



The Nutcracker

Saturday, December 14, 2024 // 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 // 2:00 p.m.

Waco Hall



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The Nutcracker

Waco Symphony Orchestra

Conducted by **Beau Benson**

Music by **Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky**

Reduced orchestration by **Joseph Ceo**

Guest Conductor

Beau Benson serves as Artistic Director and Conductor for the Temple Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his post in Temple, he is currently in his eleventh season as Music Director and Conductor for the Oregon East Symphony and Chorale in Pendleton, Oregon and his eleventh season as the Music Director for the Waco Symphony Youth Orchestra. He is also in his fifteenth year as Director of Orchestras for the Midway Independent School District.

Ballet Frontier of Texas

Artistic Director: **Chung-Lin Tseng**

Artistic Advisor: **Enrica Tseng**

Rehearsals Assistant: **Jaclyn Ruiz**

Choreography: **Chung-Lin Tseng & Roy Tobias**

Children Repetiteur for Fort Worth: **Linda Silva**

Children Repetiteur for Waco: **Kaitlyn Helona and Anneliese Vogl**

Wardrobe Coordinators: **Joy Houston-Fowler, Erin Williamson**

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Development: **Carlin Dixon**

Volunteer Coordinator: **Jennifer Cobble**

Ballet Frontier of Texas

Chung-Lin Tseng, Artistic Director. Taiwan-born Chung-Lin Tseng began his artistic journey as a figure skater, winning a gold medal in pair's skating at the 1984 Taiwan National Championship. In 1990, he received a full scholarship to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, where he trained in classical ballet and partnering. In 1992, he performed in *Hong Kong Heartbeat* in London, meeting Princess Diana.

Before moving to Texas, Tseng danced as a soloist for six years with Seoul's Universal Ballet Company, performing in 11 full-length and 19 one-act ballets across 16 countries. He created notable roles, including Von Rothbart in *Swan Lake*, Hilarion in *Giselle*, and the Korean King in *Shim Chung*.

In 1998, Tseng joined Texas Ballet Theater as a principal dancer under Benjamin Houk and Ben Stevenson. His repertoire included *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Cinderella*. He was honored with the 2000 Achievement Award from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

As a choreographer, Tseng debuted works under mentors Aaron Wan and Roy Tobias, presenting two acclaimed full-length productions in Fort Worth. In 2004, he staged

The Nutcracker

La Sylphide for Kaohsiung City Ballet in Taiwan. He also served as a Visiting Artist at Southern Methodist University and taught at Texas Christian University.

Since 2007, Tseng has been Ballet Teacher for Dallas Black Dance Theatre and taught Master Classes at the Star of Canaan Dance Competition in Hong Kong. As the founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Frontier of Texas, his productions, including *The Nutcracker* and *Pinocchio*, have received acclaim.

Tseng's full-length *Swan Lake* premiered in 2021, followed by *Sleeping Beauty* later that year. In 2022, he collaborated with the University of Utah on a new *Carmen* choreography. In 2024, Tseng choreographed *Romeo & Juliet* for Ballet Frontier, cementing his legacy with another masterpiece.

Enrica Guana Tseng, Artistic Advisor. Ms. Tseng, originally from Chiavari, Italy, trained in classical ballet with renowned teachers, including Erik Bruhn, Yvette Chauvire', and Ekaterina Maximova. She began her career dancing with Teatro Comunale of Florence, Teatro Regio of Torino, and Teatro Nuovo of Torino. In 1990, she joined the Universal Ballet Company of Seoul under Roy Tobias, rising to Ballerina and performing leading roles such as Odette/Odile in the Marinsky Theatre's *Swan Lake*.

In 1998, Ms. Tseng became a Principal Dancer with Texas Ballet Theater, excelling in iconic roles such as Giselle, Cleopatra, Swanhilda, and Kitri under Ben Stevenson's direction. Her repertoire also included Balanchine works like *Serenade*, *Theme & Variations*, and *Rubies*. She received the "Distinguished Italian Artist in the World" award in 2006 and retired in 2008 after a celebrated career, earning the "Dancer of the Year" title from her colleagues.

In 2005, she and her husband founded Ballet Center of Fort Worth to train future dancers. Ms. Tseng has taught Master Classes at the Star of Canaan Dance Competition in Hong Kong and was named Outstanding Teacher by YAGP in 2022. She assists the Artistic Staff at Ballet Frontier, contributing to the company's success.

Jaclyn Ruiz, Rehearsals Assistant. Jaclyn Ruiz moved to Houston, Texas from Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1999 to train with the Houston Ballet Academy on full scholarship. Upon graduation she was awarded the Michael Wasmund Award for her love and dedication to ballet. She joined Houston Ballet in 2001, and later joined Texas Ballet Theater in 2002 under the direction of Ben Stevenson, O.B.E. where she met and danced alongside Enrica and Chung-Lin Tseng.

During her tenure at Texas Ballet Theater, she danced many soloist roles including the third movement Pas de Deux from Ben Stevenson's *Four Last Songs*, Rosaline in *Romeo and Juliet*, Big Swans in *Swan Lake*, Summer Fairy in *Cinderella*, Fairy Beauty and Pas de Quatre in *The Sleeping Beauty*, and the lead Spanish Girl in *Don Quixote*. Some of her favorite ballets include Ben Stevenson's *Dracula* and *Peer Gynt*. She has enjoyed performing in many Balanchine works including *Serenade*, *Who Cares?*, and *Theme and Variations*, as well as Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*.

Jaclyn retired from the stage in 2013. She is excited to be working at Ballet Frontier and to share her knowledge with the company dancers.

The Nutcracker Story

Act I

The Christmas Party

It is Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house, a grand house with the most beautiful tree imaginable. The Stahlbaums are hosting their annual Christmas party, welcoming the arrival of family and friends. The children, Clara and Fritz, are dancing and playing as they welcome their friends too. Suddenly mice and snow fairies enter the room, but only Clara seems to be able to see them.

The party grows festive with music and dance as Clara's godfather, Drosselmeyer, arrives. He is a skilled clock and toy maker and always full of surprises. Drosselmeyer draws everyone's attention as he presents three life-size dolls. They are the delight of the party, each taking a turn to dance. The children begin to open gifts when Drosselmeyer presents a special gift to Clara, a beautiful Nutcracker, which mesmerizes everyone. Fritz becomes jealous and, having a bit more spunk than a boy should have, grabs the Nutcracker from Clara and promptly breaks it. Clara is heartbroken; however Drosselmeyer quickly repairs the Nutcracker with a handkerchief.

As the evening grows late, the guests depart, and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her beloved Nutcracker, sneaks back to the tree to check on him and falls asleep with him in her arms.

The Battle Scene

As the clock strikes midnight, magical things begin to happen. Clara begins shrinking, as her beautiful Christmas tree appears to come alive. The toys around the tree come to life while the room fills with an army of mice, led by a fierce Mouse King. As the Nutcracker awakens, he leads his army of toy soldiers into battle with the mice. The Mouse King corners the Nutcracker and battles him one-on-one. The Nutcracker seems to be no match for the Mouse King. Clara makes a final charge with the help of a Snow Fairy, throwing a slipper at the Mouse King and giving the Nutcracker the chance to defeat the Mouse King.

The Land of Snow

The Snow King and Snow Queen take Clara to begin her journey into the Land of Snow.

Act II

The Kingdom of Sweets

The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier greet Clara and the Nutcracker and everyone listens to their story. The Sugar Plum Fairy awards Clara with a crown and the celebration of dancing begins. After she is entertained by Spanish Hot Chocolate, Arabian Coffee, Chinese Tea, Russian Candy and others, Clara is offered gifts to bring back home. She leaves the scene in a beautiful Christmas ornament.

The Nutcracker Cast

Act I

Scene I: The Christmas Party

Drosselmeyer	Kyle Baird (12/14) & Michele Prudente (12/15)
Frau Von Stahlbaum	Jessica Barber (12/14) & Jessica Barber (12/15)
Herr Von Stahlbaum	Scotty Jones
Clara	Emma Parnell (12/14) & Beatrice Reyes (12/15)
Fritz	Zachary Nunn (12/14) & Fion Ballard (12/15)
Grandmother	Melodye Taylor
Grandfather	Christopher Fowler
Maids	Eleanor Williamson & Jolie Skye Roberts (12/14)/ Bennet Ross (12/15)
Women Party Guests	Sojourn Gudorf-Johnston (12/14)/ Jessica Barber, Ava Kelsey, Gwendolyn Nguyen, Adah Runyan-Randruut, Sarah Shaw, Tara Shelby
Men Party Guests	Luo Jun Lin, Antonio Loya, Mark Madolora, Brian Struc, Leonardo Sanchez, Michele Prudente (12/14), David Huang (12/15)
Columbine Doll	Fion Ballard (12/14) & Augusta Vining (12/15)
Ballerina Doll	Sophia Veronese-Milin (12/14) & Shiori Ohama (12/15)
Harlequin Doll	Hanha Stephenson (12/14) & Ava Kelsey (12/15)
Party Children	Paige Adams, Annabelle Allyn, Hannah Achilefu, Eliza Cavazos, Everly Chavez, Cadwin Cuellar, Torin Cuellar, Emmanuella Maria Ferro, Lucy Johnson, Gretchen Kertesz, Bebe Knas, Cora Meyer, Anneliese Rudd, Holly Wickliff
Rowdy Party Children	Brooklyn Brown, Chloe Carlisle, Sienna Gordon, Ruby Spano, Tailey Garcia, Savannah Wickliff

Scene II: The Battle Scene

Nutcracker	Luo Jun Lin
Mouse King	Michele Prudente (12/14), David Huang (12/15)
Baby Mice	Cora Bradford & Meredith Raudales
Mice	Rilyn Braddock (12/14) & Lylah Mills (12/15), Phoenix Burdine, Lilly Cashion, Corinne Calvin, Alanis Coyle, Brighid Fowler, Juneau Grundy, Chloe Katkic, Claire Locastro (12/14) & Louisa Hooten (12/15), Rosalie Loya, Milady Raudales, Margaret Struc, Jolie Skye Roberts
Soldiers	Cailyn Bradford, Eliana Gratch, Lily Cashion, Isabella Madolora, Fiona McCulloh, Mia Nieman, Aaliyah Rector, Juliana Rudd, Aurora Ruiz, Aurora Perrett, Milady Raudales, Aaliyah Rector, Olivia Ripple, Isis Sanchez, Emma Zhang, Henrietta Wyman

Scene III: The Land of Snow

Snow Queen	Teresa Bowden (12/14) & Sojourn Gudorf-Johnston (12/15)
Snow King	Chung-Lin Tseng (12/14) & Kyle Baird (12/15)
Snow Fairies	Fion Ballard (12/14)/ Emma Parnell (12/15), Jessica Barber (12/14)/ Teresa Bowden (12/15), Bennet Ross (12/14)/ Perry Meadors (12/15), Carlin Dixon (12/14)/ Adah Runyan-Randruut (12/15), Kristina Gallant (12/14)/ Sarah Shaw (12/15), Sojourn Gudorf-Johnston (12/14)/ Rilyn Braddock (12/15), Ava Kelsey (12/14)/ Chloe Fox (12/15), Gwendolyn Nguyen (12/14)/ Abigail Richards (12/15), Tara Shelby, Hanha Stephenson (12/14)/ Jolie Skye Roberts (12/15), Sophia Veronese-Milin (12/14)/ Claire Locastro (12/15), Paris Mills, Sadie Puckett (12/14)/ Amelia Abucejo (12/15), Beatrice Reyes (12/14)/ Shiori Ohama (12/15), Augusta Vining, Eleanor Williamson

The Nutcracker Cast

Act II

The Kingdom of Sweets

Sugar Plum Fairy.....Perry Meadors (12/14) & Caterina Brown (12/15)

CavalierDavid Huang (12/14) & Masanao Ito (12/15)

AngelsEleanor Cash (12/14)/ Wren Daughtery (12/15), Charlotte Irons (12/14)/
Charlotte Estarda (12/15), Maggie Harkins (12/14)/ Sariah Swinson (12/15),
Kennedy LupPlace (12/14)/ Hope Wickliff (12/15), Estelle Nissen, Piper
Hochstatter, Madison Jacobs (12/14)/ Calleigh Garcia (12/15), Maggie
Menefee (12/14)/ Byrdie Murphy (12/15), Riley Thomas (12/14)/ Piper Ellis
(12/15), Anna Grace Vaughan (12/14)/ Danika Vande Veegaete (12/15),
Emma Woods (12/14)/ Rylana Rodarte (12/15), Skylar Overstreet (12/14)/
Mary Patterson (12/15)

Lead Spanish Couple...Augusta Vining & Michele Prudente (12/14), Sarah Shaw & Kyle Baird (12/15)

Spanish Dancers..... Amelia Abucejo (12/14)/Rilyn Braddock (12/15), Cailyn Bradford, Brighid
Fowler, Rosalie Loya, Sadie Puckett, Lilly Cashion, Shiori Ohama (12/14)/
Zachary Nunn (12/15), Beatrice Reyes (12/14)/ Emma Parnell (12/15)

Arabian Couple Jessica Barber & Kyle Baird (12/14), Adah Runyan-Randruut & Michele
Prudente (12/15)

Arabian Attendants...Rilyn Braddock (12/14)/ Eleanor Williamson (12/15), Jolie Skye Roberts,
Lylah Mills, Paris Mills

Chinese Leads Luo Jun Lin, Ava Kelsey (12/14)/ Sojourn Gudorf-Johnston (12/15), Hanha
Stephenson (12/14)/ Abigail Richards (12/15)

Chinese Attendants ...Claire Eichhorn, Antonella Ferro, Greer Hall, Lainey Hess (12/14)/
Camille Terrell (12/15), Caroline Kessler (12/14)/ Leah Parks (12/15), Ava
Overstreet (12/14)/ Claire Perez (12/15), Hannah Peel (12/14)/ Conrad
Reagan (12/15), Libby Reitmeier (12/14)/ Arden Hall (12/15), Lucy Jane
Rolfesen (12/14)/ Ellery Biggs (12/15), Carter Ann Shearer (12/14)/ Jasmine
Cardona (12/15), Maggie Simmons (12/14)/ Jeorgia Sutherland (12/15),
Addison Smith

Russian CoupleCaterina Brown & Masanao Ito (12/14), Kristina Gallant &
David Huang (12/15)

Russian DancersPhoenix Burdine, Corinne Calvin, Alanis Coyle, Juneau Grundy

Russian CorpEmily Austin (12/14)/ Valentina Ferro (12/15), Lane Allman (12/14)/
Lily Knox (12/15), Mackenzie Davis (12/14)/ Fiona Clapp (12/15), Keely
Lauderdale (12/14)/ Neave Perez (12/15), Emma Grace McEachern (12/14)/
Ellie Messerall (12/15), Paige Philpott (12/14)/ Aubrey Meyer (12/15),
Faith Trice (12/14)/ Anna Kimmitt (12/15)

ShepherdessFion Ballard (12/14), Sophia Veronese-Milin (12/15)

Wolf.....Scotty Jones

Sheep.....Chloe Katkic, Juliana Rudd, Bella Silva, Margaret Struc

Bon Bons.....Eliana Gracch, Isabella Madolara, Fiona McCulloh, Mia Nieman,
Aurora Perrett, Milady Raudales, Aaliyah Rector, Olivia Ripple,
Aurora Ruiz, Isis Sanchez, Emma Zhang, Henrietta Wyman

DewdropKristina Gallant (12/14) & Perry Meadors (12/15)

Waltz of the Flowers... Teresa Bowden (12/14)/Jessica Barber (12/15), Sojourn Gudorf-Johnston,
Chloe Fox (12/14)/ Hanha Stephenson (12/15), Shiori Ohama (12/14)/
Emma Parnell (12/15), Claire Locastro, Abigail Richards (12/14)/ Ava
Kesley (12/15), Bennet Ross, Adah Runyan-Randruut (12/14)/ Carlin Dixon
(12/15), Beatrice Reyes (12/14)/ Augusta Vining (12/15), Sarah Shaw (12/14)/
Kristina Gallant (12/15), Eleanor Williamson (12/14)/ Tara Shelby (12/15)

Waco Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Beau Benson, Conductor

VIOLIN 1

Sue Jacobson, *Concertmaster,*
Martha G. Beard Chair
Doreida Aleksí Anastasiadi,
Assistant Concertmaster
Amanda Schubert
Kristin Mortenson

VIOLIN 2

Corey Spratlan, *Principal*
Oriana Gonzalez
Karim Ayala Pool
Sydney Ebersohl

VIOLA

Nikita Pogrebnoy, *Principal*
Megan Wright Miller
Jann Cosart

CELLO

Imjeong Choi, *Principal*
Brooke Scholl
Je-Shiuan Hsu

BASS

Ricardo Puche, *Principal*
Mark Whitney

FLUTE

Charlotte Daniel, *Principal,*
Richard and Helen Ann
Shanley Chair
Mark Andrade

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Euridice Alvarez, *Principal,*
Doris A. DeLoach Chair
Aryn Mitchell

CLARINET

Jun Qian, *Principal,*
Richard and Helen Ann
Shanley Chair
Mauricio Castillo

BASSOON

Derek Marcum, *Principal*

HORN

Kim Hagelstein, *Principal*
Sarah Au
Jerrick Cendejas

TRUMPET

Wiff Rudd, *Principal*
Mark Schubert

TROMBONE

Brent Phillips, *Principal*

TIMPANI

Layci Dagley, *Principal*

PERCUSSION

Arlo Shultis, *Principal*
Charles Burleson

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HARP

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JANUARY 21 // 2025

Violin Superstar Ray Chen



Born in Taiwan and raised in Australia, violinist **Ray Chen** will join Maestro Loh and the WSO to perform Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto*. Chen has more than a million fans on Instagram, and his creative videos have sparked a new generation of music lovers.

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