

2021
Nutcracker
DECEMBER 18 & 19



Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company
Shari True, Artistic Director
Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

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Merry Christmas!



JENNIFER SCHULTZ

photography

LINCOLN MIDWEST BALLET COMPANY



Artistic Director Shari True
presents

The Nutcracker

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Saturday, December 18, 2021
2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

&

Sunday, December 19, 2021
2 p.m.

Technical Director: Daniel Anderson, Stratum Productions

Stage Manager: Melanie Rudy

Assistant Stage Managers: Becky Brunke, Kayci Johnston

Stage Crew: Jeremiah McDowell, Paul Watson, Jaylin Wiese

Props Coordinator: Tonia O'Hare

Head Costumer and Costume Builder: Maralee Maldavs

Hair & Makeup Designer & Assistant Costumer: Donna Himmelberger

Assistant to the Costumer: Emily Maldavs

Lighting Designer: John Himmelberger

Pyro Technician: Shane Tucker

Rehearsal Assistants: Betsy Andersen, Emily Maldavs

Executive Director: Kelly Duncan

Due to Covid-19 guidelines, we regret that drinking fountains
are not open. Restrooms are available as needed.

Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company

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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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The History of the Nutcracker Ballet

2021 marks 129 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.

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 Sweetly*. 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 36th *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

The Nutcracker Story

Act I 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.



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 37th 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.

Kelly Duncan

Executive Director



This is Kelly Duncan's fifth season as Executive Director of Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company. She previously served on the LMBC Board of Directors, and as an officer of Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild. Her love of *The Nutcracker* was sparked by her daughter, who was in the production for nine years. She is instrumental in managing the LMBC business office, writing grant proposals, and assisting the LMBC Board of Directors. She communicates directly with the dancers and the community, and performs a myriad of other tasks. Duncan has a degree in Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate from UNL College of Law. After graduation, she practiced law as the Associate General Counsel of Bankers Life, now Ameritas. She was active in the homeschool community for many years, and presently serves as a pianist at her church and an Area Advisor for Bible Study Fellowship. Duncan believes that *The Nutcracker* is one of Lincoln's greatest treasures, and is honored to be part of a team of talented people who bring it to the Lied stage every year.

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Bob Krueger

Conductor, Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra



A graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (B.M.E. in 1984 and M.M. in 1994), Mr. Krueger retired in the summer of 2020 after spending 36 years teaching music for the Omaha and Lincoln Public Schools. Following one year as the Director of Instrumental Music at Omaha North High School, Mr. Krueger became the Instrumental Music Director at Lincoln Southeast High School in 1985.

For 10 years Mr. Krueger taught the Southeast Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, and Music Theory. For the last 25 years of his career Mr. Krueger directed Jazz Ensembles I and II and the Jazz Combo at Lincoln Southeast High School, as well as teaching 5th grade bands at Beattie, Kloefkorn and Maxey Elementary schools in Lincoln. Under his leadership the Southeast Jazz Ensemble I received both regional and national acclaim, including being selected to perform in New York City as one of 20 national finalists in the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition. In 1988 he received the Nebraska State Bandmasters Jack Snider Award, in 1989 he received the Stanbury Award as the nation's outstanding young high school band director from the American School Band Directors Association, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln named Mr. Krueger the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award in Music in the spring of 2020.

In addition to his teaching duties with the Lincoln Public Schools, from 2001-2004 Mr. Krueger was the interim Director of Jazz Activities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he directed the UN-L Jazz Ensemble I. He served as the brass coach (1987-2001), assistant conductor (2001-2002), and from 2004-2007 was the Music Director of the Lincoln Youth Symphony. In 2005 Mr. Krueger took the Lincoln Youth Symphony on a concert tour of Austria, with performances in Vienna, Salzburg, Graz, and Innsbruck.

In addition to conducting the orchestra for the Nutcracker, Mr. Krueger currently serves as the Music Director of the Lincoln Municipal Band and performs on trumpet with the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, the Nebraska Trumpet Ensemble, and with various groups as a freelance trumpet player. He has served as a clinician and adjudicator at competitions and festivals in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. He has also worked as an instructor at music camps at the University of South Dakota, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Sheridan College (Wyoming), and the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

Violin I

Kim Salistean,
Concertmaster
Summer Brackhan
Erin Aguirre
Rose Hunter
Nissa Evenson
Kara Baxter

Violin II

Donna Carnes, *Principal*
Kristin Pfabe
Lisa Myers
Charon Becker
Grace Lamb

Viola

Cindy Ricker, *Principal*
Clark Potter
Sarah Curley
Christine Widman

Cello

Tracy Sands, *Principal*
Karen Becker
Leslie Tien
Alyssa Storey

Bass

Hans Sturm, *Principal*
Ian Wright

Flute

John Bailey, *Principal*
Betsy Bobenhouse

Piccolo

Becky van de Bogart

Oboe

William McMullen,
Principal
Alyssa Pracht

English Horn

Darci Gamerl

Clarinet

Ed Love, *Principal*
Christy Banks

Bass Clarinet

Jessica Lindsey

Bassoon

Karen Sandene, *Principal*
Joyce Besch

Horn

Kim Beasley, *Principal*
Ric Ricker
Harold Oliver
Graham House

Trumpet

Dean Haist, *Principal*
Brad Obbink

Trombone

Terry Rush, *Principal*
Mark Mendell
Liam Hughes

Tuba

Bo Atlas

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

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Dean W. Haist, Executive Director

Staff: Josh Aguiar, Dave Bowden, Russ Cowen, Season Cowley,
Bridget Hill, Nancy Vogt

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 the 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 performed with Rod Stewart in a sold out performance at Lincoln's Devaney Center.

Over the years, the NSCO has performed Bach's *Magnificat*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. In addition, the NSCO 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'*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Book of Mormon*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and *White Christmas*.



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2021 Artistic Staff

Betsy Andersen · Rehearsal Assistant

Betsy began dancing at age three, training in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, and contemporary. She danced with Lincoln City Ballet and Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company, performing for more than 20 years in *The Nutcracker*. As a rehearsal assistant, Betsy has worked with Nutcracker dancers for 16 years. She was an advanced ballet student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, training under the direction of Dr. Lisa Fuscillo. She danced with the Omaha Modern Dance Collective, and continued her ballet training in Omaha with the late Mary Waugh-Taylor. She was a member of Lincoln Contemporary Dance Project. Betsy has a BSBA from UNL in Human Resource Management with minors in History and Dance, and she attended graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She has taught dance in Lincoln and Omaha for over 20 years.

Daniel Anderson · Technical Director

Daniel has over ten years of experience in the entertainment industry. He has helped design and produce dozens of productions, corporate events, and special events in his time in the industry. He is excited for the opportunity to do technical direction for *The Nutcracker* and to work with the wonderful team of people in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company.

Becky Brunke · Assistant Stage Manager

Becky has worked for the Lied Center for Performing Arts for over 15 years. In her current role, she is the house manager for the Johnny Carson Theater and the Nebraska Repertory Theater. She is excited to be working backstage on *The Nutcracker* and with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company.

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.

2021 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*.

Kayci Johnston · Assistant Stage Manager

Kayci Johnston is thrilled to join the cast and crew of *The Nutcracker* for a third time! Her previous credits include *Dontrell: Who Kissed the Sea*, *Pippin*, and *Hair*. She is grateful to her friends and family for their support, as well as everyone she has had the opportunity to work with so far.

Emily Maldavs · Assistant to the Costumer and Rehearsal Assistant

Emily Maldavs is thankful to have had the privilege of being a rehearsal assistant in addition to costuming for this year's production of *The Nutcracker*. She had participated as a dancer for ten years, with past roles including Clara in 2012 and Snow Queen in 2011 and 2013. She studied at Point Park University in the Conservatory of Performing Arts before returning to Lincoln, earning her bachelor's degree from University of Nebraska–Lincoln in Fisheries and Wildlife with a focus in Conservation. Emily is now a Quality Control Specialist for early clinical research at Celerion and Artistic Producer for Pinewood Performing Arts in Lincoln.

Maralee Maldavs · Head Costumer and Costume Builder

Maralee has been designing and creating costumes for theater and dance productions for 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 tenth year working with *The Nutcracker*.

Melanie Rudy · Stage Manager

Melanie has been involved in the technical aspects of theatre for over 25 years. She has worked for the Lied Center for Performing Arts in numerous capacities for 20 plus years, including different roles backstage on *The Nutcracker*. Melanie has also worked with other dance studios as the production coordinator and/or stage manager. She is excited to be working with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*.

happy HOLIDAYS

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2021 Nutcracker Cast

Act I

Herr Drosselmeier: Benjamin Chandler

Elves: Claire Conner, Addilynn Knudsen, Claire Shanahan, Stella Stanley, McKenna Svoboda, Ella Unlu

Clara: Lena Lankas

Fritz: John Dixon

Dr. Stahlbaum: Vladimir Oulianov

Mrs. Stahlbaum: Sarah McCurley

Big Party Girls: Livia Bonnie, Maddy Kotik, Hayley Marshall, Ada Rawlings, Mila Shultheis, Teagan Smith

Big Party Boys: David Cox, Jack Perry, Alex Ronhovde, Brendan Tatum, Liliana Tejada, Jaden Unlu

Little Party Girls: Amy Andersen, Ruby Arnold, Cora Johnson, Blythe Meranda, Caroline Schwartz

Party Women: Kelley Peterson, Maggie Rawlings, Natalie Tavlin, Tyne Thorson

Party Men: Sammy Luci, Dale Miller, Kenton Sullivan

First Maid: Lilly Michel

Maids: Helen Brozovic, Brynley Cooper, Ava Kupke, Iva Volf

Harlequin Dolls: Phoenix Decker (Saturday/Sunday Matinee), Karmi Jay, Kyren Watson (Saturday Night)

Columbine Doll: Clara Wolfe

Jester Doll: Grace Fry

Nutcracker Prince: Hunter Solomon

Mouse King: Kobe Brown

Big Mice: Violet Anderson, Jaidah Boko, Aria Breunig, Kenzie Brown, Alyse Dahlberg, Amelia Ehrke, Josie Knoell, Beckett Martin, Faye Meranda, Phoebe Ringsmuth, Penelope Stout, Alayna Wagner

Little Mice: Ayana Bartek, Avery Bayne, Mia Ecton, Reagan Essink, Isabelle Kotopka, Scarlett McMahan, Lanah Ronhovde, Isabelle Tesch

Soldiers: Stella Amstutz, Emilyn Changstrom, Chessa Tompkins, Morgan Hilton, Kyli McNaught, River Nuttleman, Elizabeth Reorda, Marisa Schmeckpeper, Michaela Stine, Claire Sypal, Cora Tinsley, Ruby Weber

Snow Queen: Maggie Oulianova

Snow King: Wyatt Payne

Snow Princesses: Ariana Cunningham, Karmi Jay, Whitney Tomes, Clara Wolfe

Snow Corps: Tierny Blankenhorn, Ayla Brosman, Lauren Coniglio, Grace Fry, Taryn Harrah, Lauren Love, Olivia McCurley, Lilly Michel, Kiptara Thomas, Grace Troyer, Liliana Ware, Ali Weber

2021 Nutcracker Cast

Act II

Sugar Plum Fairy: Camila Ferrera

Cavalier: Marten Asimanov

Celestial Fairies: Isabella Brown, Camina Dredge, Jennifer Larson, Sophie Tomes

Angels: Viola Baker, Olivia Carpenter, Mia Cooper, Braelyn Edwards, Hastings Eichmeier, Lucy Glathar, Stella Hadwiger, Josie Keelan, Hannah McCullough, Jubilee Nuttleman, Palmer Roberts, Rebekah Schulte, Paige Thorson, Allie Weir

Sugar and Spice: Maggie Dee, Stella Duval, Brielle Gyhra, Harriet Kulwicki, Aubrey Lattig, Lydia Nuttleman

Spain: Maggie Oulianova

Spanish Background: Khataya Briones, Laila Cardenas, Nora Davis, Emilie Hunt, Calla Kupke, Chloe Voog

Arabian Queen: Whitney Tomes

Arabian: Wyatt Payne

Arabian Background: Charlotte Olenick, Ainsley Perry, Addison Scott, Zoe Smith, Marisa Schmeckpeper, Rilynn Whitney

China: Tierny Blankenhorn, Kiptara Thomas, Ali Weber

Chinese Lanterns: Eloise Carter, Magdalen Driewer, Sophia Fox, Avari Korsmo, Charlotte Olenick, Lily Teten

Marzipan: Ariana Cunningham, Phoenix Decker, Karmi Jay, Kyren Watson

Russian: Kobe Brown, Phoenix Decker, Grace Fry, Lauren Love, Olivia McCurley, Kyren Watson

Russian Background: Grace Broer, Brenna Harris, Emma Hershberger, Caitlin Nelson, Evangeline Olivera, Hannah Rutt, Liliana Tejada, Clara Thorson

Bon Bon: Dot Francisco, Ruby Francisco, Shelby Klein, Treyton Mayfield, Khloe Mroz, Breyer Perry, Hannah Weir

Mother Ginger: Jessica Broadfoot

Dew Drop: Clara Wolfe

Demi Dews: Ayla Brosman, Lilly Michel

Flower Corps: Helen Brozovic, Lauren Coniglio, Brynley Cooper, Taryn Harrah, Julia Radu, Grace Troyer, Iva Volf, Liliana Ware

Garland Children: Grace Chambers, Emma Ecton, Brooklyn Glasser, Emma Hanzlicek, Emily Hinze, Sophia Jackson, Grace McHugh, Alyssa Perry, Cate Rawlings, Mia Vasa, Charis Waite, Kyndra Wiens

2021 Guest Artists



Kobe Brown · Mouse King, Russian

Kobe started dance at age three, and has had a passion for dance since then. From 2014-2019, Kobe competed as a clogger in both the National Clogging and Hoedown Championships (NCHC) and the Clogging Championship of America (CCA) circuits where he now holds nine national champion awards. In 2018, he was awarded the National Cheer Association (NCA)

All-American Cheer and received Top All-American Cheer during his senior year. Kobe performed in the past three productions of *The Nutcracker*, and is honored to be appearing again this year.



Marlen Asimanov · Cavalier

Marlen Alimanov began his training at age nine at the Almaty Ballet Academy in Kazakhstan. After graduating he danced with the Almaty Ballet and Opera, Ballet Novosibirsk, and the Russian National Ballet, which brought him to the States in 2010. After his arrival, Mr. Alimanov danced with Manassas Ballet Theater, New Jersey Ballet Company, and Texas Ballet Theater.

Mr. Alimanov has had the pleasure of dancing leads such as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Frederic in Ben Stevenson's *Dracula*, Escamillo in Carlos Acosta's *Carmen*, The Prince in *The Nutcracker*, Prince Desire in *Sleeping Beauty*, and highlight roles in *Etudes*, *Seven Sonatas*, *Morphosese* by Christopher Wheeldon, and *Raymonda* by George Balanchine. Marlen is currently a principal guest artist in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

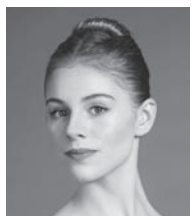


Ben Chandler · Drosselmeier

This is Ben's 26th year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Getting his start in 1996 as a Party Parent and Arabian Dancer, Ben has performed nine roles over the many years including Russian, Arabian, Spain, Mouse King, Snow King, Harlequin, Battle Nutcracker and Party Parent. He enjoyed the part of Russian, using his gymnastic abilities to excite the audience with his jumps, flips and energy. Ben has performed the role of Drosselmeier since 2009. He enjoys the acting aspect and working with the kids and Clara to bring an exciting and beautiful party scene to life year after year.

Ben lives in Omaha with his nine-year-old son Beau and his beagle Chica. He owns and runs Chandler Handyman Service. They were recently voted 2019 Best Handyman Business in Omaha by *Omaha World Herald* readers. Ben wishes all the dancers an amazing 2021 performance and "God bless" to everyone.

2021 Guest Artists



Camila Ferrera · Sugar Plum Fairy

Camila Ferrera was born in Hoboken, New Jersey. She began her training under the instruction of her mother, Sonia Grimaldi, and continued her training at the School of American Ballet.

In 2008, Ferrera was accepted into the American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School (JKO), where she spent five years training. While she attended JKO, she performed

at the Metropolitan Opera House in ABT's *Le Corsaire*, George Balanchine's *Mozartiana*, and Alexei Ratmansky's *Carnaval des Animaux*, among others. She was awarded the ABT National Training Scholarship and the Mae L. Wien Scholarship at JKO for outstanding talent, ability, and promise. In 2014, Ms. Ferrera joined the Joffrey Ballet's Studio Company at the Joffrey Academy of Dance, and was promoted to the main company the following year at the age of 18. Since then, she has performed in works by Christopher Wheeldon, Robert Joffrey, Alexander Ekman, John Neumeier, and Frederick Ashton. Camila has also toured with the Royal Swedish Ballet, performing Pär Isberg's rendition of *Swan Lake*. Camila joined the Indianapolis Ballet as a founding company member January, 2018. She is a certified teacher in all levels and partnering of the ABT Training Curriculum, and has taught at universities such as CCM in Ohio and Facultad de las Artes UNT in Argentina. Aside from dancing at IB, Camila is on the faculty at the Indianapolis School of Ballet. Camila is elated to be back at the Lied performing with Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company.

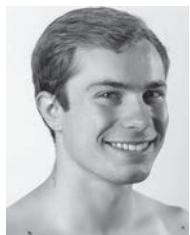


Wyatt Payne · Snow King, Arabian

Originally from Wichita, KS, Wyatt Payne earned a BFA in ballet performance from Friends University. He also trained with the Rogers Ballet, the Next Generation Ballet summer program, and the Oklahoma City Ballet.

His repertory roles include Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; the Nutcracker Prince, Russian, and Arabian in American Midwest Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*, and additional roles in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Appalachian Song*, *Bricolage*, and *Habaneras*. This year marks his fifth season performing with the American Midwest Ballet.

2021 Guest Artists



Hunter Solomon · Nutcracker Prince

Hunter Solomon started dance training at age seven at Steps of Faith dance studio and Studio South Performing Arts Center with Heather Driggers in Brunswick, Georgia. He started serious ballet training at 16 at Madeleine Walker Coastal Ballet under the direction of Gaye Baxley and Ann Inglis. After graduation, he joined Atlanta Ballet's conservatory program under the direction of John McFall and Sharon Story where he studied with teachers such as Armando Luna, Martha Goodman, Abigail Gamino for two years.

The following summer he attended Milwaukee Ballet's summer intensive where he accepted a position in the second company under Rolando Yanes for two years. He enjoyed his time there with teachers such as Dennis Malinkine, Tatiana Malinkine, Mireille Favarel, and Karl VanRobenau. There he had the opportunity to perform in ballets choreographed and directed by Michael Pink such as *The Nutcracker*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Dracula*, as well as Bruce Well's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Hunter's favorite role is "Waltz boy" in George Balanchine's *Serenade* which he performed with Milwaukee Ballet 2. He just finished his first season dancing with Boulder Ballet performing roles such as Nutcracker prince and Paul Taylor's *Airs*.

The Nutcracker Ballet Boutique



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2021 Company Dancers



Tierny Blankenhorn · China, Snow Corps

Tierny is a senior at Lincoln East High School where she maintains a 4.0+ GPA. She is a member and leader of East's dance team, the Apollonaires. Outside of school, she takes dance classes at a local studio during the week. When Tierny isn't dancing, she is participating in her church's youth group, and going to Young Life on Tuesday nights. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Tierny is honored to be a part of *The Nutcracker* cast for one last time.



Ayla Brosman · Demi Dew, Snow Corps

Ayla Brosman, 14, is a freshman straight-A honors student at Lincoln North Star High School. She is a member of the Dazzlers dance team. This is her seventh appearance in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Big Party Girl, Little Party Girl, and Angel. She is a member of her studio's pre-professional ballet trainee program, and has participated in the Youth American Grand Prix in the past, both as a soloist and

ensemble member. Ayla was accepted into summer intensives at Tulsa Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Sarasota Ballet. She enjoyed attending Ballet Austin's summer intensive this past summer. Ayla is honored to be dancing as a company member, and graciously thanks LMBC for this opportunity to dance in *The Nutcracker*.



Helen Brozovic · Maid, Flower Corps

Helen Brozovic is a sophomore enrolled in the Pre-IB program at Lincoln High School. She has been dancing from a young age, and has trained in the styles of jazz, ballet, and pointe. This is her fifth appearance in *The Nutcracker*, with previous roles as Flower Corps, Chinese Lantern, Russian Background, and Garland Child. Outside of dance, she runs cross country and plays tennis for her school's teams. She also plays the viola in both her school

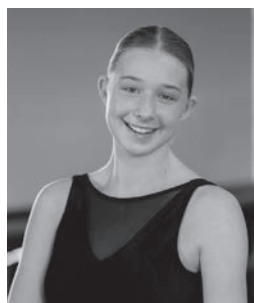
orchestra and the Lincoln Youth Symphony, and has been a previous member of the Nebraska All-State Honors Ensemble. Helen is excited to be a part of this amazing holiday tradition!

2021 Company Dancers



Lauren Coniglio · Flower Corps, Snow Corps
Lauren Coniglio, 15, is a sophomore honor roll student at Lincoln East High School. This year, she will participate in her sixth year of LMBC's *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Angel, Little Mouse, Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. She has been dancing since the age of three, and is currently taking classes in classical ballet, pointe, contemporary (lyrical and modern), jazz, and hip hop.

Lauren has been in her studio's selective repertory group for five years. This past summer, she was chosen to take an advanced intensive at the Lied Center with ABT. She also has had the privilege of dancing with the Manhattan Dance Project, and taking classes with instructors Michael Vernon, Tony Vitale, Bill Hotaling, Marco Leal and Kameron Bink. Outside of dance, Lauren enjoys participating in her school's varsity show choir, *Express*, and cheering on the Spartans on the junior varsity squad. Lauren is grateful and blessed to be a company member this year, and wants everyone to enjoy this season's magical show!



Brynley Cooper · Maid, Flower Corps
Brynley, 15, is a sophomore honor roll student at Lincoln Lutheran High School. She is a member of the Blue Angels dance team. She has been dancing since she was three years old, and is trained in ballet, pointe, tap, lyrical, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, ballroom, modern, and musical theater. This is her eighth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Little Mouse, Sugar and Spice, Garland Child, Russian Background,

Spanish Background, and Flower Corps. She has danced in multiple summer intensives with many talented choreographers, including Jay Jay Dixonbey, Curtis Sprung, Randi and Hefa, Hailey Hoffman, and Karine Plantadit. She has also modeled and performed for the Paper Ballet art project. A highlight of her dance experience was competing in the Youth American Grand Prix, and being selected for the finals in New York City. Outside of dance, Brynley enjoys spending time with her family and friends, hiking, shopping, and other school and church activities. Brynley would like to thank LMBC for this experience that she looks forward to every year. It truly is a blessing!

2021 Company Dancers



Ariana Cunningham · Snow Princess, Marzipan
Ariana is a freshman at Norris High School in Firth, Nebraska. Her love and dedication for dance began at the age of three. This will be her fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles were Elf, Big Party Girl, China, and Snow Princess. Last April, she attended the Kansas City Youth American Grand Prix Semi-Finals, where she finished in the top 24 with her variation, and first overall in contemporary. She competed at the 2021 YAGP Finals in Tampa, FL. In addition to YAGP, she is a current member of her company's competitive dance team. She has competed in all dance genres, and has won several honors and scholarships. She auditioned for the American Ballet Theatre summer advance ballet intensive and was accepted. She would like to extend a huge thank you to the many dance instructors and other role models in her life who have shared with her their time, talents, and love for dance. She is honored and excited to be dancing as an LMBC company member for a second year. She is very grateful to all the individuals who help make *The Nutcracker* an amazing and successful opportunity for all dancers in the community.



Phoenix Decker · Harlequin, Marzipan, Russian
Phoenix, 14, is an eighth-grade honor student at Scott Middle School where he is a student ambassador. He has played the violin for five years, and is also a member of show choir. Phoenix started dancing at age seven after watching *So You Think You Can Dance*. He is passionate about dance, and enjoys traveling with his studio's competition team. He has won scholarships, and placed as a top 20 male best dancer at a national competition this summer. Tap, modern contemporary, and ballet are his favorite genres, and he is looking forward to performing in his fifth season of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Little Party Boy, Fritz, and Russian Man. When not at the studio, Phoenix enjoys gaming with his brother, hunting, fishing, running, and biking.

2021 Company Dancers



Grace Fry · Jester, Russian, Snow Corps

Grace is an eighth grader at Moore Middle School where she maintains straight A's in the differentiated program, and is on the yearbook committee. She loves school and learning! Grace's favorite time of year is Nutcracker season! Grace competes on her studio's competition team, traveling throughout the U.S. This past year, she consecutively placed in the top 10 for her solo in the Teen Division at all Break the Floor conventions. She

was also named a Breakout Artist Winner at NUVO, and a Non-Stop Dancer Winner at 24 Seven. Grace was born to dance, and ballet is her first love. She danced principal roles in her studio's ballet productions. Dancing the role of Chip, the teacup, in *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as Tweedledum in *Alice in Wonderland*. When Grace is not at the studio, she enjoys baking, and cheering on the Huskers. Grace would like to thank her dance teachers and LMBC for the training she has received, and for providing her the opportunity to dance in this beautiful production.



Taryn Harrah · Flower Corps, Snow Corps

Taryn, 14, is a ninth-grade honor roll student at Lincoln East High School. She has been dancing since the age of four, and has been a member of her studio's competitive dance team for the last nine years. She performs and attends workshops at various dance conventions, both regionally and nationally. She has received several awards and scholarships, including an Evolving Artist Ballet Scholarship from Velocity, which included six weeks of

training and acceptance to perform in Las Vegas for the Finale show. She also auditioned at The Rock School for Dance Education in Kansas City, awarding her the opportunity to attend a week long ballet training program in Philadelphia. Taryn has also performed in LMBC's production of *Snow White*. Her prior roles in *The Nutcracker* include Angel, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern, and Flower Corps. She is so thankful for the opportunity to perform in the LMBC's *The Nutcracker*, and appreciates all the support received from her teachers, staff, family, and friends.

2021 Company Dancers



Karmi Jay · Harlequin, Marzipan, Snow Princess
Karmi is 16 years old, and a tenth grader at Lincoln East High School where she is a second year member of the Apollonaires dance team. Her prior castings in *The Nutcracker* include Russian Lead, Snow Corps, Big Party Girl, Angel Lead, Chinese Lantern, Little Party Girl, and Chocolatier. Karmi also performed the role of Sneezy in the 2017 LMBC spring show of *Snow White*. Karmi is currently a Prodigy All-Star at Artistic Dance Exchange

Convention. She has been dancing since the age of three, and is now in her eleventh season competing with her studio team. Karmi has won numerous regional and national titles and the Young Artist Award at Mark of Excellence, as well as multiple scholarships to many conventions and camps. Outside of dance, she enjoys playing with her three Pomeranians: Plić, Jazz and Tapper.



Ava Kupke · Maid

Ava, 14, is a freshman honor roll student at Waverly High School where she is a member of her high school dance team. She is performing in her fifth year of *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Big Mouse, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, and Celestial Fairy. Ava started dance at the age of seven, and has been dancing competitively for the past seven years. Last April, Ava had the opportunity to compete at the Youth America Grand Prix ballet

competition in Kansas City, where she was a soloist and ensemble member. Ava auditioned and was accepted into Ballet West, Tulsa Ballet, and Oregon Ballet Theatre's 2021 summer intensives. She attended Oregon Ballet Theatre's intensive in Portland, Oregon in July. Ava is honored to be part of this special holiday tradition again this year!



2021 Company Dancers



Lena Lankas · Clara

Lena is a senior at Lincoln East High School. This is her tenth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. She dances competitively with her studio, and is on her high school dance team. At school, she is involved in National Honor Society, Ambassadors, and Hope Squad. She maintains a 4.0+ GPA, and is on honor roll with highest distinction. She also is involved in Lincoln Young Life, and volunteers with various other organizations. Lena would like to thank all her

dance instructors, fellow dancers, and her family for all their love and support during all her years of dance. She feels truly grateful to have the opportunity to dance the part of Clara, and work with an amazing cast!



Lauren Love · Russian, Snow Corps

Lauren, 15, is a freshman at Lincoln East High School where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. Her love of dance began at age three. For the last eight years, she has competed in all genres with her studio's competition team, earning numerous scholarships and awards. This will mark her fifth performance in *The Nutcracker*, with past roles including Big Mouse, Garland Child, Russian Background, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, and Flower Corps.



Olivia McCurley · Russian, Snow Corps

Olivia is a freshman at Lincoln Southwest High School. She is a competing soloist on her studio's national dance team, and a member of the Emeralds, LSW's varsity dance team. She is active in the Future Business Leaders of America Club, and volunteers delivering Meals on Wheels. When not dancing, Olivia is baking custom cakes, making playlists, redecorating her room, and skiing whenever possible. Her past roles in *The Nutcracker* include Snow Corps, Big Party

Girl, Big Mouse, Garland Child, and Angel. Olivia is grateful to the LMBC artistic director and staff for the time and effort they put into making *The Nutcracker* a world-class production. Enjoy the show!

2021 Company Dancers

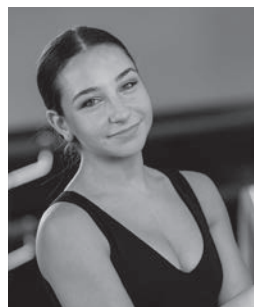


Lilly Michel · Demi Dew, 1st Maid, Snow Corps
Lilly, 16, is a junior honor roll student at Waverly High School. She is in her third year as a member of the Waverly High School dance team. Lilly has been dancing since the age of seven, training in various styles of dance, including ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, lyrical, improv, and contemporary. She has danced competitively for ten years, and enjoys traveling for dance conventions, competitions and intensives. Lilly has been recognized, and received scholarships from Velocity, NUVO and

In10sity. Her most recent accomplishment was accepting a ballet scholarship from NUVO. This summer, she traveled to Phoenix for the MUSE Experience, and to Las Vegas to compete nationally for Velocity. She has attended the Get on Pointe series through LMBC. This is Lilly's sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker*, previously dancing the roles of Garland Child, Spanish Background, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps.



Maggie Oulianova · Snow Queen, Spain
Maggie is a senior at Lincoln East High School where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team and National Honor Society. She dances competitively, and has been awarded many awards and scholarships. Maggie has attended multiple dance camps such as Ballet Austin, Muse Effect, and many more. This will be her tenth and final year dancing in *The Nutcracker*. After graduation, she plans to further her dance career in college.



Julia Radu · Flower Corps
Julia Radu is a 16-year-old sophomore at Lincoln East High School. She has been representing the Apollonaires dance team at East for two years. This is her sixth year in LMBC's *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles have included Elf, Russian Background, Chinese Lantern, and Flower Corps. She has been dancing since she was three years old. Julia takes classes in pointe, ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, and leaps and turns. She is also involved in her dance studio's repertory. She has attended the JUMP dance convention, and has been

taught by artists such as Mark Meismer, Nika Klijun, Colby Shin, and many more. She has also danced with the Manhattan Dance Project. Julia is extremely excited to be a part of this year's *Nutcracker* show!

2021 Company Dancers



Kiptara Thomas · China, Snow Corps

Kiptara Thomas is a freshman at Lincoln East High School. She is a member of the Apollonaires dance team and an honor roll student. She is member of her studio's competition team, and has won many scholarships over the years. This will be her seventh year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Starting out in one of the sweetest parts as an Angel, she danced through the party scene for many years, and is excited to dance as China and in the snow scene. She has completed summer dance programs at the Rock School

in Philadelphia and ABT, and plans to dance through college while pursuing a degree in the sciences.



Whitney Tomes · Arabian Queen, Snow Princess
Whitney, 16, is a junior at Pius X High School where she maintains a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of several student activities including the Ambassador Leadership Team, Student Council, National Honor Society, and one of the captains for the Thunderette Dance Team. This is Whitney's eighth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Angel, Crown Angel, Little Party Girl, Angel Lead, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, Russian, Snow Princess, Marzipan, and Jester. Whitney began taking

dance classes at age three, and has studied all genres of dance, but has grown to love ballet and contemporary. She competed at the Youth American Grand Prix competition this past February, and was honored to receive second place for her contemporary solo in the senior division. In September, Whitney was also one of 80 students accepted via a nationwide audition process to attend the Pre-Professional Dancer Institute, that provided a heavy concentration in ballet, contemporary, and modern dance styles. Whitney's main dance focus is her studio's competition team. She is currently in her tenth year, and travels nationwide. She has received numerous awards, titles, and scholarships, but her greatest dance accomplishment was achieved this past summer in Orlando while attending The Dance Awards. In a very talented teen category of over 200 dancers, she was selected as one of the Top 20 Teen Best Dancers based on the combination of her solo and audition scores. *The Nutcracker* is Whitney's favorite tradition, and she is extremely happy to be participating again as a company member.

2021 Company Dancers



Grace Troyer · Snow Corps, Flower Corps

Grace, 15, is a freshman honor roll student at Lincoln Southwest High School. She is a member of the freshman cheer team and a co-captain for winter and spring sports. In addition, she is part of the Southwest competition cheer team and was selected as an All American Cheerleader at NCA cheer camp. Grace has been dancing since she was five years old, and is currently studying jazz, contemporary, pointe, and tap. Grace has been part of her studio's repertory group for four years, and performed in their

production of *The Lion King* this past spring. This will mark Grace's seventh year in *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Little Mouse, Garland Child, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, and Celestial Fairy. During the pandemic Grace had the unique opportunity to train online with Camila Ferrera, a company member of the Indianapolis Ballet. Grace is thrilled for Camila's return as the Sugar Plum Fairy, and the chance to share the stage with her. In her spare time, Grace enjoys being with family and friends, skateboarding and drawing.



Iva Volf · Maid, Flower Corps

Iva is a 16-year-old junior at Norris High School. This is Iva's eighth year dancing in *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Sugar and Spice, Big Mouse, Arabian Background, Chinese Lantern, and Flower Corps. Iva started dancing when she was two-years-old. She was a part of the competition team at her studio for many years before joining the Norris Sapphire dance team. She has been on the team for the past 3 years. At Norris, Iva is on the honor roll and is a member of Tri-M, Music Honor Society. Iva has been on the Norris

show choir since she was a freshman. This year, she is on the varsity show choir, Gold, and will travel to Florida with them this summer. Iva enjoys all forms of dance, but her favorite is ballet. This summer, she joined the Wilber Senior Czech Dancers, and learned a variety of different polkas. They performed these dances at Wilber Czech Days and at some area nursing homes. When Iva is not dancing, she enjoys kayaking, shopping, traveling to Czech festivals, and playing golf.

2021 Company Dancers



Liliana Ware · Flower Corps, Snow Corps

Liliana Ware is a freshman honor roll student at Southwest High School where she is a member of the Emeralds dance team. This is her fourth appearance in *The Nutcracker*, formerly dancing as Sugar and Spice, Spanish Background, and Chinese Lantern. Liliana has been in love with dance since her first class at age three. In the past year, Liliana was awarded a ballet scholarship at JUMP Dance Convention and All-American distinction at National Dance Alliance camp. Nutcracker season is Liliana's

favorite time of the year! Thank you to everyone involved in the production for the friendships that are created and renewed.



Kyren Watson · Harlequin, Marzipan, Russian

Kyren, 15, is a freshman at Lincoln East High School. This is Kyren's sixth year of dance, and fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. His previous roles have included Big Party Boy and Russian. Kyren began training in classical ballet, and now also dances contemporary, jazz, and tap. He has also begun competing with his studio's dance team, as well as YAGP. Kyren has participated in multiple summer dance intensives, as well as dance conventions. He aspires to dance professionally someday, and travel the world. Outside

of school, Kyren likes spending time with friends and shopping.



Ali Weber · China, Snow Corps

Ali, 15, is a sophomore student at Lincoln Southwest High School where she is an honor roll student, and a member of the Emeralds dance team. Ali's love for dance began at the age of three. She studies ballet, jazz, contemporary, and lyrical dance. This is Ali's seventh year dancing in *The Nutcracker*, previously dancing the roles of Little Mouse, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. When not dancing, Ali enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

2021 Company Dancers



Clara Wolfe · Dew Drop, Snow Princess, Columbine
Clara Wolfe, 16, is a sophomore honor roll student at Lincoln East High School. This is her second year as a dancer on the Apollonaires dance team. She continues her dance training with the competitive team at her dance studio, and enjoys working on strength and conditioning. She trains in ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and modern. When not dancing Clara enjoys trying new recipes, spending time at the lake and hanging with friends. This is Clara's sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker* with the previous roles of Marzipan, Maid, Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Spanish Background, Soldier, and Big Mouse. Clara is so excited to be performing this year in *The Nutcracker* once again!



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2021 Company Dancers



2021 Understudy Roles

Tierny Blankenhorn • Harlequin
Ayla Brosman • Columbine
Isabella Brown • Big Party Girl
Helen Brozovic • Snow Corps
Eloise Carter • Flower Corps
Brynley Cooper • 1st Maid
Ariana Cunningham • Dew Drop
Nora Davis • Big Party Girl
Grace Fry • Marzipan
Taryn Harrah • Demi Dew
Ava Kupke • Flower Corps

Lauren Love • China
Olivia McCurley • Marzipan
Lilly Michel • Snow Princess
Maggie Oulianova • Arabian Queen
Julia Radu • Snow Corps
Lily Teten • Flower Corps
Kiptara Thomas • Russia
Sophie Tomes • Flower Corps
Whitney Tomes • Snow Queen
Clara Wolfe • Spain

2021 Apprentice Dancers



Livia Bonnie · Big Party Girl

Livia, 12, is a seventh grader at Scott Middle School. This is her fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*, with previous roles as Garland Child and Little Party Girl. She has danced on her studio's competition team since age seven, and has received scholarships and awards from NUVO, 24/7, JUMP, Radix and Dancemakers. She also trains for Youth America Grand Prix, and was invited to Tampa this year to compete at YAGP Finals, both in the classical and contemporary divisions. Outside of dance, Livia enjoys art, interior design, and participating in church activities.

Isabella Brown · Celestial Fairy

Isabella Brown, 13, is in seventh grade at Lux Middle School where she is a member of the student council. This is her sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Isabella has performed in a variety of roles including Angel, Little Mouse, Little Party Girl, and Soldier. Isabella has been dancing competitively since the age of six. She has traveled as a member of her studio's team to many regional and national events, earning scholarships and top placements. Outside of dance, she loves to bake, hike, and travel. Isabella is honored to be performing in this wonderful community tradition!

2021 Apprentice Dancers

Eloise Carter · Chinese Lantern

Eloise Carter, 14, is an eighth grader at Irving Middle School where she maintains a 4.0 GPA. This year will be her sixth time performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Angel, Big Mouse, Garland Child, and Russian Background. Eloise has been dancing since the age of four, and is a part of her studio's competition team that has competed regionally and nationally. She has trained in ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, and ballroom. When she isn't dancing she enjoys reading, listening to music, swim team, and babysitting. Eloise is so excited and grateful to be in the 2021 Nutcracker. She would like to thank the amazing cast and crew, and wishes everyone good luck.

Camina Dredge · Celestial Fairy

Camina, 14, is a freshman at Lincoln East High School where she participates in the differentiated program. She is on the freshman cheer squad at Lincoln East. This is her fifth year in *The Nutcracker*. Previous roles have included Angel, Garland Child, and Arabian Background. Camina has been dancing since the age of five, and is currently on her dance studio's competitive team. She currently takes ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, acro, leaps and turns, and tumbling. Camina recently started studying Imperial Classical Ballet and passed her first exam with merit.

Magdalen Driewer · Chinese Lantern

Magdalen, 14, is a freshman at Pius X High School where she is a straight A student, and a member of Pius X Thunderette Dance Team. This is her third appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Russian Background and Chinese Lantern. Magdalen is trained in classical ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, contemporary, and hip hop. She is also a part of repertory, her studio's selective group. She is grateful for everyone who makes this opportunity possible, and is delighted to perform in LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*!

Sophia Fox · Chinese Lantern

Sophia, age 13, is an eighth grade honor roll student at Scott Middle School where she is a member of Student Council and serves as their secretary. Sophia has been dancing since she was four years old. Currently she studies pointe, tap, lyrical, hip hop, ballet technique, jazz and cheer jazz at her studio. In addition, she is part of her studio's repertory team and performed in their production of *The Lion King* this past summer. This is Sophia's sixth year in LMBC's *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Angel, Big Mouse, Garland Child, and Spanish Background. When she is not dancing, Sophia enjoys drawing, and listening to music.

2021 Apprentice Dancers

Avari Korsmo · Chinese Lantern

Avari, 14, is a freshman at Lincoln Christian School. She started dancing at the age of five. She has attended multiple dance camps and intensives including JUMP and Manhattan Dance Project. Avari is honored to be part of the inaugural season of the Lincoln Christian dance team and serves as a workout captain of The Cru. Avari is currently taking pointe, ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, hip hop, and part of the invitation only repertory program at her studio. Past roles include Angel, Sugar and Spice, Garland Child, Russian Background, Chinese Lantern. She is honored to be apart of her favorite Christmas tradition!

Maddy Kotik · Big Party Girl

Maddy, 13, is an eighth grade straight-A student at Moore Middle School. Her love for dancing began at age five, and she has been a member of her studio's competitive dance team since she was seven years old. Maddy has attended out-of-state conventions and competitions; including a trip to Orlando, Florida, for a national convention. She trains in all forms of dance including jazz, lyrical, hip hop, and ballroom; her favorites being ballet, pointe, and contemporary. This is Maddy's sixth year dancing in LMBC's *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Angel, Elf, Garland Child, and Russian Background. She's excited for her first role en pointe. Maddy is in her second year as a teacher's assistant at her studio. When she is not dancing, Maddy helps with her school's yearbook, spends time with her church youth group, and attends Launch's Summer Leadership Workshops. Maddy loves baking and spending time with her family, neighbors, friends, and cats.

Jennifer Larson · Celestial Fairy

Jennifer is a freshman at Lincoln East High School where she plays flute in marching band and concert band. This is her first year in *The Nutcracker*; and she is very excited to have the opportunity to perform. She has been dancing at a local studio for many years, and she has made friendships that will last a lifetime. She is very thankful for those who have taught her. Jennifer thanks all those who have supported her and guided her on her journey. They have motivated her to try harder and to get stronger.

2021 Apprentice Dancers

Hayley Marshall · Big Party Girl

Hayley, 13, is a seventh grader at Scott Middle School. Hayley's love and dedication to dance began at the age of three. She started traveling competitively with her studio at the age of six. She is recognized consistently for her dancing in solo overalls and top scholarship awards. This summer, she was named a Top 10 Junior Best Dancer at the National Dance Awards. Hayley is also training for the prestigious Youth American Grand Prix. This year marks her fifth appearance in the LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Little Mouse, Elf, Little Party Girl, and Big Party Girl. Outside of dance, Hayley loves crafts, and traveling.

Ada Rawlings · Big Party Girl

Ada, 13, is a seventh grader at Scott Middle School. This year marks her fifth appearance in the LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Little Mouse, Garland Child, Solider, and Arabian Background. Ada has been dancing since the age of four, and has spent the last five years as a member of her studio's competitive dance team. Ada is currently training for the Youth American Grand Prix. Outside of her passion for dance, Ada enjoys traveling with her family, water sports, and spending time with friends.

Mila Shultheis · Big Party Girl

Mila began her dance journey at the age of three. She began dancing competitively when she was five. Mila has received numerous awards and scholarships. This is Mila's fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her roles have included Elf, Little Mouse, and Little Party Girl. Mila is a seventh grader and is in the gifted program at her school. She receives all straight A's.

Teagan Smith · Big Party Girl

Teagan Smith, 13, is an eighth grade student at Irving Middle School. She has been dancing since the age of four, and has been a member of her studio's competitive dance team, competing in out-of-state competitions for six years. These competitions have included every genre of dance. She has received multiple scholarships and awards, including NUVO Breakout Artist Runner-Up at NUVO Dance Convention, 24/7 Dance Convention and Jump Dance Convention. This year marks her sixth year dancing in *The Nutcracker*, with roles as Angel, Mouse, Elf, Little Party Girl, and Big Party Girl. Outside of her passion for dance, she enjoys playing the violin in her school orchestra, participating in church activities, and gathering with family and friends.

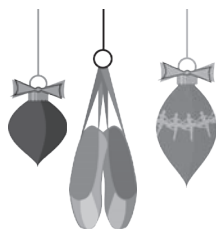
2021 Apprentice Dancers

Lily Teten · Chinese Lantern

Lily, 15, is a sophomore at Lincoln Northstar High School, with a 4.0+ GPA. This is her third year cast in LMBC's *Nutcracker*. Prior roles include Soldier and Chinese Lantern. Lily began her love of dance at age four, and is currently taking classes in ballet, pointe, variations, jazz, contemporary, leaps and turns, and hip hop. This is her fifth year as a member of her studio's repertory group. Also, this year, she was able to attend a master class with ABT. Lily has had the privilege of dancing with the Manhattan Dance Project for the past four years, taking classes with Michael Vernon, Tony Vitale, Bill Hotaling, and Kameron Bink. When she is not dancing, Lily enjoys playing violin in her school orchestra, and playing guitar and piano. Lily also enjoys choreographing new dances, hanging out with friends, spending time with her church group, listening to music, reading, photography, playing with her dogs, and making memories with her family and friends.

Sophie Tomes · Celestial Fairy

Sophie is an eighth grade straight-A honor roll student at St. Peter's School. She is the elected vice president of the student council, and also participates as a lector at Mass, as well as assisting as a TA with younger students. Sophie began taking dance classes at age three, and studies all genres of dance, but has grown to love ballet and lyrical. She competed at the Youth American Grand Prix competition this past February in a group ensemble, and looks forward to competing a solo variation at the competition in 2022. Sophie has auditioned, and been accepted, to several ballet intensives, including the ballet schools of Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Cincinnati, the Texas Ballet Theater, and the Joffrey Academy of Dance. She is in her seventh year of competing competitively with her studio's team, and is very fortunate to consistently receive top scholarships and solo placements. Sophie loves the excitement and tradition of *The Nutcracker*. This will be her sixth appearance, and her past roles include Angel, Big Mouse, Angel Lead, and Chinese Lantern.



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 Norwood Park Elementary during the week of December 7-10, teaching them about costuming, make-up, and choreography.

On December 10, Nutcracker cast members performed excerpts from the ballet for the entire Norwood Park student body. Backstage at the Ballet has reached thousands of students at numerous Lincoln area schools including: Beattie, Belmont, Brownell, Calvert, Campbell, Clinton, Eastridge, Elliott, Everett, Fredstrom, Hawthorne, Hill, Holmes, Humann, Huntington, Kahoa, Kloefkorn, Lakeview, Maxey, Meadowlane, Morley, Pershing, Prescott, Pyrtle, Randolph, Riley, Rousseau, Saratoga, Sheridan, West Lincoln, Zeman, and Eagle District #145 Elementary. This special program was funded by grants from Allstate, and by the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild. Thank you to the dancers and staff who assisted with this year's program.

Lyle Johnson Award

As first president of our predecessor organization Ballet Midwest, founded by Shari True, 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.

Past recipients of this award are Alice Abel, Kathleen Allen, Bryan LGH Medical Center, Lana Brennan, Joan Chopp, Ron Colin, Susan Chowning-Rickets, Tom Curtright, Michael Dowd, Debby Erickson, 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, Ann Watson and Renee Yost.

This year's recipient is Maralee Maldavs, who has served as Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's Head Costumer and Costume Builder since 2012. Maralee is both a creative costume designer and an expert seamstress. Her costumes help bring *The Nutcracker* story to life, and are an essential part of creating the magic that we see on the Lied stage. She is a kind and caring member of the LMBC staff, who is deeply committed to making each dancer look and feel special on stage. We thank Maralee for her countless hours of work, and are pleased to recognize her dedication to LMBC with the 2021 Lyle Johnson Award.



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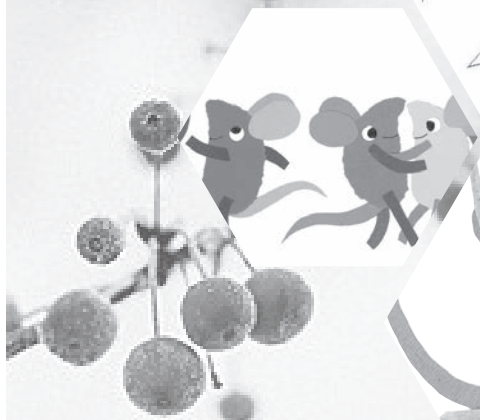
**Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company
would like to thank the following individuals
who volunteered their time and skills
to staff our first aid site:**

**Katie Changstrom, RN
Ron Rawlings, MD
Azusa Ronhovde, APRN
Jennifer Stroemer, RN
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