

# 2019 *Nutcracker*

DECEMBER 14 & 15



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

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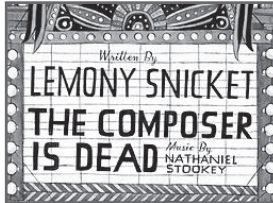
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# LINCOLN MIDWEST BALLET COMPANY



Artistic Director Shari True  
presents

## *The Nutcracker*

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Featuring the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

Conducted by Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

&

Sunday, December 15, 2019

2 p.m.

**Technical Director:** Daniel Anderson, Stratum Productions

**Stage Manager:** Melanie Rudy

**Stage Crew:** Jaylin Wiese

**Props Master:** Kira Taylore

**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:** Elizabeth Brunke, Kayci Johnston

**Rehearsal Assistants:** Betsy Andersen, Ashley Rutt

**Accompanist:** Burton Schernikau

**Executive Director:** Kelly Duncan

# Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company

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**Senior Representatives:** Emma Luci and Grace Herron

## 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.

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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

**2019 marks 127 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 34th *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 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.





## 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 35th 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 third 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.

## 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.

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*.

## **Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr.**

### **Conductor, Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra**



Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr., is Professor Emeritus at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Dregalla has also served Wright State University as Chair of the Department of Music, the Director of Semester Conversion and Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, and Associate Dean for Students and Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts.

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.

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  
Erin Aguirre  
Rose Hunter  
Kristen Wissink

## **Violin II**

Donna Carnes,  
*Principal*  
Kristin Pfabe  
Charon Becker  
Lisa Myers  
Nissa de la Torre

## **Viola**

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

## **Cello**

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

## **Bass**

Mike Swartz, *Principal*  
Ian Wright

## **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 Lindsey

## **Bassoon**

Karen Sandene,  
*Principal*  
Joyce Besch

## **Horn**

Kim Beasley, *Principal*  
Ric Ricker  
Harold Oliver  
Kaylene Diaz

## **Trumpet**

Dean Haist, *Principal*  
Brad Obbink

## **Trombone**

Terry Rush, *Principal*  
Mark Mendell  
Nancy Vogt

## **Tuba**

Craig Fuller

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## **Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra**

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## **Dean W. Haist, Executive Director**

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## 2019 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 14 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 UN-L 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 nearly 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.

## 2019 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 is excited to join the cast and crew of *The Nutcracker* with Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company. She is a junior stage management student at the Johnny Carson School for Theatre and Film. Recent credits include *Hair* with the Nebraska Repertory Theatre and *Dry Land* with Theatrix.

### **Emily Maldavs** · Assistant to the Costumer

Emily Maldavs is a senior Conservation Biology major at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She is excited to officially be a part of the costume department for *The Nutcracker* this year, after participating as a dancer for ten years. Her 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.

### **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 eighth 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 various 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 35th production of *The Nutcracker*.



## 2019 Artistic Staff

### **Ashley Rutt** · Rehearsal Assistant

Ashley is a native of Lincoln where she grew up dancing in *The Nutcracker*, 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 Scarlets Dance Team. She transferred to Oklahoma City University, and received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Dance Performance and Teaching. While in Oklahoma, she taught and choreographed for numerous dance studios throughout the state. She also was involved with judging and teaching for Dance Masters of America Dance Convention. At Oklahoma City University, she was a member of the American Spirit Dance Company, touring with the company and serving as their 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 Lincoln and Omaha, as well as being an adjunct professor of dance at Creighton University.

### **Burton Schernikau** · Accompanist

Burton Schernikau is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, earning 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. He is the pianist for LMBC's *Nutcracker* rehearsals, and is a guest pianist for many other professional ballet companies and organizations throughout the United States. He is the former artistic director of the Lincoln Boys Choir. Schernikau has been recognized by the Nebraska Music Educators and has received the Outstanding Music Alumni award from NWU.



### A NEBRASKA BRASS CHRISTMAS

**Tuesday, December 17 • 7:30 PM**

Ashland • Ashland United Methodist Church

**Saturday, December 21 • 7:30 PM**

Lincoln • Vine Congregational UCC

### **Contact Us**

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402-477-8222 (fax)

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[www.artsincorporated.org/nb](http://www.artsincorporated.org/nb)

### INVITATION TO THE DANCE: Music for Dancing

**Sunday, February 9 • 3:00 PM**

Beatrice • St. John Lutheran Church

**Sunday, February 16 • 3:00 PM**

Hastings • First United Methodist Church

**Sunday, February 23 • 3:00 PM**

Kearney • First Lutheran Church

**Saturday, February 29 • 7:30 PM**

Omaha • St. Luke's Lutheran Church

**Sunday, March 1 • 3:00 PM**

Lincoln • Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## 2019 Guest Artists



### **Eric Carnes** · Snow King, Marzipan, Harlequin

Eric Carnes began his dancing at the age of seven. He started intensive private ballet training with teachers from Russia and Croatia. He has performed regularly in his home state of Connecticut, as well as dancing with companies in Italy, France, and Croatia. Most recently Eric has performed for three years at the Rudolph Nureyev Estate in Monte Carlo. Eric is currently augmenting his dancing with his collegiate studies at Trinity College in Connecticut and Queen Mary University in London.



### **Ben Chandler** · Drosselmeier

This is Ben's 24th 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. This being his tenth year as Drosselmeier, 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 seven-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 2019 performance and "God bless" to everyone.

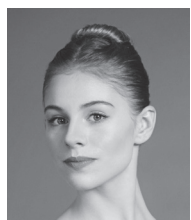


### **Matthew Fata** · Arabian

Matthew Fata has trained in all styles of dance that include jazz, ballet, tap, hip hop, lyrical, and contemporary. He has won numerous awards for his dancing and choreography. Matthew's dance experience includes the following performances: Carnival Cruise Line commercial; dancing alongside spoken word artist Azure Antoinette; Michelle Obama's 100th Anniversary of Burbank; MusEffect, Jaci Royal, Talia Favia stage shows; Industry Dance Awards in Los Angeles; APAP Showcase at Jazz at Lincoln Center; AMDA the College and Conservatory of Performing Arts in Los Angeles; and World Choreography Awards in Los Angeles. He was a finalist for the 2018 and 2019 Capezio ACE Awards. He has assisted various choreographers on *So You Think You Can Dance*, NBC's *World of Dance*, and *MOVE Live Tour* by Julianne and Derek Hough. He tours, teaches, and choreographs for Muse Dance Company, as well as many studios throughout Canada and the United States. Matthew is also a company member of MusEffect

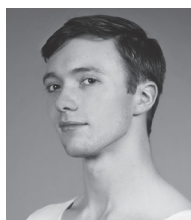
## 2019 Guest Artists

and Royal Flux, and judges for Rainbow, KAR, and the Knockout Dance Challenge. He is also a faculty member with NV Dance Convention, and guest faculty member for Intrigue Dance Convention.



### **Camila Ferrera** · Sugar Plum Fairy

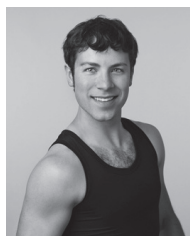
Camila Ferrera was born in Hoboken, New Jersey. She began her training under the instruction of her mother, Sonia Grimaldi, and continued her training at the School of American Ballet. In 2008, Ferrera was accepted into the American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School (JKO), where she 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.



### **Glenn Kelich** · Nutcracker Prince

Glenn Kelich, who was a member of Kansas City Ballet II for its 2017-2018 season, began taking ballet at Indiana Ballet Conservatory (IBC) as a sophomore in high school. The native of Indiana is a 2018 graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington where he received his Bachelor of Science in Ballet from the renowned Jacobs School of Music, and an Outside Field degree in Sport Marketing and Management. While at IU he trained under the legendary Violette Verdy and Michael Vernon, and was featured in many principal roles. Kelich is now in his second full season as a company member with Indianapolis Ballet, under the direction of Victoria Lyras. Along with dancing professionally, he is also a graduate student at Indiana University working towards his Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling.

## 2019 Guest Artists



### **Chris Lingner** · Cavalier

Chris Lingner began his career by joining the national tour of Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out*. He then appeared in *Hairspray*, and was a featured aerialist in *Come Fly With Me* on the Oasis of the Seas by Royal Caribbean. Lingner has also been a featured guest artist with Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre, Indianapolis School of Ballet, Peoria Ballet, Indianapolis City Ballet, and Chamber

Dance Project in Washington D.C. In 2012, Sonya Tayeh created a new work on him for a benefit sponsored by the NFL Super Bowl. Lingner studied ballet in the Jacob's School of Music at Indiana University where his repertoire included works by Michael Vernon, Anthony Tudor, Dwight Rhoden, Twyla Tharp, Josh Bergasse, Nicolo Fonte, Violette Verdy, Paul Taylor, August Bournonville, Peter Martins, and George Balanchine. Lingner also danced with Cincinnati Ballet, touring to the Joyce in NYC, and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Lingner also joined the cast of *Jerome Robbins' Broadway* to celebrate the 100th birthday of the late Jerome Robbins at the MUNY in St. Louis. Lingner is now a leading dancer with the new Indianapolis Ballet. In 2015, Lingner was nominated for his first Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical as a co-producer of the musical *On The Town*, and in the summer of 2016, Lingner produced the first *Ballet Royalty Gala* in Havana, Cuba. Back home in Fishers, IN, Lingner was appointed by the mayor to serve on the Inaugural Fishers Arts and Culture Commission to help direct government funds to foster the growth of the arts in the community.



### **Cameron Wille** · Arabian

Cameron Wille grew up at a small dance studio in Nederland, Texas, where he trained extensively in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, clogging, hip hop, and contemporary. He received recognition for his talents in dancing and choreography at an early age. He was a member of Tremaine's National Performance Company as a teen where he assisted and studied. Cameron's credits include

*The Originals* on the CW, *Brilliance! 9* accompanied soloist, Vans US Surf Open, MusEffect's *The Divine Direction* Stage Show, *Mitchell Kelly LifeParts* Benefit Show, Reebok Industrial, *Boo 2 Bullying*, Justin Giles *Love & War* Stage Show, APAP: Jazz at Lincoln Center, World Choreography Awards, Industry Dance Awards, *America Says*, and *Power* choreographed by Andrew Winghart. Cameron travels and teaches with MusEffect's in-house conventions throughout the US and Australia. Aside from dancing for Los Angeles based dance company MusEffect, Cameron also works as their resident costume designer and stylist.

## 2019 Featured Roles



### **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)

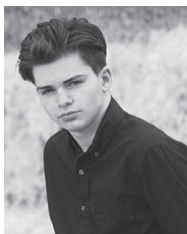
All-American Cheer and received Top All-American Cheer during his senior year. Kobe was in the 2018 Nutcracker, and is honored to be appearing again in *The Nutcracker* again this year.



### **Jonathan Moats** · Russian

Jonathan began his dancing career in 2008 at Nebraska Dance Company and has transitioned from a student to a teacher at True Dance Company. He has competed in dozens of competitions and conventions all across the country and currently he specializes in Tap and teaches various ages and levels at TDC.

Jonathan is a junior at the University of Nebraska Lincoln and majoring in Political Science with minors in Law and Business. This will be his third appearance in *The Nutcracker*.



### **Will Mallett** · Russian

Will is a dancer and choreographer from Omaha, NE. He trained on Nebraska Dance Company for ten years before going to CalArts where he'll graduate in 2021. At school, he has been able to perform the works of Nina Flagg, Merce Cunningham, Dimitri Chamblas, and more, at such venues as LA Dance Project, Hauser & Wirth, and the Geffen at MOCA. Recently,

he has taken his studies to Seoul, Korea and Paris, France. He plans to continue performing and studying dance to reveal new possibilities for his career.



# 2019 Nutcracker Cast

## Act I

**Herr Drosselmeier:** Benjamin Chandler

**Elves:** Annalise Aldag, Gianna Bonta, Khataya Briones, Laila Cardenas, Calla Kupke, Sarah Manzitto

**Clara:** Emma Luci

**Fritz:** Phoenix Decker

**Dr. Stahlbaum:** John Coffey

**Mrs. Stahlbaum:** Ashley Rutt

**Big Party Girls:** Ayla Brosman, Ariana Cunningham, Grace Fry, Taryn Harrah, Olivia McCurley, Hannah Tang, Kiptara Thomas, Grace Troyer

**Big Party Boys:** Eric Andersen, Kason Cade, Andrew Dixon, John Dixon, Jack Perry, Alex Ronhovde, Jaden Unlu, Kyren Watson

**Little Party Girls:** Livia Bonnie, Isabella Brown, Hayley Marshall, Mila Shultheis, Teagan Smith

**Little Party Boys:** Alex Kivett, Thomas McCurley, Krishna Sarath, Stephan Smith, Cruz Stricker

**Party Women:** Sarah McCurley, Jessica Broadfoot, Kelley Peterson, Maggie Rawlings, Natalie Tavlin, Tyne Thorson

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

**First Maid:** Abby Collier

**Maids:** Tierny Blankenhorn, Phoebe Kolb, Brooke Oliver, Rylee Tucker

**Harlequin Doll:** Maggie Oulianova

**Harlequin Man:** Eric Carnes

**Columbine Doll:** Anneliese Hinrichsen

**Jester Doll:** Meg Workman

**Nutcracker Prince:** Glenn Kelich

**Mouse King:** Kobe Brown

**Big Mice:** Grace Broer, Emilyn Changstrom, Eliza Colbert, Mya Harris, Ruby Lichtenfeld, Halle Myers, Addison Nauenburg, Bella Nuncio, River Nuttleman, Evie Olivera, Ainsley Perry, Susannah Schulte

**Little Mice:** Elle Friesen, Emily Hinze, Cora Johnson, Aviana Pebley, Caroline Schwartz, Lillian Sudbeck, Mia Vasa, Chloe Voog, Charis Waite

**Soldiers:** Ruby Francisco, Mackenna Gadeken, Jocelyn Gouldie, Emma Hershberger, Emily Jaeger, Milana Johnson, Marisa Schmeckpeper, Zoe Smith, Ava Strunk, Camryn Tompkins, Mya Vest, Joely Weerz

**Snow Queen:** Grace Herron

**Snow King:** Eric Carnes

**Snow Princesses:** Rose Copes, Josie Fillmore, Lena Lankas, Meg Workman

**Snow Corps:** Tierny Blankenhorn, Abby Collier, Elizabeth Friend, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Karmi Jay, Phoebe Kolb, Olivia Lempka, Brooke Oliver, Maggie Oulianova, Ansley Sothan, Whitney Tomes, Clara Wolfe

# 2019 Nutcracker Cast

## Act II

**Sugar Plum Fairy:** Camila Ferrera

**Cavalier:** Chris Lingner

**Angel Leads:** Hannah Rutt, Sophie Tomes

**Angel A (Saturday/Sunday 2 p.m.):** Amy Andersen, Everlee Cheney, Reese Dell, Lauren Dieken, Emma Ecton, Brooklyn Glasser, Raegan Grell, Chloe Hadwiger, Cate Rawlings, Olivia Smith, Ella Unlu, Mariah Vandrovec, Ellie Wiebusch, Kyndra Wiens

**Angel B (Saturday 7 p.m.):** Grace Chambers, Maggie Dee, Abrah Dunn, Stella Duval, Harriet Kulwicki, Aubrey Lattig, Lydia Nuttleman, Chloe O'Brien, Gracie O'Brien, Alyssa Perry, Mia Schnabel, Claire Shanahan, Aiden Sis, Freya Winders

**Sugar and Spice:** Rory Bergantzel, Brylie Bockelman, Adelyn Haden, Emilie Hunt, Addison Merfeld, Macy Vest

**Spain:** Rose Copes

**Spanish Background:** Scarlett Coleman, Brynley Cooper, Brenna Harris, Ava Meinke, Addison Sample, Liliana Ware, Twila Weber, Kaci Wood

**Arabian Queen:** Grace Herron

**Arabian Men:** Matthew Fata, Cameron Wille

**Arabian Background:** Milana Johnson, Chase Johnson, Naomi McKibbin, Marisa Schmeckpeper, Mya Vest, Brianna Weers

**China:** Abby Collier, Josie Fillmore, Olivia Lempka

**Chinese Lanterns:** Helen Brozovic, Lauren Coniglio, Ava Kupke, Kataryna Morton, Audrey Perry, Julia Radu

**Marzipan:** Elizabeth Friend, Lena Lankas

**Marzipan Man:** Eric Carnes

**Russian:** Karmi Jay, Maggie Oulinova, Whitney Tomes

**Russian Men:** Kobe Brown, William Mallett, Jonathan Moats

**Russian Background:** Gianna Battiato, Magdalen Driewer, Dot Francisco, Avari Korsmo, Lauren Love, Faith Peterson, Ella Runyan, Clara Thorson

**Bon Bon:** Ruby Francisco, Jaycee King, Gabi Longoria, Blythe Meranda, Faye Meranda, Khloe Mroz, Breyer Perry, Katherine Satorie, Grace Saville, Novalee Schmit, Isabelle Tesch

**Mother Ginger:** Jessica Broadfoot

**Dew Drop:** Meg Workman

**Demi Dews:** Anneliese Hinrichsen, Ansley Sothan

**Flower Corps:** Phoebe Kolb, Lilly Michel, Brooke Oliver, Alexandra Sick, Aliyah Soliz, Rylee Tucker, IvaMarie Volf, Ali Weber, Tierny Blankenhorn, Clara Wolf

**Garland Children:** Ellie Anderson, Nora Davis, Morgan Foged, Sophia Fox, Jordynn Inzauro, Maddy Kotik, Sophie Ramsey, Ada Rawlings, Chloe Shields, Bella Sjutz, Rilynn Whitney, Adah Wisnicki

## 2019 Company Dancers



*Seated:* Lena Lankas, Abby Collier, Rose Copes, Rylee Tucker, Tierny Blankenhorn  
*Kneeling L to R:* Olivia Lempka, Grace Herron, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Brooke Oliver  
*Standing L to R:* Karmi Jay, Lilly Michel, Josie Fillmore, IvaMarie Volf, Phoebe Kolb, Emma Luci, Ansley Sothan, Alexandra Sick, Whitney Tomes, Clara Wolfe, Elizabeth Friend  
*Not Pictured:* Maggie Oulianova, Meg Workman

## 2019 Understudy Roles

**Tierny Blankenhorn** • Russia  
**Helen Brozovic** • Flower Corps  
**Lauren Coniglio** • Flower Corps  
**Rose Copes** • Columbine  
**Josie Fillmore** • Spain  
**Elizabeth Friend** • Snow Princess  
**Grace Herron** • Dew Drop  
**Taryn Harrah** • Flower Corps  
**Karmi Jay** • China  
**Phoebe Kolb** • Demi Dew  
**Ava Kupke** • Big Party Girl

**Lena Lankas** • Jester  
**Olivia Lempka** • Harlequin  
**Lilly Michel** • Snow Corps  
**Kataryna Morton** • Flower Corps  
**Maggie Oulianova** • Arabian  
**Ansley Sothan** • Snow Princess  
**Whitney Tomes** • Marzipan  
**IvaMarie Volf** • Snow Corps  
**Ali Weber** • Snow Corps  
**Megan Workman** • Snow Queen

## 2019 Company Dancers



**Tierny Blankenhorn** · Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Maid  
Tierny is a 15-year-old freshman honor roll student at Lincoln East High School. Tierny has been dancing since the age of three, studying various styles of dance, including ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, modern, contemporary, lyrical and musical theater. She has been a member of her dance studio's competitive team for eight years, which has afforded her the opportunity to travel the region to compete and experience classes taught by a variety of talented choreographers. This

is Tierny's sixth year performing in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's *The Nutcracker*, with her roles including Angel, Garland Child, Little Party Girl and Big Party Girl. When not dancing, Tierny is involved in church youth group activities, Young Life high school group and spending time with family and friends. She is honored to be a member of the company and is grateful to participate in the Nutcracker holiday tradition.



**Abby Collier** · 1st Maid, China, Snow Corps

Abby Collier, 17, is a senior honor roll student at Lincoln East High School where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. This is her fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Sugar and Spice, Spanish Background, Chinese Lantern, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. Abby has been dancing for 12 years, training in ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, tap, and musical theatre. As a member of her studio's competition team, she

has attended many workshops and intensives. Abby is excited to spend one last year competing with her local dance studio. In her rare free time, she enjoys shopping, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Abby is grateful for LMBC and the Nutcracker tradition!

**The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild congratulates  
Emma Luci and Grace Herron  
on 10 years of performances!**



## 2019 Company Dancers



### **Rose Copes** · Spain, Snow Princess

Rose is a senior at Lincoln East High School. She has been a member of the Apollonaires dance team for four years, and is co-captain this year. She is an honor roll student, has earned academic letter/bars, and maintains a 4.0+ GPA. She is also a member of the varsity orchestra, and has received a varsity letter. Performing in *The Nutcracker* has been a highlight and memorable experience that will be cherished. Rose started with LMBC as a Peppermint and then Sugar & Spice. Most recently she has been Chinese Lantern,

Flower Corps, Snow Corps, Russia, 1st Maid and China Lead. Rose began dancing at the age of three, studying all forms of dance, and has competed with competitive dance teams since she was seven. She has been able to travel much of the country, participating in dance competitions, conventions, and national events. This past summer, she traveled with the Apollonaires to the UDA Elite summer camp for high school dance teams, and received All-American honors for the second year. She also attended the Soulescape Summer Intensive in Dallas, and received a scholarship. She plans to attend the Soulescape Winter Intensive in Salt Lake City over Christmas break. Rose is planning to attend college next fall majoring in pre-health, and will audition for a college dance team. Having the opportunity to participate in *The Nutcracker* has taught her so many life lessons, and allowed her to meet new friends and mentors she will never forget. Rose is so thankful to LMBC for offering this opportunity to dance in such beautiful and magnificent performance.



### **Josie Filmore** · Snow Princess, China

Josie is a junior attending James Madison High online with a 4.0 GPA. Josie started dancing over 14 years ago at the age of two. She is trained in classical ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz, tap, and hip hop. This is Josie's fourth year as a teacher assistant. Josie has attended the LMBC Summer Intensive for seven years. She has been part of her studio dance team for over six years, winning several team and solo awards. In October of 2018, Josie attended Arizona Jazz Dance Showcase where she won

a scholarship to Perry-Mansfield summer program. In February of 2019, she attended the Youth American Grand Prix in Kansas City where she performed a classical ballet variation and a contemporary solo. This will be Josie's seventh year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles were Peppermint, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Flower Corps, Snow Corps, Maid, and Russia. Josie has been blessed in having wonderful dance instructors. Someday she hopes to encourage young dancers, like the amazing teachers who



## 2019 Company Dancers

have inspired her. When Josie is not at dance, she enjoys choreographing her own dances, spending time with her friends, and watching anything on TV that is dance related.



**Elizabeth Friend** · Snow Corps, Marzipan  
Elizabeth is a sophomore at Lincoln Christian High School where she is active in drama, serves on the Social/Event Committee, and is a member of the yearbook staff. She is honored and thrilled to be making her sixth appearance in LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*, previously dancing the roles of Garland Child, Russian Background, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, and Flower Corps. She is a member of her studio's pre-professional ballet trainee program, and this is her second year of being a teacher's assistant for the

younger students. She has competed in the prestigious Youth American Grand Prix, and has been accepted into summer programs at Ballet Chicago, North Carolina School of the Arts, Burklyn Ballet, Ballet Austin, and Boston Ballet. She has attended the programs at Kansas City Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet. Elizabeth feels blessed to be a part of this wonderful holiday tradition, and is thankful to her instructors, friends, and family for their constant support and encouragement!



**Grace Herron** · Arabian Queen, Snow Queen  
Grace is in her senior year at Lincoln East High School where she is co-captain of the Apollonaires dance team, and a school ambassador. This is Grace's tenth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles have included Marzipan, Demi Dew, Snow Princess, 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 and ballet companies. 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 was named an Elite Crew Member. Grace has also competed in the Youth American Grand Prix, and 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. This past summer, Grace attended the UDA summer dance camp where she received All American honors. She was also accepted into Kansas City

## 2019 Company Dancers

to join classes there on scholarship for their year-round program. When Grace is not dancing, she enjoys spending time with friends, going on walks with her dog, enjoying cuddles with her cat, and nannying her cousins. Grace is honored to be dancing as a company member for her fourth year, and would like to thank her family, her instructors, and especially LMBC, for the opportunity to dance with an amazing company over the past years!



### **Anneliese Hinrichsen** · Columbine, Demi Dew, Snow Corps

Anneliese is a senior at Lincoln Southwest High School where she holds a 4.0GPA, and is an honor roll student. She has previously attended the New York City summer intensive of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, and was invited on full scholarship to continue her studies abroad for an additional six weeks in Moscow, Russia, by receiving a National Security Language Initiative for Youth

scholarship from the U.S. Department of State. She has received scholarships and awards from various summer programs and competitions. This last year, she studied intensely in Russia at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy's year-round school. Anneliese speaks both Russian and French. Her previous roles in *The Nutcracker* include Spanish Background, Chinese Lantern, Snow Corps, China, Snow Princess, and Marzipan. She has also performed in LMBC's production in *Snow White* as a Flower of the Forest. She is thrilled to participate in her senior year and final production with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company.



### **Karmi Jay** · Snow Corps, Russian

Karmi, 14, is an eighth grader at Moore Middle School. She is excited to be performing in her fifth Nutcracker. Her prior castings include 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 Snow White. She has competed at the Youth American Grand Prix for the past two years. Karmi portrayed the characters of Clara from *The Nutcracker* and the Blue Fairy from *Pinocchio* as a part of The Paper

Ballet art project. She has attended the Idaho Dance Arts Alliance Summer Camp the past three summers on scholarship, and the LMBC summer camp five times. Karmi has been dancing since the age of three, and is now in her ninth season competing with her studio team. She is looking forward to the upcoming dance competition season, and another trip to IDAA Summer Camp. Individual accomplishments include numerous regional and national titles, the Young Artist

## 2019 Company Dancers

Award at Mark of Excellence, as well as multiple scholarships to many conventions and camps. Outside of dance, Karimi enjoys spending time with friends and family, is active within her church, is a member of the Show Choir at school, and enjoys playing with her three Pomeranians; Plié, Jazz and Tapper. Karimi would like to thank the entire cast and crew for a wonderful 2019 Nutcracker experience!



### **Phoebe Kolb** · Maid, Flower Corps, Snow Corps

Phoebe is a junior at Milford High School where she maintains a 4.0 GPA. She is involved in dance team, show choir, band, jazz band, one act play, musical, Key Club, FCA, and student council. She has been dancing for 12 years, during which time she has studied ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and musical theatre. Phoebe has been a member of her studio's competition team for six years, and participated in the Youth America Grand

Prix in Las Vegas this past February. Beyond dance, Phoebe enjoys playing piano, painting, and participating in church activities, including being a part of the worship team. She is very excited to be making her fifth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Previous roles have included Soldier and Arabian Background. Being a part of this holiday tradition is a dream come true. Phoebe would like to thank her parents and teachers for encouraging her along the way.



### **Lena Lankas** · Snow Princess, Marzipan

This is Lena's ninth year in *The Nutcracker*. Lena is a sophomore at Lincoln East High School. She is a member of the Lincoln East Apollonaires dance team and Student Council, while also maintaining a 4.0+ GPA. Lena is on the national competition team at her studio. She has received many top honors and awards throughout her years performing and competing. One of her most memorable dance moments was being chosen to dance

in Justin Bieber's Purpose Tour at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Lena is grateful for the opportunity to dance in *The Nutcracker*, as it has become a time-honored tradition. Lena would like to thank her family and her studio family for their love and support!

## 2019 Company Dancers



### **Olivia Lempka** · China, Snow Corps

Olivia, 17, is a junior honor roll student at Lincoln Southwest High School, where she maintains a 4.0+ GPA, and strives for academic success. This will be Olivia's fourth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Little Mouse, Russian Background, and Flower Corps. She has also participated in the LMBC's 2017 *Snow White* as a Minion. This is her third year on the LSW Emeralds dance team. Olivia attended NDA dance camp this past summer, and received All American honors for the second year in

row. She also received "Top Gun" award for her spectacular turns. Olivia has been dancing since the age of five. She has studied various styles: ballet, tap, jazz, pointe; lyrical and contemporary. She has competed regionally and nationally with her studio. When not dancing, she cherishes spending her time with her family and friends. Olivia is honored to be performing as a company member this year in the holiday tradition she has attended since she was five.



### **Emma Luci** · Clara

Emma is currently a senior at Lincoln East High School, where she is a co-captain of the Lincoln East Apollonaires dance team. Emma began dancing at the age of two, and this is her tenth consecutive performance in *The Nutcracker*. Emma has performed the roles of Peppermint, Cinnamon, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Marzipan, Columbine Doll, Snow Princess, Jester Doll, and Arabian Queen. Emma is truly a versatile dancer, as she is a student of many types of

dance. Particularly, though, Emma's favorites types include contemporary, ballet, and pointe. Emma has spent many years competing for her local dance team, and appreciates all the experiences and guidance that has been shared with her along the way. As a recipient of many scholarships and awards throughout the years, Emma has benefited from a variety of teaching styles and techniques. Emma has loved becoming a role model and teacher's assistant within her studio, and is always eager to help out in any way that she can, particularly with the youngest ones! Emma has had the opportunity to study and compete nationally in several summer events, and has been a national champion and top ten finalist several times, sincerely appreciating all the time and experience that has been shared with her. In the future, Emma plans on continuing her education in college, where she has hopes of furthering her dance career as a member of a dance team. Emma would like to sincerely thank Lincoln Midwest Ballet for the many opportunities they have shown her and her fellow cast-mates, and would like to extend a huge thank you to both her family and friends who have supported her all throughout



## 2019 Company Dancers

throughout her dance career and who are overwhelmingly proud of the person she has become today. *The Nutcracker* has truly been a holiday tradition, and Emma is grateful to have been a part of it along with so many other talented people for another great year.



### **Lilly Michel** · Flower Corps

Lilly, 14, is a freshman honor roll student at Waverly High School. She is a member of the Waverly High School dance team. Lilly has been dancing since the age of seven, studying various styles of dance, including ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, hip hop, contemporary, lyrical, and musical theatre. She has been in competitive dance for seven years, competing both regionally and nationally. She has traveled for dance conventions, competitions and intensives, and has been recognized and received scholarships from Velocity,

NUVO and In10sity. She has had the opportunity to compete and experience classes taught by a variety of talented choreographers, as well as attending the Get on Pointe series through LMBC. This is Lilly's fourth year performing in *The Nutcracker*, previously dancing the roles of Garland Child and Spanish Background. Lilly would like to thank her family and teachers for their constant support and encouragement, and also everyone who makes *The Nutcracker* possible. She looks forward to this performance every holiday season as it also falls on her birthday weekend.



### **Brooke Oliver** · Snow Corps, Flower Corps

Brooke is excited to serve holiday delights at an enchanting Christmas party, twirl through the wintry pine forest, and waltz through the beautiful flowers in this year's *Nutcracker*. This is her third appearance, previously dancing as Chinese Lantern, Snow Corp, and Flower Corps. Brooke is 16, and a junior at Waverly High School. Her favorite dance activities include mentoring young students as a teacher assistant with her home studio, attending master classes, and traveling to conventions and competitions with her

studio. When she isn't dancing, Brooke can be found soaking up the sun at the lake during the summer, riding snowmobiles in the country during winter, and participating in school activities. Brooke is thrilled to be part of the Nutcracker experience again. She thanks the LMBC for keeping this wonderful tradition for young dancers to share their love of dance. She is grateful to her teachers and family for the many years of training, and for all their support and encouragement to follow her dreams and never give up.



## 2019 Company Dancers



### **Maggie Oulianova** · Harlequin Doll, Russian, Snow Corps

Maggie, 16, is a sophomore at Lincoln East High School where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team and on student council. Maggie has danced competitively since age six, winning outstanding honors, both regionally and nationally. She has received top awards from NUVO, Adrenaline, Radix, Velocity Revive, and NYCDA. She is recognized consistently for her dancing in solo overalls and top scholarship awards. She has attended summer intensives

with Ballet Austin and The Sessions. This summer she attended Muse Dance Intensive in L.A. This is Maggie's eighth appearance in *The Nutcracker*, dancing as Cinnamon, Garland Child, Little Party Girl, Angel Lead, Big Party Girl, China, and Snow Corps. Maggie is delighted to perform in LMBC's 35th year production and share the stage with her dad during the party scene.



### **Alexandra Sick** · Flower Corps

Alexandra, 16, is a junior at Seward High School where she has a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the cheer team, FCCLA Officer, Speech Team, and Godparent's Youth Group. Alexandra has been in 4-H for nine years, and also teaches a dance class at her church for elementary and middle school students. They perform liturgical dances during services. Over her 13 years of dancing, Alexandra has made many friends, and she is thankful that dance has been a part of her

life. She has been dancing since she was three, and is trained in jazz, hip hop, lyrical, ballet, and pointe. Her favorite genres of dance are ballet and pointe, and she is excited to be in this year's *Nutcracker* performance. Last year she was in the Arabian Background. This is Alexandra's favorite time of year, which makes being a part of this holiday celebration even more enjoyable. She can't wait to perform this role, and she is very grateful for this opportunity.



### **Ansley Sothan** · Snow Corps, Demi Dew

Ansley is a sophomore at Lincoln Southeast High School where she maintains a 4.0+ average and earned five varsity letters during her freshman year. She is a returning member of the Shirettes dance team, varsity golf state qualifier, varsity tennis, Student Council, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Shield, Young Life, and Launch Leadership. She had the honor of being selected to participate in Youth Leadership Lincoln 23 this year.

## 2019 Company Dancers

She continues to study Chinese, Spanish, and French, and will study abroad this summer in France. Ansley began dancing at two. She has competed in all genres of dance while on her studio's competition team, winning many awards and scholarships. Ansley has attended summer intensives at Ballet Austin, Cincinnati Ballet, Orlando Ballet, and LMBC's Master Classes. Ansley's passion for ballet and pointe compelled her to participate in Youth American Grand Prix for three years, competing in Kansas City and Chicago. Ansley's past Nutcracker roles include Peppermint, Elf, Garland Child, Angel Lead, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, Chinese Lantern, and China. Ansley cherishes the memories and friendships she has made over the years while being a part of this magical tradition. She would like to thank her dance teachers for their support, and all the volunteers that work to make the Nutcracker special for all to enjoy!



### **Whitney Tomes** · Russian, Snow Corps

Whitney, 14, is a freshman at Pius X High School. She is a straight A student, a member of the Thunderette Dance Team, Student Council, and Ambassadors. This will be Whitney's sixth appearance in *The Nutcracker*, and she is thrilled to be a member of the LMBC Company! Past roles include Angel, Crown Angel, Little Party Girl, Angel Lead, and Big Party Girl. In the 2017 LMBC production of *Snow White*, Whitney played the role of Bashful. She has also been

fortunate to be part of her studio's ballet productions, including *The Snow Queen*, *Aladdin*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. She has been accepted to several ballet intensives, such as Brooklyn Ballet and Kansas City Ballet. Whitney has participated in summer ballet programs at Motion 41 and through LMBC. Whitney danced in her very first recital at age four, and is currently in her eighth year competing competitively with her studio's team. Under the direction of her studio, she travels nationwide, and has received numerous awards, titles, and scholarships. She has attended multiple summer intensives, with two favorites being Club Dance in AZ and Next Step Dance in TX. This past summer, by invitation and audition, she was selected to perform under several influential contemporary choreographers in LA. Whitney absolutely loves *The Nutcracker*! She is grateful to her dance instructors for their endless support, and to LMBC for this wonderful holiday tradition.

## 2019 Company Dancers



### **Rylee Tucker** · Flower Corps, Maid

Rylee is a senior at Lincoln East High School where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. This is Rylee's ninth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Peppermint, Elf, Garland Child, Russian Background, Chinese Lantern, and Flower Corps. Rylee also performed in LMBC's 2017 production of *Snow White* as a Big Flower, as well as LMBC's 2014 production of *Snow White* as a Little Flower. Rylee has been dancing since the age of two, and

has been competing with her studio for ten years. Rylee has continued to train in all forms of dance including jazz, hip hop, ballet, pointe, lyrical, contemporary, and tap. When she is not dancing she is spending time with her family, friends, and pets. Rylee is grateful to be a part of this special holiday tradition!



### **IvaMarie Volf** · Flower Corps

Iva is a 14-year-old freshman at Norris High School where she is a member of the Sapphires Dance team and the Titanaires Show Choir. Iva started dancing at only two years old. She was on the competition team at her studio for over five years. Iva loves all genres of dance, but her favorite is ballet. She was selected to compete at the YAGP competition in Las Vegas last February. This is Iva's sixth year in *The Nutcracker*. She has been Sugar and Spice, Big

Mouse, Arabian Background, and Chinese Lantern. Iva has also helped with the Girl Scout Nutcracker tea, as she has been involved with Girl Scouts since kindergarten, and just earned her Silver Award. Iva has recently joined Scouts BSA, where she enjoys camping, swimming, and kayaking. She wants to earn both her Gold award and Eagle award. Iva is planning on attending camp in South Dakota next summer, going on a mission trip with her church, and attending the Joffrey ballet intensive in Kansas City. Iva is extremely excited to be a part of LMBC's 35th Anniversary production.



### **Clara Wolfe** · Snow Corps, Flower Corps

Clara Wolfe is in eighth grade at Moore Middle School where she is an honor student, and a member of the Student Council. Her love and dedication for dance began at the age of eight. She continues to study ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop. Clara is a member of her studio's repertory group. She has had the privilege of participating in the Manhattan Dance Project Workshop for the past three years. This is her fourth year dancing in *The Nutcracker*. Prior

# 2019 Company Dancers

roles include Little Mouse, Soldier, and Spanish Background. When she is not in the dance studio, she loves wakesurfing, wakeboarding, spending time at the lake, cooking, listening to music, and making memories with her friends and family. Clara is honored and excited to be dancing as an LMBC company member, and is very grateful to all of her instructors who have shared their time, talents, and love of dance.



**Megan Workman** · Jester Doll, Snow Princess, Dew Drop  
Meg is a high school graduate, taking online college courses through Southeast Community College. She began her training at age six, and has studied pointe, ballet, jazz, lyrical, and contemporary through Motion 41 Dance and Heartland Conservatory of Dance in Omaha. At age 13, she was invited to audition for Ballet Nebraska's Junior Company. She was accepted a year early into the BNII program. Later, she was given the role of Aurora in Motion 41's production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Meg has performed in *Snow*

*White*, *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Cleopatra*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition to local studios, she has studied and performed with Ballet Chicago, Ballet West, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and Joffrey NY. This will be Meg's third year with LMBC, and she is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful company.



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## 2019 Apprentice Dancers



*Seated:* Grace Fry *Kneeling L to R:* Aliyah Soliz, Ariana Cunningham, Ayla Brosman, Hannah Tang *Standing L to R:* Kiptara Thomas, Ali Weber, Taryn Harrah, Lauren Coniglio, Grace Troyer *Not Pictured:* Olivia McCurley

### **Ayla Brosman** · Big Party Girl

Ayla, 12, is a seventh-grade straight-A honors student at Schoo Middle School. This is her fifth appearance in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Little Party Girl and Angel. Ayla has competed with her studio's dance team for the past four years, earning numerous scholarships from Adrenaline, NUVO, Revive, and Radix. This year, she is training to participate in the Youth America Grand Prix as a soloist and ensemble member. When not dancing, Ayla is an active Cadette Girl Scout, who recently received the Silver Award. She also participates in her school's orchestra and show choir programs. Ayla is honored to be dancing as an apprentice, and thanks the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for this opportunity to dance in *The Nutcracker*.



## 2019 Apprentice Dancers

### **Lauren Coniglio** · Chinese Lantern

Lauren, 13, is a straight-A eighth grader at Moore Middle School. This year is her fourth year participating in *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Big Party Girl, Little Mouse, and Angel. She has been dancing since the age of three, and is currently taking classes in classical ballet, pointe, contemporary (lyrical and modern), jazz, leaps and turns, and hip hop. Lauren also receives private lessons at Brigata Training Facility. She has been in her studio's repertory group for three years, participating in the Christmas Nativity show, Starry Nights, the recital opener, and many other special opportunities. She has also had the privilege of dancing with the Manhattan Dance Project Workshop with instructors Michael Vernon, Tony Vitale, Bill Hotaling, and Kameron Bink. Outside of dance, Lauren enjoys participating in her school's show choir as a member and co-choreographer; hanging out with her friends, youth group, and little sister; as well as reading, writing, and listening to music.

### **Ariana Cunningham** · Big Party Girl

Ariana is a 13-year-old seventh grader at Norris Middle School in Firth, Nebraska. Ariana's love for dance began at the age of three, and she receives training in ballet, tap, pointe, jazz, lyrical, modern, and contemporary. This will be her third year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles were Elf and Big Party Girl. She is currently preparing for the 2020 Youth America Grand Prix competition. In addition to YAGP, she is a current member of her company's competitive dance team. She has competed in all genres of dance, both regionally and nationally, and has won several honors and scholarships. She auditioned with the Burklyn Ballet Company, and was accepted into their summer intermediate ballet program. She would also 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.

### **Grace Fry** · Big Party Girl

Grace, 12, is a sixth grader at Lincoln Lutheran Middle School. This past year, Grace was offered an invitation to attend the live-in, year-round pre-professional training program at the Kansas City Ballet. She has participated in the YAGP ballet competition the last two years. Grace has been awarded numerous scholarships over the years, and this past year was named an Honored Dancer Nominee at Adrenaline Dance Convention, as well as being awarded the Junior Miss Dance America Title at Revolution Dance Competition. Recently, she was named a

## 2019 Apprentice Dancers

Breakout Artist Runner-Up at NUVO Dance Convention. Grace's second home is at her studio, where she learns from inspiring teachers, as well as incredible guest choreographers. She is looking forward to competing with her studio's national competition team. Grace would like to thank everyone for their love and continued support through the years. Grace knows life is a gift, and she never takes the art of dance for granted.

### **Taryn Harrah** · Big Party Girl

Taryn, 12, is a seventh-grade honor roll student at Moore Middle 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 seven years. She performs at 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, and received the opportunity to attend a week-long ballet training program in Philadelphia. Taryn has also performed in LMBC's ballet production of *Snow White*. Her prior roles in *The Nutcracker* include Angel, Crown Angel, and Little Party Girl. Outside of dance, Taryn loves spending time with friends and family.

### **Olivia McCurley** · Big Party Girl

Olivia is a seventh grade honor roll student at Scott Middle School. She is a competing soloist on her studio's national dance team. When she's not dancing, she is tumbling, running track, skiing double black extremes, swimming, or making up dances in her basement. Olivia is thrilled to be dancing in *The Nutcracker* this year in the party scene with a live orchestra, her friends, mom and brother! Olivia is grateful to Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for the time and effort it puts into making *The Nutcracker* a world class production.

### **Aliyah Soliz** · Flower Corps

Aliyah, 13, is an eighth grade honor roll student at Scott Middle School. Dancing since the age of three, she is currently a member of the competitive dance team at her studio, and participates in various regional events throughout the year. This year marks her sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker*, with previous roles as Little Mouse, Angel, Garland Child, and Big Party Girl. She also had the opportunity to perform in LMBC's production of *Snow White* as a Forest Animal. In addition to

## 2019 Apprentice Dancers

attending LMBC's summer intensive programs and various LMBC master classes over the past few years, she has had the privilege of participating in a master class offered by American Ballet Theatre, and has completed summer intensives with Joffrey Ballet School the last two years. This last year, Aliyah participated in the Youth American Grand Prix in Kansas City and The Paper Ballet project in Lincoln. Aliyah is extremely grateful for all of the people who put in so much and time and effort to make *The Nutcracker* possible.

### **Hannah Tang** · Big Party Girl

Hannah Tang is a 13-year-old honors student attending eighth grade at Lux Middle School. This year will mark her third appearance in *The Nutcracker*, with previous roles as Big Mouse and Russian Background. In addition, she has performed in several community events and productions around the Lincoln area. Hannah is presently training in ballet, pointe, jazz, and modern. Over this past summer, she was privileged to study the art of classical ballet in New York City, and she also participated in LMBC's workshop. Apart from dance, Hannah enjoys volunteering at her church, playing the violin, competing in MathCounts, as well as on the Lux Science Bowl team. She has received a myriad of statewide academic accolades and distinctions. Hannah is exceptionally grateful for the support of her family, friends, and instructors, and would like to express her sincere appreciation for this beloved holiday tradition!

### **Kiptara Thomas** · Big Party Girl

Kiptara is a straight-A seventh grade student at Lux Middle School, who participates in the differentiated program. She started dancing started at the age of three, and quickly fell in love with all forms of dance, especially ballet. She has attended out of state dance conventions and competed in various styles of dance with solos and group pieces. The last few summers, Kiptara has attended ballet intensives with The Rock School in Philadelphia and American Ballet Theatre's summer intensive. She is on the competition team at her dance studio. This year marks her fifth year dancing in the LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*. It is a wonderful production and she enjoys participating every year.

## 2019 Apprentice Dancers

### **Grace Troyer** · Big Party Girl

Grace, 13, is a seventh grade honor roll student at Pound Middle School. Grace has been recognized as a model student, receiving the Lincoln Public School's Inspire Award, and the LJS Neighborhood Extra Award. This will be her mark her fifth year dancing in *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Little Mouse, Garland Child, and Little Party Girl. Grace also danced in LMBC's production of *Snow White* as a Little Flower. This past summer, Grace portrayed Princess Mabel in The Paper Ballet's photographic story, *The Enchanted Castle*. Grace has always had a passion for dancing since starting at the age of five. Grace is currently taking jazz, contemporary, pointe, and tap. Grace has been part of her studio's repertory group for two years, and performed in their production of *Wizard of Oz* this past spring. Grace also has previous experience with Irish and lyrical dancing, as well as competitive cheerleading for five years. Grace has participated in LMBC's master class series for the last 5 years. When she is not dancing, Grace plays the cello in her school orchestra, runs cross country, plays softball, and volunteers weekly at her church. Grace also enjoys drawing, choreographing new dances, and spending time with her family, friends and dog.

### **Ali Weber** · Flower Corps

Ali is a 13-year-old eighth grade honor roll student at Scott Middle School. This is Ali's 11th year dancing, and her fifth year cast in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Little Mouse, Garland Child, and Chinese Lantern. Ali also performed in LMBC's 2017 production of *Snow White* as a Little Flower. Ali has danced on her studio's competition team for seven years, and has earned many awards and scholarships. Outside of dance, Ali likes to spend time with her friends and family. Ali would like to thank her parents, as well as her dance coaches, for making her the person and dancer she is today. She is grateful for LMBC and the opportunity to be an apprentice dancer.

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

Carrie Dell, MD · Linsey Haden, DO · Melissa Tompkins, PA-C  
Julie Strunk RN · Stacy Bergantzel RN

## Special Thanks to Local Dance Studios

Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company is pleased to have dancers and gymnasts from the following studios in this year's production:

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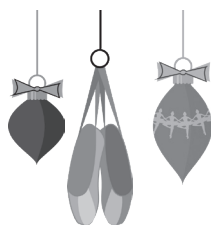
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## Backstage at the Ballet



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 Lakeview Elementary School during the week of December 3-6 teaching them about costuming, make-up, and choreography. 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, Maxey, Meadowlane, Morley, Pershing, Prescott, Pyrtle, Randolph, Riley, Rousseau, Saratoga, Sheridan, West Lincoln, Zeman, and Eagle District #145 Elementary. This special program was funded generously by grants from Allstate. 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, 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. This year's award is presented by members of the Lyle Johnson family.

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 Lauerma, 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.

This year's recipient is Renee Yost, who has served as the Treasurer of LMBC since 2009. For more than a decade Renee has filed the corporation's tax returns, prepared financial documents for grant applications, and shared a wealth of advice on financial matters of all kinds. Her wisdom concerning investments, tax issues, insurance questions and corporate policies has guided our Board of Directors through the years. She also assists with LMBC's audition registrations, website data collection, and a myriad of cast meeting details including preparing all of the performers' contracts. Renee has been an integral part of LMBC's success through the years and her financial acumen has benefited the ballet company immensely. We thank Renee for her commitment to excellence and for her selfless service. The Lincoln arts community owes her a debt of gratitude.



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*This offer is good for one small drink through December 31, 2019.*



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Happy Holidays!

PHOTOGRAPHY



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