



**BIRMINGHAM  
ROYAL BALLET**

*Director David Bintley CBE*

**H BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME**

Thursday 30 November 2017

Sir Peter Wright's production of

# **The Nutcracker**

*Music* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;

*Choreography* Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;

*Designs* John F. Macfarlane; *Lighting* David A. Finn

<i>The Sugar Plum Fairy</i>	<b>Céline Gittens</b>
<i>The Prince</i>	<b>Brandon Lawrence</b>
<i>Drosselmeyer, a magician</i>	<b>Jonathan Payn</b>
<i>Clara, a ballet student</i>	<b>Reina Fuchigami</b>

## **ACT I**

<i>The Magician's Assistant</i>	<b>Tzu-Chao Chou</b>
<i>Clara's Mother, a former ballerina</i>	<b>Daria Stanciulescu</b>
<i>Clara's Father</i>	<b>Dominic Antonucci</b>
<i>Fritz, Clara's younger brother</i>	<b>Max Blackwell</b>
<i>Clara's Dancing Partner</i>	<b>Max Maslen</b>
<i>Grandmother</i>	<b>Marion Tait</b>
<i>Grandfather</i>	<b>Feergus Campbell</b>
<i>Butler</i>	<b>Harry Wright</b>
<i>Harlequin</i>	<b>Gus Payne</b>
<i>Columbine</i>	<b>Beatrice Parma</b>
<i>Jack-in-the-Box</i>	<b>Lachlan Monaghan</b>
<i>Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>
<i>Children</i>	<b>Junior Associates of the Royal Ballet School, Students and Birmingham Associates of Elmhurst Ballet School</b>
<i>The Nutcracker Doll</i>	<b>Tzu-Chao Chou</b>
<i>King Rat</i>	<b>Tom Rogers</b>
<i>Soldiers</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>
<i>Rats</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>
<i>The Snow Fairy</i>	<b>Yijing Zhang</b>
<i>Her Attendants</i>	<b>Maureya Lebowitz Miki Mizutani, Yaoqian Shang, Alys Shee</b>
<i>Winds</i>	<b>Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Miles Gilliver, Brogan McKelvey</b>
<i>Snowflakes</i>	<b>Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet</b>

## **INTERVAL**

### **BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET GIFTS**

LIMITED EDITION PRINTS | MUGS | KEY RINGS  
and more...

Available in the foyer, in front of the Box Office

### **THE NUTCRACKER 2018**

23 November – 13 December

Ensure next year's Christmas gets off to a cracking start

**Booking open now**

## ACT II

<i>Spanish Dance</i>	Ruth Brill, Gabriel Anderson, Kit Holder
<i>Arabian Dance</i>	Daria Stanciulescu, Feargus Campbell, Miles Gilliver, Harry Wright
<i>Chinese Dance</i>	Aitor Galende, Hamish Scott
<i>Russian Dance</i>	Max Maslen, Gus Payne, Aaron Venegas
<i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i>	Laura Day, Miki Mizutani, Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo

### Waltz of the Flowers

<i>The Rose Fairy</i>	Yaoqian Shang
<i>Her Consorts</i>	Tim Dutson, Haoliang Feng, Tom Rogers, Edivaldo Souza da Silva
<i>Leading Flowers</i>	Ruth Brill, Brooke Ray, Alys Shee, Yijing Zhang
<i>Grand pas de deux</i>	Céline Gittens, Brandon Lawrence

*Students on the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Director of the Royal Ballet School.  
Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme and the Cecil King Memorial Foundation Studentship appear by kind permission of the  
Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst Ballet School*

*The choristers in Act I are members of Ex Cathedra's Academies of Vocal Music, Artistic Director Jeffrey Skidmore.*

## Royal Ballet Sinfonia

*Conductor* Koen Kessels; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



### Approximate timings

*Act I* 50 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 50 minutes  
*The performance will end at approximately 9.40pm*

## THE STORY

### ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have two children, Clara, a ballet student, and her younger brother, Fritz. As well as some of Clara's friends, Mrs Stahlbaum has invited a magician, Drosselmeyer. He brings gifts for the children and gives a Nutcracker doll to Clara.

When the guests have departed, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, the room seems to grow and giant rats, led by their King, attack Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe. The Nutcracker falls to the ground, seemingly lifeless and Clara tries to revive him. As he comes back to life, to her amazement, he has turned into a handsome Prince. He dances with her, then leads her to the Land of Snow where the winds transport her into the night sky.

### ACT II

Clara flies through the clouds and arrives in a strange place where a fantastic world is conjured up by Drosselmeyer. He shows her the sun, the moon, flowers and dancers from many different lands. The Rat King bursts in, but the Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer banish him forever.

Drosselmeyer now puts on a grand entertainment in Clara's honour as a reward for her bravery. She joins in many of the dances and is finally transformed into the Sugar Plum Fairy, the ballerina of her dreams. The Nutcracker Prince reappears and dances with her. As the dancing reaches its climax the dream-world vanishes and Clara awakens at the foot of the Christmas tree.

### THE BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

If you have enjoyed this performance, why not play your part in the creation of new ballets. Donations through the Big Give will be doubled from 28 November until midday 5 December, so please support us if you can – thank you.

[www.brb.org.uk/BigGive](http://www.brb.org.uk/BigGive)

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helping your donations go further