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CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS**

The Nutcracker

SAT DEC 21 • 2p & 7p / SUN DEC 22 • 3p / 2024

MUSIC

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

CONDUCTOR

Lucas Richman

CHOREOGRAPHY

Maureen Lynch, Keith Robinson,
Stevie McGary

BALLET MISTRESS

Vestara Vardamis

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR /

LIGHTING DESIGN

James Kuzio, Ben Wetzel

COSTUME DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Jesse Dunham, Kelly Fitzpatrick,
Melanie Kollman, Maureen Lynch,
Stevie McGary, Sarina Speed

MASK DESIGN / CREATION

NUTCRACKER - Joseph Simeone
RATS, LAMBS & WOLF - Elena Bourakovsky
DRAGON - Mary Weaver

NUTCRACKER DOLL DESIGN / CREATION

Christopher Rock

NUTCRACKER DOLL REFURBISHED BY

John Holyoke, Kelly Fitzpatrick

BACKDROP DESIGN / CREATION

Katie Keaton

COLLINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Scott Stitham



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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The Nutcracker Cast

ACT I

SCENE I – Godfather Drosselmeyer’s Workshop

GODFATHER DROSSELMAYER..... Keith Robinson
RAT HELPERS Camryn Knights, Brooklyn Saucier, Tiana Wheelock, Sophie White
DOLLS Meghan Bowden, Sophia Bruce, Izzy Harrow

SCENE II – Home of the Silberhaus Family

HERR SILBERHAUS Zach Blanchard
FRAU SILBERHAUS Alexandra Sleight
CLARA Ava Marquis
FRITZ Eric Graebert
DOMESTIC STAFF Maddie Chibuye, Elizabeth Bunker, Paige Caron
PARTY GUESTS Noah Elliott, Lily Kollman, Ephraim Sension, Alice Simpson,
Velstara Vardamis with Alannah Attia, Silas Blanchard,
Sophie Blanchard, Claire Bouchard, Grace Dufresne, Adele Fasel,
Robyn Fisher, Ruth Graebert, Eila Hendrix, Ella Johnson, Emily Kennedy,
Rosalind MacDonald, Emmie Madore, Harper Martin, Ava McGary,
Spyros Pouloupoulos, Quinn Pelletier, Berkley Taylor
GODFATHER DROSSELMAYER..... Keith Robinson
JILL IN THE BOX DOLL Sophia Bruce
HARLEQUIN DOLLS Emma Blanchard, Meghan Bowden
SOLDIER DOLL..... Izzy Harrow
THE NUTCRACKER Zach Blanchard
THE RAT KING Brooklyn Saucier
BATTLE SOLDIERS Ella Johnson, Camryn Knights, Maeve Pelletier, Lexi Rolfe,
Mckenley Towle, Emily Wojdakowski (Understudy: Eila Hendrix)
RATS Silas Blanchard, Noah Elliott, Robyn Fisher, Rosalind MacDonald,
Emmie Madore Spyros Pouloupoulos

SCENE III – A Winter Scene in a Pine Forest

SNOW QUEEN Tiana Wheelock
SNOW QUEEN UNDERSTUDY Meghan Bowden
SNOW PRINCE Ephraim Sension
SNOWFLAKES Emma Blanchard, Maddie Chibuye, Meghan Bowden, Sophia Bruce,
Emma Dietz, Lily Kollman, Izzy Harrow, Nora Powers, Alice Simpson,
Sophie White
UNDERSTUDIES..... Paige Caron, Grace Dufresne, Lexi Rolfe

ACT II

Scene I – Sugar Mountain

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY	Nicole Fedorov
CAVALIER	Albert Davydov
ATTENDANTS	Emma Blanchard, Eila Hendrix, Ella Johnson, Emily Kennedy, Rosalind MacDonald, Maeve Pelletier, Quinn Pelletier, Lexi Rolfe, Brooklyn Saucier, Mckenley Towle
ANGELS	Alannah Attia, Claire Bouchard, Adele Fasel, Ruth Graebert, Harper Martin, Ava McGary, Berkley Taylor
PAGES	Silas Blanchard, Noah Elliott, Spyros Pouloupoulos
REINDEER	Sophie Blanchard, Robyn Fisher with Matilda Avery, Camilla Madore, Meredith Madore, Oriana Pouloupoulos, Hannah Randlett, Victoria Stanley
CHOCOLATE FROM SPAIN	Lily Kollman with Maddie Chibuye, Nora Powers
COFFEE FROM ARABIA	Velstara Vardamis, Ephraim Sension with Paige Caron, Emma Dietz, Alexandra Sleight, Emily Wojdakowski
PASHA AND ATTENDANTS	Noah Elliott with Silas Blanchard, Spyros Pouloupoulos
TEA FROM CHINA	Elizabeth Bunker
CORPS DE BALLET	Emma Blanchard, Sophie Blanchard, Ella Johnson, Lexi Rolfe
DRAGON	Alannah Attia, Rosalind MacDonald, Maeve Pelletier, Brooklyn Saucier
TREPAK FROM RUSSIA	Zach Blanchard, Izzy Harrow, Camryn Knights, Alice Simpson, Sophie White
THE REED FLUTES	Grace Dufresne, Eric Graebert
LAMBS AND WOLF	Maeve Pelletier, Quinn Pelletier, Emily Kennedy, Zach Blanchard
MOTHER GINGER	Maddie Chibuye
COTTON CANDY	Emmie Madore
CLOWNS	Silas Blanchard, Spyros Pouloupoulos, Robyn Fisher, Eila Hendrix, Brooklyn Saucier, Mckenley Towle
CANDIES	Alannah Attia, Claire Bouchard, Adele Fasel, Ruth Graebert, Rosalind MacDonald, Harper Martin, Ava McGary, Quinn Pelletier, Berkley Taylor

Scene II – Waltz of the Flowers

DEW DROP FAIRY	Stevie McGary
CORPS DE BALLET	Meghan Bowden, Sophia Bruce, Izzy Harrow, Lily Kollman, Nora Powers, Velstara Vardamis, Tiana Wheelock, Sophie White
UNDERSTUDIES	Velstara Vardamis (Dew Drop) Emma Dietz, Emma Blanchard
GRAND PAS DE DEUX	Nicole Federov, Albert Davydov
FINALE AND APOTHEOSIS	The Entire Company

It is Christmas Eve and the Silberhaus family is welcoming guests for their annual Christmas party. The children, Clara and Fritz, welcome their friends, too. The party is festive as godfather Drosselmeyer arrives. He is a skilled clock and toy maker and always full of surprises. Drosselmeyer presents delightful life-size dolls which each take a turn to dance.



Drosselmeyer gives special gifts to Clara and Fritz. Although his gift to Fritz is quite nice, he gives Clara a beautiful Nutcracker that becomes the hit of the party. Fritz becomes jealous, grabs the Nutcracker from Clara and promptly breaks it. Clara is heartbroken looking on as Drosselmeyer quickly repairs the Nutcracker. The guests depart and the Silberhaus family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks back to check on him and falls asleep with him in her arms.

As the clock strikes midnight strange things begin to happen. Clara begins shrinking as her beautiful Christmas tree grows high above her. The toys come to life and the room fills with an army of rats, led by the fierce Rat King. As the Nutcracker awakens, he leads his army of toy soldiers into battle with the rats. The Rat King corners the Nutcracker and battles him one-on-one. Clara makes a daring move, throwing her slipper at the Rat King. The Rat King drops to the floor and the rats run away, carrying off their leader's lifeless body.

The Nutcracker turns into a Prince and takes Clara on a journey through an enchanted forest to the Land of Sweets where they meet the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Prince recounts their daring battle and she rewards them with dances of different sweets from around the world. In their finale, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier dance a beautiful Pas de Deux. As the dream ends, Clara waves goodbye to the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier.

Leading the BSO

Lucas Richman • Music Director & Conductor

GRAMMY award-winning conductor Lucas Richman has served as Music Director for the Bangor Symphony Orchestra since 2010 and held the position as Music Director for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra from 2003–2015. Over the course of nearly four decades on the podium, he has garnered an international reputation for his graceful musical leadership in a diverse field of media. In concert halls, orchestral pits and recording studios around the world, Richman earns rave reviews for his artful collaborations with artists in both the classical and commercial music arenas.

He has appeared as guest conductor with numerous orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Pops, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra and Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic, the SWR Radio Orchestra of Kaiserslautern, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra, the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional and the Zagreb Philharmonic.

Recent guest conducting highlights include programs with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Orlando Philharmonic and the Israel Camerata Orchestra Jerusalem.

In recent years, Mr. Richman has led performances with notable soloists in both the classical and pop worlds, ranging from Mstislav Rostropovich, Garrick Ohlsson, Lang Lang, Midori, Gil Shaham, Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Michelle DeYoung and Frederica von Stade to James Taylor, Michael Jackson, Pat Boone, Michael Feinstein, Gloria Estefan, Matthew Morrison, Martin Short, Tony Randall, Victor Borge and Brian Wilson. His numerous collaborations with film composers as their conductor has yielded recorded scores for such films as the Academy Award-nominated *The Village* (with violinist Hilary Hahn), *As Good As It Gets*, *Face/Off*, *Se7en*, *Breakdown*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *White Noise* and the recent Marvel Universe release, *Madame Web*; in 2010, John Williams invited him to lead the three-month national summer tour of *Star Wars* in Concert. Mr. Richman received a GRAMMY Award (2011) in the category of Best Classical Crossover Album for having conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Christopher Tin's classical/world fusion album, *Calling All Dawns*.

Also an accomplished composer, Mr. Richman has had his music performed by over two hundred orchestras and ensembles across the United States, with the Bangor Symphony having premiered eleven of those works during his tenure. His recent CD release of solo piano works, *Lucas Richman: Variations*, is available for sale in the lobby and online. For more information, visit www.lucasrichman.com.

Company Biographies

Stevie McGary • Artistic Director

Originally from Bangor, Stevie grew up dancing for Robinson Ballet. She graduated with a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University where she studied with Geri Houlihan, Scott Putman and Arnott Mader, among others. In addition to being the Artistic Director and acting Executive Director, Stevie is also a faculty member at the School of Robinson Ballet and a teaching artist for the ACHIEVE Program, an in-school/after school dance program aimed at fostering self-esteem and confidence in third and fourth grade students. She is also an adjunct professor of dance at Husson University. Stevie has completed the National Dance Institute Teaching Artist Training program in New York City and is on the Maine Arts Commission's Teaching Artist Roster.

Keith Robinson • Artistic Director Emeritus

Keith was raised in the Denver, Colorado area and attended Boston University and the University of Colorado. He began his dance career in Maine with Polly L. Thomas and Ralph Robinson. He was a founding member of the Robinson Ballet under the direction of Ralph Robinson and Jeanne-Marie Aubert. Keith trained with Madam Nora Kiss in Paris, France, and with Leonidas De Pian in Athens, Greece. Keith and his wife Maureen danced professionally in Europe with

the Ballet Classique De Paris, a touring company based in Paris, France, and with Athens Ballet Theatre in Athens, Greece. Keith has choreographed numerous original works for Robinson Ballet as well as several other community based arts organizations. He has performed as an actor with New Surry Theatre, Penobscot Theatre Co., and Ten Bucks Theatre. Keith presently teaches ballet at the School of the Robinson Ballet. Keith is most proud of his son Ian who is presently setting the works of the Batsheva Dance Company around the world.

Maureen (Lynch) Robinson • Artistic Director Emeritus and Director, School of Robinson Ballet

Maureen is originally from Southern Maine. As a young girl, she danced with Polly L. Thomas and her Maine State Ballet Company. She was one of the founding members of the Ralph Robinson Concert Dance Company, which is now the Robinson Ballet. In 1980, Maureen traveled to Europe with her husband, Keith Robinson, where they danced professionally with the “Ballet Classique de Paris” in France and “Balletto Athenon” in Athens, Greece. Upon returning to the States in 1984, they settled in Brewer to raise their son, Ian. They rejoined the Robinson Ballet working as dancer, choreographers as well as beginning their extensive teaching careers. Maureen is the Director of the School of the Robinson Ballet as well as an instructor. She is a teaching artist for RBC’s ACHIEVE Program currently giving classes at The Suzanne Smith School in Levant. She is pleased to still be involved with Robinson Ballet’s productions assisting with running rehearsals and working with its dancers.

James Kuzio • Co-Technical Director

James is very excited to be joining Robinson Ballet for this year’s Nutcracker. James graduated from Skidmore College in 2015 with a theater degree with concentrations on scenic, lighting and sound. He has since worked in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, and Maine. He is currently the assistant technical director at Penobscot Theatre Company. James would like to thank his friends and family for all their support and wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

Ben Wetzel • Co-Technical Director

This is Ben’s first time working with the Robinson Ballet and he is looking forward to what he can bring to this production. He grew up in Minnesota and has a degree in Technical Theatre. Ben spent the previous 8 seasons with Penobscot Theatre Company starting in the scene shop and working his way up to the role of Production Manager. Prior to his move to Maine, Ben worked in various theaters in Missouri, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Vermont. Now he spends his days freelancing in carpentry, working on his house, and teaching Stagecraft at UMaine Orono. Thanks to Rachael for supporting all of his endeavors, and thank you all for supporting the arts in your community.

Nicole Federov • Guest Artist

Born in Brooklyn, NY, studied at the Manhattan Youth Ballet and the Gelsey Kirkland Academy. She was a founding member of the Gelsey Kirkland Ballet Company, where she danced for four years. Nicole also performed with the Ballet Theater of Sibiu, Nevada Ballet Theater, Moscow Classical Ballet, St. Petersburg Ballet Theater, and most recently as a soloist with the Connecticut Ballet. As a guest artist, she has appeared with Cork City Ballet, Armenian National Theatre, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Ballet Minnesota and Brooklyn Ballet. Nicole is excited to perform with Robinson Ballet for the first time!

Albert Davydov • Guest Artist

American Youth Ballet's Artistic Director, Albert Davydov, was born in Russia and trained at the Kazan Choreographic School of Ballet. Upon graduation, he joined the Tatar State Theater of Opera and Ballet where he danced solo and principal roles and toured with the company throughout Europe and the United States. Albert has won numerous prizes in international ballet competitions. Albert's professional career in the United States includes principle positions with New Jersey Ballet from 2004 through 2017. His repertoire includes the Nutcracker, Coppelia, Don Quixote, Cinderella, Corsaire, Paquita, Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, amongst others. Prior to becoming the Artistic Director of American Youth Ballet he has taught at the Sharon Miller Academy, New Jersey Ballet School and continues to teach master classes at the Valentina Kozova's Dance Conservatory, and International Ballet Theater.

Velstara Vardamis • Contributing Artist

Velstara has been part of Robinson Ballet since 2017. She has had the pleasure of teaching ballet and pointe to the upcoming dancers during the past several years. She grew up in Bangor and has been dancing since the age of 4. Throughout those years she was involved in summer ballet programs at Ballet Chicago and the Miami City Ballet. She has studied all varieties of dance including ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, and contemporary. She looks forward to being able to teach young dancers in the future and is grateful for the opportunities that have been given to her.

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