

The Nutcracker

Fort Wayne Ballet's

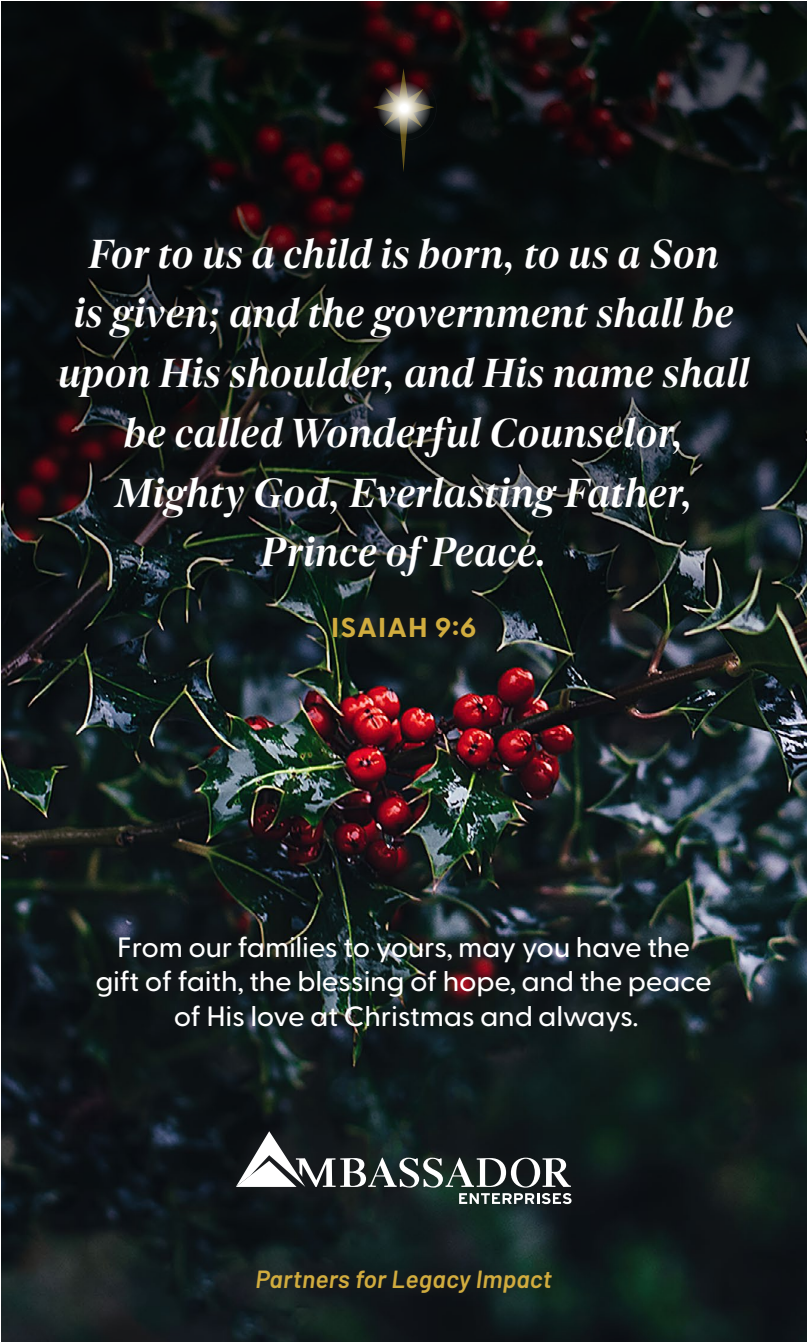


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by



DECEMBER 1 - 10, 2023 | ARTS UNITED CENTER

FORT WAYNE BALLET



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ISAIAH 9:6

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Artistic Director

Karen Gibbons-Brown

Karen Gibbons-Brown's resume contains an impressive list of credentials. She began her early training in Columbia, South Carolina under Ann Brodie, Naomi Calvert and Adolphina Suarez-More. Her early training and performing included ballet as well as modern, jazz, tap and theater dance. She continued her studies at American Ballet Theatre with Maria Swoboda, Michael Lland, Patricia Wilde and Leon Danelian and studied on scholarship at David Howard School of Ballet.

Her professional experiences also include South Carolina Chamber Dance Ensemble, Ballet Celeste, Bristol Ballet and the Theatre Ballet of San Francisco where she recreated Anna Pavlova's roles The California Poppy and The Dragonfly. Other performing highlights include performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, the title role in Cinderella, The Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker, Swanhilda in Coppelia, Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty and "Spring Waters" pas de deux, an exciting display of partnering created by the great Russian choreographer Asaf Messerer. Ms. Gibbons-Brown considers herself fortunate to have had works created especially for her including solos, Pentimento by Jill Eathorne Barr and the role of Anna in Richard Monroe's work, The Hussar. Throughout her career, she has made numerous guest appearances throughout the United States.

Ms. Gibbons-Brown is known for her work in the classroom and enjoys teaching a variety of dance related subjects including ballet, pointe, repertoire, terminology, dance history, pedagogue and makeup and hair for stage as well as restaging major classical works. She has often been invited to teach guest classes and workshops including in Sicily, Italy, Fontenay le Fleury, France and the prestigious Joffrey San Antonio Workshop under the directorship of her mentor Jeremy Blanton. She received her certification in Labanotation while serving on the faculty of Virginia Intermont College under the direction of Constance Hardinge and served as Ballet Mistress for John McFall as he created his production of The Nutcracker for Atlanta Ballet. In 1985, Ms. Gibbons-Brown founded the Kingsport Guild of Ballet and became Artistic Director of the State of Franklin Dance Alliance at its inception in 1988. Other dance administrative duties include serving on the Tennessee Association Board of Directors in many capacities including as president and serving on the Performing Arts Panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission. She assumed directorship of Fort Wayne Ballet in August of 1998. Other career highlights include Outstanding Dance Artist Award in 1997, serving as a juror for Concours International de Danse Classique in Paris, France in 2000, a 2002 graduate of Leadership Fort Wayne and being listed in Who's Who in the 21st Century. In 2010, a new book authored by renowned choreographer Dean Speer, entitled On Technique, identifies Ms. Gibbons-Brown as among the world's 18 most respected ballet masters, pedagogues and artistic directors. Karen is an ABT® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the American Ballet Theatre® Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 9 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. Her other full time job is spending time with her husband, Jim, and a sundry of dogs.


As a Matter of Fact...

It's a safe assumption that many of you have grown up watching *The Nutcracker* as part of your holiday traditions. We're delighted to be a part of that for so many families for so many years — it's part of our tradition, too! Dancers dream of playing the various roles, dressing in the sumptuous costumes, and sharing the beloved story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince. It's truly iconic and magical. Here are a few fascinating, behind-the-scenes facts about this beloved tale and the performance you're watching.

- When *The Nutcracker* was first produced in Russia, it was a failure. Tchaikovsky, who died at age 53, never lived to see its worldwide appeal and success.
- Traditionally, a nutcracker is a symbol of luck and good will, and according to legend, nutcrackers are very protective of the household in which they live.
- Fort Wayne Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* includes 130 members per cast and we operate with three casts with several cross-over or double-cast roles.
- Each performance requires 6 to 8 support staff or volunteers for each dancer on stage.
- Collectively, there are more than 500 rehearsal hours each year for *The Nutcracker* alone.

Our season continues on with some wonderful performances in the new year! We do hope you'll join us in February for an expanded run of our *Love Notes* performances, with additional dates in Wabash, and at the **Auburn Cord Deussenburg Museum** on Valentines Day! Our last Main Stage show of the year brings out the famous star-crossed lovers as *Romeo & Juliet* take to the stage in April. In between, let's not forget our popular Family Series! Following on the success of our Halloween show, we have adaptations of *Thumbelina* and *Madeline* that are sure to delight kids of all ages.

As always, we extend our thanks and appreciation to you, our patrons, as well as to our dancers, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who makes our contribution to the arts possible. Enjoy your holidays, and we hope to see you back next year!



Karen Gibbons-Brown
Artistic Director
Fort Wayne Ballet



Amber began dancing in Traverse City, Michigan and continued her training at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated in 2018 with a BFA in Dance and BA in Mathematics. Amber is entering her sixth season with Fort Wayne Ballet where she has had the opportunity to perform principal roles in *Swan Lake* (Odette/Odile), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Aurora), *The Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum Fairy), *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* (Helena), *Dracula* (Lucy) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (Christine). Amber has also been featured in works by Val Caniparoli, Gerald Arpino, Robert Joffrey and Edward Stierle. She's performed abroad in Taizhou, China with Fort Wayne Ballet and in Barcelona, Spain with Centre de Dansa de Catalunya. Her choreography has been performed at both the University of Oklahoma and Fort Wayne Ballet. She's a fully certified, ABT® Affiliate Instructor and enjoys sharing her passion with growing artists. Amber looks forward to another season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



Raised in Dayton, Ohio, Avalou trained at Pontecorvo Ballet Studios and Gem City Ballet. In December 2019, Avalou graduated with her BFA summa cum laude, majoring in Ballet, from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, under Qi Jiang and Deirdre Carberry. Avalou performed lead roles in Petipa's *Paquita* (Paquita) and in *La Bayadere* (Shade #2). During her sophomore year at CCM, Avalou was accepted into BalletMet's trainee program, with Edwaard Liang and Maria Torija. As a trainee, Avalou danced in Balanchine's *Serenade*, Liang's *Don Quixote*, and performed in numerous outreachs with BalletMet's Second Company. In 2020, she joined Fort Wayne Ballet and has enjoyed dancing in Gerard Arpino's *Light Rain*, Edward Stierle's *Concerto Con Brio*, Agnes de Mille's *Three Virgins and a Devil*, and Petipa's *Sleeping Beauty* as the Diamond Fairy and Little Red. Avalou is an ABT® Certified Teacher and is ecstatic to continue teaching and dancing this season.



Originally from Cancun, Mexico. Alan began his training at Escuela de Danza Talulah and attended summer programs and workshops such as Point Park University's International Summer Dance, Monterrey International Ballet Gala and Workshop and competed at Concurso Internacional de Ballet La Superior and Youth America Grand Prix. He graduated from Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Classical Dance. While at Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey (ESMDM) he performed featured roles in 'The Nutcracker', 'Giselle', 'La Bayadere' and 'The Sleeping Beauty'. After graduating he joined Fort Wayne Ballet as a company member where he had the opportunity to perform in a variety of works including Gerald Arpino's 'Light Rain', Val Caniparoli's 'Swipe' and Agnes de Mille's 'Three Virgins and a Devil' as well as 'Lacrymosa' and 'Empyrean Dances' by Edward Stierle. Alan is thrilled to be back for his third season with Fort Wayne Ballet.

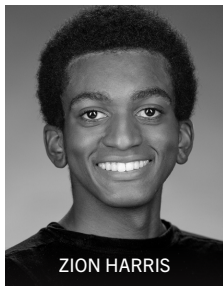


Originally from Richmond, Virginia, David Claypoole started dancing at the age of 9, training at The School of Richmond Ballet and attending summer programs with Joffrey Ballet New York, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, and Richmond Ballet. David earned his college degree in Dance and Performance through Virginia Commonwealth University dual program with The Richmond Ballet trainee program. He spent two years performing in Richmond Ballet's second company dancing ballets such as *Malcom Burn's Romeo and Juliet* and *Swipe* by Val Canaperoli. David has danced numerous lead roles with Fort Wayne Ballet including *Dracula* in Fort Wayne Ballet's original *Dracula*, *Prince Siegfried* in *Swan Lake*, works by Gerald Arpino including *Pas de Deesses*, *Light Rain*, and Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*. He has worked with guest répétiteurs including Cameron Basden, Jeremy Blanton, Kim Sagami, and Adam Sklute. David is excited to be performing in his eighth season.



TATUM FARLOW

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Tatum trained at the Ballet Memphis School under Janet Parke. Tatum continued her training at Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance, graduating cum laude with departmental honors. While at Butler, Tatum performed notable roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *La Vivandiere*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Paul Taylor's Piazzolla Caldera*. Tatum joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019, and since has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in works such as Gerald Arpino's *Italian Suite* and *Light Rain*, Edward Stierle's *Empyrean Dances* and *Concerto con Brio*, Agnes de Mille's *Three Virgins and a Devil*, *Weird Sister* in *Dracula*, and the "Pas de Trois" from *Swan Lake*. Tatum is eager to be dancing with Fort Wayne Ballet for another season.



ZION HARRIS

Zion is from Boston, Massachusetts, and began dancing at four years old. He started at Boston Ballet School when he turned eleven and spent the next seven years in their Pre-Professional and Trainee program and performed in ballets with Boston Ballet such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *La Sylphide*, and *Martin's The Sleeping Beauty*. Zion joined Richmond Ballet's second company in 2018 and during his time there he was in ballets including *Cinderella* and *Balanchine's Who Cares?*. In 2019, he joined First State Ballet Theatre and danced in *Plotnikov's Dracula*, *Carnival in Venice*, as well as pieces by fellow company members. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet in 2020, Zion has danced in numerous ballets including Arpino's *Light Rain*, Stierle's *Concerto con Brio* and *Empyrean Dances*, Tritz's *Dracula*, and *Giselle*. He is looking forward to what his next season with Fort Wayne Ballet will bring!



JESSICA HUMPHREY

Jessica began her ballet training in her hometown of Birmingham, Michigan. She then studied as a trainee at The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago and performed with the company in Jerome Robbins' *Glass Pieces* and Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Jessica has enjoyed performing in a variety of works including Eddie Stierle's *Empyrean Dances*, Gerald Arpino's *Italian Suite* and *Light Rain*, *Peasant Pas* and *Zulma* in *Giselle*, *Tarantella*, and Tracy Tritz's *Adagio for Strings*. Jessica is excited and grateful to start another season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



BABETTE HUNTER

Originally from Springville, Iowa, Babette started dancing at age 3. In 2014, she joined BalletMet as a trainee, studying under Edwaard Liang, Timothy Lynch, and Susan Dromisky. She then later joined Oklahoma City Ballet in 2016 as a trainee, performing in Robert Mills' *Sleeping Beauty*. In 2017, Babette joined Fort Wayne Ballet and has performed roles such as the Stepmother and Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, works from Gerald Arpino including *Light Rain* and *Italian Suites*, *Dew Drop* from the *Nutcracker*, *Little Swans* and *Von Rothbart* from *Swan Lake*, Cynthia Pratt's *Departure* from 5th position, *Carabosse* from *Sleeping Beauty*, and several pieces from Tracy Tritz including *Bolero* and the *Weird Sisters* in *Dracula*. She has also attended several summer intensives including Milwaukee Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. Babette is looking forward to her seventh season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



IZUMI MASAKI

Izumi was born in Yamanashi, Japan, and started ballet at Miwa's Ballet school. She later studied on full scholarship at ABS (Austrian Ballet School). Izumi received First Place Award at the 41st Saitama Prefecture Dance Association National Contest in 2008. Concurrent with her graduation from the Austrian Ballet School, Izumi was promoted to ABC Tokyo Ballet Company as a Soloist Dancer in 2013. Izumi also danced with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida before joining Fort Wayne Ballet. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Izumi's danced featured roles including Ruth Ricordi per Due, Light Rain by Gerald Arpino, Lacrymosa by Edward Stierle. Her classical repertoire includes Nutcracker (Sugar Plum Fairy), Sleeping Beauty (Lilac fairy) and Swan Lake (Odette, Odile), Le Corsaire, Flames of Paris.



SAKI MORIMOTO

Saki grew up in Osaka, Japan, and later moved to the United States where she trained at the Academy of Ballet NJ under the direction of David Gallagher. She continued her training at UNCSA under the direction of Susan Jaffe and graduated with BFA in Dance. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, she has danced featured roles including Swipe by Val Caniparoli, Confetti by Gerald Arpino, Emyrean Dances by Edward Stierle and Pas de Deesses by Robert Joffrey. Saki's full-length classical repertoires include principal roles in Coppelia, Cinderella, Giselle, Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty. She also had the opportunity to tour to Taizhou, China in 2018, and to Erie Pennsylvania in 2019. As a choreographer, Saki has created many original works for Fort Wayne Ballet, the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet, and New England Ballet Theatre. Saki is an ABT® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 5 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum



KEISUKE NISHIKAWA

Keisuke was born in Hyogo, Japan. He began his training at the Seiko Kuramoto Ballet School. In 2013, Keisuke received First Place Award at the Osaka Prix Competition and a scholarship from the Vaganova Ballet Academy. Keisuke studied at Vaganova Ballet Academy for two years. In 2015, he was awarded with a First Place at the Japan Grand Prix. Keisuke danced with the Gelsey Kirkland Ballet Company and Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida before joining Fort Wayne Ballet. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, Keisuke's danced featured roles including Light Rain by Gerald Arpino, Emyrean Dances by Edward Stierle. His classical repertoire includes Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Le Corsaire, and Flames of Paris.



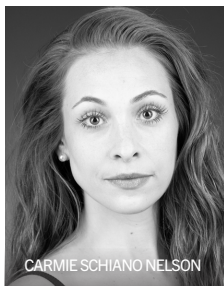
THOMAS CALEB ROBERTS

Thomas Caleb Roberts began his pre-professional dance training at the Center for Dance Education under the direction of Mimi Worrell. He graduated from the SC Governor's School for the Arts under the tutelage of Stanislav Issaev and attended North Carolina School for the Arts, studying with Ethan Stiefel. Thomas has attended summer programs with ABT, Boston Ballet, South Carolina Summer Dance Conservatory and North Carolina School of the Arts to name a few. His professional career began with Boston Ballet as a trainee, continued with Cincinnati Ballet as a corps de ballet member and later with Columbia City Ballet as a demi-soloist. He has been a frequent guest artist with various regional companies including Carolina Ballet. Thomas joined Fort Wayne Ballet two season ago and has enjoyed performing in pas de deux's of Black Swan, Don Quixote, The Sleeping Beauty, Giselle romeo and Juliet and Spartacus. Thomas looks forward to his third season with the company.



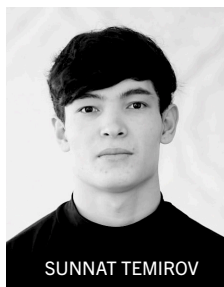
TALBOT RUE

From Fort Wayne, Indiana, Talbot started dancing at the age of nine with a local dance school. He then studied in the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet for seven years. His training at summer intensives includes Fort Wayne Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, Chautauqua Ballet Program, Richmond Ballet, and Nashville Ballet. After serving as a trainee at Richmond Ballet, he was a company dancer at First State Ballet Theater in Delaware. He then moved to Nashville Ballet to dance with their Second Company. He is excited to be back for his fifth season at Fort Wayne Ballet.



CARMIE SCHIANO NELSON

Carmie Schiano Nelson began her early dance training in New York City. At the age of 12, she was accepted to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and attended the year-round boarding school. After graduating high school early, she continued her training with Boston Ballet. She has attended summer programs at ABT, Ballet Austin, Boston Ballet, Nashville Ballet, among others, all on scholarship. Carmie has danced professionally with Festival Ballet Providence, Richmond Ballet, American Contemporary Ballet as a soloist, and with Columbia City Ballet for 10 seasons. She has performed numerous different notable roles in both classical and contemporary works and prior to leaving, was promoted to demi-soloist. With Fort Wayne Ballet, her most memorable performance opportunities have been performing Juliet in Romeo and Juliet's Bedroom Pas de Deux, Myrtha in Giselle, Esmeralda Pas de Deux and Spartacus Pas de Deux. Carmie looks forward to her fourth season at Fort Wayne Ballet and continuing to explore the city.



SUNNAT TEMIROV

Sunnat Temirov, hailing from Kattakurgan, Uzbekistan, studied dance at the Republican Specialized Boarding School for Choreography. He has performed as a soloist in the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Uzbekistan and has been a participant in the International Dance Competition. He has performed as the Jester in Swan Lake, various roles in Nutcracker, Mercutio in Romeo & Juliet, and has performed Pas de Deux in Giselle and La Fille Mal Gardée. His work in modern dance includes Silk Road.



DOSTON TURGUNOV

Doston Turgunov was born in the Syrdarya region of Uzbekistan. He has studied ballet at Tashkent State National College of Dance and Choreography and the State Academy of Choreography of Uzbekistan. A soloist at the Bolshoi Theatre, he has performed as Siegfried in Swan Lake, the Nutcracker in The Nutcracker, Solor in La Bayadere, and has danced in Carmen Suite, The Polovtsian Dances, and Tomris. He has also performed Pas de Deux in Talisman, Grand pas Classique and Giselle, and the "Blue Bird" Pas de Deux in The Sleeping Beauty. He has competed in the Moscow International Ballet Competition and the Young Ballet Dancers competition in Uzbekistan in 2022, and placed 3rd at Tanzolymp in 2020.



Abby trained at the School of Richmond Ballet in 2006, working with Stoner Winslett, Judy Jacob and Malcolm Burn. In 2016 she was accepted into Nashville Ballet's Trainee program. Where she had the opportunity to work with Paul Vasterling, Nick Mullikin, and Kathryn Linsley. And perform in such works as La Bayadère, Swan Lake, Paquita, and The Nutcracker. Abby joined Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019 as a corps de ballet member. She has performed in Edward Stierle's Empyrean Dances, Lacrymosa, and Concerto Con Brio; as well as the Bluebird Pas de Deux from The Sleeping Beauty, Spring Waters, Val Caniparoli's Swipe, Gerald Arpino's Light Rain, Agnes de Mille's Three Virgins and A Devil, Mina in Tracy Tritz's Dracula, and Clara in Fort Wayne Ballet's The Nutcracker. Abby is very excited to be back for her fifth season with Fort Wayne Ballet!

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The Nutcracker

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Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Staging & Choreography by Karen Gibbons-Brown

Additional Choreography and Rehearsing by Raleigh Sparrow, Lisa Sundstrom, Tracy Tritz

Lighting Design by Jeremy Springer

Costume Design by Nan Possemato

**Set Design by Adam Fletcher, Corey Lee, Elizabeth Sandmaier,
& Jonathan Sandmaier**

Master Tree Design by Troy Trinkle

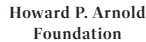
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Celebrate the holidays

with Aunt Millie's



THE STORY OF THE NUTCRACKER

It is Christmas Eve at the estate of Herr and Frau Von Stahlbaum. Their two children, Clara and Fritz, are eagerly anticipating the traditional holiday party that is about to begin. As the curtain opens, relatives and guests make their way through the wintery evening toward the Von Stahlbaum mansion.

Preparing to put in a surprise appearance at the party is an old family friend and Clara's Godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer. Drosselmeyer is an inventor of magical toys, and it is his intention to entertain the guests at the Von Stahlbaum party.

When Herr Drosselmeyer arrives at the party with his nephew, Christian Drosselmeyer, the guests are delighted with the surprises and gifts he has brought. After the traditional Christmas promenade, Herr Drosselmeyer presents a special gift to Clara — a Nutcracker. Fritz and his friends tease Clara and the other girls, and in the process Fritz seizes the toy from Clara and breaks it. Clara is in tears as Herr Drosselmeyer mends the Nutcracker, then gently puts him back in Clara's arms. Clara and Fritz are taken to bed as the guests leave.

Later that evening, long after the party is over, Clara quietly tiptoes back to the parlor to find her beloved Nutcracker. Cradling it in her arms, she falls asleep in a chair and begins to dream that tiny frightening mice have come to steal the Christmas presents. As the clock strikes midnight, more mice appear and snatch the Nutcracker from Clara's arms. Herr Drosselmeyer intervenes and the magical journey begins.

The Nutcracker comes to life and calls together an army of toy soldiers to protect Clara from the nasty mice. Together, they battle the mice, now joined by their Queen Mouserink. As Clara watches in horror, she sees that the mice are winning and bravely strikes the Queen with her own shoe.

The Queen falls dead and the mice carry her away as Clara is left in tears with the collapsed Nutcracker. Herr Drosselmeyer reappears and causes the hero to magically arise as a charming Prince. The courage of young Clara has delivered him from an evil spell that had imprisoned him in the misshapen form of a Nutcracker.

The Prince thanks Clara for saving his life and leads her outside. A wintery landscape greets the two as the Snow Queen welcomes Clara and the Nutcracker Prince. Showered by swirling snow, Clara and her Prince are sent along to the enchanting Kingdom of Sweets.

In this magical kingdom, Clara and her Prince are hosted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and treated to performances from many different lands before she returns to awaken in her own home; the valiant Nutcracker is a toy once more.

LEGAL NOTICE: Recordings or photography of this performance is prohibited by artistic licensing restrictions. For the courtesy and enjoyment of fellow audience members, please remember to turn off all electronic devices.



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Herr Drosselmeyer - Jim Schmidt

Frau Von Stahlbaum - Brittany Focht^, Carmie Schiano Nelson*

Herr Von Stahlbaum - Kent Bixler

Clara - Grace Gephart^, Abby Zinsser*

Fritz - Matias Parra

Christian Drosselmeyer - Talbot Rue*, Sunnat Temirov^

Party Ladies - Rachel Aron*, Tatum Farlow^, Gabrielle Goodson*, Jessica Humphrey^, Babette Hunter^, Carrington Martin, Anna Orzulak*, Raleigh Sparrow

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Puppets:

Sugar Plum Fairy Puppet - Clara Boon^, Allyson Sherman*

Nutcracker Puppet - Claire Falk^, Sara McDaniel*

Queen Mouserink Puppet - Bea Patton^, Lila Widenhoefer*

Sugar Plum Fairy Doll - Amber Bailey, Izumi Masaki, Saki Morimoto

Soldier Doll - David Claypoole, Keisuke Nishikawa, Thomas Caleb Roberts

(Special Guest appearance from Gigi's Playhouse December 5th, AWS performance)

* December 1st (7:30pm), December 2nd (2:00pm), December 5th (6:30pm), December 9th (7:30pm), December 10th (2:00pm)



THE BATTLE

The Nutcracker Prince - Talbot Rue[^], Sunnat Temirov[^]

Queen Mouserink - Rachel Aron[^], Babette Hunter^{*}

Baby Mice - Willow Latham[^], Everett Millspaw^{*}, Ava Millspaw^{*}, Mirabella Morunov[^]

Big Mice - Alan Barragan Campos, Teagan Bentley[^], Avalou Burns^{*}, David Claypoole, Zion Harris^{*}, Sandra Imbriaco[^], Schuyler Kechely^{*}, Keisuke Nishikawa, Hanna Pawlowski[^], Thomas Caleb Roberts, Hitomi Shiraishi^{*}, Caitlyn Sullivan^{*}, Doston Turgunov[^], Ella Warren[^]

Sentries - Blessing Adebayo, Rudolph Davis, Adella-Mae Huffer

Little Soldiers - Claire Falk[^], Ivy Millspaw^{*}, Elizabeth Morunov[^], Genevieve Underwood^{*}

Soldier Captain - Keisuke Nishikawa[^], Sunnat Temirov^{*}

Assistant to the Soldier Captain - Adelyn Doxsee

Soldier Brigade - Devlin Affolder-Walker, Trinity Armour-Kelsaw, Zadi Bell, Katherine Cackovic, Katie Carr, Wednesday Carrier, Isabel Carrillo, Anna Hess, Isabelle Johnson, Rachel Marshall, Rhiana Pelance, Katherine Potter, Christyna Schuppe, Abby Storer, Allison Todd, Sophia Whetstone

THE LAND OF SNOW

Snow Queen - Carmie Schiano Nelson^{*}, Payton Wilson[^]

Snow Cavalier - Zion Harris[^], Doston Turgunov^{*}

Snow Crystals - Alexis Andrews[^], Tatum Farlow^{*}, Jessica Humphrey^{*}, Gigi McDowell[^]

Snowflakes - Alexis Andrews^{*}, Abigail Forbes, Grace Gephart^{*}, Olivia Johnson[^], Sadie Jones, Harper Kurzen^{*}, Audrey Mayernik[^], Serena Reed, Hitomi Shiraishi[^], Caitlyn Sullivan[^], Amy Whittemore, Tabitha Wolf^{*}

Unicorns - Gabrielle Goodson^{*}, Jessica Humphrey[^], Olivia Johnson^{*}, Harper Kurzen[^], Anna Orzulak, Ella Warren^{*}, Tabitha Wolf[^]

INTERMISSION

[^] December 2nd (7:30pm), December 3rd (2:00pm), December 7th (7:30pm), December 8th (7:30pm), December 9th (2:00pm)



THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

As Act II begins, 12 beautiful Angels, along with the Blossoms, Unicorns and Sugar Plum Fairy Attendants, guide Clara's voyage to Konfiturenborg, the Kingdom of Sweets. She is welcomed by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. The Nutcracker Prince relates the story of the battle and of Clara's bravery. Clara is crowned and a ceremony is performed to honor her for saving the Nutcracker Prince, featuring dances from several lands: Spain, Arabia, China, Russia and France. Then the enchanted Flowers perform a beautiful swirling waltz. After the Grand Pas de Deux by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier, a joyous Finale is performed by all inhabitants of the Kingdom of Sweets. As Clara's dream begins to fade, her mother returns and gently guides the sleeping Clara back to her bed. The magic of this Christmas Eve will always remain with Clara, just as the magic of The Nutcracker continues to touch the ageless heart.

Sugar Plum Fairy - Amber Bailey, Izumi Masaki, Saki Morimoto

Sugar Plum Cavalier - David Claypoole, Keisuke Nishikawa, Thomas Caleb Roberts

Pages - Isabella Blaugh*, Abigail Bose*, Harbor Braun*, Virginia Cutter^,
Braelin Hanson^, Mary Jandorf^, Jacinta Parra

Sugar Plum Attendants - Trinity Armour-Kelsaw^, Rhiana Pelance, Katherine Potter*

Blossoms - Charlotte Bredemeyer*, Sloan Glassley*, Bella Hanson^, Violet Harris^,
Adela Hrustic-Pape*, Evelyn Scott^, Allyson Sherman^, Serelia Zhang*

Angels - Alexis Andrews^, Kennedy Benzinger*, Elizabeth Bose*, Wednesday Carrier^,
Natasha Cartwright*, Rebecca Fletcher^, Grace Gephart*, Elizabeth Grable*,
Ryla Jackson*, Isabelle Johnson*, Jillian Knowles*, Olivia Latham^,
Amelia Leitch^, Gigi McDowell^, Claire Mendenhall*, Kaitlynn O'Connell^,
Bianca Parra^, Katherine Potter^, Anna Schnipke^, Jossalyn Sherman*,
Alayna Taylor, Allison Todd*, Sophia Whetstone^

Spanish Hot Chocolate - Amber Bailey, David Claypoole, Izumi Masaki, Saki Morimoto,
Keisuke Nishikawa, Thomas Caleb Roberts

Arabian Coffee Princess - Brittany Focht*, Carmie Schiano Nelson^

Arabian Coffee Prince - Rudolph Davis

Rug used with generous permission from Aron's Oriental Rugs

Parrots - Yumeko Feedback^, Sloane Huttenlocker*, Marina Mourad*, Finley Mowry*,
Lola Quilhot^, Thea Smitson^, Mae Stephens^, Zoe Zhao*

* December 1st (7:30pm), December 2nd (2:00pm), December 5th (6:30pm), December 9th (7:30pm), December 10th (2:00pm)



Chinese Tea - Katherine Cackovic^, Abby Storer*, Amy Whittemore*, Abby Zinsser^

Chinese Dragon - Alexis Andrews*, Trinity Armour-Kelsaw, Katie Carr, Isabel Carrillo*, Anna Hess^, Olivia Johnson, Harper Kurzen, Rachel Marshall, Audrey Mayernik, Christyna Schuppe^, Hitomi Shiraishi, Tabitha Wolf

Trepak Candy Swirls - Alan Barragan Campos, Zion Harris*, Talbot Rue^, Sunnat Temirov*, Doston Turgunov^

Trepak Corps - Alexis Andrews^, Katherine Cackovic*, Isabel Carrillo^, Grace Gephart*, Anna Hess*, Schuyler Kechely^, Christyna Schuppe*, Abby Storer^

Marzipan Shepherdess - Rachel Aron*, Avalou Burns^, Tatum Farlow*, Jessica Humphrey*, Babette Hunter^, Sandra Imbriaco*, Sadie Jones^, Hanna Pawlowski^

Sheep - Elizabeth Bose^, Jane Dohl*, Ryla Jackson^, Isabelle Johnson*, Claire Mendenhall^, Katherine Potter*, Jossalyn Sherman^, Lauren Thomas*

Mother Ginger - Raleigh Sparrow*, Maria Victoria^

BonBons - Polly Ahrens, Elizabeth Bose*, Jane Dohl^, Elizabeth Grable, Isabelle Johnson^, Jillian Knowles, Nayomie Marrett*, Bianca Parra*, Rhiana Pelance*, Katherine Potter^, Jossalyn Sherman*, Lauren Thomas^, Allison Todd^

DewDrop - Amber Bailey, Izumi Masaki, Saki Morimoto

Flower Demi Soloists - Rachel Aron^, Avalou Burns*, Brittany Focht^, Payton Wilson*

Flowers - Teagan Bentley, Gabrielle Goodson, Sandra Imbriaco^, Sadie Jones*, Gigi McDowell, Anna Orzulak, Hanna Pawlowski, Ella Warren, Amy Whittemore

FIN

^ December 2nd (7:30pm), December 3rd (2:00pm), December 7th (7:30pm), December 8th (7:30pm), December 9th (2:00pm)



Production Credits

Production Managers: Christina Brinker, Luke Holliger

Master Technician: Luke Holliger

Stage Manager: Luke Holliger

Lighting Design: Jeremy Springer

Fly Master: Ryan Myers

Costume Designer: Nan Possemato

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**Associate Artistic Director,
Director of Treble Choir**

EMILY BIRD

Emily Bird is a graduate from the University of Notre Dame, with a Masters of Sacred Music in vocal performance. While at Notre Dame, she served as a director with the Notre Dame Children's Choir, teaching their youngest choristers. Prior to graduate studies, Emily worked as a choir director and arts administrator for several children's choir programs in the Greater Toronto Area, including the Toronto Children's Chorus, the Bach Children's Chorus, Canadian Children's Opera Company, and Mississauga Children's Choir. Emily holds a Bachelor of Music honors specialization in Music Education degree from the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario, Canada and has completed her Level 1 Kodály certification. Emily now resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana where she is the Associate Artistic Director of the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, and is the director of the Chamber Treble Singers at the Purdue Fort Wayne School of Music.



TREBLE CHOIR 2023-2024

Aven Adkins
Kenzie Brantley Moore
Bailey Carew
Elise Case
Adrianne Cox
Bella DiMaggio
Madeline Hinsch
William Hinsch

Zoey Kanning
Annabelle Knoop
AJ Nelson
Cayleigh Noga
Audrey Opoku
Jacob Planck
Evangeline Platter
Emree Rannells

Aria Richwine
Cassidy Rohde
Aven Tedder
Micah Tollington
Wyatt Ulrich
Mallory Wierzbinski
Cedryanne Williams



Music Director

ANDREW CONSTANTINE

Andrew Constantine began his musical studies on the cello. His first studies were with John Carewe and Norman Del Mar in London and later with Leonard Bernstein at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany. At the same time, he founded the Bardi Orchestra in Leicester. With this ensemble he performed throughout Europe and the UK and had his first taste and experience of conducting an enormous range of the orchestral repertoire.

A British Council scholarship took Constantine to the Leningrad State Conservatory in 1991 where he studied with the legendary pedagogue Ilya Musin. He cites Musin as being the strongest influence on his conducting, both technically and philosophically. His Royal Festival Hall debut in 1992 with the London Philharmonic was met with unanimous critical acclaim and praise.

In 2004, he was awarded a highly prestigious British NESTA Fellowship to further develop his international career. This was also a recognition of Constantine's commitment to the breaking down of barriers that blur the perceptions of classical music and to bringing a refreshed approach to the concert-going experience. This is a commitment that he has carried throughout his work and which continues with his advocacy for music education for all ages.

Another project created by Constantine geared towards the 'contextualizing' of composers' lives is The Composer: REVEALED. In these programs the work of well-known composers is brought to life through the combination of dramatic interludes acted out between segments of chamber, instrumental and orchestral music, culminating with a complete performance of a major orchestral work. The year 2015 saw the debut of Tchaikovsky: REVEALED.

In 2004, Andrew Constantine was invited by the great Russian maestro Yuri Temirkanov to become Assistant Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Within a year he became Associate Conductor and has enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with the orchestra since that time.

In 2007 he accepted the position of Music Director of the Reading Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania – after the RSO considered over 300 candidates - and helped the orchestra celebrate its 100th Anniversary as they continue to perform to capacity audiences. In addition, in 2009 he was chosen as the Music Director of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic from a field of more than 250 candidates.

He has worked with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, Syracuse Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Chautauqua Festival Orchestra and Phoenix Symphony, among others. Again, critical acclaim has been hugely positive, the press review of his Phoenix debut describing it as "the best concert in the last ten years."

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC

Andrew Constantine, Music Director

Violin I

Violetta Todorova
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BEQUESTS

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges recent bequests from the following estates:

Richard Baker*
Maxine Durr*
Sally Frazier*
Meshele (Glass) Wyneken*
**indicates deceased*

TRIBUTES

Fort Wayne Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following friends who have recently contributed gifts in honor of loved ones. Memorials and honorariums are meaningful and deeply appreciated gifts.

In memory of Tabryn Le'Royce Armour*
In memory of Janet Brinker*
In memory of Joni Dick*
In memory of Joseph H Gibbons*
In memory of Gregory Jackson*
In memory of Margaret S Klingenberg*
In memory of Matthew Roe*
In honor of Karen Gibbons Brown

MARGARET S KLINGENBERGER SCHOLARSHIP

Fort Wayne Ballet, in honor of Margaret Klingenberg and her lasting impact on our mission and community, gratefully acknowledges gifts supporting our future dancers.




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