

Queensland  
**Ballet**

PRESENTING PARTNER



# The Nutcracker

13 - 21 DECEMBER 2024

LYRIC THEATRE

QPAC



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Presenting Partner of *The Nutcracker*  
Queensland Ballet Dancers:  
Company Artist Kayla Van den Bogert,  
Senior Soloists Alison McWhinney and Kohei Iwamoto  
Photography: David Kelly

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# From the Artistic Director

As the holiday season approaches, theatres across the world come alive with the magic of *The Nutcracker*, signalling the most festive time of the year has arrived.

While Brisbane's summer scorches outside, within the Lyric Theatre snowflakes flutter and toys spring to life, whisking children and adults alike into the dreamlike world of young Clara on Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house.

In 2024, Queensland Ballet proudly presents its twelfth season of *The Nutcracker*, and I'm thrilled to say it's as captivating and delightful now as when we brought it to the stage in 2013. Ben Stevenson OBE's cherished version of this ballet continues to transport us all with its enchanting characters, whimsical storytelling, and Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score. I'm always filled with joy seeing the many families return to the theatre for this special festive outing, that has truly become a tradition in Brisbane.

The production sparkles with costumes originally designed by Desmond Heeley and reimagined by Associate Designer Noelene Hill. Thomas Boyd's wonderful sets, together with David Walters' lighting, transport us through the ballet's magical scenes. And of course, there is the majestic music of Tchaikovsky performed live by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, under the skilled direction of both our Principal Conductor and Music Director Nigel Gaynor, and Guest Conductor Dane Lam.

*The Nutcracker* wouldn't be possible without the support of Amanda Talbot and Valmai Pidgeon AM, whose generosity helped us first bring this production to the stage and become a beloved holiday tradition.

My gratitude and thanks also go to the State and Federal Governments; Sealy of Australia as Presenting Partner of *The Nutcracker*; and to all our Partners and donors who make this production possible.

As we close the year with this magical ballet, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our audiences for your continued presence and support. We can't wait to share more unforgettable performances with you in our upcoming 2025 season, and wish you and your loved ones a joyous, peaceful holiday season and a wonderful New Year ahead!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Horsman".

Greg Horsman  
Acting Artistic Director





# Credits

**Choreographer**

Ben Stevenson OBE

**Composer**

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**Music Arranger and Conductor**

Nigel Gaynor

**Costume Designer**

Desmond Heeley

**Associate Costume Designer**

Noelene Hill

**Set Designer**

Thomas Boyd

**Lighting Designer**

David Walters

**Revival Lighting Designer**

Cameron Goerg

**Music performed by**

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Duration: Approximately two hours, including a 20-minute interval.

The matinée performance on Sunday 15 December is performed to recorded music. Recording by Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Voices of Birrale, conducted by Nigel Gaynor.

A classical ballet in two acts, based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's tale of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (1816). First performed on 18 December 1892 by the Imperial Ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre, St Petersburg, Russia. This production of *The Nutcracker*, choreographed by Ben Stevenson OBE in 1976, was first performed in 1987 by Houston Ballet in the Wortham Theater in Houston, Texas. The acquisition of this production of *The Nutcracker* was enabled in 2013 by the generous support of Valmai Pidgeon AM and Amanda Talbot, and Queensland Ballet first performed it on December 5, 2013. More recently, the production has been supported by Presenting Partner, Sealy of Australia.

Every effort was made to ensure program details were correct at the time of printing, however details are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Please check [queenslandballet.com.au](http://queenslandballet.com.au) for updates.

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations Peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.



# About the Characters

## Clara

Clara is the eldest child of Mr and Mrs Stahlbaum. At her family's Christmas Eve party, she is delighted to receive her very own Nutcracker toy from the magical Dr Drosselmeyer. After the party, when she falls fast asleep she finds herself on an incredible adventure!



## Fritz

Fritz is Clara's younger brother. He is very naughty and gets up to a lot of mischief at the Christmas Eve party.



## The Nutcracker and Rat King

In Clara's adventure, her Nutcracker doll comes to life to help her defeat the Rat King! The Nutcracker then transforms into a handsome Nutcracker Prince.



## Dr Drosselmeyer

Dr Drosselmeyer entertains the children on Christmas Eve with his magical tricks and wind-up dolls. He gifts the Nutcracker to Clara and inspires her magical adventure!



## The Snow Queen and Snow Prince

Transforming the Stahlbaum's house into the Land of Snow, the Snow Queen and the Snow Prince dance with the Snowflakes. After a beautiful dance, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince depart for the Kingdom of Sweets in a beautiful, enchanted sleigh.



## The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince

The Sugar Plum Fairy is the ruler of the Kingdom of Sweets. Once Clara arrives to the Kingdom, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince dance The Nutcracker grand pas de deux for her.



# The Story

## ACT I

Herr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a Christmas party. Clara and Fritz, their children, greet the guests. All the children are given toys by their parents. Suddenly, the mysterious Dr Drosselmeyer arrives and entertains the children with his magical tricks and wind-up dolls. Dr Drosselmeyer brings a special gift for Clara, a wooden Nutcracker. In a jealous fit, Fritz breaks it, but Dr Drosselmeyer quickly repairs the Nutcracker. The party ends, the guests leave and the Stahlbaums retire for the night. Clara awakens, the clock strikes midnight and the room fills with giant mice which attack her! Life-sized toy soldiers, led by the valiant Nutcracker, come to her rescue. The King Rat attacks the Nutcracker, but Clara hits him with her shoe and the Nutcracker wins the battle. After the battle, the Nutcracker turns into a handsome prince. The Nutcracker Prince transforms the Stahlbaum's house into the Land of Snow. The Snow Queen and the Snow Prince dance with the Snowflakes. Clara and the Nutcracker Prince depart for the Kingdom of Sweets in a beautiful, enchanted sleigh.

## ACT II

Clara and the Nutcracker Prince continue their journey across the Lemonade Sea. When they arrive in the Kingdom of Sweets, the cooks are preparing delectable treats for their enjoyment, and they are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy. In Clara's honour, the Sugar Plum Fairy arranges for the inhabitants of her kingdom to entertain them while they eat by performing a Spanish dance, an Arabian dance and a Chinese dance. Clara is also entertained by the Dance of the Mirlitons, a dance with Mother Ginger and her children, a Russian dance and the Waltz of the Flowers. Then, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince dance a grand pas de deux. As the celebration draws to a close, Clara drifts off to sleep. She awakens from her dreams as the Nutcracker salutes his Princess Clara.

## For Young Audiences

### ACT I

Clara and Fritz are playing with gifts at their parents' Christmas party. In a jealous fit, Fritz breaks Clara's Nutcracker doll, but the mysterious Dr Drosselmeyer repairs it. When the clock strikes midnight, the room fills with giant mice which attack Clara. Life-sized toy soldiers led by the valiant Nutcracker come to her rescue against the King Rat. The Nutcracker turns into a handsome prince and transforms the house into the Land of Snow. Clara and the Nutcracker Prince depart for the Kingdom of Sweets in an enchanted sleigh.

### ACT II

When they arrive, the Sugar Plum Fairy and all the kingdom's inhabitants entertain them with beautiful dances. As the celebration closes, Clara drifts off to sleep. She awakens from her dreams as the Nutcracker salutes his Princess Clara.





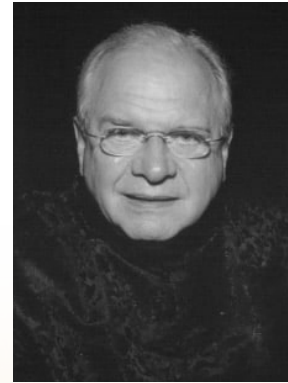
# About the Choreographer

Ben Stevenson served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet from 1976-2003, raising the company from a regional troupe of 28 dancers to an internationally acclaimed ensemble of over 50 artists.

For his contributions to international dance, Mr Stevenson was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in the New Year's Honors List in December 1999. In April 2000, he was presented with the Dance Magazine Award.

In July 2003, he was appointed Artistic Director Emeritus of Houston Ballet, and the company's affiliated school was renamed Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy.

Mr Stevenson, a native of Portsmouth, England, received his dance training at the Arts Educational School in London. He appeared with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and English National Ballet where, as a principal dancer, he performed leading roles in all the classics.



Ben Stevenson OBE  
*Choreographer*

In 1967, English National Ballet asked him to stage his first, and highly successful, production of *The Sleeping Beauty* which starred Margot Fonteyn. In 1968, Rebekah Harkness invited him to New York to direct the newly formed Harkness Youth Dancers. After choreographing *Cinderella* in 1970 for the National Ballet in Washington, D.C., he joined the company in 1971 as Co-Director with Frederic Franklin.

Mr Stevenson has received numerous awards for his choreography, including three gold medals at the International Ballet Competitions of 1972, 1982, and 1986. In 2018, Mr Stevenson was acknowledged by the Chinese government as one of the most influential Foreign Experts in the past 40 years since China initiated its policy on Reform and Opening Up.

In July 2003, Mr Stevenson assumed the artistic directorship of Texas Ballet Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas.

# Children's Activity





# Our Dancers

## Principal Artists

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Lucy Green



Alexander Idaszak



Yanela Piñera



Patricio Revé



Neneka Yoshida

## Senior Soloists

---



Chiara Gonzalez



Kohei Iwamoto



Alison McWhinney

## Soloists

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Lina Kim



Georgia Swan



Laura Tosar

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Luke DiMattina



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Rian Thompson



Sophie Zoricic



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Luca Armstrong



Mali Comlekci



Shaun Curtis



Ruby Day



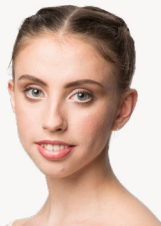
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Isabella Swietlicki



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Kayla Van Den Bogert



Eliza Wenham

## Jette Parker Young Artists

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Ashlee Basford



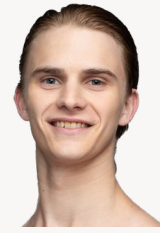
Joshua Douglas



Taron Geyl



Milana Gould



Jack Jones



Gina Lee



Seth Marshall



Annabelle McCoy



Joseph Moss



Ethan Mrmacovski



Alyssa Park



Corina Poh

The Jette Parker Young Artist Program is generously supported by Oak Foundation, Barbara Bedwell, Darren & Carmel Brown, Marietje & Keith Brown, Brett Clark AM & Maria Clark, Dr Ben Duke & Ms Cate Heyworth-Smith KC, Frazer Family Foundation, Goldberg Family Foundation, Patricia Macdonald Memorial Foundation, CP Morris Fund at the APS Foundation, and Liz & Graeme Wikman.

## Artistic and Music Staff

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Zenia Tatcheva  
*Ballet Mistress*



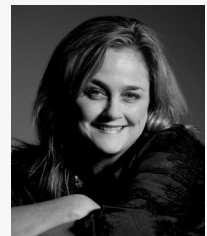
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James Barton  
*Ballet Master*



Christian Tatchev  
*Director of  
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Natalie Weir  
*Resident  
Choreographer*



David Power  
*Jette Parker Ballet  
Associate*



Nigel Gaynor  
*Music Director &  
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Dane Lam  
*Guest Conductor*



Roger Cui  
*Principal Pianist*



Yuko Yoshioka  
*Company Pianist*



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Here at Queensland Symphony Orchestra, we're for great music. We are the leading orchestra in the State, performing a wide variety of concerts all year round in Brisbane and beyond. From classical music masterpieces, blockbuster film scores and exciting family concerts to intimate chamber music performances in our Studio, Queensland Symphony Orchestra aims to be an orchestra for everyone. Each year, we collaborate with Opera Australia, Opera Queensland, and Queensland Ballet to present exceptional experiences.



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Delia Kinmont

Runa Murase

Tim Marchmont

Harold Wilson

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Faina Dobrenko

Ann Carew

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Imants Larsens ~

Yoko Okayasu >>

Charlotte Burbrook de Vere

Nicole Greentree

Kirsten Hulin-Bobart

Henry Justo

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Kathryn Close

Kaja Skorka

Min Jin Sung

Tim Byrne

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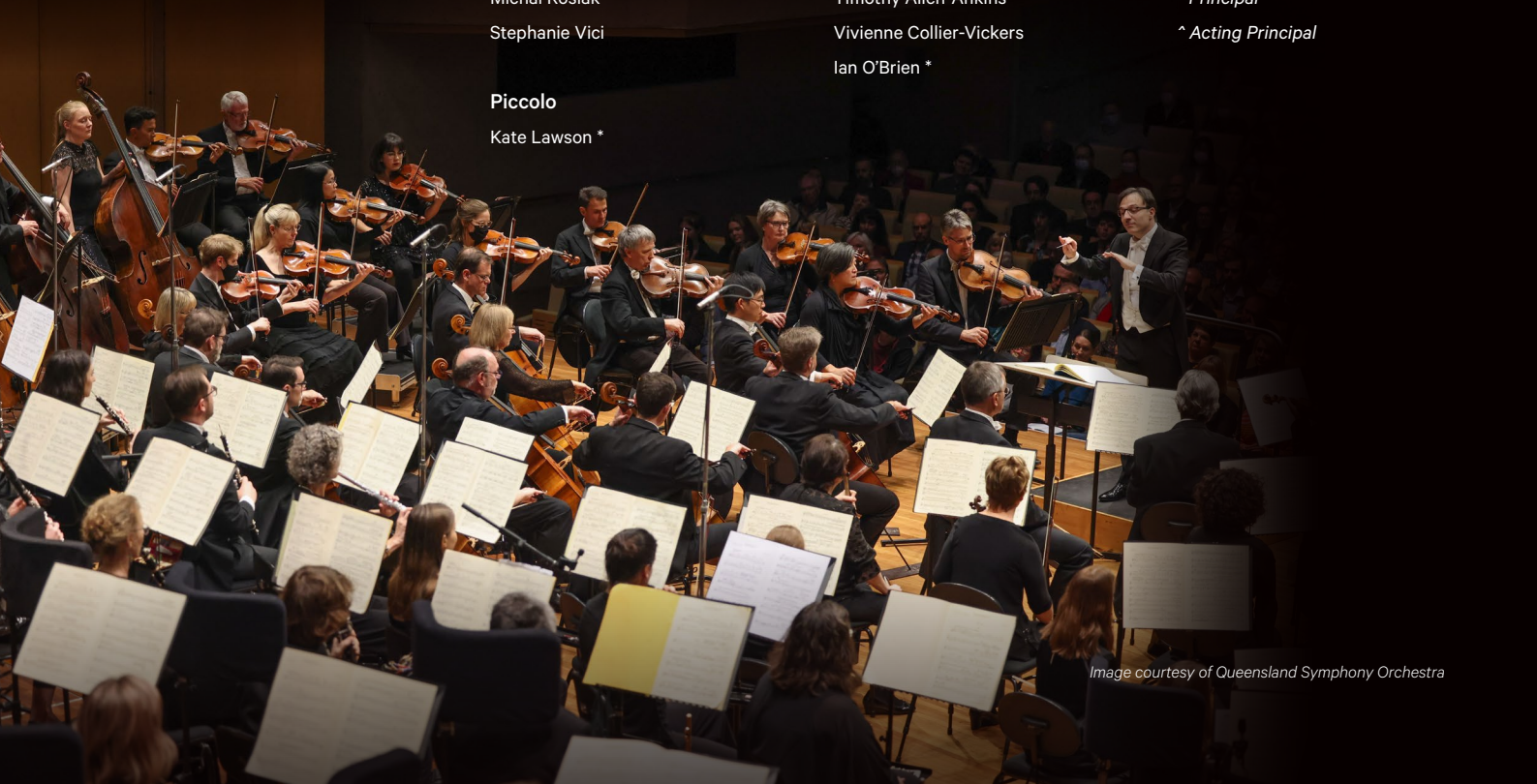


Image courtesy of Queensland Symphony Orchestra

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We gratefully acknowledge all who have supported Queensland Ballet so far. Our family of supporters all play a vital part in helping Queensland Ballet enrich lives through the beauty and joy of ballet. Philanthropy is what enables us to share the gift of ballet with communities in Queensland and beyond, to make the greatest impact, and to create a legacy for future generations to access and enjoy ballet.

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Tony Lewis

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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**QPAC rests on the lands of the Jagera and Turrbal peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this country and recognise their rich cultural heritage and enduring connection to the land, waters and skies. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are this country's original storytellers, and it is our privilege to continue to share stories and be a place of gathering on this land that has been a meeting place for millennia.**

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**QPAC warmly thanks our key donors who help us engage broadly across the state and continue enriching lives through performing arts.**

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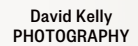
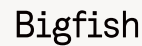
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