our 25th anniversary production of Mulicipal Calculation of Mulicipal Calculation of the Calculation of the



COLUMBUS Ballet

DEC. 18 2:30 pm 7:30 pm

RIVERCENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



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SYNOVUS





This program is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Councilfor the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for the Arts.

Photo credit Joseph Berger, B Reel Film



Thursday, March 31, 2022

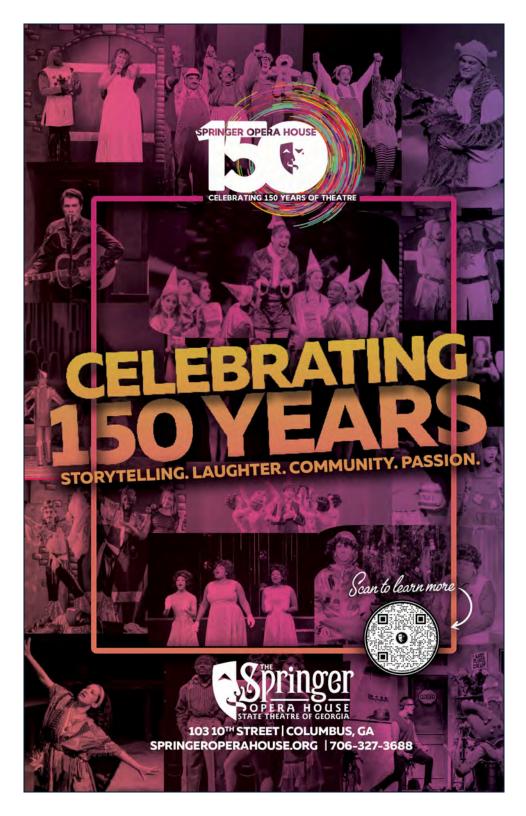
6:00 pm: Lobby Activities | 7:00 pm: Performance



A family-friendly show of dance and music based on Camille Saint-Saëns' humorous musical suite.

RiverCenter for the Performing Arts | Bill Heard Theatre

Adult: \$15 | Student: \$10 | Child (0-12): \$5



The last couple of years have been very challenging for us all. It's a testament to the support that Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley provide to the arts community that we are able to return to performing live on stage this year for our 25th anniversary production of *The Nutcracker*. Before I offer a reflection and a look towards the future, I want to say a heartfelt "thank you!" to all of you for being here today. Your support of The Columbus Ballet is the reason we continue to exist and thrive.

On an observational note, one of the things that constantly seems to be in the news these days is AI (i.e., Artificial Intelligence) and how much our world is going to change, or is changing, because of it. What if, instead, we thought of AI to mean "Artistic Intelligence?" What would that look like? To me, it starts with our youth.

Perhaps a future Sugar Plum Fairy, or Cavalier, or Snow Queen, or Snow King, or even a Tchaikovsky, is a young person sitting in our audience who is inspired by what he/she/they experience today. To help nurture the Artistic Intelligence of those future artists, I encourage you to support the youth arts organizations in our community - The Columbus Ballet, Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus (VOV), and the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus (YOGC). Consider attending our collaborative performance on February 13, *Dreams for Change*. The proceeds from that performance benefit all three organizations. More information about *Dreams for Change*, VOV, and YOGC is on other pages in this program.

If the last couple of years have taught us anything, it is how much we miss the arts and yearn to be together to enjoy what artists are able to create through the expression of their individual Artistic Intelligence. To increase your own AI, I encourage you to walk with someone along the RiverWalk and read the poetry along the wall by the PowerHouse, or pause for a moment to admire one of the murals around town, or stop by the Gallery on 10th to purchase something by a local artist. Each action increases your own AI and demonstrates your support for our local arts community. Artistic Intelligence is the new AI.

Finally, in addition to a resounding endorsement of all the "thank you" messages in Kylie's letter, I would like to offer a special "thank you" to Samantha Gurski, who leads the Columbus State University (CSU) office of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE). Your support for The Columbus Ballet through CSU's Youth Dance Conservatory (YDC) is invaluable. We would not be able to share classical ballet with our community without you.

If there's a future Sugar Plum Fairy, Cavalier, Snow Queen, Snow King, Mouse Queen, Flower, Toy Soldier, or any other role in *The Nutcracker* enjoying today's performance, please see the YDC ad in the program on how you can sign him/her/them up for classes with CSU's Youth Dance Conservatory.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season!

Ed Sutherland

President, Board of Directors The Columbus Ballet

Welcome Back

I can't tell you how amazing it is to say that.

2021 has been a year of new beginnings for a lot of people, especially for those within the Performing Arts field. Broadway was able to open back up, actors, singers and dancers are able to perform and tour again, and The Columbus Ballet is able to be back where we belong. We are so glad to not only be dancing on the RiverCenter stage again, but to be performing our 25th production of *The Nutcracker*.

I have been working for The Columbus Ballet for almost seven years now and the dancers' resilience, passion and love for their craft continuously blows me away. This year, their ability to bounce back from training at home, dancing in masks and while following strict protocol has led to creating one of, what I feel, our best productions. And yes, I say that every year, but I truly believe the dancing just gets better and better.

I have so many people to thank for getting this production to where it is today. First and foremost, I need to thank my wonderful cast of dancers for the immense amount of work that is put into your dancing each and every week. I am beyond blessed to watch each of you grow not only through the years, but each day. The love you all have for both Dance and The Columbus Ballet is heartwarming.

Thank you to our amazing guest dancers, Ryan and Meisy, for joining us for this very special performance. Our cast is thrilled to be dancing alongside two professionals who excel in their field. I am always teary eyed seeing such beauty thrown into the Pas De Deux in the second act.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, who are really the backbone of this production. Your tireless and often thankless work does not go unnoticed; you are the reason the cast are able to get onstage looking beautiful and well prepared. Special thanks to Laurie Carwile, our Volunteer Coordinator, Martha Powers, our Wardrobe Mistress, Shannon Klein, our Props Manager, and Mary Roddenbery, our Head of Boutique. We absolutely couldn't have made any of this possible without you.

Thank you to those who I've referred to as my "dream team;" My wonderful Ballet Mistress and co-choreographer, Sarah Dorough. I'm beyond proud to have seen you grow from a Columbus Ballet Dancer to a talented dance creator and instructor. My incredible Stage Manager, Allison Cash. It is an honor to have someone of your caliber, who has a true appreciation for *The Nutcracker*, by my side. Our outstanding Maestro, Paul Hostetter. I can't describe how thrilled I was to hear that I could finally work with such a Master of Music. And Voices of The Valley's director, Dr. Michelle Folta. We are blessed to have both you and the wonderful choir adding to the magic of our show. (And thanks for letting us borrow your husband to be our Drosselmeyer!)

Thank you to the RiverCenter team for helping us get back on the mainstage. The amount of time and energy you all have put into ensuring that our cast and audience can safely enjoy a performance is much appreciated.

Thank you to the newest members of The Columbus Ballet family, the wonderful ladies with Yalla PR. They have worked so hard to market this show to the very best of their ability. A special thanks to Katie Bishop and Gabby Wilson for loving and caring about every dancer, every volunteer and every member of the artistic team. It has been a joy to have you on board and I look forward to the future!

Of course, thank you to The Columbus Ballet Board of Directors, and YDC's Administrative and Artistic Directors, Laura Johnson and Bridget Adams, for continuously trusting in me during this process. Thank you for giving me the wonderful opportunities to create for such a fabulous organization and to grow as a director, choreographer and artist.

Obviously, much has gone into building this beautiful production you're about to experience. I hope you love this performance as much as we loved creating it. So, sit back in your seat and enjoy, The Columbus Ballet's 25th Production of *The Nutcracker*.

Kylie Casino
Artistic Director,
The Columbus Ballet



KYLIE CASINO Artistic Director

Kylie Casino is originally from Akron, Ohio, where she trained preprofessionally with Northeast Ohio Dance and the Dance Institute of The University of Akron. She continued her training with The University of Akron's dance department, where she was given the opportunity to perform choreography by Paul Taylor, David Parsons and Amy Miller. She also was active within the Ohio Community Theatre scene, performing in productions of Pippin and Damn Yankees and choreographing for productions of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and The Music Man. After graduating with her BA in Dance and dancing professionally for one year, Kylie realized she wished to continue her education as a teacher and choreographer. She went on to graduate with her MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts with a focus in Dance from Goddard College in 2016. Since moving to Columbus in 2014, she's had the pleasure of choreographing for multiple productions for The Columbus Ballet, including The Nutcracker and Coppélia, staging her own versions of Paquita and The Firebird on students from Rising Starz in Auburn, AL and choreographing for East Alabama Community Ballet. In 2019, Kylie received a Local Choice Award nomination for "Favorite Choreographer." Kylie finds complete fulfillment through creating and enjoys sharing her love of dance with others.



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Youth Dance Conservatory



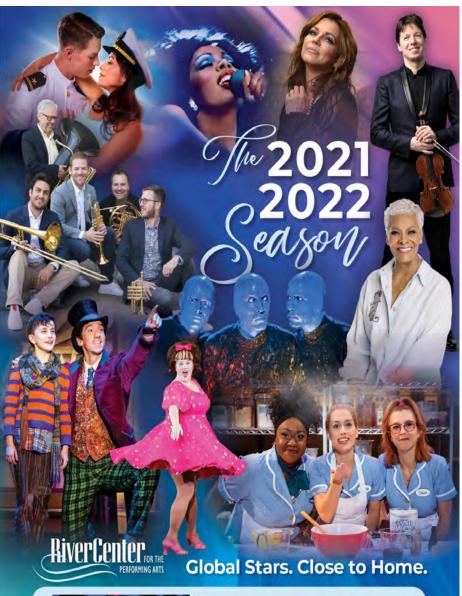


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Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

April 20





THE COLUMBUS BALLET CAST 2021

Act 1

Clara Stahlbaum. Lila Klein Fritz Stahlbaum David Gilford Frau Stahlbaum Jennifer Buch Herr Stahlbaum Richard Joyner Grandmother Stahlbaum (Babushka) Melissa Williams Herr Doktor Drosselmeyer . . . Zach Folta Natan Drosselmeyer/The Nutcracker Prince Josh Hintay Marie Fedorov (Clara's best friend). Mimi Roddenbery Kira Fedorov (Marie's sister) Autumn Rose Fulmer Aleksandra (the maid) Sara Catherine Sheek Party Girls Isabella Delauder, Cher Etchison, Mallie Hocutt, Sophia Insetta, Annabelle Johnson, Arianna Li, Katherine Powers and NaJa Zhou Party Boys Caleb Butler, Easton Hintay and Liu Tong Tong Party Teens. Lola Owens and Natalia Plymale Party Mothers Rachel Butler, Désirée Cummings, Regina Weidler and Qi Zhou Party Fathers Marsalis Causey, Chase Graham and Houbin Fang Fairy Doll Aria Hunt Soldier Doll McKenzie Stallings

Mouse Queen Charlotte Adams

Small Mice	Colette Baker, Makayla Baker, Adeline Bowden, Isabella Cantu, Edie Getz, Hadley Hunt, Naiya Kelley, Sasha Lantz, Emerie Pritchett, Gretel Stockdale, Catherine Tate and Elizabeth Varner
Soldiers	Claire Carter, Hope Faircloth, Leia Hintay, Addie Hood, Maya Hunt, London Russell and Beatrice Underwood
Battle Mice	Kimberley Ayers, Nora Fivecoat, Lyssa Harris, Madison Jackson, Ava Kuebrich, Anna Shockley, Martha Wade, Malea West-Sanchez and Mary Frances Young
Snow Queen	Faith Lee
Snow King	Marsalis Causey
Snowflakes	Betsy Carwile, Amelia Cox, Alysa Hintay, Emma Grace Hyche, Audrey Joyner, Zoey Tharpe, Madeleine Vaillancourt, Joanna Wang and Ashby Wilson
Snow Drops	Sydney Byrd, Victoria Flanagan, Vivienne Lynch, Emma McMahon, Valentina Martinez, Neva Alison Mitchell, Makenzie Reynolds, Melody Stokes and Kathryn Symonds

Act 11

	Aria Hunt and Madison Jackson panna Wang (Lead) with Nora Fivecoat nd Mary Frances Young
Coffee	Audrey Joyner (Lead) with Anna hockley and Malea West-Sanchez
Tea	Amelia Cox, Chase Graham and Madeleine Vaillancourt
Pryaniki Ki	Cimberley Ayers, Lyssa Harris and Martha Wade
	Alysa Hintay, Emma Grace Hyche and Zoey Tharpe
Mother Ginger	Wes Carroll
Gingerbread Nannies Sa	andra Adams and Hanna Lobley
Polichinelles C	Claire Carter, Autumn Rose Fulmer,
	David Gilford, Leia Hintay, Addie
	Hood, Mimi Roddenbery, London
	Russell, McKenzie Stallings and Beatrice Underwood

Dewdrop Fairy. Ashby Wilson

Flowers Charlotte Adams, Caitlyn Brown, Betsy

Carwile, Natasha Connell, Ella Grace

Edwards and Faith Lee

Sugarplum Fairy Meisy Garcia Laffitte

Sugarplum Cavalier Ryan Nicolas DeAlexandro

School Show

Sugarplum Fairy Betsy Carwile

Understudies

Clara. Mimi Roddenberry

Party Scene Children Leia Hintay

Mouse Queen Kimberley Ayers Snow Queen Audrey Joyner

Guardian Angels, Pryaniki

and Marzipan Betsy Carwile

Hot Chocolate. Leia Hintay and Malea West-Sanchez Coffee. Madeleine Vaillancourt and Martha

Wade

Tea. Charlotte Adams
Dewdrop Fairy. Alysa Hintay





MEISY GARCIA LAFFITTE Sugarpium Fairy

Meisy Garcia Laffitte was born in Havana, Cuba and graduated from the National School of Arts. While in school, she participated in several International Ballet Workshops and won two Silver Medals as a soloist and in the pas de deux division at the International Ballet Competition of Cuba, Junior Division, also winning a Bronze Medal as a soloist years prior. She performed with DNC Todos Para Danza in Tijuana, Mexico.

Ms. Laffitte has performed as a guest artist with Joburg Ballet in South Africa performing Don Quixote as a friend and Cupid. Upon her return, she had the privilege of working with Laura Alonso's Prodanza in 2013. Her repertoire includes soloist roles such as Blue Bird in Sleeping Beauty, Kitri in Don Quixote, Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux, Flames of Paris Pas De Deux, La Bayadere Pas De Deux, Carnaval of Venice, La Fille Malgardee and others. Ms. Laffitte came to the United States in April of 2013 joining the Arts Theatre of Florida in Miami. With Kentucky Ballet Theater, she performed soloist roles in *The Merchant*, the Slave Pas de Deux from Le Corsaire, Paquita, La Sylphide, La Bayadere, The Little Mermaid, The Nutcracker, The Night Before Christmas, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, Raymonda, Harlequinade Pas de Deux, Calles de Tango, Waltz for Two, Divenire, Fairy Doll, Degas, the Ocean and Pearls, and Beethoven. Ms. Laffitte is currently a dancer with Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami since joining in 2018. Ms. Laffitte appears as a guest artist courtesy of Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami.





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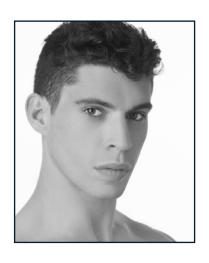
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RYAN NICOLAS DeALEXANDRO Sugarpium Cavatier

Ryan Nicolas DeAlexandro, was born and raised in Akron, Ohio where he studied ballet at the University of Akron Dance Institute. His training continued at the School of American Ballet in NYC, where he was inspired by some of Balanchine's stars: Jock Soto, Susan Pilarre, Andrei Kramarevsky, Arch Higgins, and Peter Frame.

In 2013, Ryan accepted a trainee position with Ballet San Jose in San Jose, CA. In 2015, Under the direction of José Manuel Carreño, Ryan was promoted to Ballet San Jose's Corps de Ballet. He continued to work for many prestigious companies including Smuin Ballet, Company C, Western Ballet, Ballet Memphis, Verb Ballets, Ballet Palm Beach, and Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami. His experiences on the stage include repertoire by George Balanchine, Alicia Alonso, Twyla Tharp, Jorma Elo, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Ohad Naharin, Trey McIntyre, Roland Petit, Ben Stevenson, and Heinz Poll.



A GUIDE TO WATCHING BALLET FOR

Our Young Friends

Welcome to The Columbus Ballet's production of The Nutcracker! We hope you have fun at today's performance and that you will come back to see us many times in the future. There are a few things to know that will help you get the most out of your experience.

Once the music starts it is important to be quiet. The music is a big part of the performance, and we want you and the rest of the audience to be able to enjoy it.

Don't distract others from what's happening on stage, we all want to enjoy the show.

Do not eat while you're in your seat – if you get hungry, wait until the intermission or after the performance to get a snack.

Do your best to sit still and not disturb those around you.

There are a lot of things to notice while you're watching a ballet.

During the intermission, you can ask questions about the ballet, and you can talk with your parents or friends about what you liked best.

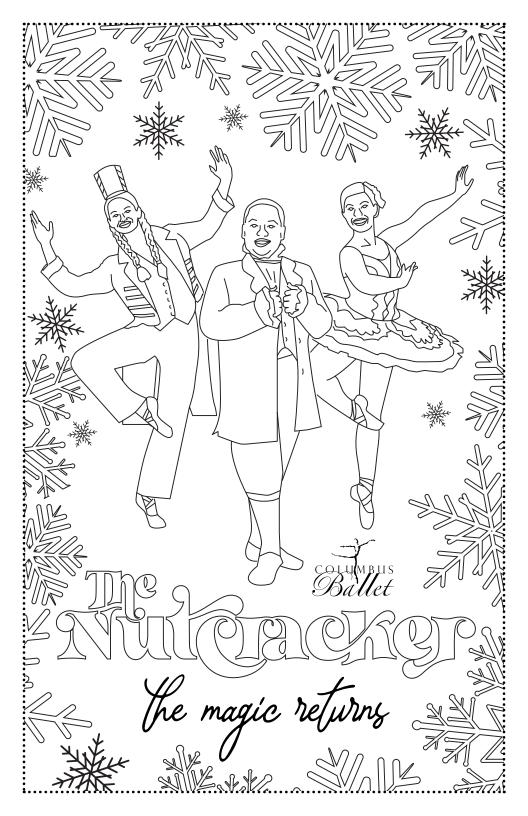
Maybe you know the music already and can't wait for your favorite part. Of course you can always just sit back and enjoy the wonderful dancing!

If you listen carefully, you can pick out different instruments in the orchestra or you can watch to see how the dancers respond when the music gets faster or slower.

Pick out your favorite costumes or decide which scene you like the most. Even after you get home, there are ways to continue to enjoy the ballet. Draw pictures of the dancers, or make up your own costumes. Listen to the music to help you remember what you saw, or maybe you will want to learn ballet!

We want you to have a great time at the ballet and we hope to see you again soon!

Thank you for coming!



The Story

Δ	C	Г 1			

The story involves a young girl named Clara, her magical godfather, Dr. Drosselmeyer, and his nephew, Natan. At a family Christmas party, Dr. Drosselmeyer captivates the guests with live size dancing toys. Later, he presents Clara with the gift of a beautiful Nutcracker. Clara is delighted with her gift! That night after the party has ended, she sneaks back downstairs to be with her Nutcracker doll.

The clock strikes twelve as Clara's dreams begin to come alive! Dr. Drosselmeyer appears and the Christmas tree magically begins to grow. Suddenly, Clara is frightened by a group of mice who appear out of nowhere. As if by magic, the Nutcracker comes alive to defend her by summoning the rest of the toy soldiers. After a battle against the powerful Mouse Queen, Clara saves her Nutcracker and strikes the villain with her shoe. Defeated, the mice slink away, leaving the Nutcracker to transform into a dashing prince. He leads Clara through the Snow King and Queen's kingdom, into the Land of Sweets.

ACT 2

Arriving at the Land of Sweets, Clara and the Prince are met by an array of delicious treats. The pair recount their tale of bravery and victory over the mice and their queen. As a celebration, the treats dance for the pair to honor their achievements. Beginning with Hot Chocolate, the festival continues with Coffee, Tea, Marzipan, Pryaniki, Mother Ginger and her Polichinelles and the Waltz of The Flowers. Finally, the Sugarplum Fairy and her Cavalier appear to dance a Grand Pas De Deux. After bidding Clara and the Prince farewell, the duo depart, ready to see where this adventure will take them.





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THE NUTCRACKER 2021 PRESENTED BY THE COLUMBUS BALLET

Music by: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Conductor: **Paul Hostetter**Assistant Conductor: **Ying Xu**

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Artistic Director: **Kylie Casino**Ballet Mistress: **Sarah Dorough**Stage Manager: **Allison Cash**Assistant State Manager: **Ian Rossin**

Technical Director: **John Davis** Lighting Director: **Sulaiman**

As-Salaam

Wardrobe Mistress: Martha Powers
Props Mistress: Shannon Klein

Head of Boutique: Mary Roddenbery

YDC's Artistic Director:

Bridget Adams

YDC's Administrative Director:

Laura Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator:

Laurie Carwile

Photography: **Kenny Gray Joseph Berger, B Reel Film**

DeDe Wilson

Graphic Design: Sunshine Creative

Marketing: Yalla PR

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Kylie Casino: Act I, Act II Opening, Tea, Pryaniki, Marzipan, Mother Ginger and Polichinelles, Waltz of The

Flowers, Act II Finale

Sarah Dorough: Hot Chocolate and

Coffee

Grand Pas De Deux, Cavalier's
Variation, Dance of The Sugarplum
Fairy and Coda all staged by Ryan
Nicolas DeAlexandro and Meisy

Garcia Laffitte

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Sicong Chen		
Benjamin Garrett		

Yuchen Sun Cale Brandon Kangin Joo

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Emma Markel
Lily West
Ana Dinis
Sam Vaillancourt

Elena Kolkbrek, principal

Kamisha Botts

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BASSOON

Erik Lopez Reyes, principal

FRENCH HORN

Camron Bryant, principal

Alex Hamm

TRUMPET

Wilson Childers, principal

principa Tao Ge

TROMBONE

Bradley Palmer, principal

TIMPANI

Carlos Ochoa principal

PERCUSSION

Flavio Rapalo Espino, principal

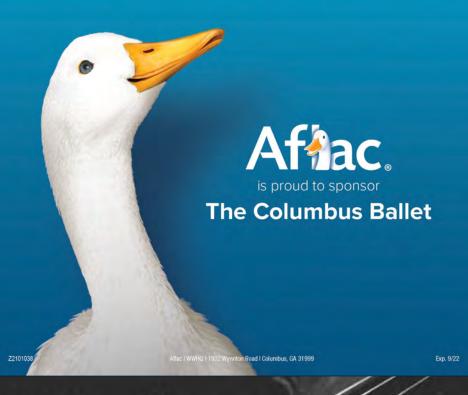
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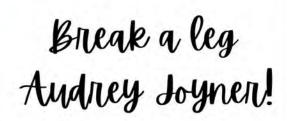
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We love you,

Mama, Daddy, Anderson, and George





We love watching you dance and are so proud of your hard work and determination!

Love Mom and Bad

Thank You

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Dance Sponsorship and Donor Opportunities 2021-2022 Season

Members of The Columbus Ballet Balletomanes are our Partners in Performance! Your contribution helps support the artistic and educational mission of the Columbus Ballet by underwriting the production and administrative costs of *The Nutcracker*, our annual Spring Show and our outreach presentations. All donations may be tax deductible as permitted by law.

Balletomane: A devotee of ballet! From the Russian word "baletoman," which combines "balet" (ballet) and the suffix-man, from "maniya" (meaning "mania").

THE IMPRESARIOS -

Season Lead Sponsor \$15,000

- Name recognition as a lead sponsor in media and a full-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring).
- · Private screening of Nutcracker dress rehearsal
- 20 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 50% discount off list price
- Special invitation to Columbus Ballet class and rehearsal
- Columbus Ballet merchandise package
- · Dinner with the Director and Board members

THE BALLETMASTERS –

Lead Sponsor \$10,000

- Name recognition in media and full-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring)
- 20 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 50% discount off list price
- Special invitation to Columbus Ballet class and rehearsal
- Columbus Ballet merchandise package

THE CHOREOGRAPHERS –

\$5,000

- Name recognition in media and full-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring)
- 10 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 50% discount off list price
- Special invitation to Columbus Ballet class and rehearsal
- Columbus Ballet merchandise package

THE CONDUCTORS – \$2,500

- Name recognition in media and half-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring)
- 10 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 25% discount off list price
- Columbus Ballet decal

THE PRINCIPALS – \$1,000

- Name recognition in media and half-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring)
- 6 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 25% discount off list price
- · Columbus Ballet decal

THE FIRST SOLOISTS – \$500

- Name recognition in media and quarter-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring)
- 4 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 25% discount off list price
- · Columbus Ballet decal

THE CORPS DE BALLET - \$250

- Name recognition and quarter-page ad in program (Nutcracker and Spring)
- 2 complimentary tickets to The Nutcracker and Spring production; additional tickets may be purchased for 25% discount off list price
- · Columbus Ballet decal

THE APPRENTICES - \$100

- · Name recognition in program
- · Columbus Ballet decal



FRIENDS AND FAMILY DONATION FORM

The Columbus Ballet's 2021-2022 Season

Deadline for 2021 Charitable Contribution - December 31

The Columbus Ballet greatly appreciates donations received from family and friends of its performers. All donations may be tax deductible for the year given and the donation levels are listed below. The Ballet accepts donations online at **thecolumbusballet.net**, by check payable to "The Columbus Ballet" and mailed to The Columbus Ballet, P.O. Box 9563, Columbus, GA 31908, or by texting COLUMBUSBALLET to 44321.

Please choose one of the following	g contribution levels:
☐ \$15,000 Impresarios	☐ \$500 First Soloists
☐ \$10,000 Balletmasters	☐ \$250 Corps De Ballet
☐ \$5,000 Choreographers	☐ \$100 Apprentices
□ \$2,500 Conductors	☐ Other: \$
☐ \$1,000 Principals	
3.1	rm and include with your donation:
Phone Fm	ail

Thank you for your continued support of The Columbus Ballet!

The Columbus Ballet is a IRC Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donation may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.





A COLLABORATIVE BENEFIT FOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREATER COLUMBUS, VOICES OF THE VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHORUS, & THE COLUMBUS BALLET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | 4 P.M.

Rainey-McCullers School of the Arts Theater
Please visit yogc.org to purchase tickets.

