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2018-19 SEASON

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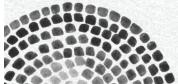


ADVENTURES OF MELVIN THE EXPLORER SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2019, 2:00 PM

AN EVENING WITH ANTON Saturay, February 9, 2019, 7:30 PM DVOŘÁK & BRAHMS Friday, March 8, 2019, 7:30 PM

BEETHOVEN 4 & 7 Saturday, April 13, 2019, 7:30 PM

PINES OF ROME Sunday, May 5, 2019, 6:00 PM



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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.

Friday, December 7, 2018 7 p.m.

&

Saturday, December 8, 2018 11 a.m. & 4 p.m.

Stage Manager: Melanie Rudy

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

Hair & Makeup Designer & Assistant Costumer: Donna Himmelberger

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

Assistant Stage Managers: Elizabeth Brunke, Sarah Halsted

Rehearsal Assistants: Betsy Andersen, Ashley Durst

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



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LMBC MISSION

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

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

Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild

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The History of the Nutcracker Ballet

2018 marks 126 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 Sweety*. Maurice Sendak and Pacific Northwest Ballet collaborated on a stylishly psychological exploration, a version that has become widely known through *Nutcracker: The Motion Picture*. Mark Morris' *The Hard Nut* created a satiric, gender-bending story moved to 1950s U.S.A.

The Lincoln Community Playhouse produced a *Nutcracker* for several years, as did other regional groups. In 1985, to establish a locally-produced *Nutcracker*, cast mainly with local dancers, Shari True and five others formed Ballet Midwest. Several years later, Ballet Midwest and Lincoln City Ballet joined to form Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company which is now producing its 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



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 34th 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.

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*' and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*.



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Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr.

Conductor, Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra



Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr., is the Interim Chair of the Wright State University School of Music. Dr. Dregalla has also served Wright State University as 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
Aleta Collier
Rose Hunter
Kristen Wissink

Violin II

Donna Carnes, Principal Kristin Pfabe Charon Becker Lisa Myers Hannah Jensen

Viola

Cindy Ricker,
Principal
Clark Potter
Sarah Curley
Christine Widman

Cello

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

Bass

Mike Swartz, *Principal*Will Clifton

Flute

John Bailey, *Principal*Betsy Bobenhouse

Piccolo

Becky van de Bogart

Oboe

William McMullen, *Principal*Rachel Schmit

English Horn

Darci Gamerl

Clarinet

Ed Love, *Principal*Christy Banks

Bass Clarinet

Jessica Lindsey

Bassoon

Karen Sandene, *Principal* Joyce Besch

Horn

Ric Ricker, *Principal*Harold Oliver
Kaylene Diaz
Archia Diaz

Trumpet

Dean Haist, *Principal*Brad Obbink

Trombone

Terry Rush, *Principal*Nancy Vogt
Tim Dickmeyer

Tuba

Ethan Millington

Percussion

Kevin Kroon

Timpani

Rich Jones

Keyboard

Loretta Love

Harp

Anita Jaynes

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

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Dean W. Haist, Executive Director

Staff: Hannah Bell, Dave Bowden, Russ Cowen, Brian Curtis, Thao Huynh, Renee Jackson, Kevin Madden, Kacey Rose, Madison Ryan, Nancy Vogt

2018 Artistic Staff

Betsy Andersen · Rehearsal Assistant

Betsy Andersen began dancing at age three, training in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical and contemporary. She danced with the Lincoln City Ballet Company from 1987-1989 in Peter and the Wolf and The Wizard of Oz. She has danced with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company since 1989 and has performed for more than 20 years in *The Nutcracker*. Betsy was a Company Member for five years and has also performed in LMBC productions of Coppelia, Sleeping Beauty, and Festival of Dancers. She attended numerous LMBC summer programs and was accepted to the Colorado Ballet summer dance program. Betsy is a LMBC Rehearsal Assistant from 1996 to 1999 and from 2010 to 2016. She was an advanced ballet student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the direction of Dr. Lisa Fuscillo. She was awarded a ballet scholarship, appeared in University dance performances and was selected to dance with Opera Omaha. Betsy taught dance in Omaha for ten years. Her choreography won top honors, finishing in the top three at the Hall of Fame Nationals in Chicago in 2010. She danced with the Omaha Modern Dance Collective and continued her ballet training in Omaha under the direction of the late Mary Waugh-Taylor. She has also danced with the Lincoln Contemporary Dance Project. Ms. Betsy has a BSBA from UNL in Human Resource Management with minors in History and Dance and attended graduate school at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. "I am grateful to the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company to be a part of this treasured holiday tradition."

Becky Brunke · Assistant Stage Manager

Becky has worked for the Lied Center for Performing Arts for 16 years. In her current role, she is the house manager for the Johnny Carson Theater and the Nebraska Repertory Theater. She is excited for the opportunity to work backstage on *The Nutcracker* and with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company.

Tom Curtright · Technical Director

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

Ashley Durst · Rehearsal Assistant

Ashley was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska where she grew up dancing in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's *Nutcracker*. She was a ten-year member performing roles such as Snow Queen, Spain and Clara. Ashley attended the University of Nebraska for one year where she was a member of the Scarlet's Dance Team. She transferred to Oklahoma City University where she received her Bachelors and Masters degree in Dance Performance and Dance Teaching. While in Oklahoma she taught and choreographed for numerous dance studios throughout the state, including judging and teaching for Dance Masters of

15

2018 Artistic Staff

America Dance Convention. At Oklahoma City University she was a member of the American Spirit Dance Company, in which she toured with the company serving as the company representative. Post graduation, Ashley spent eight months dancing and traveling with Carnival Cruise Lines as a dancer in their Production Shows. Ashley has spent the past five years teaching dance in both Lincoln and Omaha, as well an Adjunct Professor of dance at Creighton University. Ashley is thrilled to be a part of this year's *Nutcracker*, as well as participating in it.

Sarah Halsted · Assistant Stage Manager

Sarah has appeared on and behind several Lincoln stages. She has done backstage work for many shows and kids camps, most recently *Sedition* (Angels Theatre Company), *Lion King Jr.* and *Girls' Weekend* (LCP), and she just directed her first show, *Hattie's Hubcaps* (LCP), at LTA's 10-Minute Play Festival. Some of her favorite onstage roles include Poppy in *Noises Off* and Peggy in *Soda Pop* (Haymarket Theatre).

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.

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.*

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 of this year's *Nutcracker* after participating as a dancer for ten years. Past roles include Clara in 2012 and Snow Queen in 2011 and 2013, among many others. Emily studied at Point Park University in the Conservatory of Performing Arts and performed in multiple productions before returning to teach for Piccoli Dance Theatre in Lincoln.

2018 Artistic Staff

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 seventh 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 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 for the opportunity to work with the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*.

Burton Schernikau · Accompanist

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



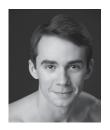
2018 Guest Artists



Miki Kawamura · Sugar Plum Fairy

Ms. Kawamura began her training at the age of ten in Sapporo, Japan. She continued her training at Pacific Dance Arts in Vancouver, Canada before joining Eugene Ballet/Ballet Idaho. Ms. Kawamura also danced with City Ballet of San Diego and Charleston Ballet Theatre. With Oklahoma City Ballet she has danced Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Sugarplum Fairy

in *The Nutcracker*, Principal in George Balanchine's *Valse Fantasie* and August Bournonville's *Napoli Divertissements*, Swanhilda in *Coppelia*, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Caroline in Antony Tudor's *Lilac Garden*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, the title roles in *Paquita*, *Carmen*, *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Giselle*, and Dennis Spaight's *Scheherazade* – *1001 Arabian Nights*, works from Gerald Arpino, Margo Sappington, Nicolo Fonte, Twyla Tharp, Stanton Welch, Paul Vasterling, and Jiří Kylián. She has also created roles in new works by Jessica Lang, Alan Hineline, Matthew Neenan, Ma Cong, Brian Enos, and Oklahoma City Ballet Artistic Director Robert Mills. She is an ABT Certified Teacher in Primary through level 5 of the American Ballet Theatre® National Training Curriculum. She was awarded "2014 Artist of the Year" presented by the Paseo Arts Association.



Alvin Tovstogray · Cavalier

Alvin Tovstogray is a principal dancer with the Oklahoma City Ballet. Born in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, he received his training at the Dnipropetrovsk State Choreographic School under Viacheslav Volkov. From 2008 to 2010 Mr. Tovstogray continued his training at The San Francisco Ballet School and later joined The Washington Ballet Studio Company. In

2012 Mr. Tovstogray joined the Oklahoma City Ballet as a company dancer, was named Soloist in 2014 and promoted to Principal in 2015. His repertoire includes works by George Balanchine, Anthony Tudor, August Bournonville, Jiří Kylián, Nacho Duato, Twyla Tharp, Stanton Welch, Septime Webre, Margo Sappington, Matthew Neenan, Amy Seiwert, Brian Enos, Yui Sato, Robert Mills, Jacob Sparso and Lucy Bowen McCauley. Mr. Tovstogray has made an appearance with Bowen McCauley Dance during "Lucy's Local Playlist" in 2012. Alvin Tovstogray is appearing on behalf of Oklahoma City Ballet.

2018 Guest Artists



Samuel Ainley · Nutcracker Prince

Sam Ainley, born in Sacramento, California, began training at The School of Sacramento Ballet at age ten under the direction of Melanie Haller, followed by Crockett-Deane Ballet under the direction of Barbara Crockett where he performed numerous principal roles. Ainley joined the School of American Ballet on full scholarship in 2013, with mentorship

from Jock Soto. At age 17 he accepted a position with Boston Ballet as a member of their second company under directorship of Peter Stark. In 2017, he accepted a contract with the Carolina Ballet under Robert Weiss and Zalman Raffael. Ainley furthered his dance training at the following summer intensives on full scholarship: School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet. He has had the opportunity to perform as Paris in *Romeo and Juliet*, Prince Ivan in *Firebird*, Apollo in *Apollo*, and Sugar Plum Cavalier in *Sleeping Beauty*. Ainley is currently performing with the Carolina Ballet throughout the season.



Eric Carnes • Snow King, Marzipan, Harlequin Eric Carnes began his dancing at the age of 7. Beginning at age 12 he started intensive ballet training working privately with teachers from Russia and Croatia. He has performed regularly in his home state of Connecticut as well as danced with companies in Italy, France and Croatia. Most recently Eric has performed for three years at the Rudolph Nureyev Estate

in Monte Carlo to critical acclaim. Eric is currently augmenting his dancing with his collegiate studies at Trinity College in Connecticut and Queen Mary University in London.



Matthew Fata · Arabian

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

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

2018 Guest Artists



Cameron Wille · Arabian

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



Ben Chandler · Drosselmeier

This is Ben Chandler's 23nd season with *The Nutcracker*. His many roles include: Drosselmeier, Battle Nutcracker, Mouse King, Arabian, Russian, Spain, Snow King and Party Parent. Chandler runs his own handyman service in Omaha.

2018 Featured Role



Kobe Brown · Mouse King, Russian

Kobe started dance at age 3 and has had a passion for dance since. He began as a clogger nearly 15 years ago, has been a cheerleader for the past 4 years, he has spent the last few years learning many other forms of dance and became an instructor in 2015. Kobe is dedicated, determined, and a leader in dance. He has a passion to not only grow in dance but have the skills to work towards perfection and

is honored to be playing the role as the "Russian" and "Mouse King" in the 2018 *Nutcracker*. From 2014-2018, Kobe competed as a clogger in both the National Clogging and Hoedown Championships (NCHC) and the Clogging Championship of America (CCA) circuits where he archived many National awards; four male soloist championship titles, two team championship titles, was awarded twice for the All-Pro team, and a short duet national championship.In 2016, Kobe was named the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) All-American Cheer. In 2018, was awarded the National Cheer Association (NCA) All-American Cheer and received Top All-American Cheer during his senior year. Kobe also was presented with the leadership award as staff watched his cheer squad reach success.

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.

2018 Nutcracker Cast

Act I

Herr Drosselmeier: Benjamin Chandler

Elves: Nora Davis, Morgan Foged, Maddy Kotik, Hayley Marshall, Mila Shultheis,

Teagan Smith

Clara: Leah Andersen
Fritz: Phoenix Decker
Dr. Stahlbaum: John Coffey
Mrs. Stahlbaum: Ashley Durst

Big Party Girls: Lauren Coniglio, Julia Cooper, Ariana Cunningham, Karmi Jay,

Malayah Long, Avery Noden, Aliyah Soliz, Anna Walters

Big Party Boys: Liam Bagby, Kason Cade, Noah Lyon, Cael Meranda, Nicholas Reed,

Dawson Thies, Jamison Thies, Kyren Watson

Little Party Girls: Ayla Brosman, Grace Fry, Taryn Harrah, Kiptara Thomas, Grace Troyer **Little Party Boys:** Keegan Brester, Alex Kivett, Jack Perry, Krishna Sarath, Cruz Stricker **Party Women:** Sarah McCurley, Jessica Olson, Kelley Peterson, Maggie Rawlings,

Natalie Tavlin, Tyne Thorson

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

First Maid: Rose Copes

Maids: Josie Fillmore, Nicole Fintel, Sydney Marra, Alexa Rea,

Harlequin Doll: Kayla French Harlequin Man: Eric Carnes Columbine Doll: Taylor Fry Jester Doll: Emma Luci

Nutcracker Prince: Samuel Ainley

Mouse King: Kobe Brown

Big Mice: Breanna Conroy, Sophie Fox, Blaine Franklin, Jordynn Inzauro, Addison Merfeld, Jacie Robinson, Chloe Shields, Bella Sjuts, Clara Thorson, Cora Tinsley,

Rilynn Whitney, Adah Wisnicki

Little Mice: Annalise Aldag, Ellie Anderson, Gianna Bonta, Isabella Brown, Winter

Guardiola, Evie Olivera, Abby Roth, Macy Vest

Soldiers: Callie Dreibelbis, Emma Herschberger, Abbigale Johnson, Phoebe Kolb,

Sarah Lang, Avery Lewis, Naomi Mckibbin, Adelyn Opp, Faith Peterson,

Marisa Schmeckpeper, Abbigail Swanson, Camryn Tompkins

Snow Queen: Emily Yost **Snow King:** Eric Carnes

Snow Princesses: Kayla French, Grace Herron, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Emma Luci **Snow Corps:** Tierny Blankenhorn, Rose Copes, Josie Fillmore, Elizabeth Friend, Taylor Fry, Lena Lankas, Sydney Marra, Brooke Oliver, Maggie Oulianova, Ansley Sothan,

Holly Tolliver, Megan Workman

2018 Nutcracker Cast

Act II

Sugar Plum Fairy: Miki Kawamura

Cavalier: Alvin Tovstogray

Angel Leads: Taylor Neumann, Ella Runyan

Angel A (Friday/Saturday 11 a.m.): Amy Andersen, Rory Bergantzel, Cora Johnson, Calla Kupke, Ruby Lichtenfeld, Grace McHugh, Halle Myers, Addison Nauenburg, River Nuttleman, Madeline Paup, Cate Rawlings, Caroline Schwartz, Olivia Smith, Lillian Sudbeck, Mia Vasa, Chloe Vooq

Angel B (Saturday 4 p.m.): Sylvie Benge, Brylie Bockelman, Isabella Briardy, Emilyn Changstrom, Eliza Colbert, Emily Crotteau, Reese Dell, Evelyn Dunder, Emma Ecton, Elle Friesen, Chloe Hadwiger, Emily Hinze, Rihanna Sadowski, Mia Schnabel, Susannah Schulte, Charis Waite, Kyndra Wiens, Freya Winders

Sugar and Spice: Gianna Battiato, Laurelin Eide, Olivia Myers, Bella Nuncio, Kiennah Reimers. Liliana Ware.

Spain: Emily Yost

Spanish Background: Brenna Harris, Ava Keim, Linsey Larson, Lilly Michel, Jada

Rohlmeier, Clara Wolfe **Arabian Oueen:** Emma Luci

Arabian Men: Matthew Fata, Cameron Wille

Arabian Background: Mackenna Gadeken, Audrey Perry, Alexandra Sick, Taylan

Ulrich, Mya Vest, Brianna Weers

China Lead: Rose Copes

China: Maggie Oulianova, Ansley Sothan

Chinese Lanterns: Ellie Cetak, Sidney Lovegrove, Lily Teten, Ivamarie Volf, Ali

Weber, Kaci Wood

Marzipan: Grace Herron, Anneliese Hinrichsen

Marzipan Man: Eric Carnes

Russian: Josie Fillmore, Sydney Marra

Russian Man: Kobe Brown

Russian Background: Helen Brozovic, Anna Maria Butler, Brynley Cooper, Maggie

Glenn, Emersyn Keim, Julia Radu, Nichole Sucu, Hannah Tang

Bon Bon: Khataya Briones, Olivia Carpenter, Lauren Foutz, Kaitlyn Friesen, Meghan

Hammond, Kate Satorie, Novalee Schmit, Isabelle Tesch,

Mother Ginger: Jessica Olson Dew Drop: Kayla French

Demi Dews: Taylor Fry, Megan Workman

Flower Corps: Tierny Blankenhorn, Nicole Fintel, Elizabeth Friend, Lena Lankas,

Avery Noden, Brooke Oliver, Alexa Rea, Holly Tolliver

Garland Children: Livia Bonnie, Eloise Carter, Camina Dredge, Kennedy Johnson, Milana Johnson, Avari Korsmo, Ava Kupke, Lauren Love, Olivia McCurley, Sophie Ramsey, Ada Rawlings, Hannah Rutt



Front row, seated on the floor L to R: Tierny Blankenhorn, Megan Workman, Emily Yost, Emma Luci; Second row, kneeling L to R: Brooke Oliver, Josie Fillmore, Alexa Rea, Nicole Fintel; Back row, standing L to R: Kayla French, Sydney Marra, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Ansley Sothan, Leah Andersen, Holly Tolliver, Grace Herron, Rose Copes, Lena Lankas; (Not pictured: Taylor Fry, Maggie Oulianova)

2018 Understudy Roles

Tierny Blankenhorn · 1st Maid Ellie Cetak · Snow and Flower Corps

Rose Copes · Snow Princess

Ariana Cunningham · Flower Corps

Josie Fillmore · Jester

Kayla French · Snow Queen

Taylor Fry · Snow Princess

Grace Herron · Spain

Anneliese Hinrichsen · Dew Drop

Lena Lankas · Russia

Sydney Lovegrove · Big Party Girl

Emma Luci · Clara

Sydney Marra · China

Avery Noden · Snow Corps

Maggie Oulianova · Harlequin

Alexa Rea · Snow Corps **Ansley Sothan** · Marzipan

Anna Walters · Snow and Flower Corps

Ali Weber · Big Party Girl Megan Workman · Columbine

Emily Yost · Arabian Queen



Leah Andersen · Clara

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

Lead. This past summer, Leah trained with Suzanne Farrell at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She has also studied at Ballet West in Salt Lake City, Utah, University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, Washington. Leah has received merit scholarships to study at the Kansas City Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Joffrey Ballet School, Fort Wayne Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet. She has been invited to attend year-round ballet programs at Kansas City Ballet, Orlando Ballet, Ballet Chicago, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Ballet West's Professional Training Division and as a Trainee at the Joffrey Ballet School. Leah placed in the top 12 senior women's classical and contemporary divisions at the 2018 Youth of America Grand Prix in Austin, Texas. In 2018 at YAGP Chicago, Leah placed in the top 12 of the junior contemporary division. Leah has also received an invitation to attend the YAGP New York Finals Intensive. Leah has competed regionally and nationally, and has won scholarships from Adrenaline, the New York City Dance Alliance, Velocity, NUVO, and 24-Seven. Leah is proud to be a secondgeneration performer since The Nutcracker has been a part of her family's tradition for 30 years! She is excited to share the stage with her sister, Amy (Angel). Performing in *The Nutcracker* is the highlight of Leah's year, and she is grateful to the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for providing wonderful dance opportunities for our local youth.





Tierny Blankenhorn · Snow Corps, Flower Corps 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.



Rose Copes · 1st Maid, China Lead
Rose is a junior at Lincoln East High School, where she
has been a member of the Apollonaires dance team for
three years and the varsity orchestra for two years. She
has earned an academic letter for two years as well as a
varsity letter for orchestra. She maintains a 4.0 GPA. This
will be her ninth year participating in *The Nutcracker*. Her
first roles with LMBC began as a Peppermint and Sugar
and Spice. Most recently she has been Chinese Lantern,
Flower Corps, Snow Corps and Russia. Rose began

dancing at the age of three, and trains in all forms of dance: ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical/contemporary, tap and hip hop. She also competes with her studio's competition team, and has traveled for dance conventions, competitions and intensives. This past summer, her competition team traveled to Orlando and competed at Adrenaline Nationals. She was honored to re-compete two of her dances for the national honors finals, and she was in the top 20 for Miss Adrenaline Senior Title. Also this past summer, she attended the UDA summer camp for high school dance teams and received All American honors. Rose has received invitations to participate in the Radio City Rockettes Summer Intensive in New York City. She attended her first *Nutcracker* at age two, and fell in love with the tradition every year since. When not dancing, she enjoys spending her free time reading, time with her friends, playing the ukulele and with her dogs, Teddy and Scotti.



Josie Filmore · Maid, Snow Corps, Russia Josie is a sophomore attending James Madison High online with a 4.0 GPA. Josie started dancing over 13 years ago at the age of two. She is trained in classical ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz, tap and hip hop. This is Josie's third year as a teacher assistant. Josie has attended the LMBC Summer Intensive for six years. She has been part of her studio dance team for over five years, winning several team and solo awards. In February of 2018, Josie attended the

Youth American Grand Prix in Austin, TX, where she performed a classical ballet variation. This will be Josie's sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles were Peppermint, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Flower and Snow Corps. Josie was elected by her fellow company and apprentice dancers as junior company representative. Josie has been blessed in having wonderful dance instructors. Someday she hopes to encourage young dancers, like the amazing teachers who have inspired her. When Josie is not at dance, she enjoys choreographing her own dances, spending time with her friends, and watching anything on TV that is dance related.



Nicole Fintel · Maid, Flower Corps Nicole is a senior at Lincoln East High School where she maintains a 4.0+ GPA, and has lettered in academics, orchestra, and forensics. This is Nicole's 11th year in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Snow Corps, Flower Corps, Arabian Background, Maid, Russian Background, Big Mouse, Peppermint, and Little Mouse. Outside of dance, Nicole has interned on three political campaigns, and last summer, worked as a legislative intern at the US House of Representatives

in Washington, DC. Currently, she is a voting rights intern at Civic Nebraska and serves as the chair of the Nebraska chapter of High School Democrats of America. Throughout high school, Nicole has conducted research in biology labs, and was twice invited to present her research at UNL's Undergraduate Research Symposium. She has taken science courses at Harvard through the university's Pre-College Program. Last March, Nicole was selected as one of two students to represent Nebraska as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program; an honor which included a \$10,000 college scholarship. In August, she presented a TED Talk entitled "E Pluribus Unum: Pluralism in Times of Political Polarization."



Kayla French · Harlequin, Snow Princess, Dew Drop Kayla is a senior at Millard West High School, where she is an honors student. This will be her first year appearing in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Kayla is also a part of American Midwest Ballet Junior Company, formerly known as Ballet Nebraska II, for the last three years. She has performed previously in Ballet Nebraska's *The Nutcracker* as Clara, where she was the first student

to perform the role en pointe. She was also in Ballet Nebraska's *Swan Lake*. Kayla has trained in many genres of dance from the age of three. At age 12, she decided to primarily focus on her ballet training. Her summer studies have led her to Joffrey San Francisco, Joffrey NYC, Dallas Conservatory, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Kirov Academy of Ballet, and most recently, Houston Ballet. She has been invited to stay year round at Joffrey NYC, Dallas Conservatory and Kirov Academy of Ballet on scholarship. Kayla competed at Youth of America Grande Prix this past year and received top 12 in classical with an invite to NYC Finals. She is honored to dance in LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*.



Elizabeth Friend · Snow Corps, Flower Corps Elizabeth, 14, is a freshman at Lincoln Christian High School, where she is active in drama, serves on the Social/Event Committee, and is a member of the varsity cheerleading team. She is honored and thrilled to be making her fifth appearance in LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*, previously dancing the roles of Garland Child, Russian Background, and Big Party Girl. She is a member of her studio's pre-

professional ballet trainee program, and she competed in the prestigious Youth American Grand Prix in the spring of 2018. She has been accepted into summer dance programs at Ballet Chicago, Milwaukee Ballet, North Carolina School of the Arts, Burklyn Ballet, and spent the last two summers training at the Kansas City Ballet summer intensive. Elizabeth feels blessed to be a part of this amazing holiday tradition, and hopes to continue her journey alongside Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for years to come.



Taylor Fry · Columbine, Snow Corp, Demi Dew Taylor is a senior at Lincoln Lutheran High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society and the Community Outreach program; and is captain of the Blue Angels Dance Team. Taylor has made countless friendships and memories dancing in *The Nutcracker* over the years. Past roles include China Lead, Harlequin Doll, Snow and Flower Corps, Big Party Girl, Garland Child, and Elf. Last Spring, Taylor and her sister, Grace, shared the stage dancing

principal roles as Mrs. Potts and Chip for her studio's production of Beauty and the Beast—a moment she will treasure forever! She also danced in the LMBC production of *Snow White*. This past summer, Taylor attended UDA dance camp, where she received All-American Honors for the third year in a row. Outside of dance, Taylor stays busy working as a certified nursing assistant at a local long term care facility, where she is able to share her love and compassion for others. Next fall, Taylor plans to attend college, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science in nursing. As Taylor closes the chapter on dancing in *The Nutcracker*, she would like to thank LMBC for selecting her to be a company dancer over the years. She has loved every minute of it! She would also like to thank all of her instructors for sharing their time and talents with her.



Grace Herron · Snow Princess, Demi Dew Grace is in her junior year at Lincoln East High School, where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. This is Grace's ninth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles have included, 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 company. She has been recognized and received scholarships from JUMP, NUVO, Spotlight Dance CUP, 24/7, New York City Dance Alliance, and Adrenaline Dance, where she has been an Elite Crew Member. Grace has also competed in the Youth American Grand Prix, 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. When Grace is not dancing, she enjoys spending time with friends, going on walks with her dog, and enjoying cuddles with her cat. Grace is honored to be dancing as a company member for her third year, and would like to thank her instructors and family for their support.



Anneliese Hinrichsen · Marzipan, Snow Princess Anneliese is a junior at Lincoln Southwest High School, where she holds a 4.0 GPA and is an honor roll student. She is a member of the varsity orchestra. This summer, she danced in New York City at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy summer intensive, 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 US Department of State. In the summer of 2017, Anneliese trained under former principal New York City Ballet dancer Jock Soto at the Jillana School. She has received scholarships and awards from various summer programs and competitions. This last spring, she competed at YAGP semi-finals. This fall, she received an invitation from the Bolshoi Ballet Academy to continue studying ballet in Moscow, Russia, in their year round school. Anneliese speaks both Russian and French. Her previous roles in *The Nutcracker* include Spanish Background, Russian Background, Chinese Lantern, Snow Corps, and China. She has also performed in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *Snow White*, as a Flower of the Forest. She is honored and excited to be performing another year in *The Nutcracker*!



Lena Lankas · Snow Corps, Flower Corps

This is Lena's eighth year in *The Nutcracker*. Lena is a freshman at Lincoln East High School. She is an Apollonaire dance team member and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Mathematics is her favorite subject. Lena has received many top honors and awards throughout her years performing with her competitive dance team. One of her most memorable dance moments was being chosen to dance in Justin Bieber's Purpose Tour

at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Lena would like to thank her family and her dance family for their love and support!

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

Melissa Cetak, MD · Carrie Dell, MD · Christi Keim, MD Angie Marshall, RN · Melissa Tompkins, PA-C



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

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



Sydney Marra · Maid, Snow Corps, Russia Sydney is thrilled and honored to be dancing in her tenth performance of *The Nutcracker*! Her past roles include Cinnamon, Big Mouse, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, Big Party Girl, Chinese Lantern, Maid, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. She has performed in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's productions of *Snow White* and *Cinderella*, and has attended LMBC'S Ballet Summer Intensives. Sydney has been dancing for 13 years, and has trained in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz,

lyrical, and hip hop. This year she is excited to be teaching her own classes for her dance studio. Sydney is a senior homeschool student. She also enjoys music and vocal performance. Sydney has been playing piano for fourteen years, and now enjoys teaching students of her own. When not dancing, Sydney loves reading, babysitting, shopping, working at Dancewares, and spending time with her friends and family. She is grateful for the support and encouragement from her dance instructors, and appreciates the opportunity to have been a part of this special holiday tradition for the last ten years.



Brooke Oliver · Snow Corps, Flower Corps Brooke, 15, is a sophomore honor roll student at Waverly High School, where she is member of Waverly's high school dance team. This is Brooke's second year participating in *The Nutcracker*; previously dancing the role of Chinese Lantern. She has studied dance since the age of three, training in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, improv and contemporary. She has been a member of her home

studio's competitive team for seven years, competing both regionally and nationally. This past summer, Brooke enjoyed being a part of Whispers The Paper Ballet's Firebird and Alice in Wonderland scenes; and the Get on Pointe series through LMBC. Outside of dance, Brooke enjoys spending time with her family and friends, her two dogs, and her church youth group. She would like to thank her teachers and family for all their support and encouragement to follow her dreams and never give up.



Maggie Oulianova · Snow Corps, China Maggie Oulianova, age 15, is a freshman at Lincoln East High School where she is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. Maggie has danced competitively since age six, winning outstanding honors both regionally and nationally. She has attended and received top awards from NUVO, Adrenaline, Radix, Velocity Revive and NYCDA. She consistently is recognized for her dancing in solo overalls and top scholarship awards. In the summer

of 2015, she trained with Muse Dance Company in Los Angeles, California. In 2016, she was accepted to and attended Ballet Austin's summer intensive. In 2017, she attended The Sessions summer intensive in Connecticut. This is Maggie's seventh appearance in LMBC's Nutcracker where she has danced as Cinnamon, Garland Child, Little Party Girl, Angel Lead, and two years as a Big Party Girl. She has been an apprentice for the company the past two years, and is excited to be a company member in 2018! Maggie would like to thank the many dance teachers she has had over the years, and especially her current dance teacher who has become a big part of her life both on and off the stage. She especially wants to thank all the people who make LMBC's Nutcracker an amazing production, and she values being a part of it!



Alexa Rea · Maid, Flower Corps Alexa, 18, is a senior at Lincoln East High School where she maintains a 4.0+ average, is a member of the school's honors program, and has received an academic letter and academic bar pin. While at East, Alexa has been a member of the school's cheer team, a student ambassador, and is a member of National Honor Society. She enjoys hanging out with her friends, playing guitar, and is a Gold Girl for Lincoln G.O.L.D. This is Alexa's eighth appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Her

previous roles have included Peppermint, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Maid, and Flower Corps. She has also performed in several other productions with LMBC. Alexa has been dancing since the age of three, and has been a member of her dance studio's competition team, participating in many competitions, workshops, and summer intensives. Alexa has so many fond memories from participating and performing in *The Nutcracker*. This fall, Alexa plans on majoring in biochemistry/molecular biology in order to pursue a career in the medical field. She would like to thank everyone that makes *The Nutcracker* possible and for including her in this holiday tradition.



Ansley Sothan · Snow Corps, China Ansley is a freshman at Lincoln Southeast High School. She is a member of the Shirettes dance team, varsity golf team state qualifier, Student Council, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Young Life, Launch Leadership and tennis. She also enjoys youth group at her church and continues to study Chinese, Spanish and French, hoping to have a career in medicine. Ansley began dancing at two. She has competed in all genres of dance, both regionally and

nationally while on her studio's competition team, winning many awards and scholarships. Her passion for ballet and pointe compelled her to compete in Youth American Grand Prix for three years, last year competing in Kansas City and Chicago. She has attended LMBC's Master Class Series as well as summer intensives at Ballet Austin, Cincinnati Ballet and Orlando Ballet School. Ansley's past Nutcracker roles include Peppermint, Elf, Garland Child, Angel Lead, Big Party Girl (twice), Snow Corps, and Chinese Lantern. Ansley is honored to be a part of the Nutcracker tradition for a seventh year and this year being a company member. Ansley loves the friendships and memories she makes being a part of this wonderful holiday tradition.



Holly Tolliver · Snow Corps, Flower Corps
Holly is a freshman honor roll student at Lincoln
East High School, where she is a member of the
Apollonaires dance team. Holly has always had a love
for ballet and is thrilled to perform for her sixth year in
the LMBC Nutcracker. Her past roles include Elf, Russian
Background, and Chinese Lantern. She has also been a
member of LMBC's production of Snow White. Holly has
been dancing for seven years and is a member of her
studio's competitive team. She has danced in regional

and national competitions, winning various titles and awards. When Holly is not dancing she enjoys spending time with her friends, and staying busy with schoolwork. She would like to thank her instructors, friends, and family for their constant support and encouragement!



Megan Workman · Snow Corps, Demi Dew Meg is a senior, taking online college courses through Southeast Community College. She began her training at age six, and studies pointe, ballet, jazz, lyrical, and contemporary. At age 13, she was invited to audition for Ballet Nebraska's Junior Company. She was accepted a year early into the BNll program. Later, she was given the role of Aurora in her studio's production

of Sleeping Beauty. Meg has performed in Snow White, The Nutcracker, Giselle, Cleopatra, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Alice in Wonderland, and soon The Wizard of Oz. She has studied and performed with Ballet Nebraska, Ballet Chicago, Ballet West and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. This will be Meg's second year with LMBC, and she is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful ballet company and looking forward to seeing what the year has in store for her.

The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild congratulates

Sydney Marra and Emily Yost

on 10 years of performances!



Emily Yost · Snow Queen, Spain
Emily is 17 years old, and a senior honor roll student at
Pius X High School. This is her tenth appearance in *The*Nutcracker, with past roles including Cinnamon, Little
Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Jester, Flower Corp, Snow
Princess, Marzipan and Clara. She has been dancing
since the age of three, and has been fortunate to have
studied at various summer ballet intensives throughout

the country, including the Houston Ballet, Kansas City

Ballet School, Joffrey Academy of Dance in Chicago, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Bossov Ballet Theatre, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and the American Academy of Ballet. She studies ballet, pointe, contemporary, and jazz. She has participated in the Regional Dance America Midstates Ballet Festival and Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition, where she most recently was awarded second place in the senior classical division at the Kansas City regional competition. Emily also enjoys being a member and captain of the Pius X Thunderettes dance team, volunteering at YMCA's Camp Kitaki, participating in her church youth group, and spending time with her family, friends and pets. She is honored and excited to be dancing again as an LMBC company member for a fourth year, and is very grateful to all of the many dance instructors and other role models in her life who have shared with her their time, talents, and love of dance.



2018 Apprentice Dancers



Front row, L to R: Anna Walters, Ariana Cunningham, Aliyah Soliz Back row, L to R: Avery Noden, Julia Cooper, Lauren Coniglio, Karmi Jay, Malayah Long

Lauren Coniglio · Big Party Girl

Lauren, 12, is a straight-A seventh grader at Moore Middle School. This year will be her third year in *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Angel and Little Mouse. She has been dancing since the age of three, and is currently taking classical ballet, pointe, contemporary (lyrical and modern), jazz, and hip hop. She is also in her studio's repertory group, participating in this year's Nativity Christmas show and any other special occasion offered. Lauren also had the privilege of doing the Manhattan Dance Project Workshop, with instructors Michael Vernon, Tony Vitale, Bill Hotaling and more! She looks forward to doing it again this year. Outside of dance, Lauren enjoys photography, writing, listening to music, singing in her school's choir and show choir, and spending valuable time with friends, family, her church group, and her dog. However, she cannot picture her life without dance. Lauren is super grateful and blessed to be an apprentice this year and wants everyone to enjoy this season's magical show!

2018 Apprentice Dancers

Julia Cooper · Big Party Girl

Julia is 13 years old and is an honors student at Lux Middle School. This is her third year participating in LMBC's production of *The Nutcracker*. Previous roles include Bon Bon and Garland Child. She has also danced in LMBC's *Snow White* and area productions of Aladdin and Beauty and the Beast. Julia has danced competitively for the past two years, competing both regionally and nationally. She has been awarded numerous scholarships and awards from companies such as Adrenaline, Revive, Velocity, Nuvo, and West Coast Dance Explosion. She is currently preparing for the 2019 Youth America Grand Prix Ballet competition. She has been accepted to several summer ballet intensives including the Chicago Ballet, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, and Burklyn Ballet Theater. This summer she trained at Principles Ballet Intensive in Dallas, TX. Beyond dancing she enjoys performing as the concert mistress of the Junior Youth Orchestra and the Lux Science Bowl team. Julia is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this time-honored tradition in our community!

Ariana Cunningham · Big Party Girl

Ariana is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Norris Middle School in Firth, NE. Ariana's love for dance and dedication began at the early age of three, training in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, modern and contemporary. Ariana has been dancing on her company's competition team for three years. She has competed in all genres of dance on her studios competition team, both regionally and nationally, and has been awarded several honors and scholarships. She auditioned with the Burklyn Ballet Company and was accepted into their summer Intermediate ballet program. This will be her second year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous role was an Elf. When not in the studio, Ariana enjoys reading and family time. She would like to extend congratulations to all participants in this year's *Nutcracker*.



A NEBRASKA BRASS CHRISTMAS HO, HO, HO...

Contact Us

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Sunday, November 25 • 2:00 PM

Central City • Central City Performing Arts Center

Thursday, November 29 • 7:30 PM

Blair • First Lutheran Church

Friday, November 30 • 7:30 PM

Columbus • First United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 2 • 2:00 PM

Minden • Minden Opera House

Saturday, December 22 • 7:30 PM

Omaha • Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

Sunday, December 23 • 3:00 PM

Lincoln • Vine Congregational United Church of Christ

2018 Apprentice Dancers

Karmi Jay · Big Party Girl

Karmi is 13, and a seventh grader at Moore Middle School. She is excited to be performing in her fourth Nutcracker. Her prior castings include Angel Lead, Chinese Lantern, Chocolatier, and Little Party Girl. She performed the role of Sneezy in the LMBC 2017 spring show, Snow White. This summer, Karmi portrayed the character of Clara as a part of The Paper Ballet project. She has attended the Idaho Dance Arts Alliance Summer Camp the past two summers. Karmi has been dancing since the age of three, and is now in her eighth year competing with her studio team. Karmi is looking forward to the upcoming dance competition season, attending the Youth American Grand Prix, and another trip to IDAA Summer Camp. Individual accomplishments include numerous regional and national titles, the Young Artist Award at Mark of Excellence, as well as multiple scholarships to many conventions and camps. Outside of dance, Karmi enjoys spending time with friends and family, is active within her church, is a member of Math Club and Theatre Club at school, and enjoys relaxing with her three Pomeranians: Plié', Jazz and Tapper. Karmi wants to thank the entire cast and crew for a wonderful 2018 Nutcracker experience!

Malayah Long · Big Party Girl

Malayah Long is a seventh grade 4.0 student at Scott Middle School. This is her 11th year dancing and fifth *Nutcracker* appearance, with her previous roles being Little Mouse and Little Party Girl. Malayah has earned several honors and scholarships while dancing competitively, her favorites being Adrenaline junior honor dancer first runner up this past summer in Orlando, Florida, Miss Adrenaline mini first runner up, and national champion in her solo at Velocity Dance, where she was able to be a back up dancer to singer and Disney star Jordan Fisher. Malayah also plays volleyball and basketball competitively, and is a member of Scott Middle School Student Council.



2018 Apprentice Dancers

Avery Noden · Big Party Girl

Avery, 13, is an eighth grader at Dawes Middle School. Avery is a straight-A student who excels in algebra and science. She started dancing at age three, and has been on her studios competition dance team for eight years. Avery has received many opportunities such as performing alongside Justin Bieber in his Purpose Tour at Pinnacle Bank Arena. She has performed in various ballets including *Snow White, Pocahontas* and *The Snow Queen.* This is Avery's sixth year performing in *The Nutcracker.* Her previous roles include Little Mouse, Little Party Girl, and Big Party Girl. Outside of dance, Avery loves spending time with her friends and family. She would like to thank her parents as well as dance coaches for helping in making her the person and dancer she is today!

Aliyah Soliz · Biq Party Girl

Aliyah, 12, is a seventh grader at Scott Middle School. Dancing since the age of 3, 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 fifth year performing in *The Nutcracker*, with previous roles as Little Mouse, Angel, and Garland Child. She also had the opportunity to perform in LMBC's production of *Snow White* as a Forest Animal. In addition to attending LMBC's summer intensive programs and various master classes over the past few years, she recently had the privilege of participating in American Ballet Theatre's master class offered in Lincoln during the spring, and attending a Joffrey Ballet School intensive this summer. Aliyah loves the everlasting memories and friends she makes performing in *The Nutcracker*, and is so grateful to everyone who makes it possible for young dancers to have this opportunity.

Anna Walters · Big Party Girl

Anna is a 13-year-old eighth grade honor roll student at Pound Middle School. She has been dancing for eleven years, spending the last five years on her studio's competition team. Anna enjoys traveling with her competition team and has won many solo and team awards. She has been privileged to be part of *The Nutcracker* for many years. Her past roles include Angel, Little Party Girl, Angel Lead, and Chinese Lantern. She is grateful for the opportunities that come as an apprentice dancer with LMBC.

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Backstage at the Ballet



Backstage at the Ballet is an artists-in-residence program sponsored by the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild. It 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 LMBC worked with students at Brownell Elementary School during the week of November 27-30 teaching them about costuming, make-up and choreography. Backstage at the Ballet has reached hundreds of students at numerous Lincoln schools including: Beattie, Belmont, Brownell, Calvert, Campbell, Clinton, Eastridge, Elliott, Everett, Fredstrom, Hawthorne, Hill, Holmes, Humann, Kahoa, Kloefkorn, Maxey, Meadowlane, Morley, Pershing, Prescott, Pyrtle, Randolph, Riley, Rousseau, Saratoga, Sheridan, West Lincoln and Zeman Elementary.

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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, Richard Evans, Donna and John Himmelberger, Jim Lauerman, the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Angie Muhleisen, the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra and its conductor Dr. Herbert Dregalla, Jr., Burton Schernikau, Susan Steinegger, Jim Stuart, Shari Styskal, Molly Thomas, Shari True, and Ann Watson.

This year's recipient is Debby Erickson, who has faithfully shared her time, talent and treasures with LMBC for over 30 years. Debby's decades of service began when she volunteered to alter soldier costumes at a parent meeting in 1989. Since then, she has held a number of executive positions in both the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild and on LMBC's Board of Directors. She is currently serving as a Vice President and as Project Coordinator for Backstage at the Ballet. Through her grant-writing and planning efforts, Backstage at the Ballet has provided thousands of elementary students an opportunity to experience ballet in a fun learning environment. Debby has been an integral part of LMBC's success through the years and her organizational skills have helped the ballet company grow from its humble beginnings to a strong and vibrant part of the Lincoln arts community. We thank Debby for the myriad of ways she has supported the ballet company all these years and for her dedication to help bring this gorgeous production to Lincoln audiences.



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