

National Presenting Partner **BMO** 

# BALLETJÖRGEN

# The Nutcracker

## A Canadian Tradition



Sponsored by



December 20 & 21  
River Run Centre Centre - Guelph, 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.

# Thank you.....

## Media Sponsor

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## Local Youth Rehearsal Direction



*Brandi Matheson, Patricia McLeod,  
assisted by Amber Dow*

Live at the Hippo Pool Events is proud to continue The Nutcracker tradition in Guelph. Bringing holiday magic to the River Run stage since 2003, Ballet Jörgen's Nutcracker has become a family tradition. A dedicated team has been working hard in the months leading up to tonight's performance. Participating in the Guelph performances are talented young dancers from ten **different dance schools located in Guelph and surrounding communities**. We thank the teachers at these schools for sharing their beautifully trained students with us. Tremendous gratitude goes to Brandi Matheson, Patricia McLeod and Amber Dow of Royal City School of Ballet and Jazz for regular rehearsals of this local youth cast. And for their "beyond the call of duty" support for this year's Nutcracker performance in Hamilton. Their generous gifts of time, teaching expertise and studio space were given with wisdom, good humour and kindness and we are forever indebted to them. To the **parents and young dancers** 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 **Paige Amiro**, 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**. Your support is the foundation that makes these performances possible.

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-

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 Schette.

## 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	Matthew Jordan
MOTHER	Lydia-Laure Germain
MAID	Akari Fujiwara

### FARMING FAMILY

MOTHER	Madelyn Wiedrick
FATHER	Adam Davidson
**CHILDREN	Hailey Berger, Pearl Harp, Kolton Ruyter

LUMBER JACKS Callum McGregor & Omar Hernández

\*\*WOOD CHOPPING Jessie Marshall

YOUNG WOMAN Ana Zamora

\*\*YOUNG CHILD Sarah Beattie/Jackson Young

GRANDMA Taisiya Zamula

GRANDPA Hiroto Saito

IMMIGRATION AID Sakura Kawamura

\*\*KLARA Julia Betini

SCHOOL TEACHER Momoka Matsui

PAINTER Adrián Ramírez Juárez

\*\*SOCK BUNNY Jessie Marshall

\*\*RATS Daniel Da Silva/Adam Davidson, Hailey Berger/Jackson Young, Pearl Harp

HORNED OWL Sakura Kawamura

\*\* NUTCRACKER PRINCE Kolton Ruyter

RED FOX Lydia-Laure Germain

SKUNK Márcio Teixeira

WOLF Adam Davidson

MOOSE Special Guest

SKIPPING ROPE Ana Zamora & Taisiya Zamula

HANDLES

MOUNTIES Madelyn Wiedrick, Chabi Arauz, Matthew Jordan, Adrián Ramírez Juárez

KING BAT Omar Hernández

SNOWMAN Adam Davidson

\*\*WHITE TAILED DEER Hailey Berger, Pearl Harp

SNOW QUEEN & Leandro Prado (20), Momoka Matsui & Leandro Prado (21)

CAVALIER

SNOW FLAKES Sakura Kawamura, Chabi Arauz, Lydia-Laure Germain, Ana Zamora, Taisiya Zamula, Matthew Jordan (20), Callum McGregor (21), Márcio Teixeira, Omar Hernández

## ACT II

BEAVERS	Amelia Bauman & Adam Davidson
*FROGS	Lua Lyu, Mackenzie Krant (20), Nyla Kang (21)
*SQUIRRELS	Alicia Aguayo, Isabella Michalos, Sophie Turcotte, Violet de Vos
*BEAR CUB	Darwin Haines
LORD & LADY BIRCH	Saniya Abilmajineva & Leandro Prado (20), Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (21)
RACCOONS	Ana Zamora & Daniel Da Silva (20), Momoka Matsui & Márcio Teixeira (21)
LOONS	Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez (20), Ana Zamora & Leandro Prado (21)
*YOUNG DRAGONFLIES	Lucia Kwiatkowski (20), Summer Alqadhi (21), Darwin Hancocks
DRAGONFLY	Sakura Kawamura
BEARS	Márcio Teixeira & Callum McGregor (20), Omar Hernández & Daniel Da Silva (21)
COTTONTAIL RABBITS	Chabi Arauz, Callum McGregor (21), Matthew Jordan (20), Taisiya Zamula (20), Lydia-Laure Germain (21)
MOTHER SPRUCE	Madelyn Wiedrick
*CHIPMUNKS	Aurelia Hoondert (20), Adriana Thompson (20), Maggie Smith (20), Amelia Bauman (21), Lua Lyu, Adriana Gooyers (21), Emily Hodge (21)
TRILLIUM FLOWER	Momoka Matsui (20), Ana Zamora (21)
FLOWERS	Ana Zamora (20), Sakura Kawamura, Chabi Arauz (21), Lydia-Laure Germain (20), Taisiya Zamula, Márcio Teixeira, Callum McGregor, Omar Hernández, Mathew Jordan

*\*Local Youth Participant Role*

*\*\*Touring Youth Participant Role*

## Nutcracker Youth Education Program Credits

Local Youth Participants: Alicia Aguayo, Summer Alqadhi, Amelia Bauman, Avery Despres, Adriana Gooyers, Darwin Haines, Darwin Hancocks, Emily Hodge, Aurelia Hoondert, Nyla Kang, Mackenzie Krant, Lucia Kwiatkowski, Lua Lyu, Isabella Michalos, Maggie Smith, Adriana Thompson, Sophie Turcotte, Violet de Vos

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:

Guelph: Anna Marie Oliver School of Dance, Bloom Dance Company, Emotion Dance Company, Guelph Academy of Dance, Holly Hughes Dance Academy, Royal City School of Ballet & Jazz

Kitchener: Bojangles, Evolve Dance Centre

Fergus: Stage Presence School of Dance Alliston: Nicole Jacklin

Local Rehearsal Direction: Brandi Matheson, Pat McLeod, Amber Dow

Volunteer Local Rehearsal Space Courtesy of: Royal City School of Ballet & Jazz

Rehearsal Directors: Clea Iveson, Valentina Polanco, Elise Tigges, Aria Lara Wilton

Rehearsal Assistants & Chaperones: Chabi Arauz, Sarah Milligan, Madelyn Wiedrick

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*

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



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Guelph is Heather Finn BA BSc MSc(PT), Registered Physiotherapist, Speed River Physiotherapy, 5 Gordon Rd. #102, Guelph ON, N1H-4G8, 519-836-4800

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.



## 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`, 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

**RBC Apprentices** Ana Isabel Arauz~, Mathew

Jordan, Taisiia Zamula~

**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`,

Daniel Da Silva & Hiroto Saito

~Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer

~George Brown Dance Graduate

## Jörgen Dance

**General Manager** Stephen Word

**Academy Director** Clea Iveson

**Resident Lighting Designer &**

**Production Manager** Madhu Seran

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