

THE NUTCRACKER for Kids!



THE NUTCRACKER FOR KIDS!

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 @ 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Welcome to a morning of pure enchantment as Pacific Symphony and the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School unite to reimagine Tchaikovsky's cherished holiday masterpiece. This exhilarating new production bursts to life with a freshness that will dazzle the senses and ignite the imaginations of all ages. Surrender to the magic as you're whisked away on a thrilling adventure, where every turn is filled with breathtaking dance, vibrant costumes, and the beloved, timeless score that has become synonymous with the wonder of the season.

Lobby Activities: Enjoy special activities for kids in the concert hall lobbies related to the theme of the concert, including a coloring station, craft station, and photo station. Activities take place from 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. for 10 a.m. concertgoers and from 12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m. for 11:30 a.m. concertgoers.

THE NUTCRACKER for Kids!



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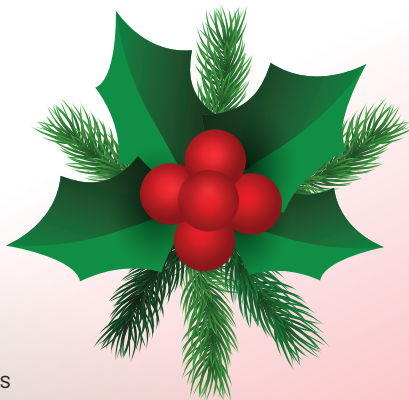
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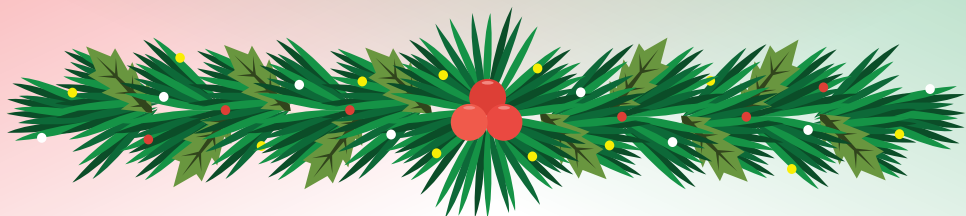
Presents Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 @ 10 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 @ 11:30 a.m.

Jacob Sustaita, conductor
David Stoneman, Drosselmeyer (Narrator)
Susan Brooker, Artistic Director ABT
The American Ballet Theatre (ABT) William J. Gillespie School
at Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Pacific Symphony



Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall



PROGRAM

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY
(1840-1893)

The Nutcracker, Op. 71

Overture
The Christmas Tree
March
Gallop of the Children and Entrance of the Parents
Arrival of Drosselmeyer
Scene and Grandfather Dance
Clara and the Nutcracker
The Battle
The Kingdom of Sweets
Clara and the Nutcracker Prince
Divertissement:
 Chocolate (Spanish Dance)
 Dance of the Reed Flutes
 Tea (Chinese Dance)
 Trepak (Russian Dance)
 Mother Ginger and the Clowns
Waltz of the Flowers
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
Apotheosis



WELCOME TO NUTCRACKER FOR KIDS!

Dear Friends,

Welcome all to our performance of **Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker for Kids!**

It is with incredible joy for me to welcome you all to our performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. I am **Pacific Symphony's assistant conductor, Dr. Jacob Sustaita**, and I am delighted to share the stage with the **phenomenal musicians** of **Pacific Symphony** as well as the **talented dancers** from **American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School** as we present one of my favorite holiday musical experiences.

Since I was first introduced to *The Nutcracker* as a young man, I have been mesmerized by the story, the dancing, and of course the beautiful music. For me, the holiday season is not complete without *The Nutcracker*, and there is no better score than Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* to fill our spirits with thoughts of **celebration, dancing, and CHRISTMAS.**

From beginning to end, *The Nutcracker* takes us to a fantastic world where **toys** and **sweets** come to life and mice dance alongside sugar plum fairies. Do you have a favorite character in the ballet? Or do you have a favorite instrument in the orchestra?

Sit back and enjoy this enchanting and captivating performance of *The Nutcracker*. Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with us this morning. I hope to see you at our next performance on **January 11** when we present **LEOPOLD LOVES OPERA!** You don't want to miss out on the brilliant **music** and **singing** as Maestro Jake and Maestro Leopold explore opera's greatest hits.

I look forward to conducting more exciting, one-of-a kind programs that we create just for you. From all of us at Pacific Symphony – may your holidays and new year be filled with joy and cheer. Celebrating music and life,



Dr. Jacob Sustaita
Assistant Conductor



MEET THE CONDUCTOR



Dr. Jacob Sustaita

Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony

Music Director for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair

Dr. Jacob Sustaita serves as the Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony and Music Director Carl St.Clair, a position he has held since the fall of 2020. Dr. Sustaita also serves as Music Director and Conductor for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO), the premier training orchestra of Orange County, recognized as one of the most outstanding youth orchestras in the country.

Dr. Sustaita is the newly appointed Orchestra Director for the Orange County School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 2021 and 2022, Sustaita served as Acting Director of Orchestras at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). From 2015-20, he led the Sam Houston State University Symphony, Chamber, Ballet, and Opera Orchestras as Director of Orchestral Studies. In 2016, Sustaita and the Symphony Orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version) with high praise from the American and European Bruckner Societies.

Dr. Sustaita is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country. In 2015, Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute to serve as Assistant Conductor for Charles Dutoit and the National Youth Orchestra of America (NYO). Sustaita regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on their seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong. A native of Texas, Sustaita completed his Doctorate and Bachelor of Music degrees at the University of Houston, where he served as Assistant Conductor for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He also earned a Master of Music degree from both Penn State University and Rice University.

His honors include: Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Carl St.Clair, Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi.

MEET THE ARTIST

David Stoneman, Drosselmeyer (Narrator)



David Stoneman is known for his work in both classic and modern opera. The California native has sung with opera companies from Santa Barbara to Boston in repertoire ranging from Henry Purcell to Philip Glass and in roles from Figaro to Scarpia. After studying locally, (OCC, Chapman and USC) he spent two decades in Boston and New York singing opera and oratorio. His oratorio repertoire includes works as diverse as the requiems of Mozart, Brahms and Verdi, Stravinsky's Mass, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. With the Long Beach Chorale & Chamber Orchestra, he has sung the solos in Vaughan-

Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. On the legitimate stage, he has appeared as Flan Kittredge in *Six Degrees of Separation* and as C. K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*. David is also a Registered Piano Technician.

MEET THE ARTIST



Susan Brooker, Artistic Director



Susan Brooker is a member of the ABT's National Training Curriculum Artistic Board of Examiners and Instructors for the American Ballet Theatre, National Training Curriculum, and guest teacher in the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. In 2000 Ms. Brooker was invited to the USA to teach on the faculty of the Hartt School Dance Division, University of Hartford, Connecticut, USA, she became Director of the School of Dance Connecticut in 2001 and Chair of the Dance Department of the Hartt School Community Division in 2004. From 2008 – 2014 she was Director of the BalletMet Dance Academy, Columbus OH.

Ms. Brooker is a Fellow, a Major Examiner of the I.S.T.D., and holds the Enrico Cecchetti Diploma. She taught for many years in Italy as: Director of the Scuola di Danza Hamlyni di De Vita, Lukens, Florence, Italian Examinations Organizer for the I.S.T.D., Honorary President of the Cultural Association, Ateneo Danza, Forli, and Vice President of Danzare Cecchetti, A.N.C.E.C. of which she is still Italian delegate for Cecchetti International Classical Ballet. Ms. Brooker is one of the Festival Artistic Directors for The Ballet Alliance.

Students of Ms. Brooker have won prestigious international dance competitions including the Prix de Lausanne and are dancing with companies in Europe, South America and the United States. Ms. Brooker has taught in schools in the USA, Europe, Canada, and Japan and is a specialist in Ballet Pedagogy and curriculum development.

The American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School at Segerstrom Center for the Arts



The American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School at Segerstrom Center for the Arts is an expansion of the longtime relationship between the Center and American Ballet Theatre. The school, which opened in September 2015, combines the resources of American Ballet Theatre, America's National Ballet Company®, and Segerstrom Center,

one of the world's leading presenters of dance. It offers unrivaled opportunities for training and nurturing future generations of dancers and dance audiences as well as furthering the development and evolution of dance. Following American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum, students are encouraged to reach their highest potential while building a safe and solid foundation in ballet technique. The school carries the name of Orange County philanthropist William J. Gillespie, who was a board member of ABT since 1999 and an enthusiastic and generous donor to the Center for much of the institution's history.

The ABT Gillespie School provides students with the highest quality of classical ballet training through the American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum. The ABT Gillespie School is modeled after the program used at the renowned ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School in New York. Classes include classical ballet technique, pointe, men's class, partnering, character, modern, body conditioning and more. All classes are held in the Center's studios that have been used for rehearsals by the world's leading international dance and ballet companies. The dance studios feature professional sprung floors, full length mirrors, ballet barres and modern technology (surround sound systems, virtual class equipment). Each class features live accompaniment by one of the ABT Gillespie School's accomplished pianists.

ABOUT THE NUTCRACKER

The ballet begins in Drosselmeyer's sitting room as he looks through a book of memories. One of his favorite stories from years ago comes to life before our eyes as he retells it.

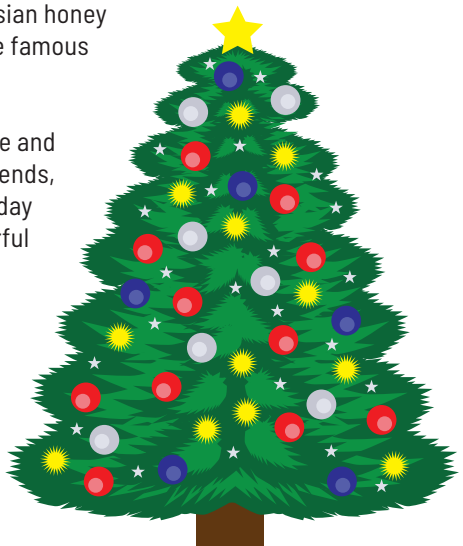
At a family holiday party, Drosselmeyer gives a toy nutcracker to his goddaughter Clara. When the party guests leave, Clara is too excited to sleep. She sneaks out of bed to the living room to be with her nutcracker toy.

At midnight, mice begin to fill the living room. Drosselmeyer rescues Clara from the mice and magically brings the nutcracker to life to fight the evil Mouse King. The Nutcracker leads a troop of toy soldiers into battle and defeats the Mouse King.



Tired from the battle, Clara falls asleep and soon awakens in the Land of Sweets. The Sugar Plum Fairy, the Queen of the Land of Sweets, declares a celebration in honor of Clara and the Nutcracker, who has been transformed into a human prince. Different residents of the Land of Sweets dance for Clara, including Spanish chocolate, Chinese tea, Russian honey cake, and even flowers, who perform the famous Waltz of the Flowers.

After the celebration, Clara returns home and awakens on Christmas day. As his story ends, Drosselmeyer thinks about the next holiday party and wishes the audience a wonderful holiday season.



ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky is one of the most famous Romantic era composers from Russia. He was born in 1840 and began learning piano at the age of five. Tchaikovsky later studied to be a lawyer, but eventually he quit his job at the Ministry of Justice to pursue his love of music. After he went back to school for music, Tchaikovsky started teaching at what is now the Moscow Conservatory. Although Tchaikovsky wrote all kinds of music, he is best known for his ballets: *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

While writing *The Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky heard the **celeste** for the first time and immediately knew he wanted it for the sound of his Sugar Plum Fairy. The first performance of *The Nutcracker* was very unpopular, and Tchaikovsky considered it a failure. Now *The Nutcracker* is one of the most beloved and frequently performed ballets in the world.



“Our collaboration with the Pacific Symphony represents a natural and exciting partnership, as we both call Segerstrom Center for the Arts our home. Together, we’re creating unique opportunities for ABT Gillespie School students to perform alongside professional musicians in the production of *The Nutcracker for Kids!* This creative alliance combines ABT’s world-class dance training with the symphony’s exceptional musical artistry, offering our young dancers an invaluable real-world performance experience. Watching our students bring this beloved holiday classic to life while dancing to live orchestral music has been truly magical. This partnership not only enriches our students’ artistic development but also strengthens the cultural fabric of our arts community.”


—Susan Brooker



ABOUT BALLET

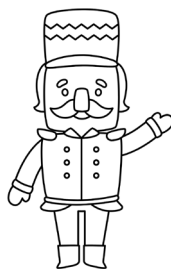
Ballet is a form of dance that is used to tell a **narrative**, or story. Ballet is often performed with music, costumes, and stage scenery. A group of ballet dancers is called a “company.”

A brief history of ballet:

-  1480s Ballet is first documented during the Italian Renaissance.
-  1580s Ballet is popularized in French courts by Catherine di Medici.
-  1681 The first female lead dancer takes the stage.
-  1697 Ballet and opera come together to make opéra-ballet! Opéra-ballet includes singing, dancing, and orchestral music set to a loose theme.
-  1750s Ballet d'action, or ballet centered around a **narrative** without singing, is developed.
-  1832 Pointe, or dancing on the tips of the toes, is invented. Ballerinas start wearing tutus, ballet skirts made from layers of light fabric.
-  1892 *The Nutcracker* is first performed in Russia.
-  Ballet today, or **contemporary ballet**, has elements of classical ballet and modern dance. Contemporary ballet requires dancers to follow the same rules as classical ballet and can be combined with other dance styles, like jazz dance.



THE NUTCRACKER





THE NUTCRACKER WORD SEARCH

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Ballet
Candy
Christmas
Clara
Dance

Dream
Gifts
King
Magic
Mouse

Music
Nutcracker
Orchestra
Prince
Snowflake

Soldier
Sugarplum
Tchaikovsky
Toy
Tree



DISCOVER THE JOY OF MUSIC!



presents

Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Family Musical Mornings are 45-minute concerts perfect for families (ages 5+), designed to inspire a lifelong love of music. Enjoy an engaging multimedia experience featuring the Symphony, singers, actors, and dancers. Share the joy of music and create unforgettable memories. Scan the code to purchase tickets!



LEOPOLD LOVES OPERA!

Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025
10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Leopold returns to join Maestro Jake and Pacific Symphony for a magical morning celebrating opera's greatest composers. With talented singers, each performance takes you on a journey through classical music's most beloved hits. From Mozart to Verdi, Puccini to Bernstein, opera-lovers of all ages will be swept away by the passion of this timeless art form.



¡FIESTA SINFÓNICA! CON MARIACHI GARIBALDI!

Saturday, Mar. 22, 2025
10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Immerse yourself in the lively rhythms of Mariachi Garibaldi as Pacific Symphony celebrates the heart of Mexican culture with a vibrant blend of ballet folklórico and mariachi traditions. Experience the spectacle of dance and the soul of this rich musical heritage, featuring favorites like "Guadalajara." Join us for a symphonic fiesta where every beat invites you to dance and every melody celebrates life!