

Opera Philharmonic Ballet

The Nutcracker

Act I

Scene 1: Preparing for the Christmas Party

- As the curtain comes up, we see Mother and Father getting ready for the Christmas party by putting pretty dolls and instruments under the tree.
- Clara and Fritz are excited to see the Christmas decorations. They try to peek through the door to see the decorations. Their loving nanny tries to keep them from sneaking in.

Scene 2: The Guests Arrive

- A special guest comes to the party. He is a special magician, Drosselmeyer. He can make things appear and disappear.
- Many families come to the party as well. Everyone dances and has a wonderful time.

Scene 3: The Presentation of the Nutcracker

- Drosselmeyer has special treats for the children. He makes a life-size ballerina doll and a soldier doll dance for them.
- Afterwards, he presents Clara with a beautiful Nutcracker doll.
- Fritz is very jealous and tries to break the Nutcracker doll.

Scene 4: Getting Ready for Bed

- The little girls put their dolls to sleep with a lullaby, but the little boys wake them with their drums and horns.
- Soon after, everyone is tired and goes home.

Scene 5: Drosselmeyer's Magic

- After everyone goes to bed, little rats come out to eat the crumbs left over from the party.
- Clara goes to the Christmas tree to get her Nutcracker. The clock rings 12 times, and she gets scared and jumps into a chair.
- Drosselmeyer comes back into the house. He puts Clara to sleep. With his magic powers, he makes everything (Christmas tree, Clock, and Door) in the house grow tall, including the Nutcracker doll.

Scene 6: The Battle

- After Drosselmeyer leaves, the rats come back, led by the ugly Rat King.
- A battle ensues. As the rats and soldiers fight, you will hear horn and drum sounds.
- The Nutcracker and his toy soldiers save Clara from the Rat King.

Scene 7: The Nutcracker Becomes a Prince

- As a reward, Drosselmeyer turns the Nutcracker doll into a prince.
- He then leads them into the snow forest where snowflakes live and are led by the beautiful Snow King and Queen.
- At the end, the Nutcracker Prince takes Clara to the Land of Sweets in a sleigh, everyone waves good-bye, and the curtain comes down.

15-Minute Intermission

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Act I Characters



Mother & Father at the Party



Clara & Nutcracker Doll



Drosselmeyer



The Nutcracker & Soldiers



Rat King



Drosselmeyer's Dolls



Snow King & Queen



Snowflakes

Act II Characters



Chocolate from Spain



Sugar Plum Fairy & Cavalier



Coffee from Arabia



Tea from China



Mother Ginger



Candy Canes from Russia



Marzipan from Denmark



Flowers

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Act II

Scene 8: The Land of Sweets

- The Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier, and her attendants await the arrival of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince.
- After hearing about Clara's adventures with the Rat King, the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier ask Clara and the Nutcracker Prince to be their guests at a celebration.
- Many different people from all over the world reward Clara with a beautiful dessert and a dance.

Scene 9: Back at Clara's House

- Drosselmeyer comes to take Clara home at the end of the celebration.
- Was this a dream or Drosselmeyer's Christmas magic?
- The curtain comes down.

Curtain Call

- The curtain comes back up. (Applause!)
- The performers take a bow. (Clapping continues!)