

Opera Philharmonic Ballet



We're glad that you will be joining us at the sensory-friendly performance of Dayton Ballet's *The Nutcracker* on Wednesday, December 17th at 2:30 p.m. at the Schuster Center. This document will help answer questions you may have about the performance and will also provide additional information about some of the holiday activities taking place at the theatre.

What makes this performance sensory-friendly?

It features a judgment-free environment for individuals and families with a loved one with autism spectrum disorder, sensory sensitivities, or other special needs. All ages are welcome! Adaptations to the performance include

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- Dimmed house lights (50% brightness during the entire performance).
- Lower sound levels.
- Elimination of startling special effects and lighting.

Other ways we are making the experience special:

- 2 Designated quiet areas
- Ushers available throughout the Schuster Center to assist patrons
- Trained and informed dancers, staff, ushers, and other volunteers to ensure a memorable experience for you and your family
- Trained interventionists to assist families
- Family restrooms

On the day of the performance the doors to the Schuster Center's Theatre will open at **2:00 pm** and the performance will begin at **2:30 pm**. The performance has two acts; each act is about 45 minutes with a 20-minute intermission in between.

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What should we expect when we arrive for the performance?

First, remember that it is the holiday season and that the Schuster Center will be decorated for the holidays. The Wintergarden is a large, open space with high ceilings, windows, and palm trees growing indoors. The Wintergarden is open to the public and is where the Rike's holiday window boxes are located. Each unique holiday box features different animated scenes that depict Santa's workshop, families, and woodland creatures enjoying winter festivities.

The Ballet Boutique will be open the day of the performance.

Additional information that will be of help on your trip to the theatre can be located on our [website](#). The site contains a walk through video of the Schuster Center, a Social Narrative, Nonvisual and Visual Checklists, and a Sequence of Events and Characters.

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How do we get there?

The Schuster Center is in the heart of the downtown Dayton arts district at **1 W 2nd St, Dayton, OH 45402**. Click [here](#) for directions.

Where do I park?

The day of the performance will be a regular business day in downtown Dayton, so please plan to allow time to find parking. The best, most convenient, and most secure option is **The Arts Garage at Second and Ludlow Streets**. The cost of event parking is \$10. It's easy-in on either Ludlow Street or Second Street. Metered parking is also available, as well as other nearby options. A map of all downtown parking is available [here](#) on the Downtown Dayton Partnership's parking webpage.

Where can we drop someone off?

The best place to drop off a passenger at the Schuster Center is on the Second Street side of the building.

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What if I need additional accommodations?

Please feel free to bring your own booster seat, devices (tablet or laptop), snacks (no nuts, please), headphones, fidgets, and so on. Food is permitted in the theatre, eating is also permissible in the Wintergarden and Schuster Center lobby. A limited number of headphones and fidgets will be available on site. No booster seats will be available.

There are 2 quiet areas and a family restroom and an adult changing table available should you need them.

Dress comfortably, but be aware that the theatre can be chilly, so a sweater or jacket may be needed.

How do we pick up our tickets?

Your tickets will be sent to the email address you gave when purchasing your tickets. Digital tickets will be scanned via your phone. Dayton Live has implemented touchless ticket scanning as a health and safety procedure.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 937-228-3630.

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Where can we have lunch or dinner?

A complete list of downtown Dayton restaurants can be found on the [Downtown Dayton Partnership's website](#).

What about snacks?

Concessions will not be sold at this performance, but you are welcome to bring your own snacks (no nuts, please) and bottled water. Snacks are allowed in the theatre.

What if we arrive late?

We'll try to get you to your seats as soon as we can without disrupting the performance for other patrons.

What if it snows?

If the cast and crew are already at the theatre, performances will go on as scheduled except in the event of a [Level 3 Snow Emergency issued by the county sheriff](#). If the cast and/or crew cannot make it here because of weather or other emergencies, performances may be

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canceled. If a performance is canceled because of weather, full refunds will be provided.

May I take photos during the performance?

Because of a variety of reasons—including show contracts, copyright laws and performer safety—please refrain from taking photos during the performance. You may take pictures in the lobby, in the Wintergarden, or outside the Schuster Center.

What else should I know about this sensory-friendly performance?

This performance is the full-length version of *The Nutcracker*, so there will be a 20 minute intermission in between Act I and Act II. Each act is about 45 minutes. This performance has relaxed theatre rules, so families are able to get up during the performance. You should also feel free during intermission to utilize the restrooms, quiet area, or bring a snack.

**Dayton Ballet's sensory-friendly performance of
The Nutcracker is presented in cooperation with Dayton Live.**