

The Nutcracker

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For to us a child is born, to us a
Son is given; and the government shall
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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, pedagogy 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, and is on the ABT's Board of Examiners. Her other full time job is spending time with her husband, Jim, and a sundry of dogs.

A Few Thoughts from the Director's Chair...

Metamorphosis:

Metamorphosis is a change of form or nature — and for our 68th season, changing performance venues while Arts United Center undergoes its own metamorphosis to become a reimagined, remodeled, and revered performing arts space.

Fort Wayne Ballet is no stranger to metamorphosis. Our company of professional dancers, acclaimed faculty, and dedicated staff from across the globe play an active role in our students' development and this community's changes, challenges, and evolution. We love being part of your world.

A few special invitations:

This season, we're introducing you to new works in new venues and recreating selected and cherished classics in the honor of traditions long held in our hearts. We have a wonderful season planned for you!

We're especially pleased to introduce a collection of works in the spirit of Sergei Diaghilev's famed **Ballets Russes**. Diaghilev was an early 20th century impresario, a public relations genius whose creative vision reconnected the world with the art of dance through avant-garde choreography and collaborations. He, too, was a metamorphosis-maker.

Our **Ballet Russe Reimagined** will span a series of three months in the spring, with performances of notably classic and contemporary movements. We're offering a convenient "package" for the whole series that you'll certainly want to consider.

Our **Signature Gala Event** returns April 26, 2025. There's already a lot of buzz about this delightfully glittery social gathering, so I hope you'll note it on your calendar and watch for details. (Rumor has it that we're going vintage Roaring 1920s, if that helps you plan your festive attire and attitude!)

Finally, We would like to issue you an invitation to share the **Auer Academy's** amazing, student-focused dance curriculum with the young dancers in your world. Our approach blends American Ballet Theatre (ABT) accredited teachers with safety-designed studios to help each dancer become the best version of her- or himself with knowledge and skills that last a lifetime. You're welcome to observe a class and talk with our instructors.

Thank you.

Thanks for being with us during our season of metamorphosis and for allowing us to be part of your artistic discovery. We look forward to seeing you!



Karen Gibbons-Brown
Artistic Director

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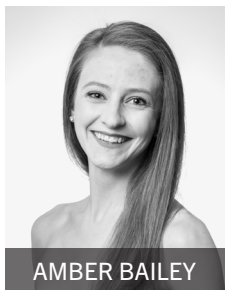


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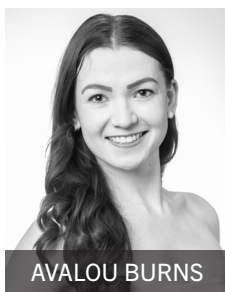
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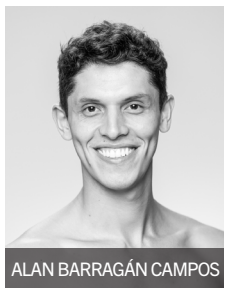
The Dancers of Fort Wayne Ballet



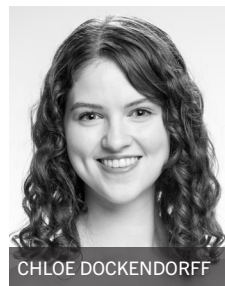
Amber began dancing in Traverse City, Michigan and continued her training at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated in 2018 with a BFA in Dance and BA in Mathematics. Amber is entering her sixth season with Fort Wayne Ballet where she has had the opportunity to perform principal roles in Swan Lake (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.



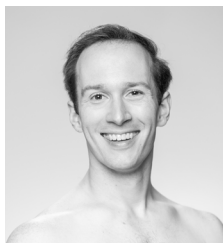
Raised in Dayton, Ohio, Avalou trained in a pre-professional company, Gem City Ballet. In December 2019, Avalou graduated with her BFA summa cum laude, majoring in Ballet, from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, under Qi Jiang and Deirdre Carberry. Avalou performed lead roles 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 outreaches with BalletMet's Second Company. In 2020, she joined Fort Wayne Ballet and has enjoyed dancing in Gerald Arpino's Light Rain and Italian Suite, 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 also teaches in the academy as an ABT® Certified Teacher and Youth Company Assistant.



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 Concorso Internacional de Ballet La Superior and Youth America Grand Prix. He graduated from Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey (ESMDM) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Classical Dance. After graduating he joined Fort Wayne Ballet as a company member where he has had the honor to perform in a variety of works including Gerald Arpino's "Light Rain" and "Italian Suit", Val Caniparoli's "Swipe", Agnes de Mille's "Three Virgins and a Devil", "Lacrymosa" and "Empyrean Dances" by Edward Stierle and Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet". Alan is thrilled to be back for his fourth season with the Fort Wayne Ballet.



Chloe grew up in Prince Edward Island, Canada, training at Island Dance Academy and the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts. She received further training at the National Ballet School of Canada, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Victoria Academy of Ballet, and Orlando Ballet, before attending the Alberta Ballet's Post-Graduate Program, during which time she also performed with Canada's Ballet Jörgen's Junior Company. Chloe joined the Virginia National Ballet company in 2022, with her favourite roles there including Summer Fairy in Cinderella and Flowers Soloist in The Nutcracker. Chloe is thrilled to be joining Fort Wayne Ballet for Season 68!



DAVID CLAYPOOLE

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 with Richmond Ballet's second company performing ballets such as Malcom Burn's Romeo and Juliet and Swipe by Val Caniparoli. David has danced numerous lead roles with Fort Wayne Ballet including Dracula in Fort Wayne Ballet's original Dracula, Prince Siegfried in Swan Lake, Light Rain by Gerald Arpino, Edward Stierle's Empyrean Dances, and Jerome Robbins' ballet Fancy Free. He has worked with guest repetiteurs including Cameron Basden, Robert La Fosse, Kim Sagami, and Adam Sklute. David is excited to be performing in his ninth season.



TATUM FARLOW

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Tatum trained at the Ballet Memphis School under Janet Parke. She continued her training at Butler University, earning 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. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet in 2019, Tatum has performed 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, and the "Pas de Trois" from Swan Lake. Last season, she was thrilled to take on roles in Fancy Free by Jerome Robbins, and a Harlot in the romantic tragedy Romeo and Juliet. Tatum is excited to deepen her connection with the Fort Wayne Ballet community through another season of captivating performances.



BRITTANY FOHT

Raised in Columbus, Ohio, Brittany began her training at the Columbus City Ballet School and Conservatory. She went on to dance pre-professionally with The Washington Ballet and Kansas City Ballet. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet in 2021, she's enjoyed dancing featured roles in Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), Swan Lake (Pas de Trois), The Nutcracker (Arabian Coffee Princess), Edward Stierle's Empyrean Dances and Agnes DeMille's Three Virgins and A Devil. Her other repertoire includes Arpino's Light Rain and Italian Suite, Sleeping Beauty, and Giselle. Brittany is very excited to return for her 4th season at FWB!



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 Jerome Robbins' Fancy Free, Gerald Arpino's Italian Suite and Light Rain, Edward Stierle's Empyrean Dances, Peasant Pas and Zulma in Giselle, and Tracy Tritz's Adagio for Strings. Recently, she has become an ABT® Certified Teacher for Pre-Primary through Level 3, Zena Rommett Floor-Barre® Certified Teacher, and has graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Purdue University Fort Wayne. Jessica is honored to be a part of Fort Wayne Ballet and is very excited to start another season!



BABETTE HUNTER

Originally from Springville, Iowa, Babette trained at Nolte Academy under Grace & Tad Snider. In 2014, she joined BalletMet as a trainee, studying under Edwaard Liang, Timothy Lynch, & Susan Dromisky. Later, she 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 Suite*, *Dew Drop* from the *Nutcracker*, *Little Swans* and *Von Rothbart* from *Swan Lake*, Cynthia Pratt's *Depar* from 5th position, *Carabosse* from *Sleeping Beauty*, *Lady Capulet* from *Romeo & Juliet*, and several pieces from Tracy Tritz including *Bolero*, *Broken Hallelujah*, and the *Weird Sisters* in *Dracula*. She has also attended several summer festivals including Milwaukee Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and American Ballet Theatre. Babette is looking forward to her eighth season with Fort Wayne Ballet.



MAX LIPPMAN

Born in Long Island, New York, Max began his formative training with the Seiskaya Ballet Academy under the direction of Mme. Valia Seiskaya. Later, Max graduated cum laude from Butler University's department of dance with a BA in Dance Pedagogy with high distinction. Since graduating, Max has worked as a company and guest artist with companies and schools around the country including Orlando Ballet, Grand Kyiv Ballet (Ukraine), United Ballet Theatre, Indianapolis Ballet, Colorado Ballet Society, and Troy University department of Theater and Dance. Max has also had the honor of being invited to dance in several galas alongside artists from internationally acclaimed companies including New York City Ballet, Houston Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Estonian National Ballet, and more. In January of 2024, Max was awarded platinum for his 1st place performance of *Diana and Acteon Pas de Deux* at Universal Ballet Competition in Denver, Colorado.



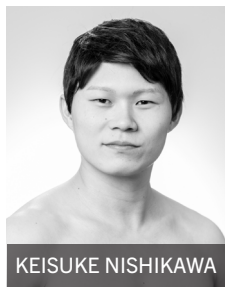
IZUMI MASAKI

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 *The Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum fairy), *Sleeping Beauty* (Lilac Fairy) and *Swan Lake* (Odette, Odile), *Romeo & Juliet* (Juliet), *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *Flames of Paris*.

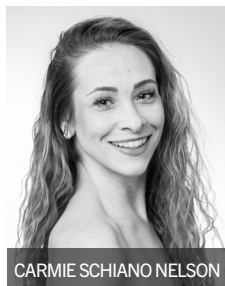


SAKI MORIMOTO

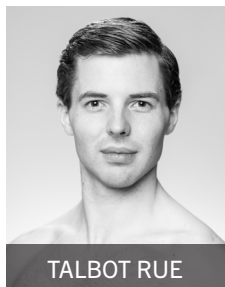
Saki grew up in Osaka, Japan, and later moved to the United States where she trained at the Academy of Ballet NJ under the direction of David Gallagher. She continued her training at UNCSA under the direction of Susan Jaffe and graduated with BFA in Dance. Since joining Fort Wayne Ballet, she has danced featured roles including *Swipe* by Val Caniparoli, *Confetti* by Gerald Arpino, *Empyrean 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*. As a choreographer, Saki has created original works for Fort Wayne Ballet, the Auer Academy of Fort Wayne Ballet, and New England Ballet Theatre, and she has recently presented her work at St. Louis Contemporary Dance Festival. Saki is a fully certified, ABT® Affiliate Instructor and enjoys teaching the academy students.



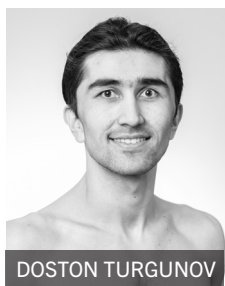
Keisuke was born in Hyogo, Japan. He began his training at the Seiko Kuramoto Ballet School. In 2013, Keisuke received First Place Award at the Osaka Prix Competition and a scholarship from the Vaganova Ballet Academy. Keisuke studied at Vaganova Ballet Academy for two years. In 2015, he was awarded 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, Empyrean Dances by Edward Stierle. His classical repertoire includes The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Le Corsaire, and Flames of Paris.



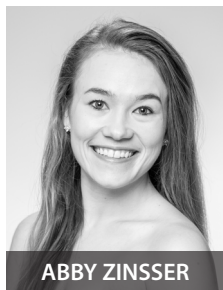
Carmie Schiano Nelson began her early dance training in New York City. At the age of 12, she was accepted to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and attended the year-round boarding school. After graduating high school early, she continued her training with Boston Ballet. She has attended summer 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 South Carolina Ballet for 10 seasons. She has performed numerous different notable roles in both classical and contemporary works and prior to leaving SCB, 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 fifth season at Fort Wayne Ballet and continuing to explore the city.



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 being 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 for his sixth season at Fort Wayne Ballet.



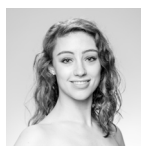
Doston Turgunov, originally from Uzbekistan, trained at the Tashkent State National School of Dance and Choreography, as well as the State Academy of Choreography of Uzbekistan. His remarkable performances include the role of Basilio in the Grand Pas de Deux from Don Quixote, Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet, and the Snow Cavalier in The Nutcracker. Before coming to America, Doston had the honor of performing with the Bolshoi Theatre as a soloist. Doston is set to return for his second season with the company, promising another year of captivating performances, and showcasing the rich talent emerging from Uzbekistan. Doston is excited to be teaching in the Auer Academy this season, passing on his knowledge of character dance to the next generation.



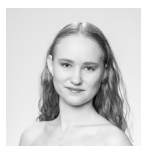
ABBY ZINSSER

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 and Italian Suite, 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 sixth season with Fort Wayne Ballet!

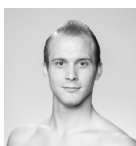
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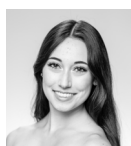
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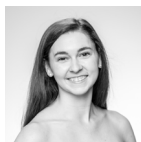
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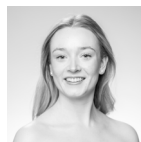
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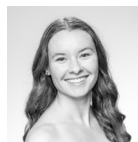
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Pre-Professionals

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Youth Company

Blessing Adebayo, Polly Ahrens, Kennedy Benzinger, Elizabeth Bose, Wednesday Carrier, Natasha Cartwright, Elizabeth Grable, Ryla Jackson, Isabelle Johnson, Claire Mendenhall, Evan Naish, Matias Parra, Jossalyn Sherman, Alayna Taylor, Allison Todd, Sophia Whetstone

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FORT WAYNE BALLET

The Nutcracker

PRESENTED BY



DECEMBER 6-10, 2024 | ROBERT GOLDSTINE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
431 W BERRY ST, FORT WAYNE, IN 46802

Music by: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Staging & Choreography by: Karen Gibbons-Brown

Staged & Rehearsed by: Karen Gibbons-Brown, Lisa Sundstrom,
Tracy Tritz, Raleigh Sparrow

Lighting Design by: Jeremy Springer

Video Content by: Bryce Cutler

Costume Design by: Nan Possemato

Production Managers: Christina Brinker & Luke Holliger

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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.

The most special guest is Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather. He is a toymaker who creates magical toys that come to life. When Herr Drosselmeyer arrives at the party with his nephew, Christian Drosselmeyer, the guests are delighted with the surprises and gifts he has brought. Amidst the excitement of the party, 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 and begins to dream that frightening mice have come to steal the Christmas presents. As the clock strikes midnight, giant mice appear and snatch the nutcracker from Clara's arms. Herr Drosselmeyer intervenes and the magical journey begins. The mice, led by Queen Mouserink, battle against the toy soldiers who have come to life, guided by the now life-size nutcracker. In an effort to distract Queen Mouserink, Clara throws her shoe at the leader of the mice, aiding the nutcracker in winning the battle. After Queen Mouserink is defeated, the mice carry her away, and Clara is in tears upon seeing her wounded nutcracker. Drosselmeyer reappears and transforms the wooden nutcracker into the human Nutcracker Prince.

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 Prince. After a blizzard of snowflakes dance across the stage, Clara and the Prince are whisked away to the Kingdom of Sweets.

Clara and the Prince arrive in the Kingdom of Sweets, where they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. The Sweets perform dances for Clara and the Nutcracker Prince, each representing a different country: Hot Chocolate from Spain, Coffee from Arabia, Tea from China, Peppermint Swirls from Russia, Marzipan from Germany, and Bon Bons from France. After a magical visit to the Kingdom of Sweets, Clara wakes up to find it was all just a dream and her magical Prince is a toy once more.



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Herr Drosselmeyer - Jim Schmidt

Frau Von Stahlbaum - Carmie Schiano Nelson

Herr Von Stahlbaum - Kent Bixler

Clara - Izumi Masaki[^], Abby Zinsser^{*}

Fritz - Evan Naish[^], Matias Parra^{*}

Christian Drosselmeyer - Keisuke Nishikawa[^], Talbot Rue^{*}

Party Ladies - Avalou Burns^{*}, Juliet Dahlgren[^], Chloe Dockendorff^{*}, Gabrielle Goodson^{*}, Jessica Humphrey^{*}, Anna Orzulak[^], Emma Skrzypczak[^], Raleigh Sparrow, Grace Thompson[^]

Party Men - Alan Barragan Campos, David Claypoole[^], Rudolph Davis, Max Lippman, Doston Turgunov^{*}

Grandfather - RJ Benninghoff

Grandmother - Jackie Colburn

Party Girls - Emma Closson[^], Jane Dohl^{*}, Hallie Gibson[^], Ryla Jackson[^], Olivia Latham^{*}, Claire Mendenhall^{*}, Bianca Parra^{*}, Audriana Ramolia[^]

Party Boys - Miles Boon, Everett Millspaw, Evan Naish^{*}, Matias Parra[^], Oliver Scott

Maids - Emily Cobb^{*}, Carrington Martin[^], Gemma Smith[^], Abby Storer^{*}

Butler- Keisuke Nishikawa^{*}, Talbot Rue[^]

Sugar Plum Fairy Puppet - Jacinta Parra

Nutcracker Puppet - Harbor Braun^{*}, Lila Widenhoefer[^]

Queen Mouserink Puppet - Adela Hrustic-Pape[^], Evelyn Scott^{*}

Sugar Plum Fairy Doll - Amber Bailey[^], Saki Morimoto^{*}

Soldier Doll - David Claypoole^{*}, Doston Turgunov[^]

^{*} Indicates Casting for (Dec 6 | 7:30 PM), (Dec 7 | 2:00 PM)

[^] Indicates Casting for (Dec 7 | 7:30 PM), (Dec 8 | 2:00 PM), (Dec 10 | 6:30 PM (AWS))

(Special Guest appearance from Gigi's Playhouse December 10th, AWS performance)



THE BATTLE

The Nutcracker Prince - Keisuke Nishikawa^, Talbot Rue*

Queen Mouserink - Rachel Aron*, Babette Hunter^

Christmas Tree Angel - Chloe Dockendorff^, Schuyler Kechley*

Baby Mice - Abigail Bose*, Adela Hrustic-Pape^, Evelyn Scott*, Ellie Woolman^

Big Mice - Rachel Aron^, Emily Cobb^, Katelyn Compton*, Juliet Dahlgren*, Parker Edmondson*, Babette Hunter*, Avery Klinck*, Regan Lamb^, Kyla Marcus^, Aria Opean*, Anna Orzulak*, McKenna Palmer^, Isabella Peterson^, Abby Storer^, Claire Sturgeon^, Grace Thompson*

Queen Mouserink's Sentries - David Claypoole^, Rudolph Davis, Doston Turgunov*

Little Soldiers - Clara Boon*, Harbor Braun*, Violet Harris^, Lila Widenhoefer^

Soldier Captain - Alan Barragan Campos*, Talbot Rue^

Soldier Brigade - Blessing Adebayo, Cilicia Anderson, Devlin Affolder-Walker, Trinity Armour-Kelsaw, Isabella Blaschak, Elizabeth Bose, Wednesday Carrier, Josephine Gosheff, Ava Hunt, Isabelle Johnson, Jillian Knowles, Rhiana Pelance, Hannah Smitherman, Alayna Taylor, Allison Todd, Sophia Whetsone

THE LAND OF SNOW

Snow Queen - Brittany Focht^, Izumi Masaki*

Snow Cavalier - Alan Barragan Campos^, Keisuke Nishikawa*

Snow Crystals - Tatum Farlow*, Jessica Humphrey*, Sandra Imbriaco^, Ella Warren^

Snowflakes - Aidan Crow, Erin Dormer, Claire Gilbert, Lucy Hittle, Olivia Johnson, Moriah Knuth, Harper Kuzen, Tabitha Wolf, Moriah Knuth,

Unicorns - Katelyn Compton^, Juliet Dahlgren^, Chloe Dockendorff*, Gabrielle Goodson*, Regan Lamb*, Aria Opean^, Emma Skrzypzak

INTERMISSION



ACT II: THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS

Sugar Plum Fairy - Amber Bailey^, Saki Morimoto*

Sugar Plum Cavalier - David Claypoole*, Doston Turgunov^

Pages - Beatrice Patton^, Jacinta Parra^, Lola Quilhot*, Zoe Zhao*

Sugar Plum Attendants - Devlin Affolder-Walker, Emma Closson*, Oliver Gardner,
Jillian Knowles^, Bianca Parra^, Sophia Whetstone*,

Blossoms - Sarah Aljabari^, Charlotte Bredemeyer^, Sloane Huttenlocker*, Marina Mourad*,
Finley Mowry*, Danni Oppen^, Easley Pennington^, Mae Stephens*

Angels - Polly Ahrens, Cilicia Anderson*, Kennedy Benzinger, Clara Boon*, Elizabeth Bose,
Wednesday Carrier, Natasha Cartwright, Virginia Cutter^, Claire Falk, Katelyn Fuelling^,
Elizabeth Grable, Willow Latham*, Amelia Leitch*, Sara McDaniel*, Elizabeth Morunov^
Allison Ross^, Genevieve Underwood^

Spanish Hot Chocolate - Avalou Burns^, David Claypoole^, Babette Hunter*, Doston Turgunov*

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

Arabian Coffee Prince - Rudolph Davis

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Parrots - Abigail Bose^, Sloan Glassley*, Jade McGee*, Ava Millspaw*, Mirabella Morunov^
Katherine Mueller*, Evelyn Scott^, Lila Vandelaar^

Chinese Tea - Tatum Farlow*, Jessica Humphrey*, Sadie Jones^, Amy Whittemore^

Chinese Dragon - Trinity Armour-Kelsaw, Isabella Blaschak, Isabel Carrillo, Ava Hunt, Olivia
Johnson*, Harper Kurzen^, McKenna Palmer, Rhiana Pelance, Isabella Peterson,
Hannah Smitherman

Trepak Candy Swirls - Alan Barragan Campos, Oliver Gardner*, Max Lippman, Talbot Rue^

Trepak Corps - Teagan Bentley*, Gillian Carr*, Parker Edmondson^, Avery Klinck^,
Emma Lundvall^, Kyla Marcus*, Hanna Pawlowski^, Claire Sturgeon*,

Marzipan Shepherdess - Isabella Agnew-Huertas*, Rachel Aron^, Amber Bailey*,
Tricia Carmody^, Sandra Imbriaco*, Carrington Martin^, Saki Morimoto^, Payton Wilson*

Sheep - Zadie Bell^, Wednesday Carrier^, Elizabeth Grable, Jillian Knowles, Jossalyn Sherman*,
Allison Todd*

* Indicates Casting for (Dec 6 | 7:30 PM), (Dec 7 | 2:00 PM)

^ Indicates Casting for (Dec 7 | 7:30 PM), (Dec 8 | 2:00 PM), (Dec 10 | 6:30 PM (AWS))

The Nutcracker

CONTINUED...

Mother Ginger - Raleigh Sparrow

BonBons - Kennedy Benzinger*, Wednesday Carrier, Natasha Cartwright*, Jane Dohl, Rebecca Fletcher^, Hallie Gibson*, Ryla Jackson*, Isabelle Johnson, Olivia Latham^, Claire Mendenhall^, Allyson Sherman, Josselyn Sherman^, Allison Todd^

DewDrop - Izumi Masaki*, Abby Zinsser^

Flower Demi Soloists - Avalou Burns*, Tatum Farlow^, Jessica Humphrey^, Carrington Martin*

Flowers - Isabella Agnew-Huertas^, Teagan Bentley^, Tricia Carmody*, Gillian Carr^, Chloe Dockendorff^, Gabrielle Goodson^, Sandra Imbriaco^, Sadie Jones*, Emma Lundvall*, Anna Orzulak^, Hanna Pawlowski*, Emma Skrzypzak*, Gemma Smith*, Ella Warren*, Payton Wilson^, Amy Whittemore*

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Production Managers: Christina Brinker & Luke Holliger

Master Technician: Luke Holliger

Stage Manager: Luke Holliger

Lighting Design by: Jeremy Springer

Video Content by: Bryce Cutler

Projection by: John Shaffer

Sound Board Operator: Miranda Tyler

Costume Design by: Nan Possemato

Costume Shop Assistant: Megan Gerig

Costume Shop Volunteers: Emma Lundvall, Pam Lux, Doreen McClelland, Natalie Millspaw, Sonia Quintana, Grace Thompson

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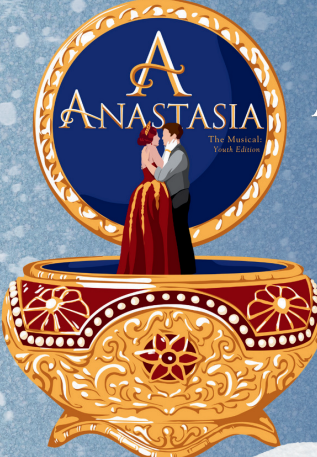
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Guest Conductor

JAMES SOMMERVILLE

Conductor James Sommerville's celebrated career has seen him on the podium of many of the finest professional orchestras and ensembles throughout Canada and the USA. He led the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra to great critical acclaim in his seven seasons as Music Director. Recent engagements include appearances with Symphony Nova Scotia and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Edmonton, London (Ontario) and Québec Symphony Orchestras. Internationally, Mr Sommerville has been conductor of the US National Brass Ensemble in concert and on their award-winning CD of music of Gabrieli and Williams, as well as a variety of ensembles throughout the USA, Europe and Asia. He has commissioned solo and chamber works from many young Canadian and international composers, including Kati Agócs, Vivian Fung, Nicole Lizée, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Abigail Richardson-Schulte, Jocelyn Morlock, Roger Bergs, and many more.

James Sommerville retired as Principal Horn of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in December of 2022, after a glittering 25 year tenure, capping an orchestral career that included seasons with the Toronto and Montreal Symphony Orchestras, the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, and as acting solo horn of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. The winner of the highest prizes at the Munich, Toulon and CBC solo competitions, Mr. Sommerville also pursued a career as a French Horn soloist that spanned over 35 years, and has brought immensely successful appearances with major orchestras throughout North America and Europe. His disc of the Mozart Horn Concertos with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra won the JUNO Award for Best Classical Recording in Canada. Other award-winning CBC recordings include the Britten Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings, and Britten's Canticle. Mr. Sommerville has recorded chamber music for the Deutsche Gramophon, Telarc, CBC, Summit, and Marquis labels. He toured and recorded regularly as a member of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. He is heard regularly on the CBC network and has recorded all of the standard solo horn repertoire for broadcast.

As a guest artist and faculty member, Mr. Sommerville has performed at many chamber music festivals throughout Canada, the USA, Europe, Oceania and Asia. Solo performances of note include the world premiere of Christos Hatzis' Winter Solstice in Yellowknife, NWT; the North American premiere of Ligeti's Hamburg Concerto with the BSO; and the John Williams Horn Concerto. In 2007, he performed the world premiere of Elliot Carter's Horn Concerto, commissioned for him by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In recent seasons, Mr. Sommerville has appeared as a soloist in London (with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields), and in Costa Rica, Holland, Quebec, Ottawa and Italy.

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Andrew Constantine, Music Director

Guest Conducted by James Sommerville

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Timothy Tan
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Hillary Feibel

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Orion Rapp
Pavel Morunov

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Jonathan Snyder

Clarinet

Laurie Blanchet
Dan Heaton

Bass Clarinet

Michael Tran

Bassoon

Dennis Fick
Anne Devine

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Kimberlee Hebdon
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Andrew Lott
Dan Price

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Alexander Klepach



**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.



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