



CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT, INC. PRESENTS

**THE STATE BALLET
THEATRE OF UKRAINE**

**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University

THE NUTCRACKER



Adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann's story
"The Nutcracker and the Mouse King"

Libretto by **Marius Petipa**

Edited by **Volodymir Troshchenko**

Choreography by **Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov,
Olexander Gorsky, Vasil Vanonen and Anatoly Yemelyanov**

November 19, 2022

The Music of the Nutcracker

The Composer - Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (Pronounced: chy-KOF-skee)



(Born Kamsko-Votkinsk, May 7, 1840; died St. Petersburg, November 6, 1893)

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a Russian composer who lived in the Romantic period. Tchaikovsky wrote melodies which were usually dramatic and emotional. He learned a lot from

studying the music of Western Europe at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, but his music also sounds very Russian in melody and rhythm. Although his music was popular, Tchaikovsky's methods for composing music often put him at odds with other noted Russian composers of the time, and he suffered from depression. His compositions include 11 operas, 3 ballets, orchestral music, chamber music and over 100 songs. His famous ballets (*Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*) have some of the best-known tunes in all romantic music. Tchaikovsky is widely regarded as the greatest composer of ballets.

The Celesta

The **celesta** is special instrument used in the music of *The Nutcracker* composed by Piotr Tchaikovsky. It plays the iconic solo in the *Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy*. The celesta looks like a piano but makes sound in a different way. The keys connect to hammers that strike a graduated set of metal plates. Nowadays, the celesta is a standard instrument to find in the symphony hall as well as pop and film music. It's the instrument behind *Hedwig's Theme* from *Harry Potter* as well as the introduction to *Won't You Be My Neighbor* from *Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood*. When Tchaikovsky wrote for the celesta, however, it wasn't a common instrument at all. In fact, he was considered the first major composer to use the instrument in a work composed for a full symphony orchestra.

CÉLESTA n° 1. Modèle d'Orchestre.



Getting Ready for the Show

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.

Today, I am seeing *The Nutcracker* for the _____ time.

My _____ brought me to see *The Nutcracker*.

I predict this will happen in the *Nutcracker* ballet:



Theatre Etiquette

How to be a #1 Audience at the Center for Performing Arts:



Voices off. Unless audience participation is requested by the performers. If something must be said, whisper it quickly.

Noises off. Turn off cell phones, audible watches, and any other sound-making gadgets before any performance. Munching noisily, cracking gum, rattling papers, tapping feet or drumming fingers—these are just a few of the things that can distract those around you.

Lights out. Don't forget, the screen on your mobile device can be a distraction too. Video recording and flash photos are not permitted

Nutcracker Summary

Prologue

Drosselmeyer is preparing gifts for the Silberhaus children. There is a nutcracker doll and the Mouse King among them. Drosselmeyer leaves the Mouse King toy at home.

ACT 1

The Silberhaus family is having a Christmas Eve reception. Drosselmeyer disguised as a magician enters the room. He presents a puppet show about the Nutcracker who defeats the Mouse King protecting the Princess. Drosselmeyer shows two windup toys, the Harlequin, and the Pink Doll. Mrs. Silberhaus has them put away for safekeeping, not to be broken by children. Marie is upset to see the dolls being taken away and Drosselmeyer gives her another doll, a nutcracker, but Fritz (Marie's brother) purposely breaks it. Drosselmeyer chases the nuisance away and fixes the doll. The adults return and perform the traditional Grossvater dance.

Drosselmeyer comes home and sees a lonely toy left behind - the Mouse King. The toy suddenly stops obeying Drosselmeyer and runs away. Drosselmeyer chases it.

Marie sleeps in an armchair near the Christmas tree. The Mouse King sneaks into the room and hides under the tree. Drosselmeyer waves his wand and everything around changes. The walls move, the Christmas tree starts growing and the toys come alive. Suddenly, mice come out of the fireplace led by the Mouse King. The smart and brave nutcracker saves them by taking the tin soldiers to fight against the mice army. However, the forces are not equal. The nutcracker remains the only soldier fighting against the Mouse King and his mice.

To help her favorite toy, Marie takes her shoe off and throws it at the Mouse King. The mice retreat scared, and a miracle happens. The funny toy transforms into a handsome Prince. He thanks Marie.

The pattern made by frost on the windowpanes turns into a magic winter forest. The Prince and Marie are moved into the Waltz of Snowflakes.



ACT 2

Marie and the Prince continue their magic journey at a magical castle. The lights are on; Christmas toys come alive and greet the couple. Suddenly, the Mouse King appears with his mice. Prince Nutcracker goes into battle and wins. Everybody celebrates the victory over the mice. Chocolate performs a Spanish dance, Coffee performs an Arabian dance, Tea performs a Chinese dance, and Candy Canes perform a Russian dance. French Lollipops present the Reed Flutes dance. The kind toymaker presents a basket of beautiful pink flowers and the flowers dance a waltz.

Marie and Prince are happy. However, it is just a dream. A new day has arrived. Marie awakens near the Christmas tree and her toy nutcracker is next to her.

Marie or Clara?



The Nutcracker ballet is based on the 1816 story “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” by German author E.T.A. Hoffman. The story is about a little girl named Marie and a nutcracker toy. In the original story, the Mouse King has seven heads! Marie also has a doll named Clara.

Since the story was made into a ballet in 1892 using the music of Tchaikovsky and libretto (the story of the ballet) by Marius Petipa, the name of the young girl has varied. Sometimes she is called Marie and sometimes Clara.

NUTCRACKER MAD LAB

Play this fun word game with a friend or by yourself.

Fill in the necessary words below. **Do not** look at the story on the next page. Using the words you selected below, fill in the blanks of the story. Read the story aloud and prepare to laugh!

Pro Tip: If you write in **pencil**, you can erase and play again with another friend!

The Nutcracker

Adjective _____

Noun _____

Noun _____

Adjective _____

Adjective _____

Noun _____

Adjective _____

Plural noun _____

Adjective _____

Plural noun _____

Type of food _____

Type of liquid _____

Verb ending in "ing" _____

Adjective _____

Adjective _____

The Nutcracker is a famous ballet that tells the _____

ADJECTIVE

story of a little _____ named Marie whose godfather gives

NOUN

her a/an _____-cracker for Christmas. Amazingly, the

NOUN

nutcracker comes to life as a/an _____ prince who

ADJECTIVE

rescues Marie from some very _____ mice. Then Marie

ADJECTIVE

and her prince travel to a magic _____, where

NOUN

they are greeted by _____ snowflakes and dancing

ADJECTIVE

_____. They continue their enchanted journey and enter

PLURAL NOUN

the _____ land of the Sugar Plum _____,

ADJECTIVE

PLURAL NOUN

where people dressed like _____ and _____

TYPE OF FOOD

TYPE OF LIQUID

dance for them. When the festivities are over, Marie finds herself at

home, _____ under the Christmas tree and

VERB ENDING IN "ING"

holding her _____ nutcracker. It was all

ADJECTIVE

just a/an _____ dream!

ADJECTIVE



Defeating the Mouse King



Marie helps defeat the Mouse King
by throwing her slipper at him.

Use your imagination to think of another
way you might defeat the Mouse King.

Draw a picture of what you would do and write it below.

I would defeat the Mouse King by _____



Nutcracker Sweets



In Act 2, when Marie visits the Land of Sweets, different sweets from around the world dance for her. Chocolate, coffee, tea, candy canes, and lollipops.

Can you think of another treat from somewhere else in the world that could dance for Marie? Draw a picture of the sweet or the sweet dancing:

The sweet is called _____

_____.

It is from _____.



Original Story v. Ballet Libretto

Curious about the original “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” story by E.T.A. Hoffman? Scan the QR code below to listen to an audio story adaptation from Storynory.com to hear some of the differences.



The audio story can also be found at
<https://www.storynory.com/a-christmas-nutcracker>

Acrobuffos present

Air Play

Saturday, April 22, 2023
at 2 p.m.

In *Air Play* umbrellas fly, fabrics soar over the audience, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls, filling the stage.

With stunning images and gales of laughter, *Air Play* bounces on the edge of definition: part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater.

A circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, *Air Play* transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty.

Created by circus performers Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone in collaboration with kinetic sculptor Daniel Wurtzel, *Air Play* was devised through years of experimentation with simple materials, movement, and technology.

Great for all ages, *Air Play* creates beauty and inspires laughter across cultures and continents. No translation necessary.

Air Play is a visual poem, using no words, and brings to life the very air we breathe.

CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222

