhao (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00)
Dew Drop	. Gwendolyn George (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Anna Yorgey (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30)
Waltz of the Flowers	Danielle Aslan (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Ava Baraket, Taryn Bullard, Linnea Crouch (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Ella Ebert (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Gwendolyn George (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Marley Gidusko (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), EllaMary Groller, Finola Hieter (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Kate Jellison (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00), Lauren Kunkle, Isabella Massa, Lucia Nowak, Avery Shear (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Kayla Stahlnecker, Isabel Stana (Sat 1:00, Sun 4:30), Anna Yorgey (Sat 4:30, Sun 1:00)
Sugar Plum Fairy	
and Her Cavalier	. Seo Hye Han and John Lam
FINALE	. ALL

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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



Darin Lewis began his musical studies at the age of seven. He attended Northwestern University, and continued his studies with Daniel Pollack at the University of Southern California, where he graduated *cum laude*. Upon his graduation, he was awarded a Rotary Scholarship, allowing him to do post-graduate work at the Royal Northern College of Music in England. While in England, Mr. Lewis made his orchestral debut playing Mozart. He returned to the United States, and began work on his Master's degree in Piano Performance at Yale University. At Yale, with the encouragement and guidance of Ezra Laderman and Joan Panetti, Mr. Lewis began to further explore his abilities as a composer. In 1990, Mr. Lewis conducted performances of his *Requiem*

at Yale and in California. In 1991, after graduating from Yale, Mr. Lewis received a Teaching Fellowship at the City College of New York, where he began working on a Master's degree in composition with the Pulitzer Prizewinning composer David Del Tredici. Upon his graduation, Mr. Lewis joined the music faculty of the Horace Mann School. During his tenure at Horace Mann, he composed numerous works for the Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Choral groups. Mr. Lewis completed his Doctorate in Music Education at Boston University in 2016.

Guest Artists



Seo Hye Han (Sugar Plum Fairy) joined Boston Ballet as a Company dancer in 2012, after dancing with the Universal Ballet Company as a soloist for three seasons. She began her studies at the Korea National University of Arts and graduated in 2009.

Han performed in the World Ballet Star Festival in Korea with Daniil Simkin and the Havana Ballet Festival in Cuba. She has had roles in performances of Don Quixote (Kitri), La Bayadère (Gamzatti), Onegin (Olga), The Nutcracker (Clara), Swan Lake (Odette, Odile), Simchung (Simchung), and Jiří Kylián's Sechs Tänze.

Her repertoire with Boston Ballet includes George Balanchine's Jewels, Coppélia, Serenade, Symphony in Symphony in Three Movements, Theme and Variations, and Kammermusik No. 2; John Cranko's Onegin. Jorma Elo's Bach Cello Suites, William Forsythe's The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude, Jose Martinez's Resonance, Wayne McGregor's Chroma, and Mikko Nissinen's The Nutcracker and Swan Lake.

Han has received honors and awards in many international dance competitions including the silver medal in 2004 at Bulgaria's Varna International Ballet Competition, a scholarship to Vaganova Ballet Academy in the 2005 Prix de Lausanne, a silver medal in the 2008 Varna International Ballet Competition, a silver medal in the 2008 Seoul International Dance Competition, the Joffrey Prize in the 2010 USA International Ballet Competition, and the Gold Medal in the 2012 Boston International Ballet Competition

Han joined Boston Ballet in 2012 as a soloist and was promoted to principal dancer in 2016.



John Lam (Sugar Plum Cavalier) began his dance career with the Marin Ballet in San Rafael, CA at the age of 4. Lam's talent was immediately recognized by Marin Ballet Artistic Director Margaret Swarthout, who offered Lam a full scholarship through the organization of Performing Stars of Marin. Swarthout's successor Mikko Nissinen brought Lam to the spotlight and helped advance his career. Cynthia Lucas further cultivated and refined Lam's skills to help prepare him for advanced dance training.

In 2000, at age 15, Lam began his tenure with Canada's National Ballet School under the direction of Mavis Staines. Lam was one of only a few North Americans awarded a full scholarship from

the Pierino Ambrosoli Foundation in Zurich, which supports promising young dancers throughout the world. Lam studied for three years under the renowned ballet teacher/mentor Sergiu Stefanschi and was awarded the Peter Dwyer Scholarship for remarkable promise. Upon graduation from the National Ballet School in 2003, Lam was invited by Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen to join Boston Ballet II.

In addition to Lam's achievements with Boston Ballet, he was a finalist in the Seoul International Ballet Competition and the only American male semi-finalist at the 2005 Helsinki International Ballet Competition. Lam also received the prestigious Princess Grace Award, which recognizes and supports emerging talent. In 2006, Lam received a proclamation from the mayor of San Rafael, CA, for his outstanding artistic achievements. Over the course of his distinguished career, Lam has worked with a range of esteemed choreographers and coaches including Sorella Englund, Merrill Ashley, Karen Kain, Roslyn Anderson, Sandy Jennings, William Forsythe, Stephen Galloway, Jill Johnson, Noah Gelber, Helen Pickett, John Neumeier, and Christopher Wheeldon.

Lam has been featured in The New York Times, The Boston Globe, and The London Times. In addition to his stage work, Lam has choreographed and produced several dances on film including Dance Is, Movement in Structure, SHE/I, Close, The Air Before Me, Quiet Beauty, and moving pARTS. Lam's films have received critical acclaim in International Dance Film Festivals, including The San Francisco Dance Film Festival and The Portland Dance Film Festival. Lam has taught at Harvard University and in studio settings from Boston to California to Honolulu.

Beyond his work as a dancer, director, choreographer, arts advocate, and film producer, Lam has performed the role of Ariel alongside John Douglas Thompson in The Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's production of "The Tempest." Lam is married and the father of two beautiful boys. His family is the subject of an award-winning documentary "Papa & Dada" by renowned director Daniela Ambrosoli.

Lam joined Boston Ballet II in 2003 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2004, to second soloist in 2006, and to soloist in 2008. He was named principal dancer in 2014.



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 dance training at the age of 15. Johnson attended the Alvin Ailey's Professional Division Summer Dance Intensive on a scholarship in 2013, where he worked with Christian Von Howard, Freddy Moore and Pedro Ruiz Jr. He received a BFA in Dance from Montclair State University, where he was 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 the company's outreach programs. In 2020, Tevin was added to the faculty of the City College of Manhattan's theater department. He also taught 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. Tevin was also a featured in various publications, such as Young Artist on *Extraordinary People and Places in Central New York* with Carrie Lazarus, and 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 sons Patrick and Owen. 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.

Dave Ebert (Party Guest) is the proud parent of Ella Ebert, who has been dancing for PYB for over 10 years and who has achieved the honor of being cast as Snow Queen for a second time. Dave is thrilled to be dancing with his daughter, joining the ballet for the second time as a party parent. 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!

Mike Grigoruk (Dr. Stahlbaum) is returning to the performance this year to once again participate in "the greatest holiday party ever." Beginning on stage in 2001 with his daughter Bronte, Mike has been involved both as a party guest and as Dr. Stahlbaum for over 15 years. As Mike says each year about participating in PYB's Nutcracker, "What a delightful way to bring in the holiday season, and what a wonderful opportunity to be involved in this first-class production." Mike provides construction management services for CEG (Cedarville Engineering Group) in their Pennsylvania Municipal Engineering Department. His biggest stage critic is his wife, Mary, although he also welcomes performance comments from his children and grandchildren – as long as they're positive...

Patrice Kasten (Party Guest) is excited to return to *The Nutcracker* this season. This is her second year as an adult party guest, but she was previously a student at PYB. She also performed in *The Nutcracker* from 2016-2018. During her years at PYB, she volunteered to help teach younger students' classes – today, she is proud to see them dancing in their Nutcracker roles. Patrice is in her first year studying at Moravian University, where she is on the cheerleading team. 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.

Sara Massa (Party Guest) is delighted to return to the Ballet Guild's Nutcracker. This marks her ninth 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 that 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 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 again 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 fifth consecutive performance of *The Nutcracker*. Phillip currently teaches K-5 general/vocal/instrumental music at Donegan Elementary School in the Bethlehem Area School District. 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 theatres, Star of The Day in Emmaus and Rebels Stages in The Delaware Water Gap. He is on the board 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 for the arts and enjoys serving children in discovering their own love for 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 Joane Manze in Clarks Summit, PA and at Ballet Theatre of Scranton. She 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 *Cindrella*, *La Boutique Fantasque*, *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 once again to grace the stage in the Ballet Guild's *The Nutcracker*. After having wow'd the Lehigh Valley with his incredible, emotion-filled performance in, most likely, the "World's Ugliest Attempt at a Woman" as the Step Mother in last Spring's *Cinderella*, he is proud to continue to join this Christmas Favorite.

Ballet Mistresses



Emelia Belet, also a BGLV/PYB faculty member teaching ballet, began dancing at the age of three at North Jersey School of Dance Arts under Christine Taylor and Luba Gulyaeva. In 2014, she joined Ballet Guild of Lehigh Valley/ Pennsylvania Youth Ballet to further her training at the age of 12 under Artistic Director Karen Knerr. While there she performed many roles including, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Prayer and one of Coppélia's friends in *Coppélia*, and Arabian

Lead, Dewdrop, and Snow Queen all in Ballet Guild's annual production of *The Nutcracker*. Upon graduating in the summer of 2020, Emelia was accepted as an American Repertory Ballet's Trainee under the direction of Adymara Cabrera and Ethan Steifel and remained there for three years. While in the program, she performed with the school and company in many productions, including Snow, Flowers, and Marzipan Corps in ARB's *The Nutcracker*, Arabian Lead in Princeton Ballet School *Nutcracker Suite*, Willis in *Giselle* in the schools spring trainee production. After her three years in Princeton with American Repertory Ballet, Emelia is excited to move back home and start teaching at the studio she considers home and begin her next journey in the teaching side of the ballet world.



Carolyn Lippert, also a BGLV/PYB faculty member teaching ballet, was born in Boston, Massachusetts and trained at Severance Ballet Conservatory with her mother, Carla Stallings-Lippert, and at the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. Lippert was named a National Training Scholar and attended American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensives on full scholarship from 2008-2011. Lippert joined the ABT Studio Company in September 2011 and

performed with American Ballet Theatre at the Metropolitan Opera House in 2013. She went on to dance with The Washington Ballet for their 2013-2014 season and San Francisco Ballet for their 2014-2015 season. Lippert joined American Ballet Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet in 2015 and went on to perform in Swan Lake, Giselle, La Bayadere, Firebird, and The Seasons to name a few. While with ABT, Lippert also took college classes at CUNY and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelors in phycology in 2021. In that same year, Lippert retired to pursue a career in medicine. Lippert is ABT National Training Curriculum certified and enjoys teaching whenever possible. She plans to remain a part of the ballet world and looks forward to sharing her passion and knowledge of classical ballet with students.



Our Faculty



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, Contemporay/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 2023 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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Nuteracker Treble Choirs 2023

The Northampton Naturals Northampton Area School District

Ms. Patricia Risley, *Director*Mr. Michael Lopata, *Principal*, *Middle School*Mr. Luke Shafnisky, *Principal*, *High School*

Northampton Area Middle School Saturday December 16, 2023

Lily Bailey	Kirsten Gabovitz	Amelia Martucci
Macy Bernd	Yeralis Garcia Valenzuela	Alaina Morrissey
Lillian Breidinger	Kassidy Galarza	Madilyn Nguyen
Wyatt Breidinger	Vivienn Giordano	Saffron Poppe
Andrew Brown	Haylee Haupt	Lillian Rehrig
Michael Chicklilly	Shekinah Henry	Tianna Shammas
Mya Collier	Madelyn Johnston	Liam Stasak
Darcy Conrad	Emma Klaus	Adrielle Willis
Elsie Conrad	Evelyn Lack.	Jocelyn Strittmatter
Caylee Dearden	Greta-Lynn Lesko	Addison Ulshafer
Courtney Edwards	Emma Luipersbeck	

Northampton Naturals Alumni

Northampton Area High School and Middle School Sunday, December 17, 2023

Hailey Achey	Brianna Gomes	Maggie Roe
Ada Barnhorst	Ava Gower	Kelsey Secara
Macy Bernd	Madelyn Johnston	Francea Towler
Hailey Bullock	Rachel Kemmerer	Najha White
Emily Drosnock	Emma Luipersbeck	Audrey Wood
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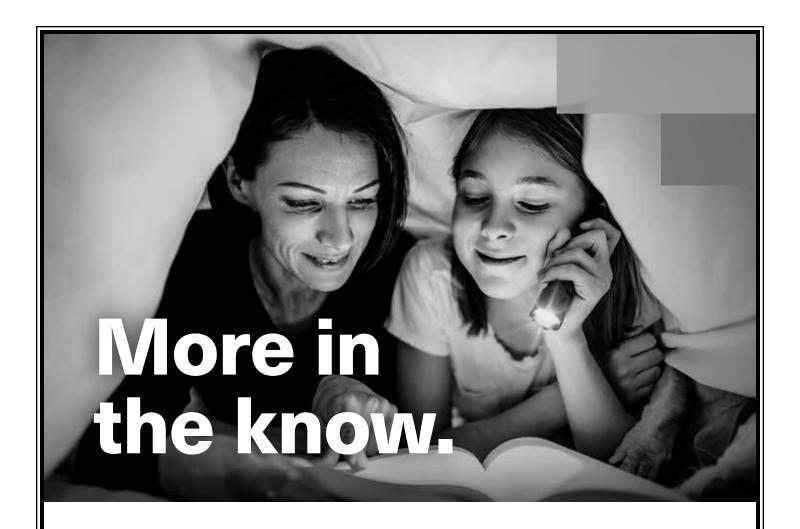


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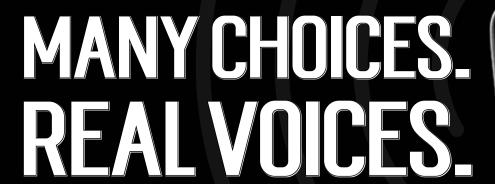
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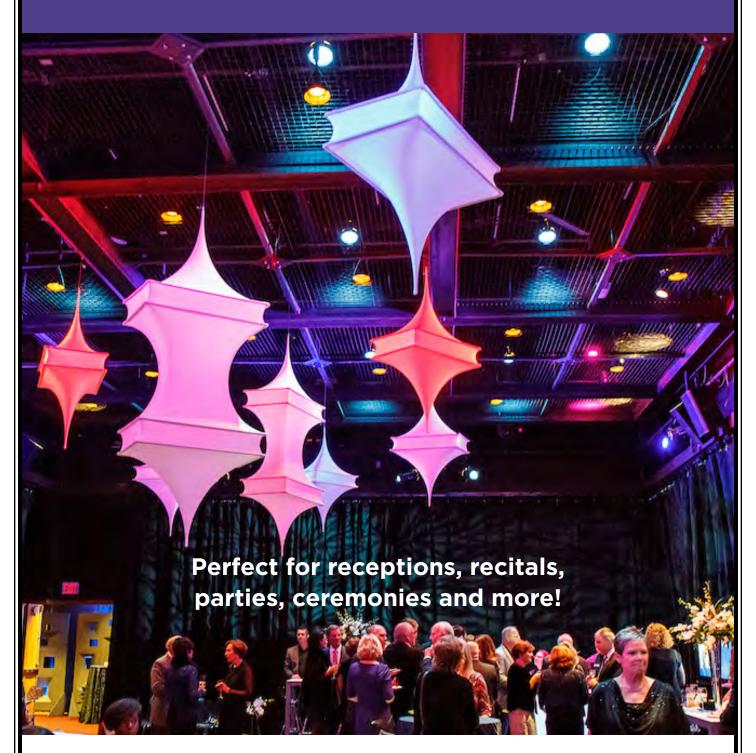
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55 Years of Nuteracker Guest Artists (1968-2023)

YEAR	SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	HER CAVALIER	COMPANY
1968	Fiona Furstner	Jacques Cebron	Pennsylvania Ballet
1969	Barbara Sandonato	Alexei Yudenich	Pennsylvania Ballet
1970	Christina Sarry	John Sowinski	American Ballet Company (Eliot Feld, Director)
1971	Hilda Morales	Keith Martin	Pennsylvania Ballet
1972	Hilda Morales	Lawrence Rhodes	Pennsylvania Ballet
1973	Olga Ferri	Ramon Segarra	Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Olga)
1974	Barbara Sandonato	Ramon Segarra	Pennsylvania Ballet (Barbara)
1975	Linda Miller	John Sowinski	Eliot Feld Ballet
1976	Susan Taylor Degnan	Peter Degnan	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
1977	Durine Alinova	David Drummond	Boston Ballet
1978	Tamara Hadley	William DeGregory	Pennsylvania Ballet
1979	Zelma Bustillo	Luis Fuente	Joffrey Ballet
1980	Megan Murphy	John Sowinski	Eliot Feld Ballet
1981	Tamara Rimes	Richard Fritz	Los Angeles Ballet Company
1982	Jocelyne Mocogni	Craig Williams	Eliot Feld Ballet / Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas
1983	Leslie Jonas	Alexandre Proia	Boston Ballet
1984	Ana Maria Castanon	Roberto Rodriguez	Ballets de San Juan, Puerto Rico
1985	Ana Maria Castanon	Roberto Rodriguez	Ballets de San Juan, Puerto Rico
1986	Stephanie Moy	Leslie Howard	Boston Ballet
1987	Kristin Schleich	Richard Fritz	Ballet Northeast

55 Years of Nuteracker Guest Firtists (1968-2023)

YEAR	SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	HER CAVALIER	COMPANY
1988	Karen Kroninger	Michael Haubrich-Visconti	Juilliard School/Ballets de San Juan, Puerto Rico
1989	Rosemary Sabovik	Joseph Fritz	New Jersey Ballet/Metropolitan Opera Ballet
19.9	Elizabeth Knecht	Michael Krochak	(School Performances)
1990	Rosemary Sabovik	Joseph Fritz	New Jersey Ballet/Metropolitan Opera Ballet
1991	Lauren Gelfand	Alexander Kedrov	Boston Ballet
1992	Susanna Vennerbeck	Alexander Kedrov	Boston Ballet
1993	Jenni Hjalmarson	Dimitri Nechayev	Universal Ballet Company, Seoul, Korea (Jenni)
1994	Roseanne Germer	Alexei Borovik	Pennsylvania Ballet
1995	Margaret Tracey	Ethan Stiefel	New York City Ballet
	Cassandra Crowder	John Thomas Bell	BGLV Residential Scholarship Winner /
			Maryland Ballet (School Performances)
1996	Margaret Tracey/	Nikolaj Hübbe	New York City Ballet
	Jennifer Ringer	Nikolaj Hübbe	New York City Ballet
	Anne Elizabeth Milewski	Andrei Dokukin	American Ballet Theatre (School Performances)
1997	Irina Dvorovenko	Maxim Belotserkovsky	American Ballet Theatre
	Tamara Barden	Andrei Dokukin	American Ballet Theatre (School Performances)
1998	Irina Dvorovenko	Maxim Belotserkovsky	American Ballet Theatre
1999	Irina Dvorovenko	Maxim Belotserkovsky	American Ballet Theatre
	Adrienne Schulte	Giray Atalay	American Ballet Theatre (School Performances)
2000	Pollyanna Ribiero	Paul Thrussell	Boston Ballet
2001	Ekaterina Shelknova	Michael Cusmano	American Ballet Theatre
2002	Yoko Kaneta	Kazuma Ogasawara	Freelance, Japan
2003	Vlada Kysselova	Hennadi Bespechnyi	Ukraine, France, & South Carolina
2004	Michele Wiles	Ricardo Torres	American Ballet Theatre /
	711		Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico
2005	Zhong-Jing Fang	Jared Matthews	American Ballet Theatre
2006	Violeta Angelova	Alfiero Supan	Freelance
2007	Amanda Cobb-Ennis	Justin Peck	American Ballet Theatre /
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2008	Elisabeth Holowchuk	Ted Seymour	The Suzanne Farrell Ballet
2009	Sarah Lane	Luis Ribagorda	American Ballet Theatre
2010	Riolama Lorenzo	Sergio Torrado	Pennsylvania Ballet
2011	Jennie Somogyi	Ask la Cour	New York City Ballet
2012	Ashley Bouder	Matthew Dibble	New York City Ballet / Twyla Tharp Dance
2013	Aynsley Taylor Inglis	Vitali Krauchenka	Freelance / American Ballet Theatre
2014	Aynsley Taylor Inglis	Brett van Sickle	Freelance / The Suzanne Farrell Ballet
2015	Lauren Fadeley	Francis Veyette	Pennsylvania Ballet
2016	Ashley Ellis	Lasha Khozashvili	Boston Ballet
2017	Beckanne Sisk	Chase O'Connell	Ballet West
2018	Liliann DiPiazza	Ian Hussey	Pennsylvania Ballet
2019	Devon Teuscher	Alexandre Hammoudi	American Ballet Theatre
2020	Oksana Maslova	Sterling Baca	Pennsylvania Ballet
2021	Dayesi Torriente	Arian Molina Soca	Philadelphia Ballet (formerly Pennsylvania Ballet)
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Nuteracker Volunteers They Made It Happen!

Program	Jennifer Altemose, Tanja Howard
Printing	
Advertising	Jennifer Altemose, EV Dundon
Development/Fundraising	Joan Marcus, with Jennifer Altemose, Lori George
School Performance Chair	Jennifer Altemose
Nutcracker Educational Guide.	
Cast Party	Lori George
Nutcracker Boutique	Tjasa Ritchey and Stephanie Kunkle, with Joyce Beery,
	Emily Hulme, Stephanie Lewis, Suzanne McMullan
T-Shirt Graphic Design	
Wardrobe Committee	Kristin Dundon with Amy Belet (First Hand),
	Bryn Cressman, Christen Fleming, Karen Groller,
	Wendy Nebzydoski, Kristy Wright
Angel Wranglers	
	Danielle Matarazzo, Alicia Rampulla, Sandra Rego, D'Ache Zelrick
Production Volunteers	Mariella Barca, Joyce Beery, Amy Belet, Wendy Blomfield,
	Michelle Bullard, Heather Gidusko, Stephanie Lewis,
	Suzanne McMullan, Judith Nuhfer, Emilia Przybylska, Alicia Rampulla,
	April Reto, Verona Rosenbloom, Lindsey Sanders, Carolyn Sarik,
	Persephone Shimmel, Elisabeth Sollog, Thais Winmill, Amy Zanelli
•	eggy Soares, with Kristen Jellison, Jen Maruscak, Dave Soares (Sleigh)
Load In/Out	
Stage Crew	
Zoellner Team	Josh Kovar, Production Manager;
Kyle Rudg	ers, Assistant Production Manager; Justin Burns, Lighting Coordinator;
	Phil Ingle, Audio Coordinator
Zoellner Stage Crew	Colin Reynolds, Audio Operator; Brian Meehan, Lighting Operator;
	Kai Danyluk, Fly-Rail Operator
Additional ZAC Crew	Todd Burkel, Abby Jurbala, Zach Miller, Jordan Pappas,
	Daniel St. John, Lauren Schultz, Sydney Weaver
Costumes	Scaramouche Costume Shop (Bob and Mark) – Mother Ginger

Thank you to all whose contributions were received after program deadlines.



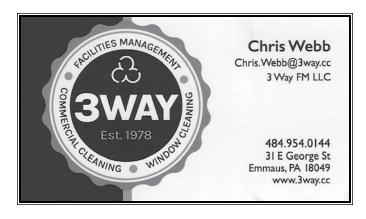


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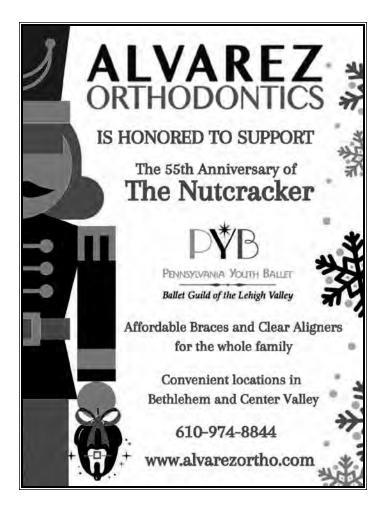
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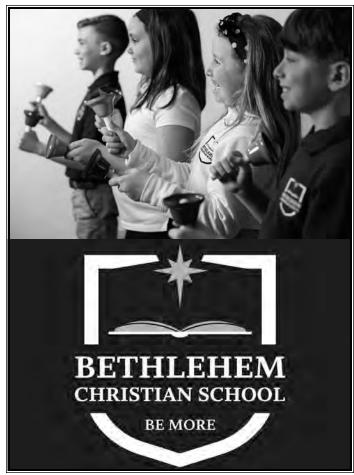


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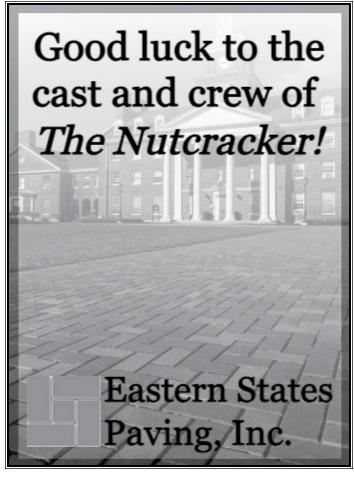


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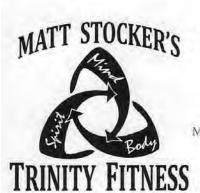






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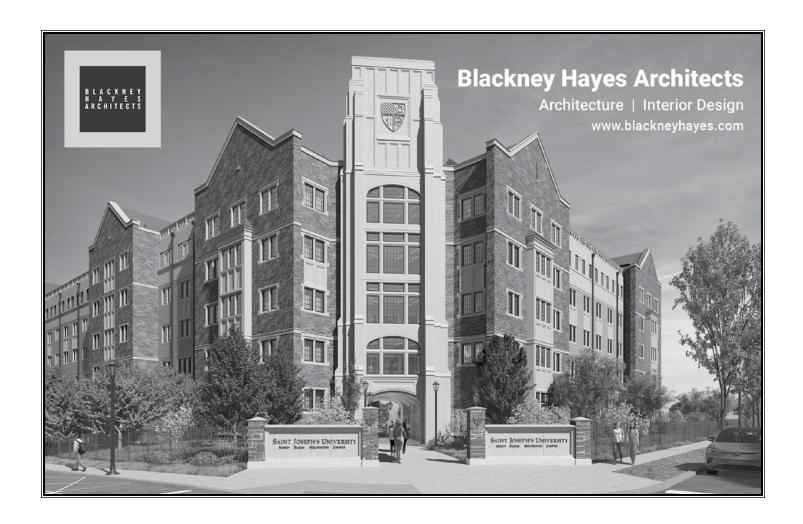


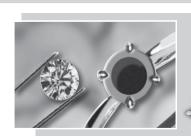
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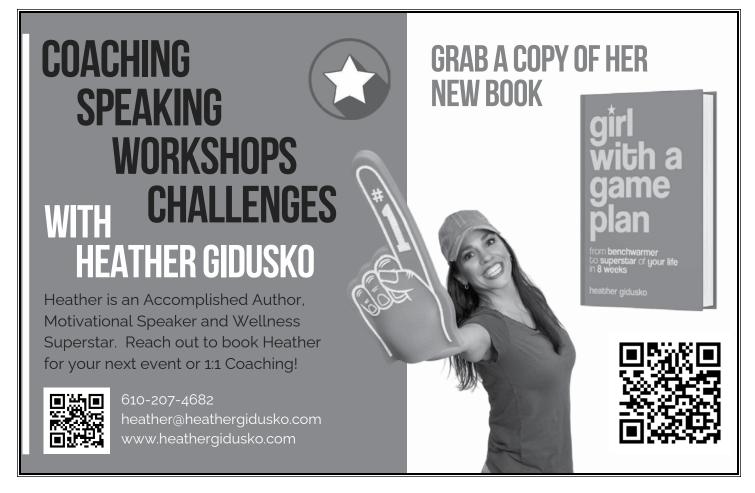
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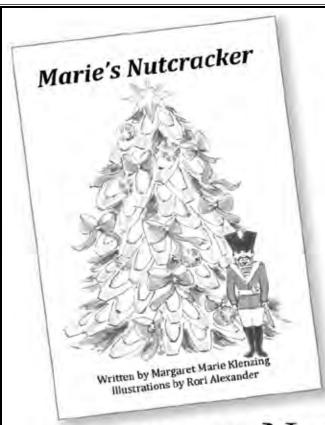


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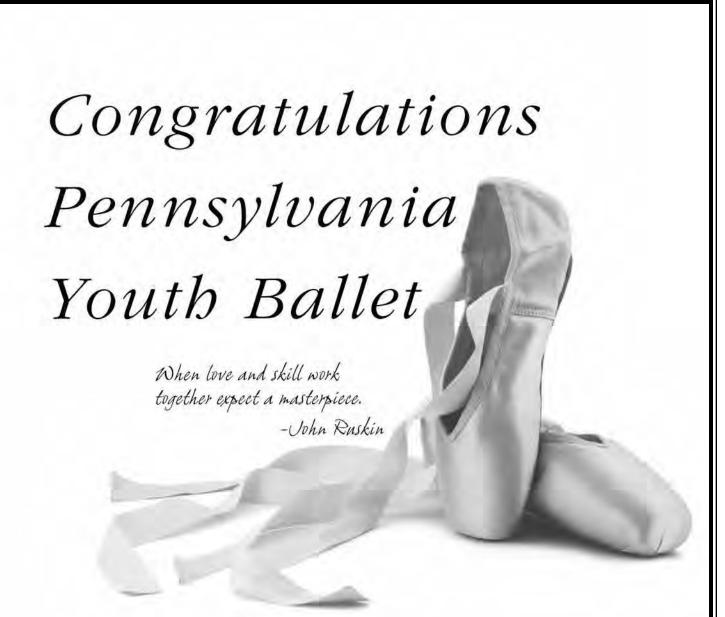


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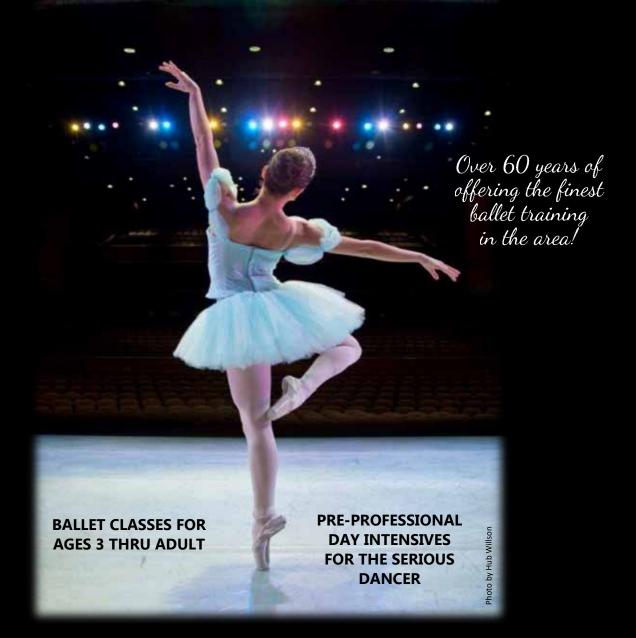


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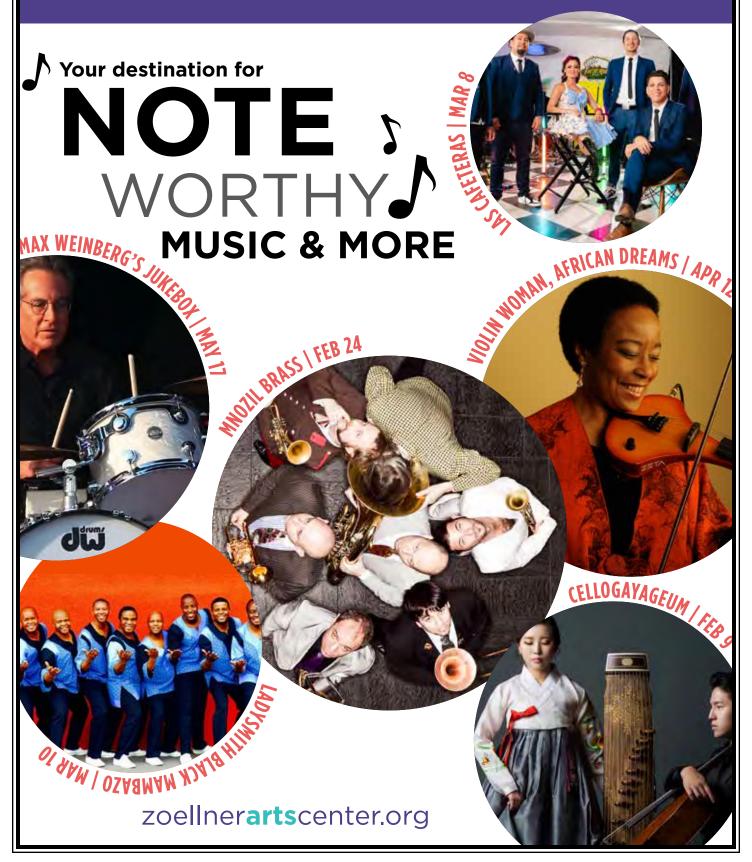


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