

National Presenting Partner BMO 

BALLETJÖRGEN

# The Nutcracker

A Canadian Tradition



November 25  
Orillia Opera House – Orillia, ON

Momoka Matsui; Photo by Kamal Daid

## Message from the Artistic Director

Welcome to the 15th anniversary season 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!



When I thought about re-creating our Nutcracker, I wanted it to be 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 year we are celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition with the addition of a new section, Cottontail Rabbits, made possible with the support of Kathleen and Buck Henderson. This performance is in part made possible with the support from National Presenting Partner BMO Financial Group, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, The Charles H. Ivey 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bengt Jörgen'.

Bengt Jörgen C.M.

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Visit the website today and subscribe for email news and updates.

[jorgendance.ca](http://jorgendance.ca).



Adrián Ramírez Juárez; photo by Kristie Jones.



## 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, cottontail rabbits, 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 | Chabi Arauz         |
| FATHER   | Mathew Jordan       |
| MOTHER   | Taisiya Zamula      |
| MAID     | Lydia-Laure Germain |

#### FARMING FAMILY

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| MOTHER     | Madelyn Wiedrick                           |
| FATHER     | Adam Davidson                              |
| **CHILDREN | Lyrik Alkema, Hailey Berger, Kolton Ruyter |

LUMBER JACKS Márcio Teixeira & Callum McGregor

\*\*WOOD CHOPPING Jessie Marshall

YOUNG WOMAN Ana Zamora

\*\*YOUNG CHILD Sarah Beattie

GRANDMA Clea Iveson

GRANDPA Hiroto Saito (2pm), Daniel Da Silva (7pm)

IMMIGRATION AID Momoka Matsui

\*\*KLARA Emma Bray-Brezina

SCHOOL TEACHER Esther Zignaigo

PAINTER Adrián Ramírez Juárez

\*\*SOCK BUNNY Jessie Marshall

\*\*RATS Lyrik Alkema, Hailey Berger

HORNED OWL Sakura Kawamura

\*\* NUTCRACKER PRINCE Kolton Ruyter

RED FOX Lydia-Laure Germain

SKUNK Márcio Teixeira

WOLF Adam Davidson

MOOSE Esther Zignaigo

SKIPPING ROPE Ana Zamora & Taisiya Zamula

HANDLES

MOUNTIES Chabi Arauz, Madelyn Wiedrick, Mathew Jordan,  
Leandro Prado

KING BAT Omar Hernández

SNOWMAN Adam Davidson

\*\*WHITE TAILED DEER Sarah Beattie, Hailey Berger

SNOW QUEEN & Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez

CAVALIER

SNOW FLAKES Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Lydia-Laure Germain, Ana  
Zamora, Taisiya Zamula, Callum McGregor, Márcio Teixeira,  
Leandro Prado

### ACT II

BEAVERS \*Emma Warvill, Callum McGregor (2pm), Adam Davidson  
(7pm)

\*FROGS Isla Gray & Sadie Morrison-Tinney (2pm), Piper Whittaker  
& Hope Johnson (7pm)

\*SQRRIELS Karly Balvers, Abigail Barnes, Emersyn Ho, Lily Varley

\*BEAR CUB Lia Vardanyan

LORD & LADY BIRCH Adrián Ramírez Juárez & Akari Fujiwara (2pm), Momoka  
Matsui & Omar Hernández (7pm)

RACCOONS Momoka Matsui & Márcio Teixeira (2pm), Akari Fujiwara &  
Daniel Da Silva (7pm)

LOONS Ana Zamora & Leandro Prado

\*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES Cloe Barnes, Millie Leduc

DRAGONFLY Esther Zignaigo (2pm), Sakura Kawamura (7pm)

BEARS Adam Davidson & Daniel Da Silva (2pm), Callum & Márcio  
Teixeira (7pm)

COTTONTAIL RABITS Chabi Arauz, Mathew Jordan, Lydia-Laure Germain  
(2pm), Taisiya Zamula (7pm)

MOTHER SPRUCE Madelyn Wiedrick

\*BEAR CUB Piper Whittaker

\*CHIPMUNKS Kaylee Balvers, Claire Dolmage, Lia Vardanyan,  
Emma Warvill

TRILLIUM FLOWER Momoka Matsui (2pm), Akari Fujiwara (7pm)

FLOWERS Ana Zamora, Sakura Kawamura, Esther Zignaigo, Márcio  
Teixeira, Leandro Prado, Callum McGregor, Taisiya  
Zamula (2pm), Omar Hernández (2pm), Lydia-Laure  
Germain (7pm), Adrián Ramírez Juárez (7pm)

*\*Local Youth Participant Role*

*\*\*Touring Youth Participant Role*



## Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

### Local Youth Participants:

Kaylee Balvers, Abigail Barnes, Cloe Barnes, Claire Dolmage, Isla Gray, Emersyn Ho, Hope Johnson, Millie Leduc, Sadie Morrison-Tinney, Lia Vardanyan, Lily Varley, Emma Warvill, Piper Whittaker

*Understudies: Cloe Barnes for Squirrel & Hope Johnson for Chipmunk*

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of: Dancing Angels Academy, Georgian Bay School of Dance, LA Dance Design, Tapps Performing Arts, The Bradford School of Dance

### Local Rehearsal Direction

Andrea Marcucci- RAD, IADMS, PBT

### Volunteer Local Rehearsal Space

Courtesy of:  
Tapps Performing Arts

### Touring Youth Participants

Lyrik Alkema, Toronto & Orillia-*Prompt Dance Academy, Orillia Ballet Academy, In Motion*

Sarah Beattie, Collingwood-*Fleet-Wood Dance Centre*

Hailey Berger, Guelph-*Connections Dance Collective*

Julia Betini, Guelph-

*Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz*  
Emma Bray-Brezina, Scarborough-*Star Dance Academy*

Pearl Harp, Guelph-*Performance Dance Academy, Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz*

Siobhan Houston, Orillia-*Strength and Steps Studio-Barrie, Orillia Dance Academy*

Steven Johnson, Toronto-*Pegasus Studios*

Jessie Marshall, Guelph-*Performance Dance Academy*

Violet Reid, Lindsay-*Lindsay Dance Studio*

Kolton Ruyter, Orillia-*Tapps Performing Arts*

Jackson Young, Toronto-*George Brown Dance- Jörgen Dance Academy*

### Rehearsal Directors

Clea Iveson, Valentina Polanco,

Elise Tigges, Aria Lara Wilton

### Rehearsal Assistants & Chaperones

Chabi Arauz, Sarah Milligan, Madelyn Wiedrick

### Local Volunteer Rehearsal Masters

North Bay-Scott Fitzgerald &

Allison Kingsbury

Orillia-Andrea Marcucci

Peterborough-Bianca Hebor

Hamilton & Guelph-Brandi Matheson,

Pat McLeod, Amber Dow

Brantford-Avery Keyes

Ottawa-Lisa Brooks

Brampton-Jamaica Fraser

Sault Ste. Marie-Julia Jylha &

Daniella Rossi

London-Donna Bayley & Krista Conti

Kitchener-Waterloo-Viktoria

Karmenyicki

Markham- Aridanna Cote

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks



Chad Watters, Registered Physiotherapist,

Lake Country Physiotherapy, 7 Progress Dr. Orillia, ON L3V 017 info@lakecountryphysio.com

705-327-7876

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.



The  
**Michael Young**  
Family Foundation

The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition was developed in collaboration with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. The backdrops used in this production were inspired by "Church and Houses at Bisset" (Franklin Carmichael), "Trees and Wildflowers" (L. L. Fitzgerald), and "Snow in the Woods" (Tom Thomson).

Woodland Raccoons: Annelie Liliemark & Gustavo Hernandez; photo by Linda Schettle.

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Visit [jorgendance.ca](http://jorgendance.ca) to learn more.



"Chipmunks" from our Local Participant Program; photo by Kat Rizza.

## Meet Your Dancers



Saniya Abilmajineva  
Tashkent City, Uzbekistan  
Republic Russia  
Company Member



Hannah Mae Cruddas  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
Company Member  
since 2012



Daniel Da Silva  
São Paulo, Brazil  
Company Member  
since 2009



Hiroto Saito  
Kobe, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2007



Márcio Teixeira  
São Caetano, Brazil  
Company Member  
since 2019



Ana Zamora  
Havana, Cuba  
Company Member  
since 2022



Adam Davidson  
Zephyr, Ontario  
Company Member  
since 2019



Akari Fujiwara  
Nagoya, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2017



Lydia-Laure  
Germain Montréal,  
Québec Company  
Member since 2022



Esther Zignaigo  
Lima, Perú  
Company Member  
since 2021



Taisiya Zamula  
Moscow, Russia  
RBC Apprentice



Chabi Arauz  
Panama City, Panama  
RBC Apprentice



Omar Hernández  
Pinar del Rio, Cuba  
Company Member  
since 2022



Adrián Ramírez Juárez  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Company Member  
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura  
Nagoya, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2022



Mathew Jordan  
Adelaide, Australia  
RBC Apprentice



Madelyn Wiedrick  
Nelson, British Columbia  
Mentorship Student



Clea Iveson  
Toronto, Ontario  
Principal Character Artist  
Company Member  
1992 – 2012



Momoka Matsui  
Fukuoka, Japan  
Company Member  
since 2015



Callum McGregor  
Glasgow, Scotland  
Company Member  
since 2019



Leandro Prado  
Altamira, Pará,  
Brazil Company  
Member since 2016



Learn more about  
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*Ballet Jörgen's*  
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4 Shows in Ontario

January 14-Guelph April 13-Oakville

May 17&18-Markham

Hannah Mae Cruddas; photo by Cylla von Tiedemann.

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Cast is assembled from local area students.

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Photo by Jason Freeze

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## 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 Pillar

### **Creative Assistant** Clea Iveson

### **Scenic Carpentry** Hamilton Scenic Specialty

### **Backdrops** Scenic Back Drop Studios, Richard

Mongiati, Elizabeth Bailey, Katherine Lilley

### **Set Electrics** Wireless Automations & Control

Scenic Electronics

### **Costume Coordinator** Industry Costumes

### **Wardrobe Buyer** Susan Rome

### **Costume Construction** Industry Costumes, Brenda

Clar, Assisted by Adrienne Baker, Geoffrey Davis,

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

### **Co-Founders** Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen C.M.

### **Artistic Director & CEO** Bengt Jörgen C.M.

### **Ballet Master** Hiroto Saito

### **Principal Ballet Coach** Svea Eklof

### **Company Dancers** Saniya Abilmajineva, Hannah

Mae Cruddas<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Da Silva, Adam Davidson<sup>2</sup>,

Akari Fujiwara<sup>3</sup>, Lydia-Laure Germain<sup>4</sup>, Omar

Hernández, Adrián Ramírez Juárez<sup>5</sup>, Sakura

Kawamura<sup>6</sup>, Momoka Matsui<sup>7</sup>, Callum McGregor<sup>8</sup>,

Leandro Prado, Hiroto Saito, Márcio Teixeira<sup>9</sup>, Ana

Zamora, Esther Zignaigo

### **RBC Apprentices** Ana Isabel Arauz<sup>10</sup>, Mathew Jordan,

Taisiia Zamula<sup>11</sup>

### **Mentorship Student** Madelyn Wiedrick

### **Principal Character Artist** Clea Iveson

### **Resident Choreographer** Hanna Kiel

### **Resident Stage Direction** Heinar Pillar

### **Technical Director** Jacob Gagnon

### **Stage Manager** Kayla Ado

### **Wardrobe Supervisor** Glenna Foerster

### **Artistic Working Group** Hannah Mae Cruddas<sup>12</sup>,

Daniel Da Silva & Hiroto Saito

<sup>1</sup>Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer

<sup>2-11</sup>George Brown Dance Graduate

## Jörgen Dance

### **General Manager** Stephen Word

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### **Resident Lighting Designer &**

### **Production Manager** Madhu Seran

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### **George Brown Dance Program Manager**

Derek Sangster

### **Business Operations Manager** Aleksandra

Maslennikova

### **Education Co-ordinator** Mackenzie

Grantham

### **Communications & Content Developer** Casey

Spector

### **Dance Program Coordinator** Kia Kotsanis

### **Canadian Statistics Coordinator** Meg Follett

### **Bookkeeper** Irene Lockrey

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Márcio Teixeira & Valentina Polanco;  
Photo by Kristie Jones.





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The Creation of Cottontail Rabbits for the The Nutcracker: A Canadian Tradition 15th Anniversary is Made Possible by Buchanan and Kathleen Henderson.

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