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Artistic Director Shari True
presents

The Nutcracker Ballet

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Featuring the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra
Conducted by Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr.

Saturday, December 13, 2014
2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

&

Sunday, December 14, 2014
2 p.m.

Stage Manager: Molly Thomas

Technical Director: Comprehensive Design Solutions, Tom Curtright

Head Costumer and Costume Builder: Maralee Maldavs

Hair & Makeup Designer & Assistant Costumer: Donna Himmelberger

Assistant to the Costumer: Alex Allison

Lighting Designer: John Himmelberger

Assistant Stage Managers: Josiah Morgan, Kira Taylore

Rehearsal Assistants: Betsy Andersen, Ashley Durst

Accompanist: Burton Schernikau

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BACKSTAGE AT THE BALLET

Backstage at the Ballet is an artists-in-residency program sponsored by the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild. Backstage at the Ballet was a vision of our artistic director, Shari True, to give children hands-on opportunities to experience ballet in a fun learning environment. This year, artists from Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company worked with students at Kloefkorn Elementary School during the week of December 2-5. This special program was funded generously by Allstate, Kloefkorn PTA, and the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Guild.

Thank you to the dancers and staff who assisted with this year's program.

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The History of the Nutcracker Ballet

2014 marks 122 years since the first Nutcracker performance.

In 1890, A. Vsevolozhsky, director of Imperial Theatres in Russia, planned *The Nutcracker* as a repeat of the collaboration that had created the huge 1890 success, *Sleeping Beauty*. The collaborations included himself, Tchaikovsky, and chief choreographer of the Imperial Theatres, M.I. Petipa. Petipa presented Tchaikovsky with a very detailed libretto, specifying not only the types of music and nature of the characters but also the tempos, the numbers of bars for actions, and even the pieces of music from which he wanted Tchaikovsky to borrow melodies. Petipa took the story, not directly from Hoffman's *The Nutcracker and The King of the Mice*, but from a French version of the tale written by Alexander Dumas Pere, *The Nutcracker of Nuremberg*.

From the beginning, Petipa intended to cast children in the ballet. In Act I, he originally asked for children to perform a series of national dances. Soon after Tchaikovsky received the libretto, Petipa told him to move these dances to Act II and to use professional adults. This change allowed both the choreographer and the composer much more freedom.

In June 1891, Tchaikovsky ordered from Paris the newly invented celesta to use in *The Nutcracker*: "Have it sent directly to St. Petersburg . . . but no one there must know about it. I am afraid others might hear of it and make use of the effect before I could. I expect the instrument will make a tremendous sensation." Tchaikovsky used the celesta to follow Petipa's instructions that the Sugar Plum Fairy's music must sound like the sprays of a fountain.

In spring 1892, Tchaikovsky premiered *The Nutcracker Ballet Suite*, an eight-part concert version of the ballet music. At least six times, the audience demanded immediate encores of specific music selections. Because of the Suite's instant success, the score was published even before the ballet premiered.

In September, rehearsals began for *The Nutcracker* at the Maryinsky Theatre. (Later, the theatre and company were renamed the Kirov in honor of a hero of the Communist revolution; in the post-Communist era, they have returned to their original name.) Due to illness, Petipa withdrew as choreographer and was replaced by Lev Ivanov. Generally, Ivanov is credited with the choreography. Newspapers began referring to the beauty of the costumes and sets.

On December 17, *The Nutcracker* premiered to mixed reviews, some worrying that its lush orchestration made the ballet music unsuitable for dancing. Agrippina Vaganova, the famous Russian ballet teacher, said "Connoisseurs of ballet purposely took seats in the upper tier to admire the beautiful patterns [of the] waltz of the Snowflakes" performed by sixty dancers.

The Twentieth Century

The Nutcracker probably faded from the Maryinsky repertory with Ivanov's death in 1901 but was revived in 1909 by N. Sergeyev, a student at the time of the premiere. His notes about the choreography and the production are the documentary link to the original ballet. In 1934, he used these resources to help produce in London the first complete *Nutcracker* outside of Russia.

In 1919, the Bolshoi produced Moscow's first *Nutcracker*. The little girl Masha was played by an adult ballerina who performed the Sugar Plum Fairy pas de deux with the Nutcracker, who was transformed into a prince and took the dances originally given to the Sugar Plum Fairy's Cavalier.

Americans first saw *The Nutcracker* in 1940, when Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo presented an abbreviated version. In 1944, San Francisco Ballet staged a full production directed by William Christensen. In 1954, George Balanchine brought authentic experience to his productions for New York City Ballet. In Russia, he had been a student at the Maryinsky School, where he advanced from toy soldier to Prince. He was coached by dancers from the original production, especially Pavel Gerdt, the original Cavalier/Prince.

Since mid-century, *The Nutcracker* has become as much a part of America's Christmas season as Santa. Composers, choreographers, and designers continually play with the original. Duke Ellington jazzed up the score to become *The Nutcracker Sweetly*. Maurice Sendak and Pacific Northwest Ballet collaborated on a stylishly psychological exploration, a version that has become widely known through *Nutcracker: The Motion Picture*. Mark Morris' *The Hard Nut* created a satiric, gender-bending story moved to 1950s U.S.A.

The Lincoln Community Playhouse produced a *Nutcracker* for several years, as did other regional groups. In 1985, to establish a locally-produced *Nutcracker*, cast mainly with local dancers, Shari True and five others formed Ballet Midwest. Several years later, Ballet Midwest and Lincoln City Ballet joined to form Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company which is now producing its thirtieth *Nutcracker*. LMBC joins New York City Ballet and Colorado Ballet in creating a traditional *Nutcracker* with live symphonic music, classic dance style, lush sets, and costumes suggesting a romantic yesterday.

Bibliography

Balanchine and Mason, Brinson and Crisp, Brown, Dance Magazine, Newman, Strutte, Terry, Warrack, Volkov and Wiley.

Researched by Susan Steinegger



SHARI TRUE

Artistic Director

Shari True founded Ballet Midwest in 1985, which then merged with Lincoln City Ballet in 1992. The new company was renamed Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company —LMBC—and True stayed on as artistic director. Offering high-quality artistic and educational opportunities for young dancers is a passion for True. Under her direction, the Company has provided educational outreach programs such as the annual LMBC Summer Camp and Backstage at the Ballet.

Now in her 30th year as artistic director, True continues to be a driving creative force, continually bringing new staging, choreography, superior costumes and special effects to *The Nutcracker*. Elements True has brought to the ballet include a magical spinning bed, a lighting effect that allows the audience to experience snow, and Clara and the Nutcracker Prince flying in a giant swan that is pulled by large hoists rented just for the production. Prior to LMBC, True's *Nutcracker* experience included dancing in Ballet Omaha's production of *The Nutcracker* for five years and as assistant choreographer of the Lincoln Community Playhouse's productions of *The Nutcracker* in 1982 and 1983.

True also directs LMBC's biennial spring ballet productions, which have included *Coppelia*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*, *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. All LMBC productions and camps allow young dancers the opportunity to work with professional guest artists, who are brought to Lincoln from around the country.

True is a graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, with degrees in elementary education and dance. She was a member of Orchesis Dance (ensemble), UNL Flag and Dance Corps, and the Nebraska Dance Ensemble in Classical Ballet. Her professional dance experience includes being on staff of the Ballet West Summer Dance Camp in Colorado and the St. Louis Ballet. True has taught master ballet classes in Denver, Dallas and Kansas City. In 1980 she started her own dance academy in Lincoln, now called True Dance & Co., providing instruction in classical ballet, jazz, pointe and tap to many Lincoln area youth. Her traveling competition team has won many awards and her choreography for them has garnered “Best Choreography” honors.

True's artistic achievements include writing and choreography for *The Crystal Slippers*, an original ballet that premiered in Lincoln and was also performed by the Chamberlain Ballet Company in Dallas, Texas. She also choreographed *Carmina Burana* for Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra in 2002. Lincoln audiences have also seen her choreography in Pinewood Bowl productions of *Hello, Dolly!* and *Carousel*.

In 1985 she danced with Academy West, Rolland DuPree, and taught for Act III Studio in West Hollywood, California. A proud moment for True was appearing in Universal Studio's movie *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar* in a speaking part as the dance teacher.

In 1999, True was presented with the Lincoln Arts Council's Helen Haggie Award for outstanding artistic achievement.

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2014 Artistic Staff

Molly Thomas · *Stage Manager*

Molly received her bachelor's degree in teaching from University of Nebraska, and her master's in educational leadership from Doane. She teaches theatre and English at Lincoln High School. Molly has been stage managing *The Nutcracker* for the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company for more than 20 years. Molly has also worked with the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, the Lincoln Community Playhouse, Nebraska Directors Theatre, Theatrix, Flatwater Shakespeare and the University of Nebraska's Theatre Department.

Tom Curtright · *Technical Director*

Tom has been working in the entertainment industry for nearly 40 years, and has worked with the LMBC since *The Nutcracker* was performed at Pershing Auditorium. He has created the wonderful sets, props and stage design that LMBC audiences enjoy annually. Curtright has provided entertainment and performing arts technical designs for numerous local productions and hundreds of corporate and other special events.

Maralee Maldivs · *Head Costumer and Costume Builder*

Maralee has been designing and creating costumes for theater and dance productions for the last 13 years. She currently works with several local dance studios, creating award-winning costumes for solo and group competition pieces as well as recital pieces. She has also worked with Lincoln's Pinewood Bowl, The Lincoln Community Playhouse and The Stage Theater in Hickman. Maralee is the owner of JEM Creations, LLC, and this is her fifth year working with *The Nutcracker*.

Donna Himmelberger · *Hair & Make up Designer/Assistant Costumer*

Donna Himmelberger has been working in the costume design field for nearly 40 years. In the more than 25 years she has lived in Lincoln, she has worked at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, freelanced with the LMBC, Universal Dance Studio, The Mahoney State Park Melodramas, The Fremont Dinner Train Melodramas, the Nebraska Shakespeare Company, and the Omaha Community Theatre. Himmelberger was the department costume designer at Nebraska Wesleyan University for seven years before becoming an adjunct instructor in the communications department. She is currently at Doane College, where she is the theatre department costume designer.

Alex Allison · *Assistant to the Costumer*

Alex has been designing costumes in Lincoln for five years. He has costumed over 20 shows in Lincoln at Pinewood Bowl, the Lincoln Community Playhouse, TADA, OmniArts and others. Recent productions include: *Shrek the Musical* at PWB and *Doubt: A Parable* at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, for which he was awarded "Outstanding Costuming" at the Nebraska Association of Community Theatres festival in 2013. This is Alex's first year assisting with *Nutcracker* costumes.

2014 Artistic Staff

John Himmelberger · *Lighting Designer*

With the exception of the 2009 production, John has been the lighting designer for *The Nutcracker* every year since 1996. Originally from Pennsylvania, John moved to Lincoln in 1986. He has provided lighting designs for a variety of Nebraska arts organizations such as UNL Opera, the Lied Center for Performing Arts, Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Lincoln City Ballet, Dance Institute, Universal Dance Academy, Flatwater Shakespeare, Lincoln Community Playhouse, Lincoln Southwest High School, and Doane College Theatre. Recent productions include *Vino Veritas*, *The 39 Steps*, *See Rock City*, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, *A Chorus Line*, *Snow White* and *The Light in the Piazza*. Himmenberger has previously been employed at UNL and Lincoln Public Schools.

Burton Schernikau · *Accompanist*

Burton Schernikau is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with BME and MM degrees with emphasis in music education and composition. After teaching for many years in Lincoln Public Schools, he became a professor of music at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He has a private voice and piano studio and is an adjudicator and director for competitions, contests, clinics, workshops and other artistic events and has been involved in the arts community in a variety of capacities. He is the pianist for LMBC's *Nutcracker* rehearsals and summer camp and is a guest pianist for many other professional ballet companies throughout the United States. He is the artistic director of the Lincoln Boys Choir, which has traveled worldwide and has been recognized for its unique choral style. Schernikau has been recognized by the Nebraska Music Educators and has received the Outstanding Music Alumni award from NWU. He has been chosen as an admiral in the Navy of the State of Nebraska. He is a 33rd degree Mason and the organist for the Scottish Rite and Shrine organizations.

Betsy Andersen · *Rehearsal Assistant*

Betsy has been involved with Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company since 1989 and appears in its annual production of *The Nutcracker*. She has been a member of the LMBC artistic staff for eight years and has been teaching dance in Omaha and Lincoln for 19 years. Her choreography has taken top honors at local and national dance competitions. She has danced with the Omaha Modern Collective and was in their award winning production *Dancefest 2009*. She earned a BSBA in Human Resources Management from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln where she was an advanced ballet student and dance scholarship recipient.



2014 Artistic Staff

Ashley Durst • *Rehearsal Assistant*

Ashley Durst was a part of the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company *Nutcracker* for ten years, performing such roles as Clara, Snow Queen, and Spain. She is an Oklahoma City University graduate, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in dance performance and teaching. She has performed on television, in theme parks, and most recently with Carnival Cruise Lines as a dancer in the production shows. Durst has choreographed for several dance studios throughout Nebraska and Oklahoma, as well as judging and teaching for the Dance Masters of America Dance Convention. She is currently a dance instructor at a local studio and at Creighton University. She is excited to be involved with *The Nutcracker* again.

Josiah Morgan • *Assistant Stage Manager*

Josiah Morgan is a senior at Lincoln High School and a candidate in the IB Program. This is Josiah's third year working on *The Nutcracker* and he looks forward to next year's production. Josiah plans to study international affairs in college but his love of theatre will follow him through the rest his life.

Kira Taylore • *Assistant Stage Manager*

Kira is a freshman at Lincoln High School, and has been interested in having a theatre career since she started at Lincoln High. She studied ballet for four years, and is excited to see how skilled everyone is, both on stage and off stage.



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2014 Guest Artists



Lydia Relle · *Sugar Plum Fairy*

Lydia Relle started her training at Turning Pointe Dance Centre in Bothell, Washington then moved to Philadelphia to join the Rock School's Rock Academic Program Alliance on scholarship. She later returned to Washington, to continue training with Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle, dancing in the school and one year in the Professional Division Program on scholarship. Relle trained in Portland under Damara Bennett, School Director of Oregon Ballet Theatre. She has attended summer programs at the Rock School, School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet School and the Suzanne Farrell Program. Relle is currently dancing with Ballet San Antonio and was promoted to soloist in 2013. Relle appears courtesy of Ballet San Antonio.



Yosvani Cortellan · *Cavalier*

Yosvani Cortellan was born in Camaguey, Cuba. Cortellan has participated in various national and international ballet competitions and, as a professional, has performed with many ballet companies including: Cuba Camaguey Ballet, National Ballet of Ecuador, Peru Lima city Ballet, New World Ballet of Caracas and National Ballet of Panama. Cortellan has worked as a guest principal artist with various companies. Cortellan appears courtesy of Ballet San Antonio.



Andrew Taft · *Nutcracker Prince*

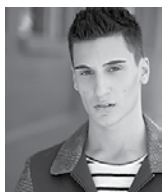
Andrew Taft was born in Miami, Florida, where he began his classical training at the age of nine with Ruth Wiesen at the Miami Conservatory. He also studied with Thomas Armour, Robert Pike, Nancy Raffa and other professional guest artists. He trained in both Limon and Graham technique at the New World School of the Arts. His ballet training continued in New York City with private coaching by Johan Renvall and David Howard. He has danced with Ballet Idaho for five seasons. He appears courtesy of Ballet Idaho.



Justin Hughes · *Snow King*

Justin Hughes began his training at Inland Pacific Ballet Academy in Montclair, California. He continued dancing at Principia College. He also achieved top ten in triple jump and top three in pole vault for Principia College, while attaining a bachelor of science degree in physics and a minor in mathematics. He continued his dance education at the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet under John White and Margarita de Saa in their pre-professional society, the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre and The Rock School for Dance Education. He currently dances with and appears courtesy of Ballet Idaho.

2014 Guest Artists



Matthew Fata • *Arabian*

Matthew Fata grew up in a small town in Canada. As a young dancer he trained in all styles of dance including jazz, ballet, tap, hip-hop, lyrical and contemporary. He teaches, tours, choreographs and dances for Muse Dance Company as well as many studios throughout Canada and the United States and is a member of the MusEffect. He appears courtesy of Muse Dance Company.



Cameron Wille • *Mouse King and Arabian*

Cameron Wille grew up in Nederland, Texas, and has trained extensively in the styles of tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, clogging, hip-hop, and contemporary. He has been a member of Tremaine's National Performance Company for the past three years. He is also a principal dancer for Muse Dance Company and MusEffect. He appears courtesy of Muse Dance Company.



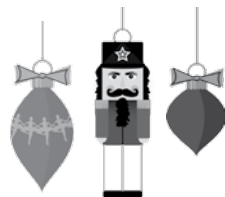
Ben Chandler • *Drosselmeier*

This is Ben Chandler's 18th season with *The Nutcracker*. His many roles include: Drosselmeier, Battle Nutcracker, Mouse King, Arabian, Russian, Spain, Snow King and Party Parent. Chandler runs his own handyman service in Omaha.



Corbin Popp • *Mother Ginger*

Corbin Popp is a LMBC Nutcracker alum from the 1990s. He trained professionally in Kiel and Munich, Germany, returning to perform for Omaha Theater Company, Sacramento Ballet, Dwight Rhoden's Complexions, and Twyla Tharp and Billy Joel's *Movin' Out* for three years on Broadway and the first national tour. Popp returned to Broadway as the lead dancer in *Phantom of the Opera*, and Off-Broadway in Richard Move's production of *Achilles Heels*, produced by Baryshnikov Dance Foundation. He also performed, with wife Whitney, for Norwegian Cruise Lines and is a co-creator of Lightwire Theater as seen on *America's Got Talent*. Still creating and producing for Lightwire, his new work will be airing on TruTV in 2014. He has a bachelor of science in biochemistry from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and was a Fulbright scholar. He is currently a dentist in Edwards, Colorado.





DR. HERBERT E. DREGALLA, JR.

Conductor, Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

Dr. Herbert E. Dregalla, Jr., is the Associate Dean for Students and Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He has a broad background of training and experience in instrumental music and music education. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Dregalla taught in Ohio, New York, Tennessee, and Nebraska before becoming Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at Wright State University in 1998. Under his leadership the Department of Music at Wright State University achieved a renaissance of musical activity, becoming a major artistic force in Southwestern Ohio. In October 2011, this artistic excellence was recognized by the State of Ohio when the Department of Music, along with the Department of Art and the Department of Theatre, was named a State of Ohio Center of Excellence.

In January 2011, Dr. Dregalla was appointed Director of Semester Conversion and charged with supervising Wright State University's conversion from the quarter system to the semester system. This transition occurred smoothly in August 2012. Dr. Dregalla also served as Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

Dr. Dregalla holds degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio; the Manhattan School of Music in New York City; and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He has studied clarinet with Joseph Bosoty, Alan Squire and Herbert Blayman, and conducting with Henry Schuman, Dwight Oltman, and Bruce Hangen. From 1969 to 1971, Dr. Dregalla served in the United States Army as a member of the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, N.Y. In 1984 he was awarded the Conservatory Alumni Award by Baldwin-Wallace College for achievements in music and music education.

From 1980 to 1998, Dr. Dregalla was on the faculty of Nebraska Wesleyan University where he conducted the NWU Symphonic Band and taught instrumental conducting, instrumental music methods and other university classes. He also served as Chair of the Department of Music and Chair of the Division of Fine and Applied Arts.

Dr. Dregalla is a former clarinetist with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony Orchestra and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra. He has toured Nebraska under the sponsorship of the Nebraska Arts Council, both as a clarinet soloist and as a member of the Nebraska Wesleyan University's Huntington Trio.

In 1993 Dr. Dregalla was appointed Music Director of the Lincoln Municipal Band, a professional band performing in Lincoln with a history of more than 100 years, a position which he held through 1998. In August of 1994, the Lincoln Municipal Band, under the direction of Dr. Dregalla, performed a series of concerts in Japan as guest of the government of the city of Matsusaka, Japan. These concerts included two performances at the prestigious World Festival Exposition in Japan's Mie Prefecture.

Dr. Dregalla served as the Music Director and conductor of the Lincoln Civic Orchestra from 1986 to 1998. Dr. Dregalla has served on the executive board of both the Nebraska Music Education Association and the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, and on the steering committee for the Nebraska Coalition for Music Education.

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

Violin I

Kim Salistean,
Concertmaster
Lisa Nielsen
Michael Keelan
Erin Aguirre
Rose Hunter
Aleta Collier

Violin II

Donna Carnes,
Principal
Kristin Pfabe
Kara Baxter
Lisa Myers
Charon Becker

Viola

Clark Potter,
Principal
Sarah Curley
Christine Widman
Pat Morrow

Cello

Tracy Sands,
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Oboe

William McMullen,
Principal
Lindsay Wiley

English Horn

Chantry Nelson

Clarinet

Ed Love,
Principal
Christy Banks

Bass Clarinet

Jessica Lindsey

Bassoon

Karen Sandene,
Principal
Joyce Besch

Horn

Ric Ricker,
Principal
Kim Beasley
Harold Oliver
Steven Cohen

Trumpet

Dean Haist,
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The Nutcracker Story

Act I *approximately 58 minutes*

Drosselmeier's Workshop

Drosselmeier places the finishing touches on the Nutcracker doll he will give to his favorite niece, Clara. His intense care seems both eccentric and magical. His elves help deliver the toymaker's special gift.

A Snowy Street

On Christmas Eve, families scurry toward the Stahlbaums' party.

The Stahlbaum Ballroom

The Stahlbaums, their servants, and their guests enjoy holiday festivities. Drosselmeier's arrival introduces a sense of mystery and excitement. He crowns Clara with a special jewel. The gift promises a magical adventure awaits her.

Drosselmeier also brings life-sized dolls to dance for the party. Then, with the help of Clara and Fritz, the eccentric toymaker dramatizes the Nutcracker legend with his puppets.

Drosselmeier gives Clara the enchanted Nutcracker doll. Jealous of Clara's special gift, Fritz breaks it, but Drosselmeier repairs the doll, making Clara happy again.

As midnight approaches, Clara goes to bed. The guests leave, relishing the memories of the strange and beautiful party. Clara creeps back downstairs in search of her doll, unaware of the dreamlike journey soon to begin.

The Ballroom Battle

Drosselmeier casts a spell over the entire ballroom. Mice appear, scaring Clara into the arms of Drosselmeier, who changes the ballroom into a battlefield. The Nutcracker doll grows. He leads a battle against the Mouse King, whose deadly sword stabs him.

The Snowy Edges of the Forest

Although the Nutcracker appeared to die, Clara's love revives him, breaking a spell that has imprisoned a young Prince in the wooden doll. The Prince awakens and asks Clara to join him on a wonderful journey.

The Land of Snow

Clara and the Nutcracker Prince travel through the Land of Snow. In a swirling storm, the Snow Queen, King, and their court display beauty and power, then send Clara and the Prince to the Land of Sweets.

Intermission *20 minutes*

Act II *approximately 55 minutes*

The Palace

Sugar and Spice and Snow Angels greet Clara and the Prince. The Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier welcome them and then command dancers from many nations to entertain the guests and to bring them jewels and delicacies.

The fiery Spanish dancers bring a ruby and chocolate. The Arabian Princess brings the alluring steam of coffee and gives a mystical sapphire jewel. Chinese dancers carry spicy tea. The Russians bring bold onyx. The flirty French Marzipans glow with the yellow of topaz. The American Bon Bons and their Mother Ginger bring excitement and jolly humor. The elegant gems of the Dew Drop Fairy shimmer crystalline through her court of flowers. The entertainment ends as dancers from all the nations join in a final farewell to Clara and the Prince.

The Awakening

Drosselmeier, aware that Christmas morning is approaching, separates Clara from the Prince. As the Palace disappears, Clara and the Prince plead not to be parted. Nevertheless, Clara's adventure is completed as she awakens in her parents' house, holding her wooden Nutcracker doll. She will never forget this Christmas and its spirit.

2014 Nutcracker Cast

Act I

Herr Drosselmeier: Benjamin Chandler

Elves: Riley Kinnan, Ella Noecker, Evie Rawlings, Amelia Shotkoski, Holly Tolliver, Ellie Weeks

Clara: Rose Kotopka

Fritz: Jack Shaffer

Dr. Stahlbaum: John Coffey

Mrs. Stahlbaum: Betsy Andersen

Party Girls: Leah Andersen, Jocelyn Bergt, Taylor Fry, Grace Herron, Emma Luci, Alexa Rea, Riley Struve, Emily Yost

Party Boys: Hunter DeBoer, Matthew Duhs, Eddie Lankas, Turner Linafelter, Caine Olson, Joseph Pestal, Skyler Peterson, Nicholas Reed

Little Party Girl A (Saturday/Sunday Matinee): Maggie Oulianova, Peyton Prussa, Emily Rutt, Emery Wenz

Little Party Girl B (Saturday, 7 p.m.): Tierny Blankenhorn (Saturday Matinee), Reagan Gadeken, Alexandra Linscott, Maggie Oulianova

Little Party Boys: Kason Cade, Mengdie Hu, Kevin Pynes, Hudson Shaffer

Party Women: Elisa Linscott, Sarah McCurley, Jessica Olson, Kelley Peterson, Maggie Rawlings, McKenzie True

Party Men: Stephen Cass, Mike Coffey, Matt Coffey, Kent Miller, Dale Miller

Butler: Vladimir Ouilanov

First Maid: Sarah DeBoer

Maids: Nicole Fintel, Natalie Haney, Megan Jones, Sidney Parks

Harlequin Dolls: Emma Heiliger and Justin Hughes

Columbine Doll: Brennan Kolbo

Jester Doll: McKaylee True

Nutcracker Prince: Andrew Taft

Mouse King: Cameron Wille

Big Mice: Sidney Ackerman, Stephanie Amend, Elena Belashchenko, Ellie Cetak, Abby Chan, Elena Erdley, Delaney Fitzke, Cassidy Hayes, Ealynn Hsu, Sage Linder, Emma Lollman, Cecilia Pieper, Natalie Reed, Jada Rohlmeier, Isabel Skare, Madison Wiens

Little Mice: Chloe Colgrove, Brynley Cooper, Sophie Hacker, Stella Hutzler, Ava Jarrett, Malayah Long, Ellison Meyer, Avery Noden, Ella Schnabel, Aliyah Soliz, Ella Swank, Clara Wolfe

Soldiers: Sydney Auman, Audrey Bartek, Makayla Champoux, Brooke Dlouhy, Sophia Gerstner, Logan Gronewold, Bryn Hannan, Olivia Herrera, Violet Hudson, Emily Obert, Lauren Parker, Emily Pestal, Sophia Provost, Elizabeth Spellman, Karli Wilson, Meiling Ybarra

Snow Queen: Emily Maldavs

Snow King: Justin Hughes

Snow Princesses: Brennan Kolbo, Grace Mann, Amanda Nelson, McKaylee True

Snow Corps: Sarah DeBoer, Cristal Franco Granados, Emma Heiliger, Elyse Kohler, Ava Lambe, Allison McElroy, McKenna Montanez, Emma Murphy, Kierstin Niemeyer, Isabel Pattee, Calla Sullivan, Kiley Tomes

2014 Nutcracker Cast

Act II

Sugar Plum Fairy: Lydia Relle

Cavalier: Yosvani Cortellan

Angel A (Saturday/Sunday Matinee): Emma Heasty, Miley Green, Ava Flood, Allison Ernst, Avery Bridgford, Catherine Barry, Kendra Riekenberg, Sidney Lovegrove, Rylee Lingenfelter, Frannie Kiser, Evelyn Jacoby, Olivia Taylor, Whitney Tomes, Tatum Vercellino, Kalista Volland, Kaci Wood

Angel B (Saturday, 7 p.m.): Olivia Achtemeier, Jenna Bleresch, Lauren Coniglio, Adelaide Foote, Olivia Lovegrove, Adelyn Opp, Olivia Panipinto, Ellie Ramirez, Marisa Schmeckpeper, Ava Snyder, Jailyn Strosnider, Abbigail Swanson, Charys Tompkins, Destiney Watson, Georgia Wood, Kaci Wood

Sugar and Spice: Avalena Baird, Abby Collier, Madison Hodge, Alyssa Johnson, Nora Schlegel, Camryn Tompkins

Spain: Brennan Kolbo

Spanish Background: Audrey Bartek, Zoe Baxter, Jackie Embury, Kelsey Hall, Anneliese Hinrichsen, Carrie Keating, Cecilia Pynes, Whitney Reinmiller

Arabian: McKaylee True, Matthew Fata, Cameron Wille

Arabian Background: Myca Cumpston, Natalie Haney, Regan Kolbo, Sadie Mrsny, Alexis Peterson, Alexandria Warneke

China: Emma Heiliger, Allison McElroy, Emma Murphy

Chinese Lanterns: Averie Clanton, Olivia Foster, Mary Kincheloe, Sydney Marra, Finley Peterson, Madison Croomes

Marzipan: Emily Maldavs, Justin Hughes

Russian: Ava Lambe, Calla Sullivan, William Mallett, Jonathan Moats

Russian Background: Haley Cecava, Meredith Gaer, Skylar Hoxie, Rochelle Olson, Kaitlyn Rutt, Brandy Schroeder, Lucinda Schwartz, Rylee Tucker

Bon Bon: Katherine "Katie" Ball, Jaime Kinghorn, Maddie Lester, Alyse Petersen, Novalee Schmit, Sharidan Swift, Maddie Tolly, Hannah Westbrook

Mother Ginger: Corbin Popp, Jessica Olson

Dew Drop: Grace Mann

Demi Dews: Cristal Franco Granados, Amanda Nelson

Flower Corps: Sarah DeBoer, Elyse Kohler, McKenna Montanez, Kierstin Niemeyer, Isabel Pattee, Abigayle Reiber, Kiley Tomes, Emily Yost

Garland Children: Sailor Burch, Elizabeth Friend, Saba Ghaffar, Allyson Grieser, Chase Johnson, Lena Lankas, Addison Parde, Eden Schmit, Ansley Sothan, Addyson Timmerman, Hattie Vyhldal, Megan Wiley

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2014 Company Dancers

Sarah DeBoer • *Snow Corps, Flower Corps, First Maid*



Sarah, 14, is a freshman at Norris High School, where she is an honor roll student, member of the Norris Show Choir (68th Street Singers), and FFA. She has been dancing since the age of three and is honored to be in her seventh *Nutcracker* performance. Her past roles have included Peppermint, Cinnamon, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, and Big Party Girl. Sarah is excited to have the opportunity to dance with her brother, Hunter, who is a Big Party Boy again this year! She has

also been a member of LMBC's productions of *Snow White* and *Cinderella*, has danced with the LMBC Summer Ballet Program for six years, and attended the Kansas City Ballet Intensive program this past summer. Sarah thanks her dance instructors in ballet, pointe, lyrical, jazz, tap and contemporary. She has been a member of her studio's competition dance team for seven years and has earned several scholarships and awards. Sarah also enjoys being outdoors with her pets, participating in church activities, and spending time with her family and friends.

Cristal Franco-Granados • *Demi Dew, Snow Corps*



Cristal is a sophomore at Lincoln Southwest High School where she is in the top three percent of her class with a GPA of 4.0+. At school, Cristal enjoys playing the flute in Varsity Band and being a member of the Speech Team. She is also a Student Ambassador and SHOS leader. This will be Cristal's fifth year in *The Nutcracker* and her second as a company member. Previous roles have included Big Mouse, Chinese Lantern, Arabian Background, Snow Corps, and China. She has also danced

in LMBC's previous spring productions of *Cinderella* and *Snow White*. Cristal has loved to dance since she was three years old and has studied at various studios, including The Ballet Academy of Mexico City, and The Ballet School of Chapel Hill in North Carolina. Cristal has attended summer intensives at Kansas City Ballet, LMBC, and at her dance studio. During her free time, Cristal enjoys spending time with her friends and family. Cristal would like to thank them and the teachers who have helped her become the person she is today.

2014 Company Dancers

Emma Heiliger · *Harlequin, China, Snow Corps*



Emma is a senior at Lincoln Southwest High School and has been dancing since the age of three, studying all forms of dance. She is excited to be performing in her seventh year of *The Nutcracker*. Previous roles include Snow Angel, Bon Bon, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. Emma has danced competitively with her studio, attending both regional and national workshops and competitions where she received many technical, showmanship, and high score solo awards. She has also won numerous scholarships from JUMP, Adrenaline, L.A. Dance Magic, and New York City Dance Alliance. She has performed in Pinewood Bowl's production of *CATS*, and was one of the Seven Dwarfs in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *Snow White*. When Emma is not dancing, she enjoys getting together with friends and family, shopping, taking family vacations, and working part-time at Trinity Child Care Center. She is extremely thankful to be a part of this tradition, and appreciates all the guidance she has received over the years.

Megan Jones · *Maid*



Megan is a junior at Lincoln East High School. This is her seventh year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Garland Child, Spanish Background, Chinese Lantern, Flower Corps, and Snow Corps. Megan also participated in the spring performance of *Snow White* as Jewel Corps and a friend of *Snow White*. She has been dancing since she was three. Through her dance studio, Megan has participated in many competitions, workshops, and summer intensives. She takes classes in ballet, pointe, jazz, tap and lyrical. Megan is a member of the East High Apollonaires Dance team and is on the academic honor roll. When Megan is not dancing, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family.



2014 Company Dancers

Mary Kincheloe • *Chinese Lantern*



Mary is a senior at Pius X High School where she is a part of the Thunderette dance team. The group traveled to Omaha for a camp at which she received an All-American title. Mary is also a member of National Honor Society and runs varsity track for her school. She has been dancing since the age of four and has been competing with her studio's team for the last four years. This summer, Mary attended a Nuvo competition and workshop in Oklahoma City, in which she received a scholarship

to another convention, and won several awards with her team. She has also attended classes in Kansas City, Chicago, and the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Summer Dance Camp. When she is not dancing, Mary is involved in youth activities at church, works a part-time job and enjoys spending time with her friends.

Elyse Kohler • *Snow Corps, Flower Corps*



Elyse is a sophomore honor-roll student at Lincoln East High School. She is a member of the Apollonaires dance team. She has been dancing since the age of three, studying ballet, pointe, jazz, and contemporary. Elyse was a member of Ballet Nebraska II, the pre-professional company of Ballet Nebraska last season. She performed in *Snow White*, and *The Nutcracker* in both Omaha and Iowa last year. She attended Joffrey Ballet's summer intensive in Chicago and enjoyed rooming with

international students. Elyse performed in her first pas de deux as Belle, for her studio's performance of *Beauty and the Beast* in May. She is currently an assistant for beginning pointe students at her studio. In her free time, she enjoys teaching Sunday school, traveling to different countries, and spending time with friends and family. Elyse is honored to be a member of the LMBC Company, and she will also understudy first maid.



2014 Company Dancers

Brennan Kolbo • *Spain, Columbine, Snow Princess*



Brennan has been dancing for fourteen years, competing for her home studio in all styles, and studying classical ballet. For the last two summers, Brennan trained with River North Dance Chicago. In 2013, she was a collaborative choreographer and dancer for TEDx Youth Lincoln and she was named a Rainbow National Dancer of the Year in 2012. This is Brennan's senior season with *The Nutcracker*, previously dancing roles from Snow Angel and Big Mouse to Marzipan and Jester. This is her fourth

season as a member of the company, also dancing with LMBC in *Cinderella* in 2012 and *Snow White* in 2013. She has attended multiple summer intensive programs and workshops in ballet and jazz. She is an honor student at Crete High School where she plays the flute in band and is captain of the Flag Corps. Brennan takes classes through the University of Nebraska's Independent High School and is employed part-time by Colby Ridge. A 2013-2014 Sweetheart for the American Heart Association, Brennan looks forward to pursuing a major in dance with an emphasis in kinesiology in college. She will always have a special place in her heart for her years with The Nutcracker.

Rose Kotopka • *Clara*



Rose has been dancing since the age of four and has been part of *The Nutcracker* for nine years. Her previous roles include Marzipan, Harlequin, Snow Princess, Snow and Flower Corps, Big and Little Party Girl, Garland Child and Snow Angel. Rose has also enjoyed dancing in LMBC's *Cinderella* and *Snow White*. She is excited to be elected to represent her fellow dancers on the LMBC Board of Directors this year. Rose participated in the Youth American Grand Prix ballet competition. In addition to traveling with her studio to major cities to take master

classes, Rose has attended numerous summer intensives including LMBC, North Carolina Dance, and The Joffrey Ballet in Chicago. She is a junior honor roll student at Pius X High School where she lettered in dance and is in her third year as a Thunderette Dance Team member. Rose coaches a Page One junior high reading team at St. Teresa School and enjoys her GodTeens group. She would like to thank her six brothers for their role of preparing her for Clara by stealing and breaking her dolls over the last 17 years, and hopes you enjoy the show!

2014 Company Dancers

Ava Lambe • Russia, Snow Corps



Ava, 14, is a freshman at Lincoln East High School. She is a freshman cheerleader and is captain of her cheer squad. Ava has been dancing since the age of two and this is her seventh appearance in *The Nutcracker*. Past roles have included Big Party Girl, Flower Corps, Snow Corps, Little Party Girl, Spanish Background, Garland Child and Cinnamon. She also performed in LMBC's *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. Ava was an apprentice last year and is very excited to be a company member this year. She has been

a member of her studio's dance team since the age of 5 and has competed and studied in Omaha, Kansas City, Des Moines, Denver, Chicago and Las Vegas and has earned many awards and scholarships. She has attended summer intensives at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA, LMBC and at her studio. Ava would like to thank her family, teachers and friends for all their support.

Emily Maldavs • Snow Queen, Marzipan



This is Emily's tenth year performing in LMBC's *The Nutcracker*. Recent roles with LMBC include the Evil Queen in the spring 2014 performance of *Snow White* and Clara in *The Nutcracker* in 2012. Emily has been dancing for 16 years, and has studied in Chicago Ballet and Bossov Ballet's summer intensives. Emily is a sophomore at University of Nebraska–Lincoln, majoring in Biology and Psychology and is part of the University Honors Program. She currently teaches at True Dance & Co., and wishes to become a professor and researcher in zoology and behavior.



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2014 Company Dancers

Grace Mann · *Dew Drop, Snow Princess*



Grace is a junior at Lincoln East High School, where she is a 4.0 honor roll student and member of the Apollonaires dance team. She is thrilled to be in her ninth performance of *The Nutcracker*; her past roles include Child of the World, Elf, Garland Child, Big Party Girl, Snow and Flower Corps, China, Columbine, Snow Princess and Arabian. Grace also danced in LMBC's *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. She has studied at summer intensives throughout the US, including the American Academy of Ballet in New York, Kansas City

Ballet School, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Kaatsbaan International Dance Center in New York, LMBC, Ballet Austin and Alonzo King Lines Ballet. Grace also travels with her studio's dance team and has received numerous awards and scholarships. Grace competed two years at the Youth America Grand Prix in Dallas and Indianapolis. Last year she received a letter in Dance and All-American Award at NDA camp. This year Grace is honored to be a member of the American Heart Association Sweethearts program. Grace wishes to thank everyone involved in LMBC for making *The Nutcracker* an amazing production. She would also like to thank her family, teachers and friends for their support.

Allison McElroy · *China, Snow Corps*



Allison is a Pius X High School sophomore where she is member of the National Honor Society and the Thunderette dance team. She also participates in student council, music and track. This year she is excited to be a part of the citywide Youth Leadership Lincoln XVIII class. She loves all forms of dance and currently studies pointe, ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical and is a dance teacher assistant. As a member of her studios competitive company, she has been a part of many award winning dances. She has been named a high school All-American dancer and has been

awarded many dance scholarships at regional competitions. Allison has attended intensives and the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company summer dance camp. She has enjoyed dancing in LMBC's *Cinderella* and *Snow White* spring ballets. Her previous *Nutcracker* roles include: Elf, Soldier, Chinese Lantern Background, Snow Corps and Russia. She enjoys spending time with family, friends and her dog, Jet. She loves that *The Nutcracker* is such a special part of the holiday season.

2014 Company Dancers

McKenna Montanez · *Snow Corps, Flower Corps*



McKenna is a freshman at Pius X High School and a member of the Thunderette dance team. She is excited to participate in her fifth performance of *The Nutcracker!* Her past roles include Big Mouse, Garland Child, Spanish Background, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps and Flower Corps. She also danced in LMBC's *Snow White* last spring. McKenna has participated in summer intensives with LMBC, the Kansas City Ballet School and the American Ballet Theater in Austin, TX. She hopes you enjoy the 30th anniversary show!



Emma Murphy · *China, Snow Corps*

Emma is 15, she is a sophomore at Lincoln Southwest High School. Emma has been watching or participating in *The Nutcracker* her whole life, having the roles of Peppermint, Little Mouse, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Demi Dew, and Snow Corp. This year she is excited to dance the part of China with two other beautiful dancers and to be a part of Snow Corps. She has been both an apprentice and a company dancer. Emma says, "*The Nutcracker* is a way to take action on my dreams, share my enthusiasm of dance, and to embrace my own blessings. It will always be a fond memory for me."

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2014 Company Dancers

Amanda Nelson • *Demi Dew, Snow Princess*



Amanda is thrilled to have been part of *The Nutcracker* for ten years with four years as a company dancer! Her roles have included Snow Angel, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, Russian Background, Chinese Lantern, Flower Corps, Snow Corps, and China. She is also currently understudy for Harlequin. She has studied dance since age three and has participated competitively on dance and cheer teams. She was previously an All-American Cheerleader, is currently an All-American Dancer, and is

on her studio's Company Tap Team. Amanda, a senior at Lincoln Southwest High School, is a 4.0+ honor roll student and member of the National Honor Society. She is an officer and two-year member of the LSW Emeralds Dance Team, a Dance Captain and member of Resonance Show Choir, in Chamber Choir, Varsity Concert Choir, Varsity Orchestra, FBLA, and on the track team. She is also an LSW Student Ambassador and SHOS Leader. Amanda is a 2014 Graduate of Cornhusker Girls State, graduate of Youth Leadership Lincoln XVI, previously served on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, and is an American Heart Association Sweetheart Alumna. Amanda would like to thank her family, teachers and friends for all of their support through the years!

Kierstin Niemeyer • *Snow Corps, Flower Corps*



The 2014 *Nutcracker* marks the third LMBC performance for Kierstin. Following in her sister's footsteps, Kierstin began dancing at the age of two. As a member of her home studio's dance team, she has earned many awards as well as scholarships, with the highlight being her selection to attend a week intensive study in Los Angeles, California as a member of Mini Muse. Kierstin is a freshman at Waverly High School where she is an A student and is a member of Campus Life. Her most recent undertaking is playing the mellophone in the Pride of the Vikings marching band.

When not on the dance floor or at school, Kierstin enjoys spending time with friends and family.



2014 Company Dancers

Isabel Pattee • *Snow Corps, Flower Corps*



Isabel is a sophomore at Lincoln Southwest High School where she maintains an A average. This will be her eighth season to perform in *The Nutcracker*, with past roles including Little Mouse, Cinnamon, Garland Child, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, and China. She trains in ballet and pointe six days per week and has attended two summers at the Rock School in Philadelphia, two with Kansas City Ballet and three with local programs. She has earned many academic awards and continues

to medal at the Music Teachers' Association Festivals. Isabel's priorities are spending time with family and friends, reading, singing, and composing piano music. She thanks the teachers and special people in her life who have nurtured her along the way.

Abigayle Reiber • *Flower Corps*



Abigayle is a fifteen-year-old sophomore at Pius X High School where she is on the honor roll and has been on the Thunderette dance team for two years. She has been dancing since the age of four, learning ballet, pointe, lyrical, contemporary, jazz, and a little bit of hip hop. Even though she enjoys reading and drawing, her main focus and passion is dance. This is her third year performing in *The Nutcracker*. Her previous roles include Russian background and Chinese Lantern. Last year Abigayle was an apprentice dancer and this year she is honored to become a company dancer.

She has been on her studio's competition dance team for five years and this is her second year on their Senior Troupe. Abigayle is very excited to be performing in *The Nutcracker* this year and she is very thankful to everyone who has helped her to get to this point in her life.



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2014 Company Dancers

Calla Sullivan • *Russia, Snow Corps*



Calla is a ninth-grade honor roll student at Norris High School. Other than dance, she also participates in math club, FBLA, student council, class officers, and plays a snare drum in the Norris drum line. Calla is excited to be dancing in her sixth *Nutcracker*. Her past roles include Peppermint, Garland Child, Chinese Lantern, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, and Flower Corps. She has been dancing since the age three, and has studied many different styles. Calla participates in her studio's competition team. With

them, she has traveled around the country competing for regional and national awards. This past summer, Calla attended the Ballet Austin summer intensive where she broadened her dance knowledge. In her spare time she enjoys drumming, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Kiley Tomes • *Flower Corps, Snow Corps*



Kiley Tomes, 14, is a freshman at Pius X High School, where she is a straight A student, a member of the Thunderette dance team, student council, and the Pius Ambassadors. This is Kiley's third *Nutcracker* performance. Past roles include Peppermint and Russian Background. Kiley has been dancing since the age of four and studies all disciplines of dance. As a member of her studio competitive team, she has traveled nationwide and received numerous awards and scholarships. She was

selected by her studio teammates as a recipient of the "Perfect Ten" Award. She has been the overall highpoint winner in the teen solo division numerous times and a national champion in several group routines. Kiley was crowned Junior Miss Spotlight, selected as Miss Teen Primetime, First Runner-Up for Miss Teen KAR, and Miss Teen Showbiz. She has been selected for several convention scholarships at JUMP, NUVO, KAR, Showbiz Extreme, Adrenaline, and the coveted "Elite Dance" at West Coast Dance Explosion. Kiley has been selected to participate in the Kansas City Ballet Intensive the past two years and has participated in several summer studio intensives, Pacific Coast Dance Fest in Minnesota, Motion 41 Ballet in Omaha, and the LMBC Summer Dance Camp.

2014 Company Dancers

McKaylee True • *Jester, Arabian, Snow Princess*



McKaylee, 15, has danced in LMBC's *The Nutcracker* as Bon Bon, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, Snow Corps, Spain, Snow Princess, Marzipan and Columbine Doll. She is proud to understudy the role of Clara in this year's production as well as perform her given parts. In LMBC productions she danced as Dopey and the Blue Bird in *Snow White*, and as the Jester and a Princess in *Cinderella*. McKaylee placed second runner-up in the 2013 Miss Adrenaline Teen Nationals and top 15 in 2014 nationals. She was 2011 Miss Junior National Adrenaline, Outstanding National Miss Mini Dancer—New York City Dance Alliance, first and second runner-up at the National Finals in NYC. She was the YAGP winner in the junior division for contemporary solos in Indianapolis. With a scholarship, she danced at the Bolshoi Ballet Summer Program. Other scholarships have been from JUMP, Nuvo, Hall of Fame, Celebrity, New York City Dance Alliance, Adrenaline, KAR, West Coast Dance Alliance, Talent on Parade, and Spotlight Dance Cup both regional and national. She danced and sang in forty-four shows of *Cinderella* under Bonnie Lythegoe in Los Angeles. McKaylee is the winner of Lifetime television's reality show *Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition*, Season 2.

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2014 Apprentice Dancers



Front row, on floor L to R: Finley Peterson, Taylor Fry, Emma Luci, Madison Croomes; Middle row, seated L to R: Jocelyn Bergt, Riley Struve, Sydney Marra; Back row, standing L to R: Emily Yost, Leah Andersen, Alexa Rea, Grace Herron

Leah Andersen · *Big Party Girl*

Leah, 12, is a seventh-grade honor roll student at Lux Middle School. This is her fifth appearance in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles have included Cinnamon, Little Party Girl, and Spanish Background. In LMBC's 2014 *Snow White*, Leah was one of the Seven Dwarfs. This past summer, Leah trained at the Ballet West Summer Intensive in Salt Lake City, Utah, and she received a scholarship to study at the Kansas City Ballet Summer Intensive. Leah competes regionally and nationally and, in 2014, was selected to be on the Adrenaline Dance Crew. She has won scholarships from Adrenaline, the New York City Dance Alliance, Talent on Parade, and the title of Pre-Teen Miss Edge. When not dancing, Leah enjoys playing the violin, and participating in church activities.

2014 Apprentice Dancers

Jocelyn Bergt · *Big Party Girl*

Jocelyn, 13, is an eighth-grade student at Norris Middle School. Jocelyn has been dancing since the age of five. This is her sixth appearance in the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Peppermint, Big Mouse, Russian Background, and Big Party Girl. In the summer Jocelyn attended Pacific Coast Dance Fest Intensive in Minneapolis. Additionally, she attended the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Summer Dance Camp. She has been in her studio ballet productions of *Paquita* and *Swan Lake*. As a member of her studio's competition team, Jocelyn has traveled to Denver, Omaha, Kansas City, Des Moines, and Chicago and has attended many workshops and intensives. Outside of dance, Jocelyn's other hobbies are boating, traveling, and being with her friends. Jocelyn is honored to be dancing as an apprentice with LMBC in the 2014 production of *The Nutcracker*!

Madison Croomes · *Chinese Background*

Madison, 13, is an eighth-grade honor roll student at Pound Middle School. She feels honored to be dancing as an apprentice in her fourth *Nutcracker* performance. Her past roles include Sugar and Spice, Big Mouse, and Garland Child. This past summer, Madison trained at Colorado Ballet's summer intensive program and attended LMBC's Summer Dance Camp. Outside of dance, Madison enjoys reading, playing the flute in her school's band, and spending time with her friends, family, and dog, Sam. Madison would like to thank all of her instructors who have helped her grow and improve as a dancer over this past year.

Taylor Fry · *Big Party Girl*

Taylor, 13, is an eighth-grade honor roll student at Lux Middle School. Taylor loves every aspect of being a part of *The Nutcracker*! Past roles include Elf and Garland Child. As a member of her studio's competition team, Taylor has attended many conventions and competes regionally and nationally, earning scholarships and other awards. Taylor studies ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and tap, with her first love being ballet. In the summer, she has attended intensives with LMBC, Omaha's Motion 41, and at her studio. When Taylor is not dancing, she enjoys shopping and going to movies with friends. She is also active in confirmation at Messiah Lutheran. Taylor feels honored and grateful to be playing the role of Big Party Girl and also to be dancing as an apprentice with Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company!

2014 Apprentice Dancers

Grace Herron · *Big Party Girl*

Grace, 12, is a seventh-grade student at Scott Middle School where her favorite subjects are math and English. Grace has been dancing since the age of three and is excited to participate in her fifth production of *The Nutcracker*. Past roles include Peppermint, Cinnamon, Garland Child, Spanish Background and Little Party Girl. She also performed in LMBC's 2014 production of *Snow White* as Grumpy. As a member of her studio's competition team Grace has traveled and attended many workshops and intensives. Grace has received scholarships and recognition from JUMP, Spotlight Dance Cup, KAR, Thunderstruck, and Rainbow Dance. She has also been chosen as a runner-up for Mini Outstanding Dancer by New York City Dance Alliance in a regional competition and as an Adrenaline Junior Crew Member. Grace was also awarded a scholarship from Kansas City Ballet for its Summer Intensive. Grace is currently studying ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and tap. When not dancing, Grace enjoys spending time with her friends and family, reading, and playing with her cats, Boots and Pearl. Grace is honored to be dancing as an apprentice this year with LMBC and is grateful for all the support from her instructors and family.

Emma Luci · *Big Party Girl*

Emma Marie, 12, is a seventh-grade honor roll student at Lux Middle School. This will be her fifth consecutive appearance in *The Nutcracker*, having previously performed the roles of Peppermint, Cinnamon, Garland Child and Chinese Lantern. She began dancing prior to her third birthday, and currently takes classes in many styles of dance, including ballet, pointe, lyrical, tap, and jazz. Emma enjoys dancing on her studio's competition team, and has received numerous scholarships and awards. Her most recent solo allowed her to become the current 2014 regional junior titleholder for Miss Spotlight, Miss StarQuest, and runner-up Miss Bravo. She placed ninth overall at nationals. Her favorite dance genre is lyrical, because much like ballet, it allows her to tell a story and connect with the audience. Emma looks forward to the holiday excitement of *The Nutcracker* every year. She enjoys seeing old friends and making new ones! On the rare occasions when she is not at dance, she enjoys shopping, reading, traveling and spending time with her family and friends. She is very honored and excited to be an apprentice this year, and grateful to all who help make *The Nutcracker* a tradition for so many.

2014 Apprentice Dancers

Sydney Marra · *Chinese Lantern*

Sydney is excited to be dancing in her sixth *Nutcracker* performance! Past roles include Cinnamon Candy, Big Mouse, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, and Big Party Girl. She was also privileged to understudy Flower Corps for this season. She has performed in Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's productions of *Snow White* and *Cinderella*, and enjoys attending the LMBC Summer Dance Camp. She has been dancing for nine years, taking classes in ballet, pointe, lyrical, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. Sydney is an eighth-grade home-schooled student. She also enjoys drama, vocal, and music performance. She has played piano for ten years, and loves playing for her youth group senior high band, and performing with the Girls' Choir. Sydney is honored and grateful to be dancing as an apprentice for a second year with LMBC!

Finley Peterson · *Chinese Lantern*

Making her fifth appearance in *The Nutcracker*, Finley will once again take the stage along with her twin brother, Skyler (Party Boy) in this magical production. She started sweet as a Peppermint, added some Sugar & Spice, fought valiantly as a Toy Solider and will now add some light to her travels in China. Finley is in eighth grade at Pound Middle School. This past year she danced in *Snow White* and two recitals. She also attended a Manhattan Dance Project Workshop, Lincoln Midwest Ballet Dance Camp, and Ballet Boot Camp to sharpen her technique. When not dancing, you'll find Fin studying to maintain honor roll status, being part of Student Council, doing arts and crafts, taking care of her big-black rabbit, Coltrane, and spending time with her family and friends. She is thrilled to have been chosen as an apprentice for a second year and looks forward to keeping her happy feet dancing!

Alexa Rea · *Big Party Girl*

Alexa is truly honored to be a participant in the 30th anniversary of *The Nutcracker*! She is a fourteen-year-old eighth-grader at Lux Middle School, where her favorite subject this year is science. Alexa has been dancing since the age of three, and this is her sixth year participating in *The Nutcracker*. Her past roles have included Peppermint, Garland Child, and Chinese Lantern. She has also performed in the recent LMBC productions of *Snow White* and *Cinderella*. For the past eight years, Alexa has enjoyed being a member of her studio's competition dance team, traveling and competing at different locations around the country. Alexa

continued

2014 Apprentice Dancers

has participated in various ballet intensives including at her own studio and, most recently, at Tulsa Ballet in Oklahoma this past summer. Outside of dance, Alexa enjoys church group and is active in confirmation at Sheridan Lutheran. She also enjoys traveling and spending time with her friends, family, and pets.

Riley Struve • *Big Party Girl*

Riley, 13, is an eighth-grade honor roll student at Lux Middle School. She has been dancing since she was three years old, taking classes in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and hip-hop. Her passion is ballet. This is Riley's second year as an apprentice dancer, and her sixth year of appearing in *The Nutcracker*. Riley is honored to again be a part of this wonderful production. *The Nutcracker* has provided Riley with many special memories, and she is grateful each year for the opportunity. Her past roles include Flower Corps, Big Party Girl, Little Party Girl, Garland Child, Cinnamon, and Peppermint. Riley has also been cast in LMBC spring productions of *Cinderella* and *Snow White*. Riley loved being a Mouse in *Cinderella* and most recently she enjoyed the role of Jewel Corps in *Snow White*. Riley has attended numerous ballet summer intensives over the years. They include the Houston Ballet in Houston, Texas; Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C.; Tulsa Ballet in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company's Summer Dance Camp. Outside of dance, Riley enjoys shopping, hanging out with friends and her family, including her dog, Spunky.

Emily Yost • *Big Party Girl, Flower Corps*

Emily, an eighth-grade honor roll student at St. Joseph Catholic School, has been dancing since the age of three. This is her sixth appearance in *The Nutcracker* with past roles including Cinnamon, Little Party Girl, Big Party Girl, and Flower Corps. Over the past eight years, Emily has studied at various summer ballet intensives throughout the country, most recently at The Joffrey Academy of Dance in Chicago. She studies ballet, pointe, contemporary, and jazz. For the past three years she has participated in the Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition. When not dancing, Emily enjoys being a member of Student Council, participating in her church youth group, running cross country and track, reading, and spending time with her family, friends and pets. She is honored and excited to be dancing as an apprentice this year with LMBC and is very grateful to all of the many dance instructors in her life who have shared with her their time and talents.

2014 Understudies

Emma Heiliger: *Understudy* Spain
Brennan Kolbo: *Understudy* Marzipan
Amanda Nelson: *Understudy* Harlequin
Elyse Kohler: *Understudy* 1st Maid
McKenna Montanez: *Understudy* Russia
Isabel Pattee: *Understudy* Demi Dew
Emily Yost: *Understudy* China
Emily Maldavs: *Understudy* Dew Drop
Cristal Franco Granados: *Understudy* Snow Princess
Allison McElroy: *Understudy* Columbine
Emma Murphy: *Understudy* Snow Princess
Grace Mann: *Understudy* Snow Queen
McKaylee True: *Understudy* Clara

Madison Croomes: *Understudy* Big Party Girl
Leah Andersen: *Understudy* Flower Corps
Megan Jones: *Understudy* Flower Corps
Sydney Marra: *Understudy* Flower Corps
Finley Peterson: *Understudy* Flower Corps
Holly Tolliver: *Understudy* Garland Child
Sydney Auman: *Understudy* Maid
Nicole Fintel: *Understudy* Russian Background
Averie Clanton: *Understudy* Snow Corps
Mary Kincheloe: *Understudy* Snow Corps
Abigayle Reiber: *Understudy* Snow Corps
Riley Struve: *Understudy* Snow Corps
Meredith Gaer: *Understudy* Spanish Background

Special thanks to Nebraska Dance for allowing Johnathan Moats and William Mallet to participate in our production.

Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra

The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company thanks the musicians of the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra for once again providing the live music for *The Nutcracker*.

The Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra (NSCO) is comprised of professional musicians from the Lincoln and Omaha areas, and has performed for the annual production of LMBC's *Nutcracker* at the Lied Center since 1995.

The NSCO has also performed for operas, musical productions, and a variety of concerts throughout the area including special events for Nebraska Wesleyan University, Doane College and area churches. In 1994, the NSCO played with Rod Stewart in a sold-out concert at Lincoln's Devaney Center. In the last several years, the NSCO has performed Bach's *Magnificat*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and *Sweeney Todd* in addition to providing local musicians for the touring productions of *Chicago*, *Ragtime*, *All Shook Up*, *South Pacific*, *Peter Pan*, Frankie Avalon, *Steve Lippia—Simply Sinatra*, *Broadway Today*, *Celtic Tenors*, Bernadette Peters, *All Hands On Deck*, *Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

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2014 Lyle Johnson Award

In 1995, Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company created this award as a memorial to Lyle Johnson. As co-founder and president of our predecessor organization Ballet Midwest, Lyle was committed to building an organization and worked persistently for its goals. Each year, the award recognizes another individual or organization for similar outstanding support of the ballet company.

Past recipients have been: Alice Abel, Kathleen Allen, Bryan LGH Medical Center, Lana Brennan, Joan Chopp, Ron Colin, Susan Chowning-Ricketts, Richard Evans, Jim Lauerman, the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Angie Muhleisen, the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra and its conductor Dr. Herbert Dregalla, Jr., Burton Schernikau, Susan Steinegger, Jim Stuart, Shari Syskal, Molly Thomas, Shari True, and Ann Watson.

As the Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company celebrates three decades of *The Nutcracker*, the Lyle Johnson award is honoring a man who has often led us through those years. Behind the scenes, Mike Dowd has supported the organization in numerous ways, such as developing contracts with our artistic and management personnel and working on nominations. His fundraising work included *Dancing with the Stars of Lincoln*. During times of stress, his quiet, thoughtful insight and good will eased the organization into continued success. Officially, Mike has served three terms as president of the Board of Directors. Between terms he often has been our vice president.

LMBC has become a family affair for Mike, his wife Rita, and their children. Daughters Elizabeth and Rachel both danced the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker* and as Cinderella in LMBC spring productions. Three of their sons, Barry, Andrew, and Jacob, have been Party Boys. Rita served numerous terms as treasurer of the LMBC Guild.

Mike no longer has children involved in *The Nutcracker*. Yet, generously he continues to serve as vice president of the Board. Our successes depend on the dedication of leaders like Michael Dowd.

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