

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday 11 December 2025  
Birmingham Hippodrome

## The Nutcracker

**Music** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;  
**Choreography** Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon;  
**Production** Peter Wright; **Designs** John Macfarlane; **Lighting** David Finn  
*These performances are dedicated to the memory of Derek Purnell,  
BRB's Chief Executive (1995 – 2005).*

**The Sugar Plum Fairy** Samara Downs  
**The Prince** Haoliang Feng  
**Drosselmeyer** August Generalli  
*a Magician*  
**Clara** Olivia Chang-Clarke  
*a ballet student*

### ACT I

**The Magician's Assistant** Alfie-Lee Hall  
**Clara's Mother** Eilis Small  
*a former ballerina*  
**Clara's Father** Dominic Antonucci  
**Fritz** Lawson Hateley  
*Clara's younger brother*  
**Clara's Dancing Partner** Ryan Felix  
**Grandmother** Karla Doorbar  
**Grandfather** Jonathan Payn  
**Butler** Rafael Bejarano Vidal  
**Harlequin** Javier Rojas  
**Columbine** Alisa Garkavenko  
**Jack-in-the-Box** Riku Ito  
**Ballet students, Cadets,** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet  
**Guests, Children** Students of Elmhurst Ballet School and  
The Royal Ballet School  
**The Nutcracker Doll** Alfie-Lee Hall  
**The Rat King** Miles Gilliver  
**Soldiers, Rats** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet  
**The Snow Fairy** Amelia Thompson  
**Her Attendants** Frieda Kaden, Hannah Martin,  
Matilde Rodrigues, Yuki Sugiura  
**Winds** Gabriel Anderson, John Fontanini,  
Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg  
**Snowflakes** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

### INTERVAL

## ACT II

<b><i>Spanish Dance</i></b>	<b>Frieda Kaden</b> <b>Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Ixan Llorca Ferrer</b>
<b><i>Arabian Dance</i></b>	<b>Yuki Sugiura</b> <b>Yasiel Hodelin Bello,</b> <b>Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Julian Pecoraro</b>
<b><i>Chinese Dance</i></b>	<b>Alfie Lee Hall, Yuskue Otake</b>
<b><i>Russian Dance</i></b>	<b>John Fontanini, Oisin Middleton,</b> <b>Thomas Kujawa</b>
<b><i>Dance of the Mirlitons</i></b>	<b>Alisa Garkavenko, Airi Kobayashi,</b> <b>Hannah Martin, Yoli Meurisse</b>

### Waltz of the Flowers

<b><i>The Rose Fairy</i></b>	<b>Rosanna Ely</b>
<b><i>Her Consorts</i></b>	<b>Louis Andreassen, Javier Rojas,</b> <b>Ryan Felix, Miles Gilliver</b>
<b><i>Leading Flowers</i></b>	<b>Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,</b> <b>Reina Fuchigami, Eilis Small</b>
<b><i>Grand pas de deux</i></b>	<b>Samara Downs, Haoliang Feng</b>

Students appear by kind permission of the Principal of Elmhurst Ballet School  
and the Principal of The Royal Ballet School.

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

### Approximate timings

*Act I* 50 minutes; *Interval* 25 minutes; *Act II* 50 minutes.

The performance will end at approximately 9.40pm.

## Royal Ballet Sinfonia

*Conductor* Daniel Parkinson

*Leader* Robert Gibbs

### First Violins

Joana Valentinaviciute  
Vanessa David  
Deborah Schlenther  
Philip Aird  
Caroline Ferriman  
Timothy Wilford  
Jake Rea  
Rosemary Henbest  
Catherine Hamer

### Second Violins

Thomas Grundy  
Mary Martin  
Charlotte Dodwell  
Paul Barrett  
Amy Heggart  
Caroline Bodimead  
Daniel Peev  
Zhivko Georgiev

### Violas

Errika Collins  
Carys Barnes  
May Bardsley  
Hannah Horton  
Thomas Kirby

### Cellos

António Novais  
Jane Rainey  
Maya Kashif  
Danushka Edirisinghe  
Toby Turton

### Doubles Bases

Vera Pereira  
Phoebe Cheng  
Georgia Lloyd  
William Puhr

### Flutes

Anna Wolstenholme  
Hannah Grayson  
Sandra Skipper  
*Piccolo*

### Oboes

Hannah Condliffe  
Louise Hayter  
Helen Vigurs  
*Cor Anglais*

### Clarinets

Ian Scott  
Fiona Mitchell  
Harry Penny *Bass*

### Bassoons

Luke Tucker  
Ruth Rosales

### Horns

Joanna Withers  
Neil Mitchell  
Alastair Rycroft  
Andrew Sutton  
Jonathan Bareham

### Trumpets

Michael Allen  
Steven Walton

### Trombones

Amos Miller  
Andrew White  
Paul Lambert

### Tuba

Adam Collins

### Timpani

Grahame King

### Percussion

Kevin Earley  
Paul Parker  
John McCutcheon

### Harps

Susan Blair  
Elin Samuel

### Celeste

Yen Lee

# The Story

Sir Peter Wright

## 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.

***Nutcracker-themed merchandise including Programmes, Mugs, Tote bags and T-shirts is available in the foyer.***



**Programme £8**



**Mug £12**



**Also available from [brb.org.uk/Shop](http://brb.org.uk/Shop) or by scanning the QR code**

***The Nutcracker 2026 – Booking open now!***  
**Birmingham Hippodrome**