

THE
NATIONAL
Ballet
OF CANADA

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

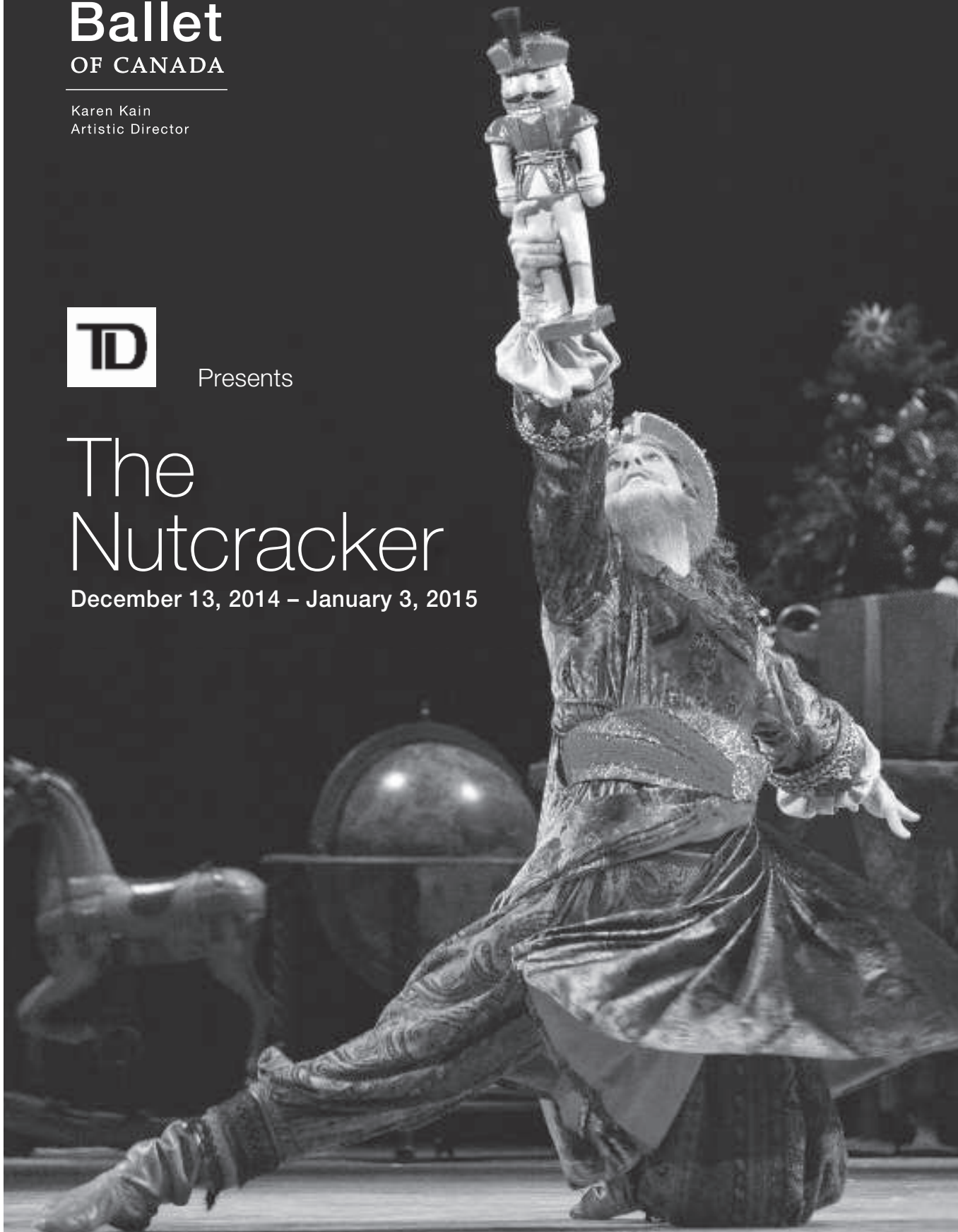
Ballet Notes



Presents

The Nutcracker

December 13, 2014 – January 3, 2015



Jonathan Renna.

Photo by Aleksandar Antonijevic.

THE
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Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Celia Franca, C.C., Founder

George Crum, Music Director Emeritus

Karen Kain, C.C. Artistic Director
Barry Hughson Executive Director

David Briskin Music Director and Principal Conductor
Rex Harrington, O.C. Artist-in-Residence

Magdalena Popa Principal Artistic Coach
Lindsay Fischer Artistic Director, YOU dance / Ballet Master

Peter Ottmann Senior Ballet Master
Mandy-Jayne Richardson Senior Ballet Mistress

Guillaume Côté, Greta Hodgkinson, Svetlana Lunkina, McGee Maddox, Evan McKie, Heather Ogden*, Sonia Rodriguez, Piotr Stanczyk, Jillian Vanstone, Xiao Nan Yu

Lorna Geddes, Alejandra Perez-Gomez, Rebekah Rimsay, Tomas Schramek, Hazaros Surmeyan

Naoya Ebe, Keiichi Hirano, Tanya Howard, Stephanie Hutchison, Etienne Lavigne, Patrick Lavoie, Elena Lobsanova, Tina Pereira, Jonathan Renna, Robert Stephen

Skylar Campbell, Jordana Daumec, Alexandra MacDonald, Chelsy Meiss, Tiffany Mosher, Jenna Savella, Brendan Saye, Christopher Stalzer, Dylan Tedaldi

Jack Bertinshaw, Trygve Cumpston, Shaila D'Onofrio, Jackson Dwyer, Rhiannon Fairless, Hannah Fischer, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Giorgio Galli, Selene Guerrero-Trujillo, Emma Hawes, Juri Hiraoka, Kathryn Hosier, Rui Huang, Harrison James, Lise-Marie Jourdain, Larissa Khotchenkova, Miyoko Koyasu, James Leja, Elizabeth Marrable, Shino Mori, Jaclyn Oakley, Andreea Olteanu, Félix Paquet, Brent Parolin, Meghan Pugh, Asiel Rivero, Ben Rudisin, Kota Sato, Nan Wang, Ethan Watts, Sarah Elena Wolff

RBC Apprentice Programme / YOU dance:
Nicole Blain, Patrick Foster, Giorgio Garrett, Christopher Gerty, Spencer Hack, Soo Ah Kang, Elenora Morris, Clare Peterson, Calley Skalnik, Andrew Tomlinson

Robert Binet
Guillaume Côté Choeographic Associates
Lorna Geddes Pointe Shoe Manager / Assistant Ballet Mistress

Ernest Abugov
Jeff Morris Stage Managers
Joysanne Sidimus Guest Balanchine Répétiteur

Michael Lewandowski Assistant Stage Manager

* Maternity leave

Orchestra

Violin 1
Elissa Lee, *Guest Concertmaster* (Dec 13 - 23)
Aaron Schwebel, *Guest Concertmaster* (Dec 23 - Jan 3)
Lynn Kuo, *Assistant Concertmaster*
James Aylesworth
Jennie Baccante
Sheldon Grabke
Nancy Kershaw
Sonia Klimasko-Leheniuk
Yakov Lerner
Jayne Maddison
Wendy Rogers
Paul Zevenhuizen

Violin 2
Dominique Laplante, *Principal Second Violin*
Aaron Schwebel, *Assistant Principal 2nd Violin**
Jayne Maddison, *Acting Assistant Principal 2nd Violin* (Dec 13 & 14)
Csaba Koczó, *Acting Assistant Principal 2nd Violin* (Dec 17 - Jan 3)
Anne Armstrong+
Xiao Grabke
Hiroko Kagawa+
Jamie Kruspe+
Ron Mah
Aya Miyagawa
Filip Tomov
Ashley Vandiver+
Sonia Vizante+
Rebekah Wolkstein+
Joanna Zabrowarna

Violas
Angela Rudden, *Principal*
Josh Greenlaw, *Assistant Principal*
Jonathan Craig+
Emily Eng
Ivan Ivanovich+
Valerie Kuinka
Johann Lotter
Rory McLeod+
Nicholaos Papadakis+
Beverley Spotton
Larry Toman*

Cellos
Maurizio Baccante, *Principal*
Alastair Eng+
Mary Katherine Finch+
Olga Laktionova
Elaine Thompson
Marianne Pack
Andrew McIntosh
Paul Widner

Basses
Hans. J.F. Preuss, *Principal*
Paul Langley
Robert Speer
Cary Takagaki

Flutes
Leslie J. Allt, *Principal*
Shelley Brown, *Piccolo**
Kevin O'Donnell, *Piccolo**
Maria Pelletier

Oboes
Mark Rogers, *Principal*
Karen Rótenberg
Lesley Young, *English Horn*

Clarinets
Max Christie, *Principal*
Gary Kidd, *Bass Clarinet*
Emily Marlow*
Aiko Oda+
Colleen Cook+

Bassoons
Stephen Mosher, *Principal*
Jerry Robinson
Elizabeth Gowen, *Contra-Bassoon*

Horns
Gary Pattison, *Principal*
Vincent Barbee*
Derek Conrod
Diane Doig+
Christine Passmore+
Scott Wevers

Trumpets
Richard Sandals, *Principal*
Mark Dharmaratnam
Robert Weymouth

Trombones
David Archer, *Principal*
Robert Ferguson
David Pell, *Bass Trombone*

Tuba
Sasha Johnson, *Principal*

Harp
Lucie Parent, *Principal*

Tympani
Michael Perry, *Principal*

Percussion
Tim Francom, *Principal*
Kristofer Maddigan
Mark Mazur

Orchestra Personnel Manager and Music Administrator
Raymond Tizzard

Librarian
Lucie Parent

* On Leave of Absence
+ Additional Musician



Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 pm
Friday, December 19 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, December 20 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 21 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm

Tuesday, December 23 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Saturday, December 27 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 28 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Tuesday, December 30 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Friday, January 2 at 1:00 & 5:30 pm
Saturday, January 3 at 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm



presents: **The Nutcracker**

Choreography and Libretto: **James Kudelka. O.C.**

Music: **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Set and Costume Designs: **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting Design: **Jennifer Tipton**

Canada's National Ballet School Rehearsal Director: **Laurel Toto,**

assisted by **Patrick Kastoff**

Répétiteurs: **Peter Ottmann, Mandy-Jayne Richardson, Magdalena Popa, Rex Harrington, Lindsay Fischer, Aleksandar Antonijevic and Lorna Geddes**

The National Ballet of Canada gratefully acknowledges its collaboration, in the production of *The Nutcracker*, with Canada's National Ballet School and students of:

C.R Marchant Middle School	Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute
Cawthra Park Secondary School	Lycée Français de Toronto
Clarington Central Secondary School	Malvern Collegiate Institute
Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West	Michael Power High School
Collège Français	North Toronto Christian School
Cornerstone Montessori Prep School	Northern Secondary School
Cosburn Middle School	Nottawa Elementary School
Courtice Intermediate & Secondary School	O'Neill Collegiate & Vocational Institute
Danforth Collegiate Institute	Our Lady of Lourdes
De La Salle College	Rawlinson Community School
Don Mills Collegiate Institute	Red Maple Public School
Earl Haig Secondary School	Riverdale Collegiate Institute
Etobicoke School of the Arts	Rosedale Heights School of The Arts
Fenelon Falls Secondary School	St. Joseph's College School
George Harvey Collegiate Institute	St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School
Glen Ames Senior Public School	The Academy for Gifted Children P.A.C.E
Glenview Senior Public School	The Bishop Strachan School
Havergal College	Unionville High School
Humberside Collegiate Institute	University of Toronto
Inglenook Community High School	Victoria Park Collegiate Institute
Kingsway College School	York University

Conductors: **Earl Stafford**, Guest Conductor (Dec 13 eve, 14 mat, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23 eve, Jan 3 eve)

Nathan Brock, Guest Conductor (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 23 mat, 27, 28, 30, Jan 2, 3 mat)

The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra with VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto,
Carol Woodward Ratzlaff, Founder and Artistic Director

This production of *The Nutcracker* is dedicated to Celia Franca and Betty Oliphant.
With respect, admiration and gratitude. J.K.

Made possible by generous financial support from production underwriters Sandra & Jim Pitblado,
Lawrence & Ann Heisey and an anonymous friend of the National Ballet.

Act I

Scene 1, A Barn

Peter, a stable boy

McGee Maddox (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Guillaume Côté (Dec 13 eve, 17, 19, 21 eve)

Skylar Campbell (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 eve)

Piotr Stanczyk (Dec 18, 20 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Evan McKie* (Dec 21 mat, 23 eve, 27 eve)

Keiichi Hirano (Dec 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 mat)

Marie

Jacqueline Sugianto (Dec 13 mat, 18, 20 eve, 23 mat, 28 mat, 30 eve)

Clara Corbo (Dec 13 eve, 17, 21 eve, 27 eve, 28 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Sophia Lisikh (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 eve, 27 mat, Jan 2 mat, 3 eve)

Mathilde Roberge (Dec 14 eve, 19, 21 mat, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Misha, Marie's brother

Adam Hone (Dec 13 mat, 18, 20 eve, 23 mat, 28 mat, 30 eve)

Gabriel Buell (Dec 13 eve, 17, 21 eve, 27 eve, 28 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Benjamin Alexander (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 eve, 27 mat, Jan 2 mat, 3 eve)

Cole Sweet (Dec 14 eve, 19, 21 mat, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Baba, Marie and Misha's nurse

Krista Dowson[∞] (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 27 eve, Jan 2 mat)

Rebekah Rimsay (Dec 13 eve, 19, 21 eve)

Andreea Olteanu* (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 eve)

Lise-Marie Jourdain (Dec 17, 20 eve, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Alejandra Perez-Gomez (Dec 18, 21 mat, 23 eve, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Marie and Misha's parents

Tanya Howard or Stephanie Hutchison or Lise-Marie Jourdain or Alejandra Perez-Gomez

Jonathan Renna or McGee Maddox or Patrick Lavoie or James Leja

Uncle Nikolai

James Leja (Dec 13 mat, 21 mat, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Robert Stephen (Dec 13 eve, 17, 19, 21 eve, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Dylan Tedaldi* (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 eve)

Jonathan Renna (Dec 14 eve, 18, 20 eve, 23 eve, 27 eve, Jan 2 mat)

Parents, Children, Aunts, Uncles, Servants, Bears and a Horse

Artists of The National Ballet of Canada and Students of Canada's National Ballet School

Act I

Scene 2, The Battle of the Tsar of the Mice

The Nutcracker

McGee Maddox (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Guillaume Côté (Dec 13 eve, 17, 19, 21 eve)

Skylar Campbell (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 eve)

Piotr Stanczyk (Dec 18, 20 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Evan McKie* (Dec 21 mat, 23 eve, 27 eve)

Keiichi Hirano (Dec 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 mat)

The Tsar of the Mice

Dylan Tedaldi or Jack Bertinshaw or Christopher Stalzer or Kota Sato

Baby Mice

Students of Canada's National Ballet School (Associates Programme)

Dogs, Cats and Mice

Students of Canada's National Ballet (Associates Programme) and participating schools listed on Page 3

Goat and Rooster

Armando Biasi or Heather Cook or Adam Joshua Norrad or Joshua Sailo⁺

Act I

Scene 3, The Land of Snow

Snow Queen and her Icicles

Xiao Nan Yu, Brent Parolin*, Patrick Lavoie (Dec 13, 17)

Tanya Howard, Keiichi Hirano, Naoya Ebe (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Stephanie Hutchison, Brent Parolin*, Patrick Lavoie (Dec 14 eve, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat)

Elena Lobsanova, Harrison James, Jack Bertinshaw (Dec 18, 20 eve)

Alexandra MacDonald, Andreas Kaas[∞], Félix Paquet* (Dec 19, 21 eve, 23 eve, 27 eve, Jan 2 eve)

Jenna Savella, Giorgio Galli, Nan Wang (Dec 21 mat, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 mat, Jan 3 eve)

Snow Maidens

Artists of The National Ballet of Canada[♦]

Unicorns

Students of Canada's National Ballet School

Intermission

Act II

The Palace of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Courtiers, Guards, Ladies-in-Waiting
Students of Canada's National Ballet School

The Sugar Plum Fairy

Elena Lobsanova (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)
Greta Hodgkinson (Dec 13 eve, 17)
Jillian Vanstone (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 mat, 3 eve)
Sonia Rodriguez (Dec 18, 20 eve, Jan 2 eve)
Emma Hawes* (Dec 19, 21 eve)
Svetlana Lunkina (Dec 21 mat, 23 eve, 27 eve)

Empress Dowager Baba

Krista Dowson[∞] (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 27 eve, Jan 2 mat)
Rebekah Rimsay (Dec 13 eve, 19, 21 eve)
Andreea Olteanu* (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 eve)
Lise-Marie Jourdain (Dec 17, 20 eve, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 eve)
Alejandra Perez-Gomez (Dec 18, 21 mat, 23 eve, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Grand Duke Nikolai

James Leja (Dec 13 mat, 21 mat, 27 mat, 28 eve, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)
Robert Stephen (Dec 13 eve, 17, 19, 21 eve, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 eve)
Dylan Tedaldi* (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat, Jan 3 eve)
Jonathan Renna (Dec 14 eve, 18, 20 eve, 23 eve, 27 eve, Jan 2 mat)

Spanish Chocolate

Andreea Olteanu or **Jenna Savella** or **Chelsy Meiss**, **Meghan Pugh** or **Shaila D'Onofrio** or **Elizabeth Marrable**, **Christopher Stalzer** or **Francesco Gabriele Frola** or **Dylan Tedaldi**

Elizabeth Marrable or **Miyoko Koyasu**, **Chelsy Meiss** or **Selene Guerrero-Trujillo** or **Tiffany Mosher**, **Giorgio Galli** or **Jack Bertinshaw** or **Jackson Dwyer** or **Kota Sato**

Arabian Coffee

Tiffany Mosher or **Stephanie Hutchison** or **Jenna Savella** or **Alexandra MacDonald**, **Jonathan Renna** or **Nan Wang** or **Andreas Kaas[∞]**

Tanya Howard or **Elena Lobsanova** or **Chelsy Meiss** or **Alexandra MacDonald**, **Keiichi Hirano** or **Brent Parolin** or **Patrick Lavoie**

A Sheep

Shaila D'Onofrio* (Dec 13 mat, 14 eve, 18, 20 eve, 27 mat, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)
Chelsy Meiss (Dec 13 eve, 17, 19, 21 eve, 23 eve, 28 mat, Jan 2 mat)
Elizabeth Marrable (Dec 14 mat, 21 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 eve)
Lise-Marie Jourdain (Dec 20 mat, 23 mat, 27 eve, 28 eve, Jan 3 eve)

A Flock of Lambs

Students of Canada's National Ballet School
(Associates Programme)

A Fox

Dylan Tedaldi (Dec 13 mat, 18, 20 eve, 28 eve, Jan 2 eve)
Christopher Stalzer (Dec 13 eve, 17, 23 eve, 30 mat)
Giorgio Galli (Dec 14 mat, 20 mat, 23 mat)
Robert Stephen (Dec 14 eve, 21 mat, 27 mat, Jan 3 mat)
Naoya Ebe (Dec 19, 21 eve, 27 eve, 28 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 mat, 3 eve)

Waiters

Ethan Watts or **Christopher Gerty** or **Spencer Hack**, **Félix Paquet** or **Patrick Foster**, **Giorgio Garrett** or **Kota Sato**, **Ben Rudisin** or **Trygve Cumpston** or **Andrew Tomlinson**

Chefs

Students of Canada's National Ballet School

A Bee

Jenna Savella (Dec 13 mat, 21 eve, 23 eve, 27 eve, 28 eve, Jan 2 eve)
Tanya Howard (Dec 13 eve, 17, 19, 21 mat, 30 eve, Jan 2 mat)
Selene Guerrero-Trujillo (Dec 14 mat, 20 eve, 27 mat, 28 mat, Jan 3 eve)
Tiffany Mosher (Dec 14 eve, 18, 20 mat, 23 mat, 30 mat, Jan 3 mat)

Flowers and Branches

Artists of The National Ballet of Canada♦

- * Debut
- [∞] Guest Artist
- ♦ Includes additional dancer
Emily Bartosiewicz
- + Additional dancers

All casting is subject to change.

Running Time

Act 1 – 49 minutes
Intermission – 20 minutes
Act II – 46 minutes
The performance will run approximately
2 hours



Krista Dowson and students of Canada's National Ballet School.
Photo by Bruce Zinger.

Synopsis

Act I

It's the night before Christmas in 19th-century Russia, and Marie, Misha, their parents and their beloved nursemaid Baba are busy preparing for the annual Christmas Eve party at their country estate. As the curtain rises, Peter, the stable boy (and Marie's and Misha's best friend), is sweeping the barn one last time before the guests arrive.

Marie and Misha burst into the barn, squabbling furiously despite the patient efforts of Baba and Peter to calm them down. Suddenly a rat scuttles across the floor, disrupting everything until Peter outsmarts it. Four neighbouring families arrive and the dancing begins.

All of a sudden, a mysterious man dressed in red appears in a sleigh. It's Nikolai, the unpredictable uncle who lives down the road, whose alarming spins and flamboyant gestures both terrifies and delights the company. Magically he tweaks bright fresh oranges from the guests' ears, hats, and clothes as well as producing a pair of dancing bears, one of them on skates. To crown everything, Nikolai unhitches his old mare and, to everyone's amazement, they energetically dance together.

Nikolai has brought special gifts for all the children, but after all the presents have been handed out, there is nothing left for Marie. Quickly Nikolai gives Marie a Nutcracker in the shape of a handsome soldier which he'd intended for her parents. The continuing hostilities between Marie and Misha erupt once more as they fight over the Nutcracker until their father confiscates it.

Baba takes Marie and Misha back to the house to put them to bed but inevitably their skirmishes begin again – this time, it's a competition to see who can stay awake the longest. Eventually they fall asleep and their magnificent dream begins.

Just as the clock strikes twelve, six pesky little mice scurry in but Nikolai, stranger and wilder than ever, dashes out and scares them away. Taking pity on poor Marie, he returns her Nutcracker, tucks it beneath the nursery Christmas tree and vanishes from sight.

Ominously, the children's beds begin to rock and shake waking Marie and Misha. Their Christmas tree has come to life and the Nutcracker has grown, his features have somehow been transformed to look exactly



Piotr Stanczyk and Artists of the Ballet.
Photo by Bruce Zinger.

like their friend Peter.

Other toys, too, have magically come to life and a regiment of wolfhounds rides in, only to be vanquished by demonic cats. Then an evil brigade of mice invades the room to attack the cats. Meanwhile, the cruel Tsar of the Mice challenges the Nutcracker to mortal combat and all seems lost.

With the ingenuity of despair Marie and Misha save the Nutcracker by combining forces to banish the frenzied cats and dogs and they conquer the Tsar of the Mice with their feather pillows. In relief and sheer exhaustion, Marie, Misha and the Nutcracker collapse on the bed.

The bed begins to move again but this time it carries them on a magical journey. Through ice-laced trees and feathery snowflakes they see the Snow Queen, supported by two icicles. Marie, Misha, and the Nutcracker dance joyfully with the snowflakes and the Snow Queen bestows upon them a magnificent gift: a beautiful ice-boat attended by unicorns.

Intermission

Act II

The ice-boat carries the children and the Nutcracker to the secret Kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy, who lives in a beautiful Fabergé egg at the centre of a golden palace, carefully guarded by her loyal courtiers. Nikolai and Baba, transformed into the Grand Duke and Duchess, are there to greet them.

Naturally, the courtiers are eager to discover how their unexpected guests happened to find the palace and beg the Nutcracker, Marie, and Misha to recount their marvellous adventures. As a reward for the children's courage and compassion, the courtiers order a splendid banquet that mingles grown-up food with childhood favourites.

The first course, much to the children's delight, is Chocolate, with a delicate Spanish flavouring. The second, Coffee, heralds the pleasures of adulthood – and oddly enough, quite the opposite of anyone's expectations, its sinuous fumes put the child-courtiers to sleep! Embarrassed by the courtiers' inattentiveness, Misha and Marie wake everyone up just in time to enjoy the spectacle of four inept royal chefs trying to catch the poultry course.

There follow two dances that hint at the loving nature of parenthood: a bright, cheerful Trepak for the Nutcracker and a dance for Baba as a shepherdess with lambs and a Sheep-princess pursued by a Fox.

At last four zany Waiters bring in a magical table while the chefs attempt to put the finishing touches on the great repast. When the feast is finally prepared, Marie and Misha assume the places of honour and enjoy a food fight in what may be their last chance to misbehave as young children. Suddenly all traces of winter have gone, and the palace gates burst open to admit a single Bee and a host of Flowers to dance in the warm spring breeze.

In the midst of all this excitement, Marie and Misha have noticed that the Nutcracker

has fallen deeply in love with the Sugar Plum Fairy. All at once the world of the Sugar Plum Fairy begins to vanish and the children find themselves in their own room being put to bed by Baba. As Marie and Misha fall back to sleep just before daybreak, the Nutcracker and the Sugar Plum Fairy bid them goodbye. Somehow during this night the children have passed together through the magical yet natural portal between childhood and adolescence, and somehow they know that their lives will never again be quite the same. Henceforth, like their friend the Nutcracker, they will set forth to find and follow their own dreams.

– Penelope Reed Doob

Selected Biographies

Karen Kain, C.C. **Artistic Director**

Long recognized as one of the most gifted classical dancers of her era, noted for her compelling characterizations and versatility as a performer, Artistic Director Karen Kain is one of Canada's most renowned and committed advocates for the arts. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Ms. Kain received her training at Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto, joining The National Ballet of Canada in 1969. She was quickly promoted to Principal Dancer with the company after her sensational debut as the Swan Queen in *Swan Lake*. In 1971, Ms. Kain was awarded the Silver Medal in the Women's Category at the prestigious International Ballet Competition in Moscow and, along with her frequent partner at the time, Frank Augustyn, received a special prize for Best Pas de Deux. Subsequently, she embarked on a remarkable international career during

which she performed many of ballet's greatest roles with such companies as Paris Opéra Ballet, Roland Petit's Le Ballet de Marseilles, the Bolshoi Ballet, London Festival Ballet and Vienna State Opera Ballet. Throughout her career she also developed a close creative partnership with Rudolf Nureyev and often performed with him. A favourite of some of the world's most prominent choreographers, she premiered many new and important works during her time as a dancer. Ms. Kain retired from dancing following a farewell tour in 1997 and took up the position of Artist-in-Residence with the National Ballet, a role that was later expanded to that of Artistic Associate. In 2004, she restaged Rudolf Nureyev's landmark version of *The Sleeping Beauty* for the company and the following year was named Artistic Director. Ms. Kain has received many Canadian and international awards throughout her career, testifying to

her accomplishments both as an artist and an advocate for the arts. She is a Companion of the Order of Canada, the first Canadian recipient of the Cartier Lifetime Achievement Award and was named an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Government of France. In 1997, Ms. Kain was honoured with a Governor General's National Arts Centre Award and received a Governor General's Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement in 2002. From 2004 to 2008, she was Chair of the Canada Council for the Arts. In 2007, she was presented with the Barbara Hamilton Memorial Award for demonstrating excellence and professionalism in the performing arts. In 2008, the Karen Kain School for the Arts officially opened, a tribute to Ms. Kain's ongoing contributions to the cultural life of her country, and in 2011, Ms. Kain was honoured by the International Society for the Performing Arts with the Distinguished Artist Award.

Barry Hughson
Executive Director

Barry Hughson has served the performing arts field for 22 years as a professional arts executive. In 2014, he joined The National Ballet of Canada as Executive Director. Mr. Hughson was previously Executive Director of Boston Ballet. Under Mr. Hughson's leadership, Boston Ballet achieved several key milestones, including the retirement of its long term debt, completing a multi-million dollar renovation of the ballet's headquarters and international tours to Canada, Spain, Finland and the UK, as well as raising more than \$60 million dollars in contributed revenue. As an arts advocate, consultant and educator, Mr. Hughson has had teaching and speaking engagements in the USA, Europe and South America. He is the Vice Chair of Dance/USA, North America's largest service organization for professional dance. He is a founding member of Dance/USA's National Leadership Council for Dance, and has served as a mentor to emerging arts executives through the Institute for Leadership Training. Mr. Hughson began his career as a dancer with The Washington (DC) Ballet, where he performed classical and contemporary repertoire at the Kennedy Center and on tour throughout the world.

James Kudelka, O.C.
Choreographer

James Kudelka is widely acknowledged as one of North America's most innovative choreographers. His mastery of both classical ballet and modern, contemporary dance has earned him commissions from companies – some 25 in all – as stylistically diverse as American Ballet Theatre, Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance and Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. Even as a student at Canada's National Ballet School, Mr. Kudelka demonstrated a choreographic

interest in exploring innovative approaches. While adept in the classical ballet vocabulary, he infuses it with a contemporary sensibility acquired from his intense interest in modern movement idioms. Mr. Kudelka's work covers an impressive range, from virtuoso pas de deux, through large-scale and always arresting adaptations of such classics as *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*, to boldly innovative creative collaborations with dancers, designers and musicians. Mr. Kudelka has never been afraid to tackle psychologically challenging subject matter in his story ballets – he views dance as a primary medium of artistic discourse – and through his gift for movement metaphor infuses poetic, emotional meaning into his many non-narrative works. After nine distinguished years as Artistic Director of The National Ballet of Canada (1996 to 2005), Mr. Kudelka continues to undertake collaborative projects that engage and challenge him as a choreographer.

Santo Loquasto
Set and Costume Designer

Santo Loquasto is a designer for dance, theatre and film. He has collaborated with choreographers Jerome Robbins, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Kenneth MacMillan, Agnes de Mille, James Kudelka and Mark Morris. Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove* marked the beginning of a long-term relationship with American Ballet Theatre. As designer for the Paul Taylor Dance Company, he has designed a total of 49 pieces. Mr. Loquasto received his first Tony in 1977 for costume designs for *The Cherry Orchard*. In 1989, he won both the Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his set design of the New York Shakespeare Festival's *Café Crown* and, in 1990, he again won both awards for his costume design for *Grand Hotel*. For his other work in theatre, he has received an Obie, the Joseph Maharam

Award, both Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desks Awards and a total of 17 Tony nominations. For film, Mr. Loquasto has received Academy Award nominations for production design for Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway* and *Radio Days* and for costume design for Allen's *Zelig*. Other film credits include *Desperately Seeking Susan*, *Big* and, most recently, *Blue Jasmine*.

Jennifer Tipton
Lighting Designer

Jennifer Tipton is well known for her work in dance, theatre and opera. Her recent work in theatre includes *On Borrowed Time*, directed by Joel Grey at Two River Theater Company and *In The Year Of 13 Moons*, directed by Robert Woodruff at the Yale Repertory Theater. In opera, her recent work includes *Don Giovanni*, directed by Daniel Witzke at Opera San Jose and *La Clemenza Di Tito*, directed by Sir David McVicar at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In dance, Ms. Tipton's work includes Alexei Ratmansky's *Shostakovich Trilogy* for San Francisco Ballet and American Ballet Theatre as well as Paul Taylor's *American Dreamer*. Ms. Tipton teaches lighting at the Yale School of Drama. She received the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in 2001, the Jerome Robbins Prize in 2003 and the Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture in New York City in April 2004. In 2008, Ms. Tipton was made a United States Artists Gracie Fellow and a MacArthur Fellow.

David Briskin
Music Director and Principal Conductor

One of the foremost ballet conductors at work today, David Briskin is renowned for the scope of his repertoire and the depth and beauty of his interpretations. Whether in the classical or contemporary idiom, from works steeped in tradition to cutting edge modern compositions, Mr. Briskin brings a sure hand and

a sensitive understanding to the dramatic and choreographic life of the music he conducts. Before joining The National Ballet of Canada in 2006, Mr. Briskin served as conductor with American Ballet Theatre in New York City for seven years, directing performances at the Metropolitan Opera House, City Center and numerous ballet and opera houses around the world. In demand as a guest conductor, Mr. Briskin has worked with such companies as New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Houston Ballet, Les Grands Ballets and Alberta Ballet. He appears regularly at Covent Garden in London with The Royal Ballet, most recently conducting the world premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's *The Winter's Tale* (a co-production with The National Ballet of Canada) featuring an original score by Joby Talbot. For three seasons, Mr. Briskin served as Music Director of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and was Conductor for The Juilliard School's Dance Division from 1993 to 2005. In 2008, Mr. Briskin was appointed Assistant Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. Mr. Briskin's versatility has also seen him conduct symphony and opera productions throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, with such orchestras as the Pittsburgh, Detroit, Baltimore, Indianapolis and Windsor Symphony Orchestras, the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, and with such opera companies as Calgary Opera, Manitoba Opera, Opera Carolina, Lake George Opera and Sarasota Opera.

Nathan Brock
Guest Conductor

Award winning conductor Nathan Brock is emerging as one of the most talented and versatile conductors of his generation, well regarded for his "ferocious intensity" (Chronicle Herald, Halifax) and

his "deeply felt interpretations" (La Presse, Montreal). Resident Conductor of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Brock began his tenure at the Montreal Symphony as Assistant Conductor in September 2009. In recognition of his artistic contributions to the orchestra he was promoted to Resident Conductor in the spring of 2012. Since joining the orchestra he has conducted over 65 performances making his subscription week debut in April 2010 and collaborating with artists such as Maxim Vengerov and Stephen Hough. Recently, Mr. Brock had highly successful appearances in France with l'Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire with Soloist Jian Wang and with Symphony Nova Scotia as a last minute replacement for a performance of Mahler's *Fourth Symphony*. In addition to two subscription weeks and more than a dozen special concerts with the Montreal Symphony, Brock's 2013-14 season included return engagements with Symphony Nova Scotia and The National Ballet of Canada and his Parisian debut with the Orchestre National D'Île de France with Soloist Juliette Hurel.

Earl Stafford
Guest Conductor

Canadian pianist and conductor Earl Stafford has performed around the world, receiving critical accolades for his performances. He was awarded the gold medal as Best Accompanist at the 1980 International Ballet Competition in. In 1984, Maestro Stafford was appointed Music Director and Principal Conductor for 's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, a position he held until 2009. In addition to his work with the RWB, he served as Artistic Director for the Saskatoon Symphony from 1997-2002 and again as interim music director from 2008-2010. He has also been on faculty for the Banff Centre for the Arts and the of 's and has made numerous recordings for CBC. Mr. Stafford enjoys a very active career as guest

conductor with many orchestras including the Toronto Symphony, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, Edmonton Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Windsor Symphony and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Internationally, he has appeared with the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Hungarian State Opera, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Queen's Hall Orchestra of London and the Theatre Harmony Orchestra of Moscow. Maestro Stafford has collaborated with many of the world's finest artists including James Ehnes, Angela Hewitt, Josh Groban, Oscar Peterson, Kyoko Takezawa and Mel Torme, to name a few.

Ernest Abugov
Stage Manager

Ernest (Ernie) Abugov will retire at the end of this coming June, having served as Stage Manager of The National Ballet of Canada since 1973. He has worked with every Artistic Director in the company's history from Celia Franca to Karen Kain and has traveled with the company around the world touring to Israel, Asia, Europe, Mexico and throughout North America. Mr. Abugov has worked with many of the world's most renowned choreographers who have created original works for the National Ballet including Alexei Ratmansky, John Neumeier, William Forsythe and Glen Tetley. Mr. Abugov was born in Montréal, Québec. Before beginning his long association with the National Ballet, he worked with Les Feux Follets, The Charlottetown Festival, La Poudriere Theatre and The Studio Lab Theatre. He worked at Expo '67 in Montréal, stage managing over 4,000 puppet shows. Mr. Abugov also toured with Harry Belafonte. In what little spare time that he has, Mr. Abugov guest-lectures to theatre students.

Jeff Morris**Stage Manager**

Born in Toronto, Jeff Morris studied technical theatre production and administration at Ryerson's Theatre School. After leaving Ryerson, he became Production Stage Manager for Toronto Dance Theatre (1990 – 1995). With Toronto Dance Theatre he toured extensively, stage managing the company's debuts in Berlin, Warsaw, Beijing, Tokyo, and at the Joyce Theater, New York. He was Production Stage Manager for *Dancers For Life* (AIDS Committee of Toronto, 1991 – 1997), Stage Manager for Theatre Passe-Muraille (*Never Swim Alone*, *Metamorphosis of a Shadow*) and for the Fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists. Mr. Morris joined The National Ballet of Canada in 1995 and has since stage-managed a wide range of the company's unique classical and contemporary repertoire, including the world premieres of James Kudelka's *The Four Seasons*, *Cinderella*, and *An Italian Straw Hat*, Jean-Pierre Perreault's *The Comforts of Solitude*, Crystal Pite's *Emergence*, and Alexei Ratmansky's *Romeo and Juliet*. Company premieres include John Neumeier's *Nijinsky* and Christopher Wheeldon's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Michael Lewandowski**Assistant Stage Manager**

Born in Włocławek, Poland, Michael Lewandowski studied technical theatre production at York University, Toronto. His work for The National Ballet of Canada includes *The Nutcracker* and the New York tour of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Theatre work includes the world premiere and UK tour of *da kink in my hair* (Toronto Fringe Festival & Hackney Empire), *The Pillowman* (Canadian Stage Theatre) and *Drystreak* (Grand Theatre). Past opera credits include *Love Songs* (Queen of Puddings), *War & Peace*, *Death in Venice*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Elektra*,

Il Trovatore, *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Cinderella*, *La Serva Padrona* & *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* (Canadian Opera Company). For television he has been the floor director of *Indspire Awards* since 2005 (formally *National Aboriginal Achievement Awards*). Select festival work includes *Just for Laughs Festival* (Toronto) & *Westfest* (Ottawa).

The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra

The National Ballet of Canada is privileged to have its own full Orchestra with over 60 members. The Orchestra has performed in each of the National Ballet's seasons and is led by Music Director and Principal Conductor David Briskin. The company's first Music Director was George Crum who, along with Founder Celia Franca, was a pioneer of the company. Mr. Crum held the position from the company's inception in 1951 to 1984, when he was appointed Music Director Emeritus. The Orchestra was led by Ermanno Florio from 1985 to 1990. Ormsby Wilkins was Music Director and Principal Conductor from 1990 to 2006. The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra has toured extensively with the company through Canada, the US and Europe. Over the years, the Orchestra has received much acclaim from audiences and critics alike and has recorded two CDs of Michael Torke's compositions for *The Contract (The Pied Piper)* and *An Italian Straw Hat*. The Orchestra made their concert debut at Koerner Hall on April 3, 2012, in celebration of the company's 60th anniversary.

Canada's National Ballet School

Canada's National Ballet School (NBS) is a world leader in the training of professional ballet dancers and teachers. NBS' core program is the Professional Ballet Program which provides full-time classical ballet training integrated with

a comprehensive academic education and residence for students in grades 6 to 12, and intensive dance training for post-secondary students. NBS also offers a full-time Teacher Training Program as well as part-time programs for practicing teachers, children ages 6 to 17 (the Associates Program) and recreational classes for adults. Close to 1,500 students ranging in age from 6 to 82 take classes at NBS' award-winning facilities each week. Graduates can be found as dancers, teachers, choreographers and Artistic Directors in over 65 dance companies and even more schools around the globe. For more information on the School and its programs, please visit www.nbs-enb.ca.

VIVA! Youth Singers of

VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto is a vibrant, innovative choral organization for children aged four through young adults, whose mission is to provide young people with artistically excellent musical opportunities in a supportive, inclusive environment. Founded by Carol Woodward Ratzlaff, VIVA! is comprised of 130 choristers who, in addition to performing excellent choral music at a high level, study music theory and develop sight-singing skills. VIVA! has an enduring relationship with The National Ballet of Canada, performing in more than 20 performances of *The Nutcracker* each Holiday Season for the last 15 years. Recognized for its commissions and diverse programming, VIVA! has appeared onstage at many major Toronto concert venues with leading artists and toured to England, Wales and Greece where they were silver medalists in both the SSA and SATB divisions of the Preveza International Choral Competition. www.vivayouthsingers.com

For more information, visit national.ballet.ca