

DAYTON MEMORIAL AND ALLIANCE  
Ballet

# THE NUTCRACKER



## ACT I

### **Drosselmeyer's Shop**

As the Curtain comes up, we see Drosselmeyer working in his Toy Store in Downtown Dayton, OH. (Early 1900s) It's Christmas Eve in Downtown Dayton, and Clara Stahlbaum, her brother Fritz, and their father visit Drosselmeyer's toy store for holiday shopping. Clara is captivated by a Nutcracker figurine but decides on a beautiful new doll instead. Empathetic to her desire for both, her father secretly asks Drosselmeyer to bring the Nutcracker and other toys to their Christmas party that evening.

### **Stahlbaum Family Party**

Later, at the Stahlbaum family home, preparations are underway for the Christmas celebration. As guests arrive, the children excitedly admire the gifts under the tree. Drosselmeyer arrives and enchants the partygoers with magic before introducing two life-sized dolls that dance to everyone's delight. Among his gifts, he presents Clara with the Nutcracker. Fritz, overcome with jealousy, breaks the doll, but Drosselmeyer repairs it, much to Clara's relief.

### **Battle Scene**

After the party, the family goes to bed. Unable to resist checking on her Nutcracker, Clara sneaks back to the living room. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. Mice scurry about, and under Drosselmeyer's magical influence, the Christmas tree, fireplace, presents, and the Nutcracker grow to enormous sizes. Clara finds herself face-to-face with an army of rats led by the fearsome Rat King. The Nutcracker, now life-sized, leads an army of toy soldiers into battle. The fight reaches a critical point, but Clara's courage helps the Nutcracker defeat the Rat King.

**Land of Snow**

As a reward, Drosselmeyer transforms the Nutcracker into a prince, and Clara magically becomes older. Together, they journey to an enchanted snow forest, where snowflakes dance around them. The beautiful Snow King and Queen greeted them warmly. At the end, Drosselmeyer and the Nutcracker Prince take Clara into the Land of Time. Everyone waves good-bye, and the curtain comes down.

**ACT I Characters**



Nutcracker Prince



Party Mothers, Fathers, and Children



Rat King



Mayor and Mrs. Stahlbaum, Clara and Fritz



Mice



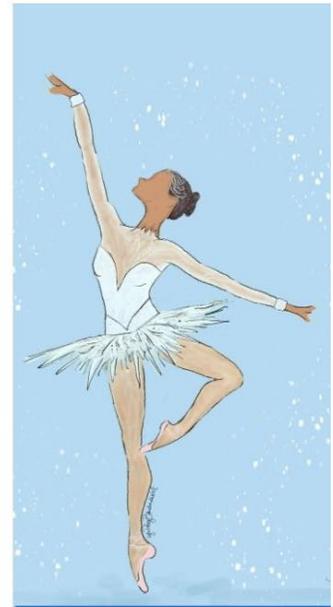
Soldiers



Snowflakes



Snow King



Snow Queen

Drosselmeyer, Cook, Maids, Sugar Plum Doll, Nutcracker Prince Doll, Rats

## 20 minute Intermission

### ACT II Characters



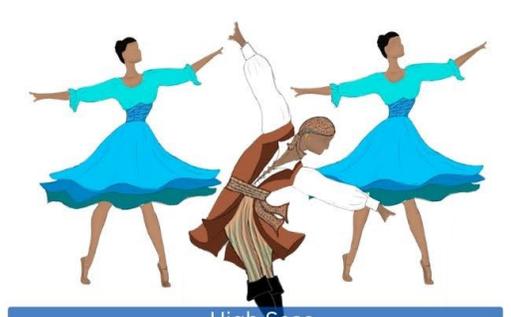
Sugar Plum Fairy



Angels



Flower



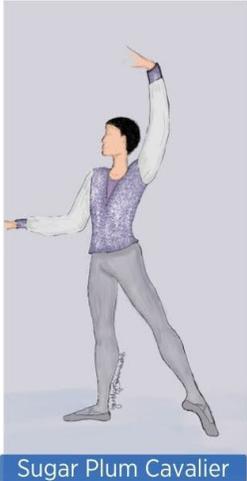
High Seas



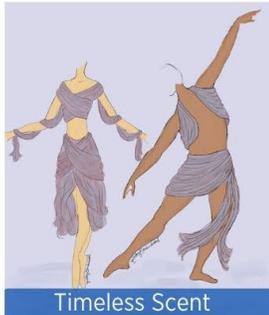
Mother Time



Clouds



Sugar Plum Cavalier



Timeless Scent



Butterfly



Dew Drop



Porcelain Dolls

## ACT II

### **Land of Time**

Their adventure continues into the Land of Time, a magical realm in which the pair explore history through dance. Clara and the Nutcracker Prince are greeted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, her Cavalier, angels, and clouds. After recounting their victory over the Rat King, Clara and the Prince are honored with a spectacular celebration. Court Jesters, Pirates, Porcelain Dolls, Mother Time, Dew Drop, and others perform dazzling dances, representing various moments in history.

As the celebration concludes, Drosselmeyer escorts Clara home. She wakes up on Christmas morning, once again her young self, unsure if her magical adventure was a dream or a gift of Drosselmeyer's Christmas magic.

The curtain comes down.

### **Curtain Call**

The curtain comes back up. (Applause!)

The performers take a bow. (Clapping continues!)