# EDUCATION WORKSHOP

## SCENES FROM THE NUTCRACKER

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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.

CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER
gaillardcenter.org
(843) 242-3099

# 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 Ptipa. [...] 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.

## ABOUT DANCE CONSERVATORY OF CHARLESTON

Dance Conservatory of Charleston was created to provide the highest caliber dance education in the Charleston area. Our aim is to offer an unprecedented level of ballet instruction — from beginner to pre-professional — combined with an inspiring arts education, all in a safe, nurturing environment. Founded by New York City Ballet dancer Lindy Mandradjieff Fabyanic, the Dance Conservatory combines the elite technical training of a preeminent American dance academy with the heart and accessibility of a community dance center. The result is a place of both warmth and rigor, where young people can explore their passion joyfully while learning the dedication, discipline, and determination that will serve them for a lifetime.[2]

Dance Conservatory OF CHARLESTON

1. "History of the Nutcracker," History of Nutcracker (The Moscow Ballet, 2001), https://www.nutcracker.com/about-us/history-of-nutcracker
2. Dance conservatory - ballet in Charleston: Elite Training. community warmth. Dance Conservatory of Charleston. (2024, May 6). https://www.danceconservatorychs.com/

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# INTERACT

## LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC

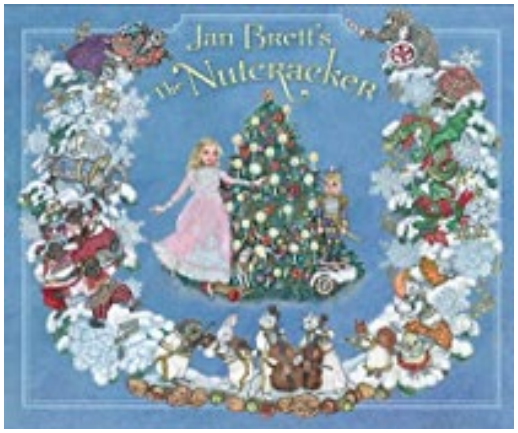
P. Tchaikovsky - Pas de Deux ('The Nutcracker')

## WATCH THESE VIDEOS

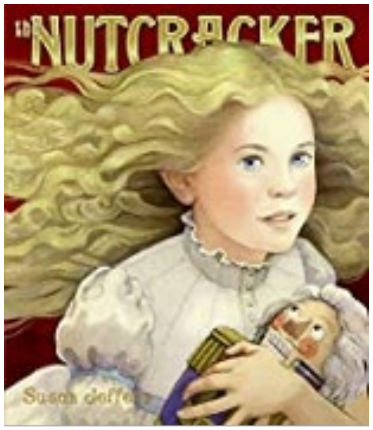
George Balanchine's "Waltz of the Flowers"

Royal Ballet "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"

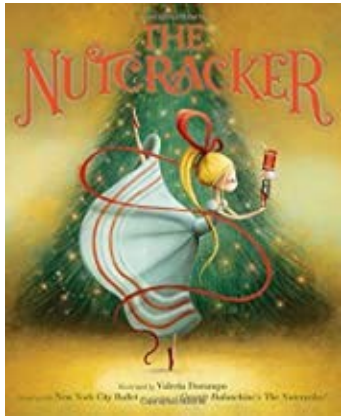
## READ THESE BOOKS




**The Nutcracker**
*by Jan Brett*




**The Nutcracker**
*by Susan Jeffers*




**The Nutcracker**
*by Valeria Docampo*

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# INTERACT

**Hip Hop Nutcracker**
*Grades 3rd–12th*
In this workshop, students will learn hip hop dance fundamentals. They will apply these steps to scenes from *The Nutcracker* to show that the same story can be told through a variety of dance genres.
Click here for the workshop

**Reader's Theater**
*Grades 2nd–5th*
In this workshop, students will bring *The Nutcracker* from literature to life through theater. By working together in groups, students will present their scene to the class using dynamic voices and body movements.
Click here for the workshop

**Spinning Ballet Dancers Art**
*Ages CD–3rd*
In this workshop, students will create a spinning ballet dancer from *The Nutcracker*. Students will create their characters with straws, popsicle sticks, markers, and more. Students will explore motion by spinning their ballet dancer.
Click here for the workshop

**Ballet Storytime**
*Grades CD–2nd*
In this workshop, students will use dance and physical movements to retell the story of *The Nutcracker*. As a group, students will learn basic ballet techniques and positions used in the Nutcracker and work to perform as an ensemble.
Click here for the workshop

**Music Listening Abstract Art**
*Grades K–5th*
In this workshop, students will listen to various pieces of music from *The Nutcracker* and will create an abstract piece of art where they will attribute colors, lines, and shapes to each song. Students will learn how different pieces of music can influence art and movement.
Click here for the workshop

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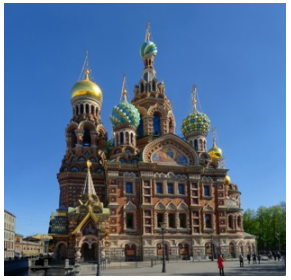
# RUSSIAN ART

## 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."
**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."[4]



**Faberge Egg**
*James Petts, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons*

## 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."[5] **Click Here to Read More**

3. "Matryoshka Doll," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, October 13, 2021), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka_doll
4. Tripomatic s.r.o., "The Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood in Saint Petersburg, Russia," in Saint Petersburg, Russia | Sygic Travel (Tripomatic , 2021), https://ravel.sygic.com/en/poi/the-church-of-our-savior-on-the-spilled-blood-poi:2450
5. Nancy Gould Chuda, "Secrets of the Fabergé Eggs," Town & Country (Hearst Magazine Media , July 9, 2021), https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/arts-and-culture/a36665209/romanov-faberge-eggs-history/

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# MORE BALLETS

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 Elliot 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." [7]
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*

7. Suzanne Elliott, "Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake: The Story and Music of the Russian Composer's Ballet," Classic FM (Global, November 3, 2020), https://classicfm.com/composers/tchaikovsky/music/swan-lake/

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# MORE BALLETS

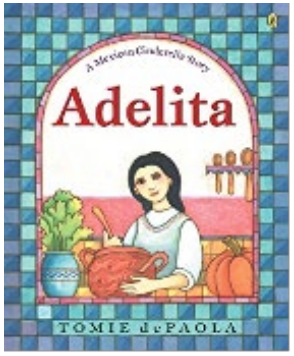
*Cinderella*, composed by Sergei Prokofiev, is one of the most popular ballets and compositions inspiring many choreographers since its beginning. The Russian National Ballet Theatre states, "the premiere of Cinderella (or Cendrillon) is notable for its jubilant music, lush scenery, and for the hilarious double-roles of the stepsisters, more mad than bad in this treatment." [8]

## WATCH THESE VIDEOS

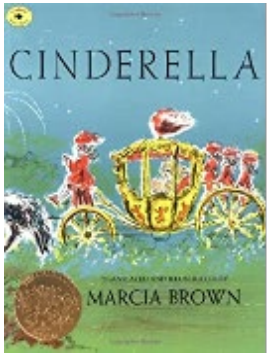
The Russian Ballet's Cinderella

Fort Lauderdale Children's Ballet Theater

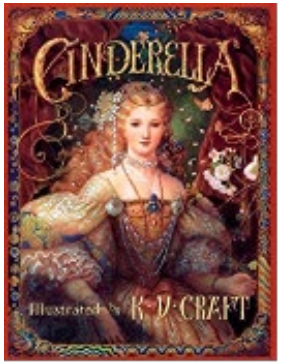
## READ THESE BOOKS




**Adelita**
*by Tomie dePaola*




**Cinderella**
*by Marcia Brown*




**Cinderella**
*by K.V. Craft*

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Randreu, CC BY 3.0 , via Wikimedia Commons Royal Ballet- Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV1qLYukTH8

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

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Trepak https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2ISRMSlyX8

# EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

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