

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Saturday 13 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 Katherine Ochoa
The Prince Enrique Bejarano Vidal
Drosselmeyer Gabriel Anderson
a Magician
Clara Rosanna Ely
a ballet student

ACT I

The Magician's Assistant Alfie-Lee Hall
Clara's Mother Samara Downs
a former ballerina
Clara's Father Dominic Antonucci
Fritz Albert Newton-Smith
Clara's younger brother
Clara's Dancing Partner Ryan Felix
Grandmother Lynsey Sutherland
Grandfather Rory Mackay
Butler Marlo Kempsey-Fagg
Harlequin Javier Rojas
Columbine Karla Doorbar
Jack-in-the-Box Riku Ito
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 Louis Andreasen
Soldiers, Rats Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet
The Snow Fairy Amelia Thompson
Her Attendants Reina Fuchigami, Tori Forsyth-Hecken,
Frieda Kaden, Sofia Liñares
Winds Haoliang Feng, John Fontanini,
Miles Gilliver, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg
Snowflakes Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

ACT II

Spanish Dance Sofia Liñares

Rafael Bejarano Vidal, Javier Rojas

Arabian Dance Amelia Thompson

Miles Gilliver, Marlo Kempsey-Fagg,

Julian Pecoraro

Chinese Dance Alfie-Lee Hal, Yusuke Otake

Russian Dance John Fontanini, Alfie-Lee Hall,

Thomas Kujawa

Dance of the Mirlitons Alisa Garkavenko, Mailène Katoch,

Yasemin Kayabay, Airi Kobayashi

Waltz of the Flowers

The Rose Fairy Céline Gittens

Her Consorts Haoliang Feng, Ixan Llorca Ferrer,

Riku Ito, Mason King

Leading Flowers Karla Doorbar, Tori Forsyth-Hecken.

Matilde Rodrigues, Eilis Small

Grand pas de deux Katherine Ochoa, Enrique Bejarano Vidal

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 8.10pm.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy

Leader Robert Gibbs

First Violins

Joana Valentinaviciute
Vanessa David
Amanda Brown
Deborah Schlenther
Philip Aird
Jake Rea
Rosemary Henbest
Catherine Hamer
Daneil Peev

Second Violins

Thomas Grundy
Mary Martin
Fiona Robertson
Paul Barrett
Suzannah Quirke
Amy Heggart
Caroline Bodimead
Zhivko Georgiev

Violas

Errika Collins
Carys Barnes
May Bardsley
Hannah Horton
Michael Schofield

Cellos

António Novais
Jane Rainey
Maya Kashif
Helen Edgar
Danushka Edirisinghe

Doubles Basses

Vera Pereira
Georgina McGrath
Phoebe Cheng
William Puhr

Flutes

Anna Kondrashina
Hannah Grayson
Sandra Skipper
Piccolo

Oboes

Hannah Condliffe
Louise Hayter
Helen Vigurs
Cor Anglais

Clarinets

Ian Scott
Fiona Mitchell
Stephen Morris *Bass*

Bassoons

Luke Tucker
Alexandra Davidson

Horns

Joanna Withers
Neil Mitchell
Jonathan Bareham
Andrew Sutton
Alexander Hocknull

Trumpets

Julie Ryan
Steven Walton

Trombones

Andrew White
David Pitts
Paul Lambert

Tuba

David Collins

Timpani

Grahame King

Percussion

Kevin Earley
Paul Parker
John McCutcheon

Harp

Deian Rowlands
Nicolette Chin

Celeste

Yuria Miki

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