

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

BALLETJÖRGEN

The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



December 22 & 23, 2022
River Run Centre - Guelph, ON

Momoka Matsui; photo by Kamal Diad.

Message from the Artistic Director



Welcome to our performance of *The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition!*

Every year, Ballet Jörgen has the privilege of sharing this production and other ballets with over 50,000 people from coast to coast, bringing people together and to help build stronger communities through dance. The Nutcracker is a wonderful holiday tradition for so many Canadians and is often a child's first experience watching a ballet. For this reason, we are pleased to incorporate dance students into this production, as so many professional dancers start their careers as young performers in The Nutcracker!

A few years ago I thought about creating a Canadian-inspired Nutcracker, one that would connect this wonderful ballet to our own heritage. I am particularly delighted to have created a ballet connected to one of my own favourite pastimes — canoeing in Ontario's Algonquin Park.

Sue LePage, our Set & Costume Designer and Heinar Piller, Stage Director, have contributed greatly to the creation of this unique re-imagining of the ballet. Thank you to Clea Iveson for suggesting the use of Group of Seven paintings as a backdrop for our stunning and dramatic Canadian landscapes and to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection for their help in making this uniquely Canadian production possible.

I am also indebted to the loyal supporters of Ballet Jörgen who have demonstrated extraordinary financial support including the late Ann & Lyman Henderson. This performance is in part made possible with the support from National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation and Ballet Jörgen donors..

Thank you for coming and for making The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition part of your holiday season.

Enjoy the show!

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

THANK YOU.

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Local Youth Rehearsal Direction



Once again, we are proud to welcome Ballet Jörgen to the River Run Centre stage. Were it not for the pandemic, this season would mark the 20th year that Live at the Hippo Pool Events has brought this acclaimed Canadian ballet company's seasonal classic to Guelph. A dedicated team has been working hard in the months leading up to tonight's performance. Tremendous gratitude goes to Brandi Matheson, Patricia McLeod and Amber Dow of **Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz** for regular rehearsals of the local youth cast. Their generous gifts of time, teaching expertise and studio space were given with wisdom, good humour and kindness and we are indebted to them. Participating in the Guelph performances are talented young dancers from eleven different **dance schools located in Guelph and surrounding communities**. We thank the teachers at these schools for sharing their beautifully trained students with us. And to the **parents and dance students** who adjusted busy family schedules and traveled faithfully to rehearsals, please know that tonight's performance is especially wonderful because of your participation. Thanks to **Serena Van Acker**, our honorary Hippo, for her capable assistance with this local youth cast. We thank the **staff of the River Run Centre** for welcoming us to their venue once again. But most importantly, we thank **you, the audience**. Without your support there is no show.

Best wishes for a festive holiday season,
Carolynn Clark and Cameron Smillie, Co-founders, Live at the Hippo Pool Events® Inc.

Synopsis

Act I

It is Christmas Eve 1912, in the small village of Bisset, Ontario, north of Algonquin Park. The community is preparing for a holiday celebration and rare respite from every-day hard labor. People are gathering, a Christmas tree is cut and everyone heads to the school house for the festivities. Klara, a young girl recently orphaned and sent to Canada to join her older sister, arrives.

With the party already in full swing, Klara is warmly welcomed by everyone except by the daughter of the one well-to-do couple in the community, with whom Klara's sister is employed as a maid. The celebrations are interrupted by the arrival of a painter who brings handmade toys for the kids and a painting for his sweetheart, the local school teacher. Klara is left without a wooden toy, since she is an unexpected arrival but then she brings out the one heirloom from her home, a beautifully decorated Nutcracker. This immediately makes her the centre of attention. Jealous, the rich girl grabs the Nutcracker and in a fit of anger throws it into the wood stove. An inconsolable Klara stomps off, hides behind a school desk and falls asleep. As the Party comes to an end and everyone is leaving, Klara's sister is growing worried. When she cannot find her sister she rushes out together with the painter and the teacher to look for Klara.

When Klara wakes up she finds the school house deserted and growing cold. She is all alone! As the clock chimes 12 times, her world starts to change. Creatures of the wood are intruding; giant sized toys come alive and from the stove pops a life size Nutcracker. She is no longer alone. She has a friend! Together they have to face the attacks of King Bat and his cunning compatriots. A wild battle ensues, ebbing back and forth. Bowling pin Mounties join the fray, but it is Klara and the Nutcracker who save the day and defeat King Bat. As the walls of the school house fade away, Klara and the Nutcracker enter the beautiful snow covered forest on a sleigh drawn by white tailed deer. Out of the snow beautiful snowflakes appear, mesmerizing and blowing Klara and the Nutcracker deep into the forest. As the snow starts to fall, Klara and the Nutcracker are lost. Tired they fall asleep in the snow.

–INTERMISSION–



Snowflakes; photo by Cait Media Group Corp.

Act II

Klara wakes to find all the snow gone and the forest in full summer bloom. Amazed, she wakes the Nutcracker. The ice has turned to water with beavers, frogs and squirrels guiding Klara and the Nutcracker ever deeper into the forest until they come face to face with Lady and Lord Birch. Klara and the Nutcracker, explaining that they are lost, are welcomed to stay to meet some of the animals and flowers of the woods. Raccoons, loons, dragonflies, bears, flowers, a giant spruce tree and the small animals living under its branches, entertain the two guests of the forest. Finally Lord and Lady Birch sway their majestic crowns in a twirling pas de deux. Klara is exhilarated by the warm welcome and applauds them all. Bidding farewell, Klara and the Nutcracker fall asleep as they are escorted out of the forest by two bears.

When Klara wakes, she is alone, back in the school house. It was all just a dream! She runs to the window, but sees no one, as she disappointedly turns back she notices her old wooden Nutcracker on the school desk and remembers her dream — she is not alone — her new world is full of beauty — places, people and creatures to meet!

The Cast

In order of appearance, program & cast subject to change

ACT I

WELL-TO-DO FAMILY

DAUGHTER	Sakura Kawamura
FATHER	Leandro Prado
MOTHER	Lydia-Laure Germain (22), Taisiia Zamula (23)
MAID	Hannah Mae Cruddas (22), Lydia-Laure Germain (23)

FARMING FAMILY

**SON	Nolan Baik
MOTHER	Adrianna Cote
FATHER	Adam Davidson
**DAUGHTERS	Lyrik Alkema, Jessie Marshall

LUMBER JACKS Márcio Teixeira (22), Omar Hernández (23), Callum McGregor

**WOOD CHOPPING GIRL Georgia Hollingsworth

YOUNG WOMAN Ana Zamora

*YOUNG CHILD Howie Peters

GRANDMA Elise Tigges

GRANDPA Hiroto Saito

IMMIGRATION AID Taisiia Zamula (22), Momoka Matsui (23)

**KLARA Jada Prato

SCHOOL TEACHER Esther Zignaigo (22), Hannah Mae Cruddas (23)

PAINTER Adrián Ramírez Juárez (22), Daniel Da Silva (23)

**SOCK BUNNY Georgia Hollingsworth

*RATS Elise Tigges, Jessie Marshall, Howie Peters

HORNED OWL Sakura Kawamura

**NUTCRACKER PRINCE Nolan Baik

RED FOX Lydia-Laure Germain

SKUNK Márcio Teixeira

WOLF Adam Davidson

MOOSE Guest

SKIPPING ROPE HANDLES Ana Zamora, TaisiiaZamula
MOUNTIES Esther Zignaigo (22), Akari Fujiwara (23),
Adrianna Cote, Omar Hernández (22),Adrián
Ramírez Juárez (23), Hiroto Saito

KING BAT Callum McGregor (22), Omar Hernández (23)

* **WHITE TAILED DEER Jessie Marshall, Ayla Paneghel

SNOWMAN Adam Davidson

SNOW QUEEN & CAVALIER Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez(22),
Hannah Mae Cruddas & Leandro Prado (23)

SNOWFLAKES Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Lydia-Laure Germain, Ana
Zamora, Taisiia Zamula, Márcio Teixeira, Callum McGregor, Omar
Hernández

ACT II

* **BEAVERS Lyrik Alkema, Addison Fletcher

* FROGS Amelia Bauman & Presley-Mae Henderson (22)
Isla Tackaberry & Norah Swance (23)

* SQUIRRELS Ruby McKenna, Lauren Frost, Rebekah Zhou, Hailey Berger

* BEAR CUB Emily Hodge

LORD & LADY BIRCH Leandro Prado & Momoka Matsui (22), Akari Fujiwara & Adrián
Ramírez Juárez (23)

RACCOONS Hannah Mae Cruddas & Daniel Da Silva (22), Momoka Matsui & Márcio
Teixera (23)

LOONS Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (22), Ana Zamora & Leandro
Prado (23)

*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES Pearl Harp, Ayla Paneghel

DRAGONFLY Sakura Kawamura (22), Esther Zignaigo (23)

BEARS Callum McGregor & Márcio Teixeira (22), Omar Hernández & Daniel Da
Silva (23)

MOTHER SPRUCE Adrianna Cote

*CHIPMUNKS Addison Fletcher, Darwin Hancocks, Sophie Turcotte, Pippa Hallam (22)
Leah Houghton, Aliyah O'Connor, Maren Troop, Violet de Vos (23)

TRILLIUM FLOWER Akari Fujiwara (22), Momoka Matsui (23)
FLOWERS Ana Zamora, Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Lydia-Laure
Germain (22), Taisiia Zamula (23), Márcio teixera, Callum,
McGregor, Omar Hernández, Daniel Da Silva

* **WHITE TAILED DEER Lyrik Alekma, Jessie Marshall

**Local Youth Participant Role*

***Touring Youth Participant Role*

Production Credits

Choreography (After Petipa & Ivanov)
Bengt Jörgen, C.M.

Composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Costume & Set Design Sue LePage

Lighting Design Bonnie Beecher

Stage Direction Heinar Piller

Creative Assistant Clea Iveson

Scenic Carpentry Hamilton Scenic
Specialty

Backdrops Scenic Drop Studios,
Richard Mongiat, Elizabeth Bailey,
Katherine Lilley

Set Electrics Wireless Automation &
Control Scenic Electronics

Costume Coordinator Industry
Costumes

Wardrobe Buyer Susan Rome

Costume Construction Industry
Costumes, Brenda Clark

Assisted by Adrienne Baker, Geoffrey
Davis, Marion Schoeler Arana Enterprises,
Angela Arana, Yeo Lan Kwee, Linda
Kirby, Maria Colella, Avril Stevenson

Millinery Monica Viani, Assisted by
Katie Spreitzer

Dyeing Chrome Yellow

Props Builder Viola Frazier

Ballet Jörgen

Ballet Jörgen Co-Founders

Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Ballet Jörgen Artistic Staff

Artistic Director & CEO

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

Ballet Master Hiroto Saito

Principal Ballet Coach Svea Eklof

Company Dancers

Hannah Mae Cruddas*, Daniel Da Silva,
Adam Davidson*, Akari Fujiwara*,
Lydia-Laure Germain-, Omar Hernández,
Adrián Ramírez Juárez*, Sakura Kawamura
Momoka Matsui*, Callum McGregor*,
Leandro Prado, Hiroto Saito,
Márcio Teixeira*, Ana Zamora,
Esther Zignaigo

Apprentices Taisiia Zamula

Junior Company Members

Victoria Collier, Ryusei Nagafuchi
Estelle Tang, Taisiia Zamula,

Mentorship Students Chabi Arauz-,
Adrianna Cote-, Aria Lara Wilton-

Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson

Character Artist Elise Tigges

Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel

Resident Stage Director Heinar Pillar

Production Manager Patrick Florin

Technical Director Jacob Gagnon

**Lighting Director & Associate Technical
Director** Madhu Seran

Stage Manager Kayla Ado

Wardrobe Supervisor Glenna Foerster

Artistic Working Group Hannah Mae
Cruddas, Daniel Da Silva & Hiroto Saito

*Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer
~George Brown Dance Graduate

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Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

Local Youth Participants:

Amelia Bauman, Hailey Berger, Violet de Vos,
Addison Fletcher, Lauren Frost, Pippa
Hallam, Darwin Hancocks, Pearl Harp,
Presley-Mae Henderson, Emily Hodge, Leah
Houghton, Ruby McKenna, Aliyah O'Connor,
Ayla Paneghel, Norah Swance, Isla
Tackaberry, Maren Troop, Sophie Turcotte,
Rebekah Zhou

Local Youth Participants courtesy of

*Ambition Performing Arts Centre, Anna Marie
Oliver School of Dance, Connections Dance
Collective, Davenport Dance Project, Evolve
Dance Centre Holly Hughes Dance Academy,
Performance Dance Academy, Premier Dance
Academy, Royal City School of Ballet & Jazz,
Stage Presence School of Dance, The Guelph
Academy of Dance*

Local Rehearsal Direction Volunteer

Brandi Matheson & Pat McLeod, Amber Dow

Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of

Royal City School of Ballet & Jazz

Youth Cast on Tour with

Ballet Jörgen

Lyrik Alkema, Oro Medonte –

Prompt Dance Academy

Nolan Baik, Markham –

L'Arabesque Ballet

Georgia Hollingsworth, Brantford – *Burford
Dancers*

Jessie Marshall, Guelph – *Holly Hughes Dance
Academy*

Quinn Morriss, Brantford – *Studio 5.6.7.8 Inc.*

Zach Morriss, Brantford – *Dance Discovery*

Howie Peters, Toronto – *Quinte Ballet School
of Canada*

Jada Prato, Vaughan – *Academy of Ballet and
Jazz*

Elisabeth Ranger, Toronto – Canadian
Contemporary Dance Theatre

Ella Warner, Brighton –
Dance with Miss Liz

Rehearsal Directors

Clea Iveson, Estelle Tang, Elise Tigges,
Aria Lara Wilton

Rehearsal Assistants and Chaperones

Ana Isabel Arauz, Adrianna Cote,
Aria Lara Wilton

Local Volunteer Rehearsal Masters

Brantford – Avery Keyes

Guelph – Brandi Matheson &

Pat McLeod, Amber Dow

Huntsville – Sue Kirwin-Campbell

Keswick – Victoria Melbourne

Kitchener-Waterloo – Shelby Ward

London – Donna Bayley & Krista Conti

Ottawa – Tracy Mitchell

Peterborough – Summer Burch

Saskatoon – Tammy Tropeau

Local Studio Space Provided by

Brantford – *CORE Dance Project*

Guelph – *Royal City School of Ballet and
Jazz* Huntsville – *Muskoka Dance
Academy*

Keswick – *Core School of Dance*

Kitchener-Waterloo – *Carousel*

Dance Centre

London – *Dance Steps Studio*

Ottawa – *Brocadie Dance, Greta Leeming*

Studio of Dance

Peterborough – *7 Attitudes School
of Arts*

Saskatoon – *Studio One RP Dance*

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks

Heather Finn BSc, MSc(PT) Registered Physiotherapist, Speed River Physiotherapy
5 Gordon Unit, 102A, Guelph, ON, N1H 4G8, (519)-5836 4800
heather@speedriverphysio.ca.

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Cast is assembled from local area students.
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Sakura Kawamura, Leandro Prado, Esther Zignaigo;
photo by Kristie Jones.



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