Scenes from the Nutcracker
For All Ages

Support for this program is made possible by generous donors who have committed time and resources to the Charleston Gaillard Center’s Dance Initiative.
ABOUT THE SHOW

THE CLASSIC CHRISTMAS STORY BALLET
A ballet that has become a favorite holiday tradition worldwide, The Nutcracker shares the story of a family as they gather with friends on Christmas Eve and follows their young daughter’s exploration of a magical world. As explained by the Moscow Ballet, “Alexandre Dumas Père’s adaptation of the story by E.T.A. Hoffman was set to music by Tchaikovsky and originally choreographed by Marius Ptpa. [...] The composer made a selection of eight of the more popular pieces before the ballet’s December 1892 premiere, forming what is currently known as The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a, as heard in Moscow Ballet productions.” ¹

ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE
This version of The Nutcracker is a condensed version of the Russian Nutcracker Ballet. Students will listen to the songs of the composer, Tchaikovsky as the dancers perform classic scenes from The Nutcracker.

The Nutcracker performance features a full cast of Dance Conservatory of Charleston dancers ages 5-18. Performing is the essence of dance and a key part of the student-centered approach, and as such, DCC is thrilled to present a production in which every role is danced by a student.

LINDY MANDRADJIEFF
Born in Pittsburgh, PA, Lindy received the majority of her training on a full scholarship at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of New York City Ballet. At age 17, Lindy began her professional career with the San Francisco Ballet before joining The New York City Ballet, where she was regarded by critics as one of the hardest working dancers of her time.

A dancer as well as a scholar of dance, Lindy graduated with a B.A. in Dance from St. Mary's College in California and obtained a Public and Professional Writing Certificate from the University of Pittsburgh. She has more than 15 years of teaching experience at the community and university level, including at the prestigious Point Park University. Ms. Mandradjieff was also the private ballet instructor for the dancers on the Lifetime's hit show, “Dance Moms.” In addition to teaching, she has the rare privilege to stage works from both the George Balanchine Trust and the Peter Martins Trust. Her students have been accepted into the top training programs, universities, and professional companies in the country and internationally.  

ABOUT DANCE CONSERVATORY OF CHARLESTON
Dance Conservatory of Charleston provides the highest caliber dance education in the Charleston area. While we specialize in serious dance training for the student who wishes to pursue a dance career, we also believe in the benefits of a dance education for everyone.

An education in the arts creates independent, critical thinkers with agile minds who make connections to the world around them. Dedicated dance training and performance fosters courage, confidence and discipline, all hallmarks for success in life.

The Dance Conservatory of Charleston welcomes students of all ages and abilities. Our aim is to inspire students to explore and develop a love of the performing arts in a safe, nurturing environment.  

Scenes from the Nutcracker

EXPLORE // Interact

LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC

P. Tchaikovsky – Pas de Deux
Act I: March

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

George Balanchine’s “Waltz of the Flowers”
Royal Ballet “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy”

READ THESE BOOKS

The Nutcracker by Jan Brett
The Nutcracker by Susan Jeffers
The Nutcracker by Valeria Docampo
EXPLORING // The Nutcracker Activities

FREEZE DANCE ELEMENTS
In this lesson, students will learn about dance elements and participate in a “Freeze Dance” game while listening to different songs from The Nutcracker. Students will use scarves to mimic and compare the tempos of The Nutcracker songs.
Click Here for the Lesson Plan.

NUTCRACKER PANTOMIME
In this lesson, students will learn the art of pantomime and pantomime the main events of The Nutcracker. Students will silently retell their particular plot event for the rest of the class to guess.
Click Here for the Lesson Plan.

MARIONETTE ORNAMENTS
In this lesson, students will create a main character marionette puppet. Students in small groups will retell the story of The Nutcracker using their puppets.
Click Here for the Lesson Plan.
RUSSIAN ART: MATRYOSHKA DOLLS
According to Wikipedia, “the first Russian nested doll set was carved in 1890 at the Children's Education Workshop by Vasily Zvyozdochkin and designed by Sergey Malyutin, who was a folk crafts painter.” ³ In an article from the Master Russian, “the doll set consisted of eight dolls of decreasing sizes placed one inside the other. All eight dolls depicted children -- the outermost was a girl holding a rooster, six inner dolls were girls, the fifth doll was a boy, and the innermost was a baby.” ⁴ Click Here to Learn More.

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR ON SPILLED BLOOD
“The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood is a former Russian Orthodox church in Saint Petersburg, Russia which currently functions as a secular museum.” Tripomatic states that “the structure was constructed between 1883 and 1907 and is one of Saint Petersburg's major attractions.” ⁵

FABERGÉ EGG
In 1885, Tsar Alexander III of Russia commissioned Peter Carl Fabergé to create a jeweled egg as an Easter gift for his wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna. In Town & Country Magazine, writer Nancy Chuda explains that “the egg was so successful that the tsar immediately placed an order for the following year. Thus began an annual tradition that his son would adopt when he took the throne and that would continue until the end of the House of Romanovs’ three-century reign, at the outbreak of the Russian revolution in 1917.” ⁶ Click Here to Read More.

In addition to The Nutcracker, Tchaikovsky also composed Swan Lake, a ballet exploring the ill-fated love story of Prince Siegfried and Princess Odette. Suzanne Elliott writes a brief synopsis of the ballet, “Prince Siegfried goes out hunting one night and chases a group of swans – one of them transforms into a young woman, Odette, who explains that she and her companions were turned into swans by the evil Baron Von Rothbart.”

Click Here to Read More.

WATCH THESE VIDEOS

Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake – The Kirov Ballet
Dance of the Little Swans

READ THESE BOOKS

Swan Lake
by Valeria Decampo

Swan Lake
by Lizbeth Zwerger

The Story Orchestra: Swan Lake
by Jessica Courtney-Tickle

Cinderella, composed by Sergei Prokofiev, is one of the most popular ballets and compositions inspiring many choreographers since its beginning. The Russian National Ballet Theatre states, “the premiere of Cinderella was presented 1945, at the Bolshoi Theatre with choreography by Rostislav Zakharov. Galina Ulanova danced the title role. Cinderella (or Cendrillon) is notable for its jubilant music, lush scenery, and for the hilarious double-roles of the stepsisters, more mad than bad in this treatment.”

**WATCH THESE VIDEOS**

- The Russian Ballet’s Cinderella
- Fort Lauderdale Children’s Ballet Theater

**READ THESE BOOKS**

- Adelita by Tomie dePaola
- Cinderella by Marcia Brown
- Cinderella by K.V. Craft

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Act I: March https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maWN1MH9za4&list=PLUtjANhAH1uEfI05xGKfc6KHaUs5LGi&index=3


Dance of the Little Swans https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd2nTXsivH


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Fort Lauderdale Children’s Ballet Theater https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjGCKmNgMho

George Balanchine’s Waltz of the Flowers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkczL8q1eBw

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Russian Ballet's Cinderella https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgvfZbj77SQ&t=10s


Steven Pavlov https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Senapa

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