CIVIC DANCE CENTER

The Nutcracker Young People's Concert 2026

City/Public School Registration Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME:_____ TITLE:_____

EMAIL:_____ PHONE #:_____

SCHOOL'S NAME & ADDRESS:_____

SCHOOL DISTRICT:_____

Please fill out which concert your students will be attending.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026 (Nutcracker) 9:30 AM		
# of Teachers (no charge)	# of Students	# of Chaperones
TOTAL (Do not include teachers)**:** **_____ X $7.50 = _____**		

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026 (Nutcracker) 11:00 AM		
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INSTRUCTIONS: Complete and return this form to Erica Ueberroth at Civic Dance Center 408 Starmount Court Bakersfield, CA 93309. All checks made payable to Civic Dance Center or Venmo civic dance @Erica-Ueberroth. **If mailing your payment send to 408 Starmount Court Bakersfield, CA 93309**. Payment is due November 30, 2026. Any cancellation or changes must be made two weeks prior to the scheduled performance. Please submit any questions to civicdancebkfld@gmail.com 661-588-1056

_____ _____

SIGNATURE OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE or PARENT DATE

CIVIC DANCE CENTER

– AND –

BAKERSFIELD CITY BALLET

PRESENT

The Nutcracker

Young People's Concert

EDUCATOR & STUDENT GUIDE





WELCOME

TO OUR YOUNG PEOPELE'S CONCERT

Dear Educators,

We are delighted to share one of the world's most beloved holiday traditions with you. For nearly five decades, Civic Dance Center's annual production of *The Nutcracker* has inspired generations of young audiences.

Our Young People's Concerts are specially designed for school-aged children, offering an abbreviated, age-appropriate performance that introduces students to the art of ballet while showcasing live music, theatrical storytelling, and professional stage production.

These educational performances support California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards, including Artistic Perception (DA:Re7), Creative Expression (DA:Cr3), and Historical & Cultural Context (DA:Cn11). Through movement, music, costumes, scenery, and lighting, students discover how artists collaborate to tell compelling stories without words while gaining an appreciation for one of the world's most enduring classical ballets.

Thank you for joining us and supporting arts education in our community.

Warmly,

Erica Ueberroth

Erica Ueberroth
Executive Artistic Director
Civic Dance Center

Artistic Director
Bakersfield City Ballet

– DID YOU KNOW? –

49th
ANNUAL PRODUCTION
A beloved holiday tradition in Bakersfield for nearly five decades.

3,500+
STUDENTS EACH YEAR
We welcome students from schools across Kern County.

Live Music
MAKES IT MAGIC
Our performances are accompanied by an orchestra for an unforgettable experience.

Local Talent
ON STAGE
Most of the dancers and musicians you see live right here in our community.

WHAT IS BALLET?

AN ART FORM CREATED BY THE MOVEMENT OF THE HUMAN BODY.



It is theatrical – performed on a stage to an audience utilizing costumes, scenic design and lighting. It can tell a story or express a thought, concept, or emotion. Ballet can be magical, exciting, provoking, scary, and sad.

Story ballets tell a story. They contain narrative action, characters, a beginning, and an end. *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty* are famous story ballets from the 19th century; classic stories and novels such as *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* also have been transformed into ballets.

Plotless ballets have no storyline. Instead they use the movement of the body and theatrical elements to interpret music, create an image, or express emotion.

Classical ballet is what people generally think of first when it comes to "ballet." Classical ballet reached its height in 19th century Russia through the work of choreographers like Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. The following elements characterize this style:

- graceful, flowing movement
- classical form: turn out of the legs and pointe work
- balance and symmetry
- ethereal quality
- emphasis on story ballets and narrative
- elaborate sets and costumes

– HOW BALLET TELLS A STORY –



GESTURE & EXPRESSION

Dancers communicate character and emotion without words.



MUSIC & RHYTHM

The music shapes the mood, pacing, and energy of each scene.



COSTUME & DESIGN

Colors, textures, and design choices help tell us who and where the characters are.



COLLABORATION

Dancers, musicians, choreographers, designers, and stage crews work together to create the magic.

WHAT IS THE NUTCRACKER?

DISCOVER THE STORY

The Nutcracker is one of the world's most beloved ballets. The first production of *The Nutcracker*, based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E.T.A. Hoffmann was performed in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1892. It was composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov. The first full-length production mounted in North America was by William Christensen for the San Francisco Opera Ballet in 1944. In 1978, Civic Dance Center founder Cindy Trueblood was asked to stage *The Nutcracker* for Bakersfield audiences which began an annual tradition that continues to this day.

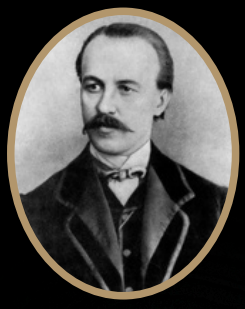


PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

COMPOSER

The score was Tchaikovsky's third and final ballet score. It stands as one of the most brilliant examples of late 19th century romantic music orchestration.





MARIUS PETIPA & LEV IVANOV

CHOREOGRAPHERS

As the Ballet Master, Petipa wrote the detailed scenario and mapped out the exact rhythm and timing for Tchaikovsky's music. Petipa fell severely ill during rehearsals, forcing his assistant Ivanov to choreograph many of the dances.

– THE STORY IN BRIEF –

On a Christmas Eve long ago, a little girl named Clara is having a Christmas party with her friends. To the surprise of everyone Clara's godfather Drosselmeyer, comes to the party.

He is a mysterious fellow and mechanical inventor, and he created some wondrous toys for the party. One in particular is a large toy soldier, who can crack nuts with his wooden mouth. Clara immediately adores the strange toy.

All too soon, the party is over, and the children go home. The family retires for the night, but Clara is unable to sleep and returns to see her Nutcracker. A battle between mice and soldiers ensues and with an act of devotion Clara helps the Nutcracker to victory. He is then transformed into a handsome Prince, and they journey through the snowy forest to The Land of Sweets.

We shall never know if this magical journey of delightful fantasies was all a dream, or if it really happened on a Christmas Eve long ago...



A SPECIAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

A UNIQUE WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC

Today's performance begins in the Land of Sweets – where some of *The Nutcracker's* most recognizable music lives! You'll hear beautiful and exciting melodies that many of you have heard in movies, commercials and stores during the holiday season.



– TODAY'S JOURNEY ON STAGE –



LAND OF SWEETS

We begin with a joyful celebration filled with music and dazzling dances.



BACK IN TIME

We travel back to Christmas Eve and Clara's home.



BATTLE SCENE

Clara's Nutcracker comes to life in an exciting battle against the Mouse King!



SNOW SCENE

Clara and her prince are surrounded by snowflakes in a winter wonderland

– DID YOU KNOW? –

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

A ballet is more than what you see on stage, so much happens behind the scenes to make the magic possible!

TIME TO TRANSFORM

Some dancers perform in more than one role during the Young People's Concert. They have just a few minutes to change costumes, and sometimes shoes and hairstyles before returning to the stage.

AFTER THE BLIZZARD

The Snow Scene covers the stage with hundreds of pieces of snow! Between performances, the stage crew works quickly to remove every bit and reset the stage before the next audience arrives.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA

THE MUSIC OF *THE NUTCRACKER*

The Nutcracker is brought to life by an orchestra playing Tchaikovsky's beautiful score. Our production features local professional musicians who come together to create something extraordinary. Every turn and leap is perfectly matched to the music you'll hear. The orchestra creates the mood, helps tell the story and make the magic happen!



– SOME OF THE INSTRUMENTS YOU'LL HEAR –



STRINGS

Violins, violas, cellos, and basses create rich sounds and beautiful melodies.



WOODWINDS

Flutes, piccolos, oboes, clarinets, and bassoons add color and bring special characters to life.



BRASS

Horns, trumpets, and trombones add brightness, celebration, and excitement to the music.



PERCUSSION

Timpani, cymbals, bells, and other percussion instruments add energy, rhythm, and dramaticc moments.



MOTHER GINGER

Mother Ginger's entrance is bold, playful, and larger than life. Listen for bright trumpets, trombones, and energetic drums that announce her arrival and make this dance feel like a festive parade.



RUSSIAN DANCE

The Russian Dance is one of the fastest and most exciting pieces in *The Nutcracker*. Listen for the quick violins, energetic trumpets, and driving drums as the music races alongside the dancers jumps and turns.



CHINESE TEA

The Chinese Tea Dance has a light, playful sound. Listen for the bright flute and tiny piccolo, along with the deeper bassoon, whose unususual sound adds a touch of humor and character to the music.



SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy features the Celesta, which was a brand new instrument when Tchaikovsky wrote the ballet. It looks like a small piano, but has a sparkling sound.



STANDARDS & RESOURCES

CONNECTING THE STAGE TO THE CLASSROOM

Our Young People's Concerts are designed to support classroom learning in the arts, literacy, music, and social-emotional development. These resources help extend the magic of *The Nutcracker* before and after your visit.



CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

This performance supports learning in the following areas:

DANCE
DA:Cr1, DA: Cr2, DA:Re7, DA:Cn10
Students observe and describe dance, undertand how dance conveys meaning, and connect it to history and culture.

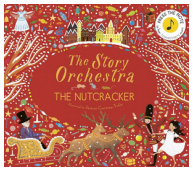
MUSIC
MU:Pr4, MU:Re7, MU:Cn11
Students listen to and analyze music, identify instruments, and connect music to stories and traditions.

THEATER
TH:Pr4, TH:Re7, TH:Cn11
Students observe and describe theater elements, understand the design and production of a performance, and connect it to community.

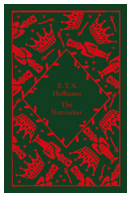
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
SL.1, SL.2, RL.7, W.3
Students listen actively, discuss ideas, read stories and descriptions, and write or respond creatively.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING
Self Awareness, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-making
Experiencing live performance builds empathy, confidence, and a sense of community.

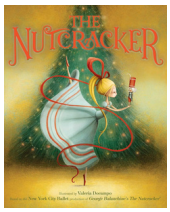
RECOMMENDED READS



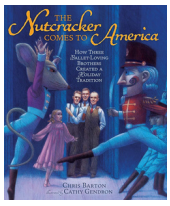
The Story Orchestra: The Nutcracker
by Katy Flint



The Nutcracker and the Mouse King
by E.T.A. Hoffman



The Nutcracker
by New York City Ballet



The Nutcracker Comes to America: How Three Ballet-Loving Brothers Created a Holiday Tradition
by Chris Barton



American Ballet Theatre Presents The Night Before The Nutcracker
by John Robert Allman

SCAN FOR MORE:

Enjoy the performance? Come see the full show! Use code YPC26 at checkout for a discount.

YouTube
A Brief History of The Nutcracker

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker
Berliner Philharmoniker

FOR STUDENTS

USE THESE ACTIVITIES TO EXPLORE *THE NUTCRACKER*

BEFORE YOU GO

LEARN THE STORY

Read the story summary in this guide. What part of Clara's adventure are you most excited to see?

REFLECT & SHARE

LOOK FOR

While you watch, spot these elements in the ballet. Check the box if you see them!

- ☐ The Christmas tree
- ☐ A crown
- ☐ Marching soldiers
- ☐ A giant present
- ☐ Mother Ginger
- ☐ The Snow Queen
- ☐ Clara fainting

FOLLOW THE MUSIC & STORY

What did the music make you feel?

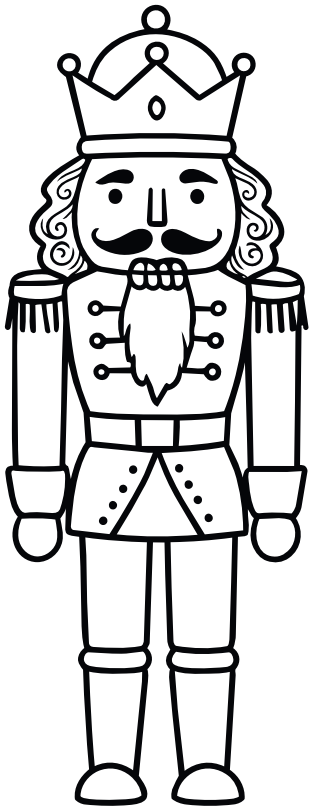


What was your favorite part?

DESIGN

Design a set or costume for one of the scenes in *The Nutcracker*.

COLOR



WORD SEARCH

L P M W B M P S S W C F I O V H H C N
P E L B A J R C S C H H N W G A O L U
G T V Z K P B E U P O S J M E U L A T
F I F P E Y N N H M R S G A W Y I R C
T P B M R W M E C U E U D K X O D A R
N A R O S N O G I S O L A V Y J A X A
I S Z T F P U N V I G P R I N C E O C
D N H H I J S U I C R Q V D W X L G K
Y R C E E C E Q C D A I V A N O V C E
S E O R L A H Q P A P I L F G G T O R
N I X S D M R R G B H B R A I V C N Y
O L Y L S U T T I N E N A I N V H D U
W E U L M E Z B I S R C K R G X A U O
F H I B C I L B A S T N L Y E E I C L
L F L B D F Y M I L T M N D R F K T J
A H N M S M H Q E X L G A R S Z O O H
K E U V D A N C E Y W E W S E B V R R
E S U G A R P L U M E Y T R H T S J G
P U M J S O L D I E R R F H S E K W V
J N A H Y T R A D I T I O N T A Y J Z

DROSSELMEYER
CLARA
MOUSE
SUGARPLUM
SNOWFLAKE
MUSIC
TCHAIKOVSKY
PETIPA
CHRISTMAS
IVANOV
BALLET
CONDUCTOR
SOLDIER
PRINCE
NUTCRACKER
TEA
FAIRY
MOTHER
CHOREOGRAPHER
ARTIST
BAKERSFIELD
CIVIC
DANCE
SCENE
GINGER
TRADITION