

This performance of The Nutcracker is dedicated in memory of Alexandra Linscott









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Proceeds benefit the lancers in our community.

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Located in the Orchestra Lobby Open before the show, during intermission and after the Saturday performances.

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Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company would like to thank the following people for their generous donations which made it possible to create new soldier costumes for this year's production of...

"The Nutcracker"

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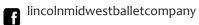
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Artistic Director Shari True presents

"
The Unteracker"

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Featuring the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra Conducted by Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr.

> Saturday, December 16, 2017 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

> > &

Sunday, December 17, 2017 2 p.m.

Stage Manager: Molly Thomas

Technical Director: Total Entertainment, Tom Curtright **Head Costumer and Costume Builder:** Maralee Maldavs

Hair & Makeup Designer & Assistant Costumer: Donna Himmelberger

Assistant to the Costumer: Emily Maldavs **Lighting Designer:** John Himmelberger

Assistant Stage Managers: Katherine Brinkman, Kira Taylore

Rehearsal Assistants: Betsy Andersen, Ashley Durst

Accompanist: Burton Schernikau **Executive Director:** Kelly Duncan



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LMBC MISSION

The Mission of the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company is to promote excellence in the art of ballet through performances, education, and community outreach.

LMBC extends our appreciation to all of the area dance studios. The success of the Nutcracker depends upon your passion for dance and the support and guidance you provide to the talented youth of our community.

Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild

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BACKSTAGE AT THE BALLET

Backstage at the Ballet is an artists-in-residency program sponsored by the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild. Backstage at the Ballet was a vision of our artistic director, Shari True, to give children hands-on opportunities to experience ballet in a fun learning environment. This year, artists from Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company worked with students at Cavett Elementary School during the week of December 4-8. This special program was funded generously by Allstate.

Thank you to the dancers and staff who assisted with this year's program.

The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company and Guild would like to thank these businesses and individuals for their generous support:

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The History of the Nutcracker Ballet

2017 marks 125 years since the first Nutcracker performance.

In 1890, A. Vsevolozhsky, director of Imperial Theatres in Russia, planned *The Nutcracker* as a repeat of the collaboration that had created the huge 1890 success, *Sleeping Beauty*. The collaborations included himself, Tchaikovsky, and chief choreographer of the Imperial Theatres, M.I. Petipa. Petipa presented Tchaikovsky with a very detailed libretto, specifying not only the types of music and nature of the characters but also the tempos, the numbers of bars for actions, and even the pieces of music from which he wanted Tchaikovsky to borrow melodies. Petipa took the story, not directly from Hoffman's *The Nutcracker* and *The King of the Mice*, but from a French version of the tale written by Alexander Dumas Pere, *The Nutcracker of Nuremberg*.

From the beginning, Petipa intended to cast children in the ballet. In Act I, he originally asked for children to perform a series of national dances. Soon after Tchaikovsky received the libretto, Petipa told him to move these dances to Act II and to use professional adults. This change allowed both the choreographer and the composer much more freedom.

In June 1891, Tchaikovsky ordered from Paris the newly invented celesta to use in *The Nutcracker*. "Have it sent directly to St. Petersburg . . . but no one there must know about it. I am afraid others might hear of it and make use of the effect before I could. I expect the instrument will make a tremendous sensation." Tchaikovsky used the celesta to follow Petipa's instructions that the Sugar Plum Fairy's music must sound like the sprays of a fountain.

In spring 1892, Tchaikovsky premiered *The Nutcracker Ballet Suite*, an eight-part concert version of the ballet music. At least six times, the audience demanded immediate encores of specific music selections. Because of the Suite's instant success, the score was published even before the ballet premiered.

In September, rehearsals began for *The Nutcracker* at the Maryinsky Theatre. (Later, the theatre and company were renamed the Kirov in honor of a hero of the Communist revolution; in the post-Communist era, they have returned to their original name.) Due to illness, Petipa withdrew as choreographer and was replaced by Lev Ivanov. Generally, Ivanov is credited with the choreography. Newspapers began referring to the beauty of the costumes and sets.

On December 17, The Nutcracker premiered to mixed reviews, some worrying that its lush orchestration made the ballet music unsuitable for dancing. Agrippina Vaganova, the famous Russian ballet teacher, said "Connoisseurs of ballet purposely took seats in the upper tier to admire the beautiful patterns [of the] waltz of the Snowflakes" performed by sixty dancers.

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The History of the Nutcracker Ballet

The Nutcracker probably faded from the Maryinsky repertory with Ivanov's death in 1901 but was revived in 1909 by N. Sergeyev, a student at the time of the premiere. His notes about the choreography and the production are the documentary link to the original ballet. In 1934, he used these resources to help produce in London the first complete *Nutcracker* outside of Russia.

In 1919, the Bolshoi produced Moscow's first *Nutcracker*. The little girl Masha was played by an adult ballerina who performed the Sugar Plum Fairy pas de deux with the Nutcracker, who was transformed into a prince and took the dances originally given to the Sugar Plum Fairy's Cavalier.

Americans first saw *The Nutcracker* in 1940, when Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo presented an abbreviated version. In 1944, San Francisco Ballet staged a full production directed by William Christensen. In 1954, George Balanchine brought authentic experience to his productions for New York City Ballet. In Russia, he had been a student at the Maryinsky School, where he advanced from toy soldier to Prince. He was coached by dancers from the original production, especially Pavel Gerdt, the original Cavalier/Prince.

Since mid-century, *The Nutcracker* has become as much a part of America's Christmas season as Santa. Composers, choreographers, and designers continually play with the original. Duke Ellington jazzed up the score to become *The Nutcracker Sweety*. Maurice Sendak and Pacific Northwest Ballet collaborated on a stylishly psychological exploration, a version that has become widely known through *Nutcracker: The Motion Picture*. Mark Morris' *The Hard Nut* created a satiric, gender-bending story moved to 1950s U.S.A.

The Lincoln Community Playhouse produced a *Nutcracker* for several years, as did other regional groups. In 1985, to establish a locally-produced *Nutcracker*, cast mainly with local dancers, Shari True and five others formed Ballet Midwest. Several years later, Ballet Midwest and Lincoln City Ballet joined to form Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company which is now producing its thirtieth *Nutcracker*. LMBC joins New York City Ballet and Colorado Ballet in creating a traditional *Nutcracker* with live symphonic music, classic dance style, lush sets, and costumes suggesting a romantic yesterday.

Bibliography

Balanchine and Mason, Brinson and Crisp, Brown, Dance Magazine, Newman, Strutte, Terry, Warrack, Volkov and Wiley. Researched by Susan Steinegger



SHARI TRUE

Artistic Director

Shari True founded Ballet Midwest in 1985, which then merged with Lincoln City Ballet in 1992. The new company was renamed Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company —LMBC—and True stayed on as artistic director. Offering high-quality artistic and educational opportunities for young dancers is a passion

for True. Under her direction, the Company has provided educational outreach programs such as the annual LMBC Summer Camp and Backstage at the Ballet.

Now in her 33rd year as artistic director, True continues to be a driving creative force, continually bringing new staging, choreography, superior costumes and special effects to *The Nutcracker*. Elements True has brought to the ballet include a magical spinning bed, a lighting effect that allows the audience to experience snow, and Clara and the Nutcracker Prince flying in a giant swan that is pulled by large hoists rented just for the production. Prior to LMBC, True's *Nutcracker* experience included dancing in Ballet Omaha's production of The Nutcracker for five years and as assistant choreographer of the Lincoln Community Playhouse's productions of *The Nutcracker* in 1982 and 1983.

True also directs LMBC's biennial spring ballet productions, which have included *Coppelia*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*, *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. All LMBC productions and camps allow young dancers the opportunity to work with professional guest artists, who are brought to Lincoln from around the country.

True is a graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, with degrees in elementary education and dance. She was a member of Orchesis Dance (ensemble), UNL Flag and Dance Corps, and the Nebraska Dance Ensemble in Classical Ballet. Her professional dance experience includes being on staff of the Ballet West Summer Dance Camp in Colorado and the St. Louis Ballet. True has taught master ballet classes in Denver, Dallas and Kansas City. In 1980 she started her own dance academy in Lincoln, now called True Dance & Co., providing instruction in classical ballet, jazz, pointe and tap to many Lincoln area youth. Her traveling competition team has won many awards and her choreography for them has garnered "Best Choreography" honors.

True's artistic achievements include writing and choreography for *The Crystal Slippers*, an original ballet that premiered in Lincoln and was also performed by the Chamberlain Ballet Company in Dallas, Texas. She also choreographed *Carmina Burana* for Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra in 2002. Lincoln audiences have also seen her choreography in Pinewood Bowl productions of *Hello, Dolly!* and *Carousel*.

In 1985 she danced with Academy West, Rolland DuPree, and taught for Act III Studio in West Hollywood, California. A proud moment for True was appearing in Universal Studio's movie *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar* in a speaking part as the dance teacher.

In 1999, True was presented with the Lincoln Arts Council's Helen Haggie Award for outstanding artistic achievement.

If you're known by the company you keep, then it's good to be us.

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2017 Artistic Staff

Tom Curtright • *Technical Director*

Tom has been working in the entertainment industry for nearly 40 years, and has worked with LMBC since The Nutcracker was performed at Pershing Auditorium. He has created the wonderful sets, props and stage design that LMBC audiences enjoy annually. Curtright has provided entertainment and performing arts technical designs for numerous local productions and hundreds of corporate and other special events.

Maralee Maldavs · Head Costumer and Costume Builder

Maralee has been designing and creating costumes for theater and dance productions for the more than 15 years. She currently works with several local dance studios, creating award-winning costumes for competition pieces as well as recital pieces. She has also worked with Lincoln's Pinewood Bowl, The Lincoln Community Playhouse and The Stage Theater in Hickman. Maralee is the owner of JEM Creations, LLC, and this is her sixth year working with The Nutcracker.

Donna Himmelberger · Hair & Make up Designer/Assistant Costumer

Donna Himmelberger has been working in the costume design field for nearly 40 years. In the more than 25 years she has lived in Lincoln, she has worked at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, freelanced with LMBC, Universal Dance Studio, the Mahoney State Park Melodramas, the Fremont Dinner Train Melodramas, the Nebraska Shakespeare Company, and the Omaha Community Theatre. Himmelberger was the department costume designer at Nebraska Wesleyan University for seven years before becoming an adjunct instructor in the communications department. She is currently at Doane College, where she is the theatre department costume designer.

Emily Maldavs • Assistant to the Costumer

Emily Maldavs is a Senior Conservation Biology major at University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She is excited to officially be a part of the costume department of this year's Nutcracker after participating as a dancer for ten years. Past roles include Clara in 2012 and Snow Queen in 2011 and 2013, among many others. Emily studied at Point Park University in the Conservatory of Performing Arts and performed in multiple productions before returning to teach for Piccoli Dance Theatre in Lincoln.



2017 Artistic Staff

John Himmelberger · *Lighting Designer*

John Himmelberger has been the Lighting Designer for *The Nutcracker* since 1996. John has designed lighting for many Lincoln area performing arts organizations including Lincoln City Ballet, the Dance Institute, Universal Dance Academy, Lincoln Community Playhouse, Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, UNL Opera, Doane University Theatre Department, and the Lied Center for Performing Arts, where he is the staff Lighting and Production Specialist. Recent area productions include Mary Poppins, Circle Mirror Transformation, Snow White, Assassins, Heart of Robin Hood and The Seagull.

Burton Schernikau · Accompanist

Burton Schernikau is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with BME and MM degrees with emphasis in music education and composition. After teaching for many years in Lincoln Public Schools, he became a professor of music at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He has a private voice and piano studio and is an adjudicator and director for competitions, contests, clinics, workshops and other artistic events and has been involved in the arts community in a variety of capacities. He is the pianist for LMBC's Nutcracker rehearsals and summer camp and is a guest pianist for many other professional ballet companies throughout the United States. He is the artistic director of the Lincoln Boys Choir, which has traveled worldwide and has been recognized for its unique choral style. Schernikau has been recognized by the Nebraska Music Educators and has received the Outstanding Music Alumni award from NWU. He has been chosen as an admiral in the Navy of the State of Nebraska. He is a 33rd degree Mason and the organist for the Scottish Rite and Shrine organizations.

Betsy Andersen · Rehearsal Assistant

Betsy Andersen began dancing at age three, training in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical and contemporary. She danced with the Lincoln City Ballet Company from 1987-1989 in Peter and the Wolf and The Wizard of Oz. She has danced with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company since 1989 and has performed for more than 20 years in *The* Nutcracker. Betsy was a Company Member for five years and has also performed in LMBC productions of Coppelia, Sleeping Beauty, and Festival of Dancers. She attended numerous LMBC summer programs and was accepted to the Colorado Ballet summer dance program. Betsy is a LMBC Rehearsal Assistant (1996-1999) and 2010 to present. She was an advanced ballet student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the direction of Dr. Lisa Fuscillo. She was awarded a ballet scholarship, appeared in University dance performances and was selected to dance with Opera Omaha. Betsy taught dance in Omaha for ten years. Her choreography won top honors, finishing in the top three at the Hall of Fame Nationals in Chicago in 2010. She danced with the Omaha Modern Dance Collective and continued her ballet training in Omaha under the direction of the late Mary Waugh-Taylor. She has also danced with the Lincoln Contemporary Dance Project. Ms. Betsy has a BSBA from UNL in Human Resource Management with minors in History and Dance and attended graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. "I am grateful to the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company to be a part of this treasured holiday tradition."

2017 Artistic Staff

Ashley Durst · Rehearsal Assistant

Ashley was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska where she grew up dancing in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's Nutcracker. She was a ten-year member performing roles such as Snow Queen, Spain and Clara. Ashley attended the University of Nebraska for one year where she was a member of the Scarlet's Dance Team. She transferred to Oklahoma City University where she received her Bachelors and Masters degree in Dance Performance and Dance Teaching. While in Oklahoma she taught and choreographed for numerous dance studios throughout the state, including judging and teaching for Dance Masters of America Dance Convention. At Oklahoma City University she was a member of the American Spirit Dance Company, in which she toured with the company serving as the company representative. Post graduation, Ashley spent eight months dancing and traveling with Carnival Cruise Lines as a dancer in their Production Shows. Ashley has spent the past five years teaching dance in both Lincoln and Omaha, as well an Adjunct Professor of dance at Creighton University. Ashley is thrilled to be a part of this year's Nutcracker, as well as participating in it.

Molly Thomas · *Stage Manager*

Molly received her bachelor's degree in teaching from University of Nebraska, and her master's in educational leadership from Doane College. She teaches theatre and English at Lincoln High School. Molly has been stage managing *The Nutcracker* for the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for more than 20 years. Molly has also worked with the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, the Lincoln Community Playhouse, Nebraska Directors Theatre, Theatrix, Flatwater Shakespeare and the University of Nebraska's Theatre Department.

Kira Taylore · Assistant Stage Manager

Kira Taylore is a senior at Lincoln High School, and is interested in having a business career in the performing arts. This is her fourth and final year assistant stage managing the Nutcracker Ballet. She has acted in several LHS productions including Stone Hearts, Bye Bye Birdie, and Skinflints and Scoundrels: Moliere's The Miser. She studied ballet for four years, and is excited to see how skilled everyone is, both on and off the stage.

Kathrine Brinkman · Assistant Stage Manager

Katie Brinkman, a junior at Lincoln High School, enjoys tech, stage management, and acting within the LHS Theatre Department and professionally with SPTC (Silicon Prairie Theatre Company). She is a Technical Representative for the LHS Theatre Board and member of the LHS Tech Team. Her acting credits include membership in Illusion Theatre and Minnie Fay in *Hello Dolly*. Katie is the Associate Executive Director of Silicon Prairie Theatre Company and works as a sound designer, prop designer, and stage manager for the company. Katie enjoys music and theatre and intends to make the arts part of her life after high school.

2017 Guest Artists



Krystina Ann Wendelken • Sugar Plum Fairy

Krystina Wendelken is from Long Island, NY. From a very young age, she started training with her mother, Jacqueline Jaramillo in a small school on Long Island. She then was offered a full scholarship to attend the Orlando Ballet School year round program, under the director of Peter Stark, she trained there for 7 years. By the age of

17 she moved to Carlisle, PA to start training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet under the direction of Marcia Dale Weary, Leslie Hench, and Laszlo Berdo. Krystina was offered a trainee position with The Washington Ballet under the direction of Septime Webre, she had the opportunity to perform in multiple productions including, corp de ballet of *Swan Lake, Sleepy Hollow, Alice in Wonderland,* and also soloist in *Fluctuating Hemlines, State of Wonder,* and *Carmen*. Krystina has been performing and guesting with numerous companies all over NYC.



Tevfik Vatansever · Cavalier

Tevfik Bayram Vatansever, born in Williamsburg, Virginia, began his dance training at the age of sixteen with the Hilton Head Dance Theatre under John and Karena Brock-Carlyle. He was later invited by Stanislav Issaev to train at the South Carolina Governor's School

for the Arts and Humanities. He went on to win silver in men's senior classical ballet at YAGP Atlanta, 2013, and compete in the semi-finals of the 4th International Istanbul Ballet Competition 2014. Some of Tevfik's favorite roles he has portrayed include; James from *La Sylphide*, Sugar Plum Cavalier in *Nutcracker*, Ali in *Le Corsair*, and Kashchei the Immortal in *The Firebird*. Most recently, Tevfik performed *Flames of Paris* and *Swan Lake* pas de trois for Yoko Kasai Ballet Studio's gala performance in Fujinomiya, Japan. Additionally, he has worked with Nashville Ballet, Charleston City Ballet and has studied with teachers from ABT, Royal Danish Ballet, Deutsche Oper Ballet, Moscow Classical Ballet, and Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre. Currently, he is pursuing an economics degree as a full time student at the University of South Carolina while performing throughout the season.

2017 Guest Artists



Nathan Powell • Nutcracker Prince

Nathan Powell is from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, where he received his early dance training. He started professional training at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and had the chance to tour with the school throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. He received a RBC Youth Excellence Scholarship in 2006 as a member of

Festival Dance at the Banff Centre and performed with Northern Plains Ballet before joining Festival Ballet Providence for three seasons under Mihailo Djuric. Nathan has spent several summers with Ballet Montana and before coming to Ballet Idaho danced with Ballet San Antonio. In 2012, Nathan had his Ballet Idaho choreographic debut with a new ballet, *Timepiece*, which reviewer Dana Oland from Idaho Statesman called "a fun character ballet with a sci-fi twist." He has also choreographed works for Anchorage Ballet, Ballet Montana, and the Boise Dance Co-op.



Eric Carnes • Snow King, Marzipan

Eric Carnes began dancing at age 7. At 12, Eric began receiving training and private coaching by renowned International Ballet Master Joseph Albano. Eric has performed in the Ariston Proballet Company, Sanremo, Italy. He has performed as a guest at the International Dance Competition in Italy. Most recently Eric has

performed for three years at the Rudolph Nureyev Estate in Monte Carlo. In Monte Carlo he danced Joseph Albano's 'L'apres Midi d'un Faune' to critical acclaim at a memorial performance for Nureyev. Eric is currently a Principal dancer with the Albano Ballet Company in Hartford Connecticut.



Cameron Wille · Arabian

Cameron Wille grew up in Nederland, Texas, and has trained extensively in the styles of tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, clogging, hip-hop, and contemporary. He has been a member of Tremaine's National Performance Company for the past three years. He is also a principal dancer for Muse Dance Company and MusEffect. He appears

courtesy of Muse Dance Company.

2017 Guest Artists



Matthew Fata · Arabian

Matthew Fata grew up in a small town in Canada. As a young dancer he trained in all styles of dance including jazz, ballet, tap, hip-hop, lyrical and contemporary. He teaches, tours, choreographs and dances for Muse Dance Company as well as many studios throughout Canada and the United States and is a member

of the MusEffect. Through his master classes, he strives to inspire dancers to express themselves through the art of dance and truly instill a sense of joy and accomplishment in every student. He appears courtesy of Muse Dance Company.



Ben Chandler · *Drosselmeier*

This is Ben Chandler's 22nd season with The Nutcracker. His many roles include: Drosselmeier, Battle Nutcracker, Mouse King, Arabian, Russian, Spain, Snow King and Party Parent. Chandler runs his own handyman service in Omaha.

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company thanks the musicians of the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra for once again providing the live music for *The Nutcracker*.

The Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra (NSCO) is comprised of professional musicians from the Lincoln and Omaha areas, and has performed for the annual production of Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's Nutcracker at the Lied Center for Performing Arts since 1995. The NSCO has also performed for operas, musical productions, and a variety of special events for Nebraska Wesleyan University, Doane College and area churches. In 1994, the NSCO played with Rod Stewart in a sold-out performance at Lincoln's Devaney Center.

In the last several years, the NSCO has performed Bach's *Magnificat*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. In addition, the NSCP has provided local musicians for the National Touring Productions of *Ragtime*, *Chicago*, *All Shook Up*, *South Pacific*, *Peter Pan*, *Frankie Avalon*, *Steve Lippia—Simply Sinatra*, *Broadway Today*, *Celtic Tenors*, Bernadette Peters, *All Hands On Deck*, *Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*.

DR. HERBERT E. DREGALLA, JR.

Conductor, Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra



Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr., is the Interim Chair of the Wright State University Department of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures. He also is the Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Dregalla has served Wright State University as the Director of Semester Conversion and as Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

Dr. Dregalla has a broad background of training and experience in instrumental music and music education. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Dregalla taught in Ohio, New York, Tennessee, and Nebraska before becoming Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at Wright State University in 1998.

Dr. Dregalla holds degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He has studied clarinet with Joseph Bosoty, Alan Squire and Herbert Blayman, and conducting with Henry Schuman, Dwight Oltman, and Bruce Hangen. From 1969 to 1971, Dr. Dregalla served in the United States Army as a member of the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, N.Y. In 1984 he was awarded the Conservatory Alumni Award by Baldwin-Wallace College for achievements in music and music education.

From 1980 to 1998, Dr. Dregalla was on the faculty of Nebraska Wesleyan University where he conducted the NWU Symphonic Band and taught instrumental conducting, instrumental music methods and other university classes. He also served as Chair of the Department of Music and Chair of the Division of Fine and Applied Arts.

Dr. Dregalla is a former clarinetist with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony Orchestra and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra. He has toured Nebraska under the sponsorship of the Nebraska Arts Council, both as a clarinet soloist and as a member of the Nebraska Wesleyan University's Huntington Trio.

Since 1995, Dr. Dregalla has conducted performances of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company and the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra. In 2011, Dr. Dregalla was awarded the Lincoln Midwest Company's Lyle R. Johnson Commitment to Excellence Award, for outstanding support of the Ballet Company.

In 1993 Dr. Dregalla was appointed Music Director of the Lincoln Municipal Band, a professional band performing in Lincoln with a history of more than 100 years, a position which he held through 1998. In August of 1994, the Lincoln Municipal Band, under the direction of Dr. Dregalla, performed a series of concerts in Japan as guest of the government of the city of Matsusaka, Japan. These concerts included two performances at the prestigious World Festival Exposition in Japan's Mie Prefecture.

Dr. Dregalla served as the Music Director and conductor of the Lincoln Civic Orchestra from 1986 to 1998. Dr. Dregalla has served on the executive board of both the Nebraska Music Education Association and the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, and on the steering committee for the Nebraska Coalition for Music Education.

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

Violin I

Kim Salistean. Concertmaster Lisa Nielsen Summer Brackhan Aleta Collier Erin Aguirre Rose Hunter

Violin II

Donna Carnes, Principal Kristin Pfabe Kara Baxter Lisa Myers Charon Becker

Viola

Cindy Ricker, Principal Clark Potter Sarah Curley Christine Widman

Cello

Tracy Sands. Principal Karen Becker Leslie Tien Alyssa Storey

Bass

Mike Swartz, Principal Hans Sturm

Flute

John Bailey, Principal Betsy Bobenhouse

Piccolo

Becky van de Bogart

Oboe

William McMullen, Principal Lindsay Wiley

English Horn

Darci Gamerl

Clarinet

Ed Love. Principal **Christy Banks**

Bass Clarinet

Jessica Lindsev

Bassoon

Karen Sandene, Principal Joyce Besch

Horn

Ric Ricker, Principal Kim Beasley Harold Oliver Kaylene Diaz

Trumpet

Dean Haist, Principal **Brad Obbink**

Trombone

Terry Rush, Principal **Noel Johnson** Nancy Vogt

Tuba

Kevin Madden

Percussion

Kevin Kroon

Timpani

Rich Jones

Keyboard Loretta Love

Harp

Anita Jaynes

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

315 South 9th Street, Suite 110 Lincoln, NE 68508-2283

Phone 402.477.8008 • Fax 402.477.8222

artsinc@artsincorporated.org • artsincorporated.org/nsco

Dean W. Haist, Executive Director

Staff: Hannah Bell, Dave Bowden, Elizabeth Folk, Jamie Huvnh. Mitch Dunham, Hannah Rivers, Madison Ryan, Nancy Vogt

The Nutcracker Story

Act 1 approximately 58 minutes

Drosselmeier's Workshop

In his workshop one foggy Christmas Eve, Drosselmeier places the finishing touches on his beautifully crafted Nutcracker doll. This is a special gift for Clara, his goddaughter. It will be the crucial part of the magical evening he's preparing for her.

A Snowy Street

Excited guests scurry along wintery streets to the Stahlbaum's Christmas celebration. Drosselmeier shuffles through the snow, delivering his beloved gift.

The Stahlbaum Ballroom

The Stahlbaums welcome their guests with cheery toasts. Soon the party is filled with food, dancing, and gifts. The exciting night fills Clara with wonder. As the children settle down, Drosselmeier entertains the guests. He delights them with a puppet show and amazes them with his magic, life-sized, dancing dolls. Drosselmeier then gives Clara his most special gift, the Nutcracker doll. Full of delight, Clara dances with it until Fritz grabs the doll. The children's struggle breaks the Nutcracker. Drosselmeier bandages the doll and returns it to Clara.

A grand procession concludes the party. The Stahlbaums bid their guest farewell then retire upstairs. But Clara creeps back down, searching for her Nutcracker. Not wanting her party to end, she falls asleep on the sofa with the doll in her arms.

The Ballroom Battle

As Clara dreams, her mind whirls with memories of the evening. Then she's frightened when mice sneak in. The clock strikes midnight. Appearing as an owl atop the clock, Drosselmeier puts a spell on the house. Clara sees the living room change and the Christmas tree grow larger and larger. The mice take her doll. Drosselmeier brings Clara a magic bed to keep her safe as she twirls in and out of her dream. In march brigades of soldiers followed by mice and the Mouse King. Drosselmeier's magic transforms the small doll into a powerful soldier who leads the battle to protect Clara. But he falls from the Mouse King's powerful stab.

The Snowy Edges of the Forest

The battle fades leaving Clara alone with the Nutcracker. Her tears and enduring love bring him another transformation; he becomes a handsome Prince. As snow begins to fall, the Snow King and Queen lead the couple through a swirling storm of dancing flakes and into an enchanted forest where a magic swan carries Clara and the Prince off to the Land of Sweets.

Intermission 25 minutes

Act II approximately 55 minutes

The Palace

Clara and the Nutcracker Prince fly over the heavens to the Land of Sweets. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier greet them and introduce dancers from many lands. The dancers entertain the couple and bring them gifts. Fiery Spain brings chocolates; Arabian gives the alluring steam of coffee; China offers tea; Marzipans bring the song of reed pipes; Russians powerfully display their traditional Trepak dance; Mother Ginger cavorts with her tumbling Bon Bons. The Dew Drop Fairy enchants the couple with the swirling Waltz of the Flowers. Finally, the entertainment culminates with the elegant, noble dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier.

The Awakening

As the entertainment subsides, Clara's dream ends, and the Land of Sweets fades away. Clara awakens back in her home. With her, we are left to wonder whether her journey was only a dream or was somehow true. The growing-up Clara, and all who believe, know that wonders happen for those who open their hearts to them.

2017 Nutcracker Cast

Act I

Herr Drosselmeier: Benjamin Chandler

Elves: Ariana Cunningham, Grace Fry, Evangeline Peterson, Julia Radu, Ella Runyan, Carly

Sellhorn

Clara: Emily Yost

Fritz: Zachary Bushard
Dr. Stahlbaum: John Coffey
Mrs. Stahlbaum: Ashley Durst

Big Party Girls: Tierny Blankenhorn, Elizabeth Friend, Lena Lankas, Avery Noden, Maggie

Oulianova, Addison Parde, Ansley Sothan, Whitney Tomes

Big Party Boys: Liam Bagby, Kason Cade, John Greisen, Ethan Liphardt, Noah Lyon, Cael

Meranda, Nicholas Reed, Kyren Watson

Little Party Girls: Ayla Brosman, Taryn Harrah, Malayah Long, Kiptara Thomas **Little Party Boys:** Pheonix Decker, Cael Meranda, Tyler Stover, Jamison Thies

Party Women: Sarah McCurley, Jessica Olson, Kelley Peterson, Maggie Rawlings, Tyne

Thorson, McKenzie True

Party Men: Stephen Cass, Matt Coffey, Dale Miller, Kent Miller, Vladimir Oulianov

First Maid: Nora Schlegel

Maids: Olivia Foster, Sydney Marra, Finley Peterson, Alexa Rea

Harlequin Doll: Taylor Fry Harlequin Man: Jack Tracy Columbine Doll: Emma Luci Jester Doll: Ashley Barry

Nutcracker Prince: Nathan Powell **Mouse King:** Corbin Reinhardt

Big Mice: Eloise Carter, Addison Catlin, Dottie Francisco, Kaitlyn Friesen, Ava Kupke, Lauren Love, Sidney Lovegrove, Olivia McCurley, Hannah Rutt, Hannah Tang, Sophie

Tomes, Georgia Wood

Little Mice: Nora Davis, Morgan Foged, Jacy Hamilton, Hayley Marshall, Ada Rawlings,

Mila Shultheis, Bella Sjuts, Teagan Smith

Soldiers: Sidney Ackerman, Evelyn Dahlman, Isabelle Douglas, Sarah Farritor, Ava Flood, Aubrey Hodge, Maya Hutzler, Carmen Marley, Julia Mulloy, Arianna Pickering, Hailey

Stege, Ava Strunk, Lily Teten, Taylan Ulrich, Brianna Weers, Clara Wolfe

Snow Queen: McKaylee True

Snow King: Eric Carnes

Snow Princesses: Leah Andersen, Ashley Barry, Grace Herron, Emma Luci

Snow Corps: Abby Collier, Rose Copes, Sarah DeBoer, Josie Fillmore, Nicole Fintel, Taylor Fry, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Sydney Marra, Finley Peterson, Nora Schlegel, Riley Struve,

Megan Workman

2017 Nutcracker Cast

Act II

Sugar Plum Fairy: Krystina Wendelken

Cavalier: Tevfik Vatansever

Angel Leads: Karmi Jay, Anna Walters

Angel A (Saturday/Sunday Matinee): Annalise Aldag, Ellie Anderson, Gianna Bonta, Isabella Brown, Annika Carlson, Emily Drummond, Sophia Fox, Maddy Kotik, Calla Kupke, Macie Lenhoff, Ruby Lichtenfeld, Emily Lovegrove, Sarah Manzitto, Olivia Myers, Evie Olivera, Charlotte Shotkoski, Clara Thorson, Rilynn Whitney

Angel B (Saturday, 7 p.m.): Emilyn Changstrom, Emily Drummond, Evelyn Dunder, Kinleigh Kerkemeyer, Emme Kleager, Macie Lenhoff, Halle Myers, River Nuttleman, Madeline Paup, Ainsley Perry, Isabella Reynoso, Emma Riddle, Jacie Robinson, Addyson Schlegelmilch, Susannah Schulte, Emelia Shaw, Macy Vest, Hannah Zimmerle

Sugar and Spice: Anna Deutsch, Ruby Francisco, Kennedy Johnson, Avari Korsmo, Kate Nolley, Kiennah Reimers

Spain: Ashley Barry

Spanish Background: Cate Barry, Brooklynn Bourke, Jordan Bussey, Rylee Lingenfelter, Brenna McAdam, Lilly Michel, Adelyn Opp, Destiney Watson

Arabian Queen: McKaylee True

Arabian Men: Matthew Fata, Cameron Wille

Arabian Background: Mia Hansen, Phoebe Kolb, Olivia Reinert, Camryn Tompkins, Iva

Marie Volf, Chloe Weakly

China: Taylor Fry, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Riley Struve

Chinese Lanterns: Karmi Jay, Brooke Oliver, Maggie Oulianova, Ansley Sothan, Holly

Tolliver, Anna Walters

Marzipan: Emma Luci, Megan Workman

Marzipan Man: Eric Carnes

Russian: Rose Copes, Finley Peterson

Russian Man: Jack Tracy

Russian Background: Elena Belashchenko, Ellie Cetak, Arden George, Chase Johnson,

Jada Rohlmeier, Ellie Weeks, Brooklyn Westlund, Madison Wiens

Bon Bon: Khataya Briones, Lauren Foutz, Blythe Meranda, Audrey Rowell, Kate Satorie,

Novalee Schmit, Brooklynn Stege, Natalie Thompson

Mother Ginger: Jessica Olson Dew Drop: Leah Andersen

Demi Dews: Sarah DeBoer, Grace Herron

Flower Corps: Abby Collier, Josie Fillmore, Nicole Fintel, Olivia Lempka, Sydney Marra,

Alexa Rea, Nora Schlegel, Rylee Tucker

Garland Children: Livia Bonnie, Helen Brozovic, Brynley Cooper, Julia Cooper, Evelyn Jacoby, Ava Keim, Olivia Lovegrove, Ella Matoush, Addison Scott, Aliyah Soliz, Grace

Troyer, Ali Weber



Front row, seated on the floor L to R: Taylor Fry, Jack Tracy, Nora Schlegel, Emma Luci, Abby Collier, Finley Peterson; Second row, kneeling L to R: Rose Copes, McKaylee True, Emily Yost; Back row, stading L to R: Megan Workman, Sydney Marra, Leah Andersen, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Nicole Fintel, Sarah DeBoer, Ashley Barry, Grace Herron, Riley Struve, Alexa Rea, Olivia Foster

2017 Understudy Roles

Leah Andersen: Understudy Snow Queen **Ashley Barry:** Understudy Dew Drop

Rose Copes: Understudy Columbine

Sarah DeBoer: Understudy Snow Princess

Ava Flood: Understudy Spanish Background

Grace Fry: Understudy Garland Child

Anneliese Hinrichsen: Understudy Demi Dew

Karmi Jay: Understudy Big Party Girl

Emma Luci: Understudy Arabian

Ella Runyan: Understudy Garland Child

Nora Schlegel: Understudy China
Ansley Sothan: Understudy Flower

and Understudy Snow Corps

Riley Struve: Understudy Harlequin
Holly Tolliver: Understudy Big Party Girl

Rylee Tucker: Understudy Snow Corps

Megan Workman: Understudy Spain



Leah Andersen • *Snow Princess, Dew Drop*Leah is a sophomore at Lincoln East High School, where she is an honors student, plays violin in the varsity orchestra, and is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. This is her eighth appearance in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles have included Cinnamon, Little Party Girl, Spanish Background, Big Party Girl, Flower Corps, Snow Princess, and Marzipan. In LMBC's productions of *Snow White*, Leah has danced the roles of Dwarf, Friend of Snow White and Jewel Lead. This

past summer, Leah trained at Ballet West in Salt Lake City for six weeks. She has also studied at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle; and she received merit scholarships to study at the Kansas City Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and Tulsa Ballet. Leah competes regionally and nationally, and has won scholarships from Adrenaline, the New York City Dance Alliance, Velocity, NUVO, and 24-Seven. Leah competed at the 2016 Youth of America Grande Prix Chicago Semi-Finals, and received an invitation to attend the YAGP New York Finals Intensive. At the 2017 YAGP Chicago Semi-Finals, Leah placed in the top 12 of the junior contemporary division. Leah is looking forward to competing for a third year at the YAGP Semi-Finals in Austin, Texas, and at the UDA Nationals with her dance team in Orlando, Florida, in February. Performing in *The Nutcracker* is the highlight of Leah's year, and she is grateful to the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for providing wonderful dance opportunities for our local youth.



Ashley Barry · Jester Doll, Snow Princess, Spain
Ashley Barry, 17, is an honor roll student at Pius X High
School. She is trained in many styles of dance, with
ballet as her main focus. This is her fifth performance
in The Nutcracker. Her past roles have included Sugar
and Spice, Chinese Lantern, Snow Corps, and Demi Dew.
Ashley has previously been part of Ballet Nebraska's preprofessional ballet company, BNII. There she performed
in many professional productions including Snow White,
Momentum, and The Nutcracker. She enjoys performing

in local performances as well. In her free time, she loves spending time with friends and family, and working at a local grocery store, A-Street Market. This fall, Ashley plans on majoring in biomedical sciences in order to pursue a career in the medical field



Abby Collier • Snow Corps, Flower Corps
Abby, 15, is a sophomore honor roll student at Lincoln
East High School. This will be her fourth appearance
in The Nutcracker. Her past roles include Sugar and
Spice, Spanish Background, and Chinese Lantern. She
also participated in LMBC's 2017 Snow White as Flower
of the Forest and Jewel Corps. Abby began dancing at
the age of five, and studies ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical,
contemporary, tap, and musical theatre. She has been

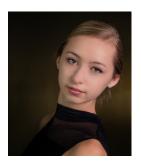
competing with her studio's competitive team for the past three years, both regionally and nationally. In Abby's rare free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, shopping, and traveling. She feels honored to be preforming as a company member in this magical holiday tradition.



Rose Copes · Snow Corps, Russia

Rose is a sophomore honor roll student at Lincoln East High School, where she has been a member of the Apollonaires dance team for two years, and maintains a 4.0 GPA. This will be her eighth year participating in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles with LMBC have been Peppermint, Sugar and Spice, Chinese Lantern, and Flower Corps. She attended her first *Nutcracker* performance when she three-years-old, and she is so honored to be a part of this magical tradition.

Rose began dancing at the age of three, and trains in all forms of dance: ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical/contemporary, tap, and hip hop. She also competes with her studio's competition team, and has traveled around the Midwest for various dance conventions, competitions, and intensives. She has competed and studied in Omaha, Kansas City, Denver, Chicago, St. Louis, Nashville, Branson, Lake Geneva, Minneapolis, and Orlando. Rose competes regionally and nationally, receiving scholarships from conventions such as Adrenaline, Revive, Nuvo, and Intrigue. This past summer, she attended the DanceMakers intensive in Nashville, Tennessee. There she worked with nationally recognized choreographers, and filmed a music video choreographed by Brien Rich. The past two years, Rose has auditioned for, and was offered to participate in the Radio City Rockettes Summer Intensive in New York City. When not dancing, she enjoys hanging out with friends, family, and her dogs, Teddy and Scotti.



Sarah DeBoer · Demi Dew, Snow Corps

Sarah, 17, is a senior at Norris High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society, FFA, Norris Gold Show Choir, and the Norris Sapphires dance team. Dancing since the age of four, this will be Sarah's tenth Nutcracker performance! Past roles have included Peppermint, Cinnamon, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, Flower Corps, First Maid, and Russia. She has also been a member of LMBC's productions

of *Cinderella* and *Snow White* (including Flower Lead this Spring), participated in the LMBC Summer Ballet Program for nine years, attended the Kansas City Ballet Intensive program, and was named a recipient of the Nebraska Young Artist Award this past year. Beyond dance, Sarah enjoys being outdoors with her pets, participating in church activities, and spending time with her family and friends. Sarah wants to thank her studio dance teachers for their years of instruction, love, and support. *The Nutcracker* at the Lied Center has been a family tradition since she was 2½, and she looks forward to continuing this tradition for years to come – from the other side of the curtain!



Nicole Fintel · Snow Corps, Flower Corps

Nicole is a junior at Lincoln East High School, where she maintains a 4.0+ GPA, is class vice president, and has lettered in academics, orchestra, and speech team. This is Nicole's tenth year in *The Nutcracker*, with past roles including Little Mouse, Peppermint, Big Mouse, Russian Background, Maid, and Arabian Background. She has also performed in LMBC's production of *Snow White*. Outside of dance, Nicole enjoys playing violin, reading,

and traveling. She previously worked as an intern for US Congressman Brad Ashford, and currently interns with Nebraskans for Civic Reform. This past summer, Nicole was accepted into Harvard University's Pre-College Program, where she took a graduate course in Epigenetics and Gene Regulation. She is also a biology research intern at UNL, and was invited to present her research at the university's Undergraduate Research Symposium in August. Nicole is honored to be dancing as a Company member for her tenth appearance in *The Nutcracker*!



Olivia Foster · Snow Corps, Flower Corps
Olivia is a senior at Lincoln North Star High School. She has been dancing for 15 years, and has been selected to a number of elite national competition teams and crews. This is will be her ninth year performing in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet performance of The Nutcracker.



Taylor Fry · China, Harlequin, Snow Corps
Taylor is a junior honor roll student at Lincoln Lutheran
High School, where she is a member of the Blue Angels
dance team. Her favorite time of year is Nutcracker
season! She treasures the friendships and memories
made throughout her years of dancing in the ballet. In
the past, Taylor has danced roles such as Elf, Garland
Child, Big Party Girl, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. She
danced in the LMBC production of Snow White, and also

performed in her studio production of *Aladdin*. This summer, Taylor attended UDA dance camp, where she received All American honors for the second year in a row. Taylor has studied various styles of dance, but her love is classical ballet. She has attended local summer ballet intensives, and also studied in Phoenix at Ballet Arizona. When Taylor isn't busy dancing, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also volunteers at her church, Messiah Lutheran, assisting with the first grade Sunday school class. Taylor is grateful to have been selected as a company dancer for the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company. She is beyond thankful to be dancing in this production with her little sister, Grace.



Best Wishes for another Successful Season!

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Grace Herron · Snow Princess, Demi Dew
Grace is a sophomore student at Lincoln East High School, where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team.
This will be Grace's eighth year of performing in The Nutcracker. Her past roles have included, Snow Corps, China, Big Party Girl, Little Party Girl, Spanish Background, Garland Child, Cinnamon, and Peppermint. Grace also performed in LMBC's 2017 production of Snow White as Jewel Lead and Flower of the Forest, as well as LMBC's

2014 production of *Snow White* as Grumpy. Grace has been dancing since the age of two, and has been a member of her studio's dance company. She has been recognized and received scholarships from JUMP, NUVO, Spotlight Dance CUP, 24/7, New York City Dance Alliance, and Adrenaline Dance, where she has been an Elite Crew Member. Grace has also competed in the Youth American Grand Prix. Because of her dedication, she received a full tuition scholarship to University of North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Intensive, and was accepted into their four-year program. When Grace is not dancing, she enjoys spending time with friends, going on walks with her dog, and enjoying cuddles with her cat. Grace is honored to be dancing as a Company member for her second year, and would like to thank her instructors and family for their support.



Anneliese Hinrichsen · Snow Corps, China
Anneliese is a sophomore at Lincoln Southwest High
School, where she remains on honor roll and the top 3% of
her class. Anneliese received the performing arts scholar
award for playing the violin in Southwest's orchestra.
Her previous roles in The Nutcracker include Spanish
Background, Russian Background, and Chinese Lantern.
This summer, Anneliese trained at The Jillana School. She
will be performing at Youth American Grand Prix this
spring. She is honored and excited to be dancing another
year in The Nutcracker!





Emma Luci · Columbine Doll, Snow Princess, Marzipan

Emma is a sophomore at Lincoln East High School, where she is currently an honor roll student, and dances on the Apollonaire dance team. This is her eighth year participating in the LMBC's *Nutcracker*, with past roles including Peppermint, Cinnamon, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Flower Corps and Snow Corps. Emma is active with her studio's dance team, and has enjoyed numerous scholarships and titles through the

years, most recently being a national title holder at Spotlight. Since beginning dance at age two, she has concentrated on a strong background of ballet and pointe, but she also enjoys jazz, contemporary and tap. When she is not dancing or studying, she spends time with her family, friends, and pets. Emma wishes to thank all those who work so hard to make *The Nutcracker* part of the holiday season, and give her and others a chance to perform before their family and friends.



Sydney Marra · Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Maid
Sydney is thrilled and honored to be dancing in her ninth
performance of The Nutcracker! Her past roles include
Cinnamon, Big Mouse, Little Party Girl, Garland Child,
Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern, Maid, and Flower Corps.
She has performed in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's
productions of Snow White and Cinderella, and attended
LMBC'S Ballet Intensive over the summer. Sydney has been
dancing for twelve years, and has trained in ballet, pointe,

tap, jazz, and lyrical. Sydney is a junior home-schooled student. She also enjoys music and vocal performance. Sydney has been playing piano for thirteen years, and now enjoys teaching students of her own and playing with her youth group's high school band. When not dancing, Sydney loves reading, babysitting, shopping, and spending time with her friends and family.

LMBC thanks the following individuals who gave their time and skills to staff our first aid site:

Christi Keim, MD . Angie Marshall, RN . Brenna McAdam, PA Melissa Tompkins, PA-C . Matthew Wood, MD

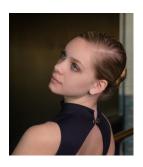


Finley Peterson · Snow Corps, Russia, Maid

Making her eighth appearance in The Nutcracker, Finley
will once again take the stage. She started sweet as a
Peppermint, added some Sugar and Spice, fought valiantly
as a Toy Soldier, brought some light to her travels in China,
arrived just in time for the Party (with her mom and twin
brother), cleaned house, bloomed where she was planted,
and now... she'll sparkle in the snow on her way to Russia!
Finley is a junior at Lincoln Southeast High School. This past

year, she performed in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's *Snow White*, danced in two recitals, and became co-captain of the Shirettes dance team. When not dancing, Fin can be found studying to maintain her honor roll status, being a part of Student Council, having a blast in Rocket Club, working at Bobby's Dancewear, and spending time with her family and friends. She is thrilled to once again be a member of the Company.





Alexa Rea · Maid, Flower Corps

Alexa, 17, is a junior at Lincoln East High School where she maintains a 4.0+ average, is a member of the school's honors program, and has received an academic letter. Her favorite subjects are math and science. While at East, Alexa has been a member of the school's cheer team, and is now a member of Health Occupations Students of America. She also enjoys being part of the Young Life organization, hanging out with friends, and playing with

her two Boston Terrier dogs, Whitney and Lilly. This is Alexa's seventh appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles included Peppermint, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, and Big Party Girl. She has also performed in several other previous productions with LMBC. Alexa has been dancing since the age of 3, and has been a member of her dance studio's competition team, where she participated in many competitions, workshops, and summer intensives. Many of her fondest memories come from the *Nutcracker* season. She is very proud to be part of LMBC Company, and is thrilled to again be participating in this holiday tradition.



Nora Schlegel • First Maid, Snow Corps, Flower Corps
Nora, 15, is a sophomore at Lincoln Southwest High School.
Nora is a member of Southwest's Emeralds dance team.
She participates in the gifted program, and especially appreciates the language arts. Nora has studied ballet for 12 years. This year marks Nora's eighth year dancing in The Nutcracker. Past roles have included Peppermint, Cinnamon, Garland Child, Spanish Background, Big Party Girl, Flower and Snow Corps. Nora danced with

Omaha's Ballet Nebraska, and Omaha Under the Radar in a free form enactment at their annual experimental performance festival. Nora has participated in three competitive dance teams, and has won ballet scholarships at many regional competitions. Nora was awarded a full merit scholarship to participate at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts summer intensive in 2016. Nora graciously thanks Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company and her dance coaches for the opportunity to further study ballet.



Riley Struve • China, Snow Corps
Riley is a 16-year-old junior honor roll student at East
High School, where she is a member of the Lincoln East
Apollonaires dance team. She has been dancing since she
was three years old, taking classes in ballet, pointe, tap,
jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and hip hop. This is Riley's
third year as a Company member following two years as
an Apprentice dancer, and her ninth year of appearing
in The Nutcracker. Riley is honored to again be a part of

this wonderful production. *The Nutcracker* has provided Riley with many special memories, and she is grateful each year for the opportunity. Her past roles include Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Big Party Girl, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, Cinnamon and Peppermint. Riley has also been cast in the LMBC Spring Ballet's of *Cinderella* and *Snow White*. Riley loved being a Mouse in *Cinderella* and most recently she enjoyed the role of Jewel Corps in the 2014 *Snow White* ballet. Riley has attended numerous ballet summer intensives over the years. They include the Houston Ballet; Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C.; Tulsa Ballet in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's summer intensive dance camp. Outside of dance, Riley enjoys shopping, hanging out with friends and her family including her dog, Spunky.



Jack Tracy · Harlequin Man, Russian Man

Jack is thrilled to be performing as a member of the

Company of Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company this season.

He began dancing at age five, performing in his first

Nutcracker with LMBC as a Party Boy in 2010. He has

danced with Ballet Nebraska as a member of BNII, dancing
in productions of Alice in Wonderland, Giselle, Swan Lake,

Cleopatra and played Fritz, the Nutcracker Prince Battle

Jack in the Box, and Russian Background in several seasons

of *The Nutcracker*. He has also appeared as Fritz in Aspen Santa Fe's *The Nutcracker*. Jack has spent two summers at the Kansas City Ballet's summer intensive on merit scholarship. As a competition dancer he has multiple top ten finishes, as well as Mr. Starpower. Jack studies dance in Omaha, and when he isn't dancing, he is busy doing theatre at Millard West High School, where he is an honor student. He is honored to have this opportunity to share the stage with such talented dancers at LMBC.



McKaylee True · Arabian Queen, Snow Queen McKaylee is a senior at Lincoln East High School, where she is a captain of the Apollonaires dance team. She has attended Bolshoi Ballet Summer Program, The Rock School in Philadelphia, The Sessions Summer Dance Program in Connecticut, Muse Dance Experience in Los Angeles, American Academy of Ballet, Chamberlain Ballet, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Summer Program. She received a four-year scholarship with Joffery Ballet in NYC.

McKaylee has received outstanding awards and scholarships from NUVO, JUMP, NYCDA, 24/7, NRG, Velocity, KAR, TOP, Show Biz, Star Power, Hollywood Vibe and Adrenaline Dance. McKaylee was named Miss Junior Adrenaline at age 11, Top 3 Miss Teen Adrenaline Nationals in Las Vegas, and won Miss Senior Adrenaline in Orlando, Florida at age 16. She is an assistant for Adrenaline Dance Convention's staff. McKaylee won the YAGP regional contemporary division. She danced in 44 shows of Cinderella in Los Angeles. McKaylee was the winner of Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition, a featured series on Lifetime TV, filmed in Los Angeles. She has filmed Disney's Wii game "JUST DANCE", and danced for "ReeBok" in Boston with Muse Dance Company. McKaylee's LMBC roles include Clara, Snow Queen, Snow Princess, Arabian, Spain, Marzipan, Jester, Columbine, Snow Corps, Big Party Girl, Little Party Girl, Bon Bon and Jester in The Nutcracker; Princess in Cinderella; Bluebird and Dopey in Snow White. McKaylee is a two-time All-American, and she was invited to join the UDA staff at Dance Camp. Out of 450 applicants, McKaylee is one of 35 nationally accepted students to the University of Arizona's dance program. She is represented by Bloc agency in LA. She plans to attend college and pursue a BFA program in dance.



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Megan Workman • Marzipan, Snow Corps
Megan is a junior at Yutan High School, where she is on the honor roll with a 4.0 GPA, and is taking an introduction to business college course online with Southeast Community College. Megan began her dance training at age six, and studies different styles of dance including pointe, ballet, jazz, lyrical, and cotemporary. At age 13, she was invited to audition for Ballet Nebraska's Jr. Company BNII, and was accepted a year early. Currently, she is taking dance

classes in Omaha, and was given her first lead role as Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty* last year. Megan has performed in *Snow White, The Nutcracker, Giselle, Cleopatra, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Alice in Wonderland*. She has studied with Ballet Nebraska and Ballet Chicago. She has performed with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. This will be Megan's first year with LMBC, and she is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful ballet company and can't wait to see what this year has in store for her.



Emily Yost · Clara

Emily is 16 years old, and a junior honor roll student at Pius X High School. This is her ninth appearance in *The Nutcracker*, with past roles including Cinnamon, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Jester, Flower Corp, Snow Princess, and Marzipan. She has been dancing since the age of three, and has been fortunate to have studied at various summer ballet intensives throughout the country, including the Houston Ballet, Kansas City Ballet School, Joffrey Academy of Dance in Chicago, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Bossov Ballet

Theatre, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and the American Academy of Ballet. She studies ballet, pointe, contemporary, and jazz. She has participated in the Regional Dance America Midstates Ballet Festival and Youth America Grand Prix ballet competitions. Emily also enjoys being a member of the Pius X Thunderettes dance team, volunteering at YMCA's Camp Kitaki, participating in her church youth group, and spending time with her family, friends and pets. She is honored and excited to be dancing again as an LMBC company member for a third year, and is very grateful to all of the many dance instructors and other role models in her life who have shared with her their time, talents, and love of dance.

The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild congratulates Sarah DeBoer and Nicole Fintel on 10 years of performances!

2017 Apprentice Dancers



Apprentices in alphabetical order: Tierny Blankenhorn, Josie Fillmore, Elizabeth Friend, Lena Lankas, Olivia Lempka, Brooke Oliver, Maggie Oulianova (not pictured), Addie Parde, Ansley Sothan, Holly Tolliver, and Rylee Tucker.



Winter

Hot Tunes for Cold Nights

Sunday, January 14 • 3:00 pm First United Methodist Church, Hastings **Thursday, January 25 • 7:30 pm** Eagle United Methodist Church

Friday, January 26 • 7:30 pm
First United Methodist Church, Waverly

Sunday, January 28 • 3:00 pm Grace Lutheran Church, Lincoln

Saturday, February 10 • 7:30 pm St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Omaha

Tierny Blankenhorn ⋅ *Big Party Girl*

Tierny is a 13-year-old eighth grade honor roll student at Lux Middle School. She has been dancing for 11 years, and for five of those years has been privileged to have a part in *The Nutcracker*. In the past, she has been an Angel, Little Party Girl, and Garland Child. Tierny has been on the competition team at her studio for seven years. She is active in the church community, and enjoys volunteering, helping others and going to a before-school club, Campus Life.

Josie Fillmore · Snow Corps, Flower Corps

Josie, 15, is a freshman that studies online. Josie started dancing over twelve years ago at the age of two. She is trained in classical ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz, tap and hip hop. In 2016, she began assisting a baby ballerina class at her studio. Josie has attended the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Summer Intensive for five years. She has been part of her studio dance team for over four years, winning several team and solo awards. In 2018, Josie will dance at the Youth American Grand Prix in Austin, performing a classical ballet variation and a contemporary number. This will be Josie's fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles were Peppermint, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern and Big Party Girl. Josie has been extremely blessed in having wonderful dance instructors. Someday she hopes to encourage young dancers, like the amazing teachers who have inspired her. When Josie is not at dance, she enjoys listening to music, choreographing her own dances, spending time with her friends and family, shopping, and watching anything on TV that is dance related.



On The Road featuring Greg Gisbert, Trumpet Wednesday, October 25

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Elizabeth Friend · Big Party Girl

Elizabeth, 13, is an eighth grader at Lincoln Christian School. This is her fourth year performing in *The Nutcracker*; previously dancing the roles of Garland Child and Russian Background. She also was a member of LMBC's production of *Snow White*. Elizabeth has been dancing since she was four, and is currently a member of her studio's Pre-Professional Ballet Trainee Program. She recently attended the Kansas City Ballet's Summer Intensive Program and is currently preparing to compete in the Youth American Grand Prix in the spring. When not at the studio, Elizabeth enjoys volunteering at her church, drawing, working out, choreographing dances, and spending time with her friends.

Lena Lankas • *Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern*

This is Lena's sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. She has danced in numerous ballets over the years: *Snow White, Pocahantas,* and *The Snow Queen*. She had the privilege to audition for and dance with Justin Bieber in The Purpose Tour at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Lena is an honor student at Lux Middle School. She would like to thank her family, friends and dance instructors for all their love and support as she pursues her dreams!

Olivia Lempka · Flower Corps

Olivia, 15, is a freshman at Lincoln Southwest High School, where she is a member of the Emeralds dance team. Olivia is a straight A student and strives for academic excellence. She was one out of six to receive the All Around Award her 8th grade year. Her two favorite subjects are Science and Algebra. Olivia's love for dance and dedication began at the early age of three. Since then, she has danced competitively for seven years with the traveling teams at her studio. Olivia's previous roles in *The Nutcracker* have been Little Mouse, and Russian Background. Outside of dance, Olivia enjoys spending time with her friends and family, shopping and volunteering at Camp Kitaki.



Brooke Oliver • Chinese Lantern

Brooke is a freshman honor roll student at Waverly High School, where she is a member of the high school dance team. She has been dancing since the age of three, training in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, modern and contemporary. She has been a member of her home studio's competitive team for six years, competing both regionally and nationally. Brooke is excited for her first appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Outside of dance, Brooke enjoys spending time with her family and friends, her two dogs, and her church youth group. She would like to thank her teachers and family for all their support and encouragement to follow her dreams.

Maggie Oulianova · Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern

Maggie is an eighth grader at Scott Middle School. After school, she spends her hours training on the competitive dance team at her studio, and attending many dance conventions. Every summer, she attends a summer camp including Muse Dance Effect, Ballet Austin, and the Dance Sessions. She also attends the summer intensive at her studio. In past Nutcracker productions, she has danced as Cinnamon, Garland Child, Little Party Girl, Angel Lead, and Big Party Girl. She plans to have a career in dance, and is excited to see where all this leads her!

Addie Parde ⋅ *Big Party Girl*

Addie Parde is an eighth grader at Lux Middle School. Previously, she has been a Peppermint, Angel, Garland Child, and Chocolatier. She has been dancing for 12 of her 14 years. Within the past two years, she has been accepted into Kansas City Ballet twice (once with scholarship) and Ballet Austin. She has been a part of the dance company at her studio for eight years! Addie would like to congratulate everyone in this great production of *The Nutcracker*!



Ansley Sothan • Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern

Ansley, 13, is honored to perform for her sixth year in The Nutcracker, this year repeating the role of Big Party Girl and an understudy for Flower Corps and Snow Corps. Ansley's previous roles include Peppermint, Elf, Garland Child, and Angel Lead. Ansley began dancing at the age of two. She has competed in all genres of dance on her studios competition team both regionally and nationally and has been awarded several honors and scholarships. Ansley is competing for the third year in Youth American Grand Prix. She has attended LMBC's summer intensive programs, taken master classes at Joffrey in Chicago, Ballet Austin in Austin, Texas and last summer studied ballet at Cincinnati Ballet in Ohio. Ansley has performed the roles of Sneezy and Flowers of the Forest in two productions of LMBC's spring production of *Snow White*. Ansley is an eighth grade straight A honor roll student at Pound Middle School. She was voted President of Student Council and competed at Nationals on the Pound archery team. Outside of school, Ansley is a competitive golfer and tennis player. She is active in Girl Scouts, Wyldlife and studies Chinese, Spanish and French.

Holly Tolliver · Chinese Lantern

Holly is an 8th grade honor roll student at Lux Middle School. She is excited to be dancing in *The Nutcracker* for her 5th year. Holly has competed regionally and nationally with her dance studio, receiving awards such as Miss Teen Primetime 2017, Teen Rainbow Dancer of the Year, dance intensive invites to New York City and Hollywood, and a one-year dance scholarship with Intrigue Dance Convention. This past summer she attended Mather Dance Summer Intensive in California. When not dancing, Holly enjoys swimming, creative writing, and choreographing dances for fun. She is grateful for the support and encouragement of her instructors and family.

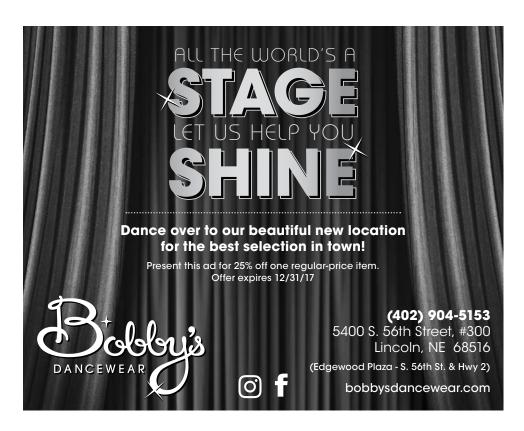
Rylee Tucker · Flower Corps

Rylee is a 15-year-old sophomore at East High School, where she is a member of the Apollonaire dance team. She has been dancing for 13 years, studying ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and hip hop. Rylee is looking forward to her eighth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous rolls include Peppermint, Elf, Garland Child, Russian Background, and Chinese Lantern. She has been dancing on her company's competition team for eight years. When Rylee isn't busy dancing, she enjoys hanging out with friends and family, and going shopping. Rylee is grateful to be a part of *The Nutcracker's* holiday tradition!

Lyle Johnson Award

As first president of our predecessor organization Ballet Midwest, Lyle Johnson was committed to building an arts organization that was of the highest caliber and he worked persistently for its goals. This award was established by the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company in 1995 in his memory, and recognizes an individual or organization for similar outstanding support of the ballet company. The award is not given on an annual basis. This year we wish to remember and recognize our past recipients.

Alice Abel, Kathleen Allen, Bryan LGH Medical Center, Lana Brennan, Joan Chopp, Ron Colin, Susan Chowning-Rickets, Tom Curtright, Michael Dowd, Richard Evans, Donna and John Himmelberger, Jim Lauerman, the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Angie Muhleisen, the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra and its conductor Dr. Herbert Dregalla, Jr., Burton Schernikau, Susan Steinegger, Jim Stuart, Shari Styskal, Molly Thomas, Shari True, and Ann Watson.



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