



Nutcracker for Kids!

Saturday, Dec. 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 @ 11:30 a.m.

Visions of sugarplums are sure to dance in your heads during today's delightful Christmas ballet, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, presented in a special condensed version designed just for kids! This performance will culminate with a cheerful visit from Santa and a delightful holiday sing-along.

Lobby Activities: Enjoy special activities for kids in the concert hall lobbies related to the theme of the concert, including a coloring station, craft station, celeste test drive, and photo station. Activities start at 9 a.m. (for 10 a.m. concertgoers), and 12:15 p.m. (for 11:30 a.m. concertgoers.)





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Presents Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings

Jacob Sustaita, conductor
Festival Ballet Theatre – Salwa Rizkalla, artistic director
Joe Lauderdale, stage director/scriptwriter
Juliet Fischer, Aurelia, the Christmas Sprite
Pacific Symphony



Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts | Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

PROGRAM

TCHAIKOVSKY

Nutcracker for Kids

The Christmas Tree & March

Arrival of Drosselmeyer

Clara's Gift

The Battle

A Pine Forest in Winter

(Journey through the Snow)

Divertissement:

The Spanish Dance (Chocolate)

The Russian Dance (Candy Canes)

Dance of the Reed Flutes

Waltz of the Flowers

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Final Waltz and Grand Finale



VARIOUS

Holiday Sing Along

Chanukah Song ("The Dreidel Song")

Selections from A Very Merry Sing Along



WELCOME TO THE NUTCRACKER FOR KIDS!

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to **welcome** you all to our performance of Tchaikovsky's **The Nutcracker for Kids!** Many of you know that this is my favorite time of the year, and The Nutcracker is one of my all-time favorite pieces. I am your conductor, **Dr. Jacob Sustaita**, and it is an honor to share the stage with the **fantastic musicians** of **Pacific Symphony** as well as the **incredible dancers** from **Festival Ballet Theatre** in this production designed just for you.



For me, the holiday season is not complete until I experience **The Nutcracker**. This holiday favorite is full of **fantasy** and **wonder**. From beginning to end, Tchaikovsky takes us to a world where **toys** and **sweets** come to life and **mice** dance alongside **sugar plum fairies**. Our **Spotlight Instruments** for this concert belong to the **percussion section** and include the **tambourine**, a **ratchet**, and **bells**. Each percussion instrument represents a feeling or character in the story. What percussion instrument is your favorite?

Sit back and enjoy this **musical adventure**, and we might be visited by a special guest later this morning! Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with us, and I hope to see you at our next performance on **March 16** when we present **Carnival of the Animals**. You don't want to miss this captivating performance!

From all of us at Pacific Symphony – may your holidays and new year be filled with joy and cheer.

Celebrating music and life,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Jacob Sustaita'.

Dr. Jacob Sustaita
Assistant Conductor



ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Jacob Sustaita

Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony

Music Director for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Mary E. Moore Family Assistant Conductor Chair



Dr. Jacob Sustaita serves as the Assistant Conductor for Pacific Symphony and Music Director Carl St.Clair, a position he has held since the fall of 2020. Dr. Sustaita also serves as Music Director and Conductor for Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO), the premier training orchestra of Orange County, recognized as one of the most outstanding youth orchestras in the country.

Dr. Sustaita is the newly appointed Orchestra Director for the Orange County School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. In the fall of 2021 and 2022, Sustaita served as Acting Director of Orchestras at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). From 2015-20, he led the Sam Houston State University Symphony, Chamber, Ballet, and Opera Orchestras as Director of Orchestral Studies. In 2016, Sustaita and the Symphony Orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version) with high praise from the American and European Bruckner Societies.

Dr. Sustaita is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country. In 2015, Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute to serve as Assistant Conductor for Charles Dutoit and the National Youth Orchestra of America (NYO). Sustaita regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on their seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong.

A native of Texas, Sustaita completed his Doctorate and Bachelor of Music degrees at the University of Houston, where he served as Assistant Conductor for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He also earned a Master of Music degree from both Penn State University and Rice University.

His honors include: Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Carl St.Clair, Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Festival Ballet Theatre (FBT) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1988 by Salwa Rizkalla. Its mission is to enrich Orange County's artistic and economic vitality, to inspire love and appreciation for dance, and to invigorate ballet by:

- Presenting a season of exhilarating classical and contemporary performances,
- Providing a nurturing environment for dancers and choreographers,
- Offering stimulating educational outreach programs.

Festival Ballet Theatre has performed at a variety of Orange County venues including Irvine Barclay Theatre, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Robert B. Moore Theatre, Karen & Richard Carpenter Center, Historic Huntington Beach High School Auditorium and more. FBT collaborates with other prestigious Orange County organizations and events including Pacific Symphony,

Festival of Children at South Coast Plaza and Imagination Celebration.

Southland Ballet Academy, founded 1983, is the official school of Festival Ballet Theatre. Named one of the Top 7 Producing Schools in the nation by *Pointe Magazine*, Southland Ballet Academy provides elite Russian Vaganova technique ballet training in a creative and nurturing environment. Southland Ballet Academy graduates have gone on to dance professionally in renowned ballet companies across the globe. Arts Orange County named Festival Ballet Theatre Outstanding Arts Organization of the Year in 2001, and also recognized Artistic Director Salwa Rizkalla with the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award in 2014. Youth America Grand Prix has recognized Southland Ballet Academy with its Outstanding School Award & Outstanding Teacher Award multiple times since its inception in 1999.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Artistic Director
Salwa Rizkalla
has been firmly
committed to
developing the art of
ballet and the future
of dance in Orange
County.**



For more than 40 years, Ms. Rizkalla has presented the finest classical and contemporary repertoire ranging from full-length classical ballets to world-premiere contemporary works through Festival Ballet Theatre.

During her professional dancing career, Ms. Rizkalla graced the stage in leading roles in well-known classical ballets as well as contemporary pieces. She had the privilege of working under the direction of world-renowned choreographers Leonid Lavrovsky and Serge Lifar. As a young dancer, Ms. Rizkalla trained in the Russian Vaganova method. As the culmination of her training, Ms. Rizkalla completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ballet Pedagogy. She established Southland Ballet Academy in 1983 and debuted Festival Ballet Theatre in 1988. In addition to teaching and directing, Ms. Rizkalla was a faculty member of several area institutions. Many arts organizations have recognized her service. The Orange County Music and Arts Administrators and Orange County Performing Arts Center jointly presented her the Orange County Arts Educator of the Year Award for Secondary Dance (2003); Youth America Grand Prix awarded Ms. Rizkalla Outstanding Teacher accolades since its inception; and Arts Orange County recognized Ms. Rizkalla with the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award (2014). Ms.

Rizkalla was named one of OC's 100 Most Influential in 2017 by the OC Register.

Ms. Rizkalla has been honored to impact the lives of hundreds of students and their families through her teaching. She is proud to be a dedicated educator, an energetic promoter of the arts, and an active participant in the cultural life of her community.

**Joe Lauderdale
has written and
directed several
Family Musical
Mornings concerts
including *Dinosaurs!*,**



Superheroes, Symphony in Space, Halloween Masquerade, Halloween Goes Hollywood, Video Game Odyssey, Nutcracker for Kids and The Great Outdoors. He also writes and directs the Prelude Assembly for Class Act, a Pacific Symphony partnership program that goes into selected elementary schools. Mr. Lauderdale was the Youth Theatre Director at the Laguna Playhouse for 17 years where he directed and produced more than 60 productions during his time. He was honored by the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) with the Youth Theatre Director of the Year Award in 2001. His other writing credits include adaptations of *The Summer of the Swans, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Tom Sawyer* and *Cut*, as well as the original works *Lost Children* and *Tyler/Trevor/Kyle*. For No Square Theatre in Laguna Beach he has directed such productions as *Ruthless, Xanadu, [title of show], The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Avenue Q* and two Stephen Sondheim shows - *A Little Night Music* and *Into the Woods*.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Juliet Fischer was most recently seen singing and dancing in the Netflix movie *The Prom* opposite Meryl Streep and James Corden. She performed her one



woman show *My Midlife Cabaret* at Sterlings Upstairs in Los Angeles, after finishing a sold out run in Laguna.

Her credits include the Broadway and Touring shows of *Chicago*, *On the Town*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *My*

Favorite Broadway at Carnegie Hall. She was also a Radio City Music Hall Rockette. Her favorite roles include: Tanya in *Mamma Mia*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Violet in *9 to 5*, Velma in *Chicago*, Cassie in *A Chorus Line*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, and Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*. She holds a degree in Theater Film and Television from UCLA Film and TV. Credits include: *Omar at Dinner*, *Lemonade*, *Driven*, *Windfall* (recurring), *One Life to Live*, and *Crazy For You* on PBS (as the toe tapping Mitzi). Special thanks to Doug, Jackson and Cole for always supporting me!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMPOSER

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky is one of the most famous Romantic composers from Russia.



He was born in 1840. His mother and father were both trained in the arts, and he started learning how to play piano at age six! Even though he worked as a clerk in the Ministry of

Justice, Tchaikovsky would quit this job to follow his passion—music!

He went to school full time to study **composition** and would also teach classes. Tchaikovsky wrote many different types of music including **symphonies, concertos, and string quartets.**

However, he is most known for his famous **ballets: *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*.**

Thank You!

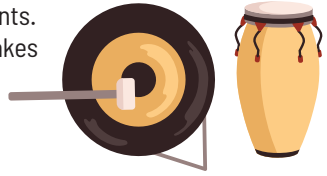
Pacific Symphony thanks the following for their generous contributions of time to Family Musical Mornings and Heartstrings: Pacific Symphony League arts-X-press Alumni Volunteers in Education

If you would like to volunteer for Pacific Symphony events, please contact Director of Volunteer Services, Abby Edmunds at aedmunds@pacificsymphony.org or (714) 876-2353 for more information.



SPOTLIGHT ON PERCUSSION

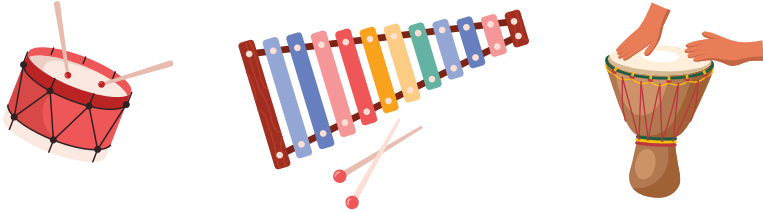
Of all the instrument families in the orchestra, the **percussion family** has the widest variety of instruments. This is because percussion includes anything that makes a sound when it is **shaken, scraped, or hit**.



Instruments like the **tambourine** and the **maracas** are shaken, while the **güiro** is **scraped with a stick** to make sound.



Keyboards and all kinds of **drums** are **hit with drumsticks, mallets, or hands**.



Even more percussion instruments, like the **cymbals** or **castanets**, make sound when you **hit them together**.

Everyday things you might not think of—like **pots, buckets**, or even mechanical items like a **ratchet**—can also be used as percussion instruments!



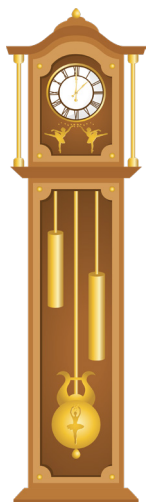
The Nutcracker features many percussion instruments throughout the different dances. Each instrument helps add to the story of *The Nutcracker*, representing different characters from the ballet. For example, a **ratchet** makes the Nutcracker's sound, while the **tambourine** helps make the dancing dolls come to life.

Perhaps the most recognizable percussion instrument in *The Nutcracker* is the **celeste**, a **keyboard** instrument that represents the Sugar Plum Fairy with its **light, high-pitched sound**. Listen for these and many other percussion instruments as you watch today's concert!



NUTCRACKER WORD SEARCH

S	E	K	A	L	F	W	O	N	S	A	I	O	M
N	E	U	O	L	E	B	A	L	L	E	T	L	O
A	F	A	I	R	I	E	S	O	A	R	C	E	U
R	F	N	U	T	C	R	A	C	K	E	R	N	S
N	U	B	E	S	T	D	I	O	Z	F	A	I	E
R	G	Y	K	S	V	O	K	I	A	H	C	T	K
Y	F	R	I	T	Z	W	S	I	A	D	O	N	I
N	S	R	E	O	L	O	L	A	A	A	A	E	N
N	L	T	U	L	O	M	L	C	R	E	C	S	G
U	W	F	I	E	T	D	O	S	L	I	M	I	S
B	S	T	B	R	R	U	D	T	M	A	L	A	O
S	U	G	A	R	P	L	U	M	S	W	R	I	C
C	L	G	S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	E	A	K
E	E	S	I	U	O	L	F	E	T	U	O	S	A



Sugar Plum
Tchaikovsky
Bunny
Ballet
Soldiers



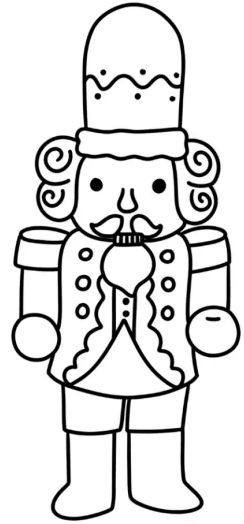
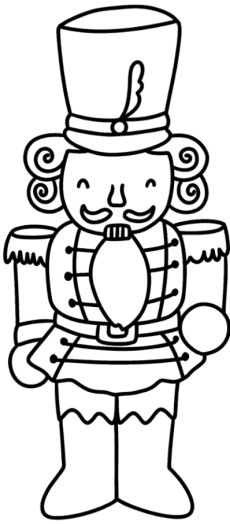
Fritz
Mice
Sentinel
Snowflakes
Mouse King



Louise
Dolls
Owl
Nutcracker
Fairies
Clara



COLORING AND MAZE FUN



Thank You

Today's production of **Nutcracker for Kids!**
is generously sponsored by Farmers and Merchants Bank.

F&M's steadfast annual support for Pacific Symphony Family Musical Mornings
is a testament of their commitment to serving their communities
by funding arts and educational programs.

We are proud to partner with Farmers and Merchants and look forward
to many more years of music-making with their gracious support.



CARL ST. CLAIR (LEFT) WITH W. HENRY WALKER, PRESIDENT, FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK,
AT PACIFIC SYMPHONY'S 2022 OPENING NIGHT GALA AT THE RENÉE AND HENRY SEGERSTROM CONCERT HALL.

