

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Thursday matinee 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 Sofia Liñares

The Prince Mason King

Drosselmeyer Gabriel Anderson
a Magician

Clara Alisa Garkavenko
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Alfie-Lee Hall

Clara's Mother Daria Stanciulescu
a former ballerina

Clara's Father Jonathan Payn

Fritz Albert Newton-Smith
Clara's younger brother

Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix

Grandmother Laëtitia Lo Sardo

Grandfather Rory Mackay

Butler Rafael Bejarano Vidal

Harlequin Riku Ito

Columbine Hannah Martin

Jack-in-the-Box Javier Rojas

Ballet students, Cadets, Guests, Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

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 Lucy Waine

Her Attendants Reina Fuchigami, Frieda Kaden,
Yuki Sugiura, Amelia Thompson

Winds Louis Andreasen, John Fontanini,

Ixan Llorca Ferrer, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg

Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

***Spanish Dance* Olivia Chang-Clarke**

Marlo Kempsey-Fagg, Ixan Llorca Ferrer

***Arabian Dance* Lucy Waine**

Rafael Bejarano Vidal, August Generalli,

Yasiel Hodelín Bello,

***Chinese Dance* Alfie-Lee Hall, Yusuke Otake**

***Russian Dance* John Fontanini, Thomas Kujawa,**

Oisín Middleton

***Dance of the Mirlitons* Rosanna Ely, Frieda Kaden,**

Yasemin Kayabay, Sophie Walters

Waltz of the Flowers

***The Rose Fairy* Reina Fuchigami**

***Her Consorts* Louis Andreasen, Riku Ito,**

Miles Gilliver, Javier Rojas

***Leading Flowers* Tori Forsyth-Hecken, Matide Rodrigues,**

Yuki Sugiura, Amelia Thompson

***Grand pas de deux* Sofia Liñares, Mason King**

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 Cathedra'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 4.10pm.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy

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 Basses

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 or by scanning the QR code

The Nutcracker 2026 – Booking open now!
Birmingham Hippodrome