

# The Conservatory

AT WILKES UNIVERSITY



## COURSE OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

- Orchestral instruments
- Piano
- Voice
- Guitar
- Classical ballet  
*(offered by the Degnan Ballet Center)*
- Indian Classical Dance
- Jazz



Wilkes  
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For more information or to register, call 570-408-4426  
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# Wilkes University

84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766  
[wilkes.edu](http://wilkes.edu)

The Degnan Ballet Center  
at the Wilkes University Conservatory  
Presents:

# THE NUTCRACKER 2022



7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17

2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18

Dorothy Dickson Darte Center  
for the Performing Arts at Wilkes University

The Degnan Ballet Center  
at the Wilkes University Conservatory presents:

# The Nutcracker

with guest professional artist TJ Firneno

and students from the Degnan Ballet Center and Wilkes University

Music by.....Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography (after Lev Ivanov).....Peter Degnan  
Kristin Degnan-Boonin

Staging.....Alison Carlsson  
Karla Kovatch  
Sarah Polansky  
Mary Kathryn Siejak  
Adrienne Zulkoski

Technical Direction &  
Set Coordination.....Alexander "Lee" Corcoran-Michaels

Lighting Design.....Vandy Scoates

Stage Management..... Giuseppina "Peanut" Corcoran-Michaels

Crew Members.....Evan Cole  
Caleb Gething  
Amanda Paci  
Shaun Pierre  
Madelyn Rex  
Raven Whitefawn

Costume Design.....Kristin Degnan-Boonin

Costume Construction.....Mary Ruth Burke  
Sharon Firneno  
Lynette McIngvale  
Deborah Potsko  
Ruth Weiss

Costume Management.....Anna Papciak

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences.....Dr. Paul Riggs

Chair, Division of Performing Arts.....Jon Liebetrau

Office Assistant, Division of Performing Arts.....Maryellen Sloat

Director of Dance.....Kristin Degnan-Boonin

Conservatory Coordinator.....Lauren Gentilesco

Conservatory Dance Faculty.....Alison Carlsson  
Karla Kovatch  
Sarah Polansky  
Mary Kathryn Siejak  
Adrienne Zulkoski

Class and Rehearsal Assistant.....Lauren Patrick



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Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts  
Wilkes University

7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 17 &  
2 pm Sunday, December 18, 2022

## Story of the Ballet

### Act I, Scene 1

The curtain rises on a street in a little German town of the 19th century. Guests are hurrying to the home of Dr. Stahlbaum, the mayor, for a Christmas party. Klara and Fritz, the mayor's children, are excitedly waiting for the party to begin. Among the guests is the eccentric Uncle Drosselmeier. He gives the children toys, and provides a marionette theater for their entertainment. With his apparently magical powers, he animates life-size dolls, i.e., a Pierrot clown, etc. Klara's special present from her uncle is a very unusual nutcracker. As Fritz attempts to steal it, the nutcracker is damaged. Much to Klara's relief, Uncle Drosselmeier is able to mend the broken toy. The party ends with the traditional grandfather dance. The guests depart, Klara and Fritz are put to bed, and quiet settles over the house.

### Scene 2

Too excited to sleep, Klara creeps back into the parlor to see if her beloved nutcracker is safe. Cradling the doll, she falls asleep under the Christmas tree and has a fantastic dream in which giant mice threaten her. Suddenly, the Christmas tree begins to grow, the nutcracker toy becomes the life-sized Enchanted Nutcracker, and the other enchanted toys begin to move. In the battle between the soldiers and the mice, the Mouse King almost overpowers the soldiers and threatens the brave Enchanted Nutcracker. To save the Nutcracker, Klara throws her shoe at the Mouse King to weaken his power. After the defeat of the mice, the Enchanted Nutcracker turns into a handsome prince who takes Klara on a fabulous journey.

### Scene 3

Continuing their journey, the Enchanted Nutcracker and Klara enter the Snow Forest, where they encounter an elegant Snow Queen and her court of swirling Snowflakes.

## Act II

Continuing their journey, Klara and the Nutcracker Prince arrive at a majestic castle in the Land of Sweets. They are greeted by a band of winsome angels and the Sugar Plum Fairy who, in turn, introduces them to visitors from Spain, Arabia, Russia, China, and Germany. After telling these new friends of their adventures, and especially about the furious battle with the giant mice, Klara and her companion are entertained by a series of ethnic dances. The festivities continue with the beautiful Waltz of the Flowers with the Dew Drop Fairy. As morning approaches, everyone joins in a final dance. Bidding wistful farewell to her new friends in the enchanted land, Klara is returned home, perhaps wondering if her adventure really happened or was merely part of a fabulous dream.

## The 2022 Nutcracker Cast

### Act I, Scene 1: Party Scene

<b>Klara:</b>	Emma Butcher
<b>Fritz:</b>	Lily Davis
<b>Herr Dr. Stahlbaum:</b>	Michael Butcher
<b>Frau Stahlbaum:</b>	Kathleen Hughes-Butcher
<b>Grandfather:</b>	Carlos Candelario
<b>Drosselmeier:</b>	TJ Firreno
<b>Klara's Friends:</b>	Emma Kane, Marlee Lapinski, Madison Orrson, Isabel Shoemaker, Liana Winkler
<b>Maids:</b>	Carolyn Purdy and Adrienne Zulkoski
<b>Parents:</b>	Jahel Duran-Diaz, Rachel Kern, Pete Polansky, Sarah Polansky, Jess Rushton, Olivia Scarborough
<b>Pierrot:</b>	Nina Dunleavy
<b>Ballerina Doll:</b>	Elizabeth Papciak
<b>Marching Dolls:</b>	Natalie Bobeck and Olivia Schanbacher
<b>Younger Children:</b>	Rebecca Bond, Ella Dunleavy, June Hamill, Maren Healey, Emily Mace, Alexander Polansky, Layla Polansky, Annabelle Weaver, Melonie Youmans, Adele Zulkoski

# The 2022 Nutcracker Cast

## Act I, Scene 2: Battle Scene

<b>Enchanted Nutcracker:</b>	Jack Flynn
<b>Mouse King:</b>	Carlos Candelario
<b>Baby Mouse:</b>	Alice Stark
<b>Lead Mice:</b>	Stella Guesto, Mary Jane Michaels, Ava Smith, Cecelia Weaver
<b>Mice Corps:</b>	Audrey Butcofski, Opal Candelario, Sloane Dunham, Natalya Filak, Cori Gibson, Samantha Guesto, Leona Jaques, Tessa Norakus, Alexander Polansky, Serafina Weaver
<b>Sergeant:</b>	Anna Smagin
<b>Corporals:</b>	Sophie Danelutt, Ella Dunleavy, Abigail Mace
<b>Soldiers:</b>	Gracelynn Butcofski, Addyson Cardillo, Charlotte Carlsson, Kensie Haas, Ayla Rowlands, Charlie Smith, Charlotte Smith

# The 2022 Nutcracker Cast

## Act I, Scene 3: Snow Scene

### Grand Pas de Deux

Lauren Patrick and T.J. Firneno

<b>Snow Queen:</b>	Lauren Patrick
<b>Snowflakes:</b>	Nina Dunleavy, Kelly Grevera, Amanda Merrick-Tompkins, Elizabeth Papciak, Sarah Polansky, Carolyn Purdy, Cally Richardson, Olivia Schanbacher, Isabel Shoemaker, Anna Smagin
<b>Understudies:</b>	Natalie Bobeck, Lily Davis, Emma Kane, Madison Orrson, Marlee Lapinski, Liana Winkler

## Intermission (10 minutes)

### Act II: Land of the Sweets

<b>Angels:</b>	Audrey Butcofski, Gracelyn Butcofski, Opal Candelario, Addyson Cardillo, Sloane Dunham, Natalya Filak, Cori Gibson, Samantha Guesto, Leona Jaques, Tessa Norakus, Charlie Smith, Charlotte Smith, Alice Stark, Serafina Weaver
<b>Sugar Plum Fairy:</b>	Sayre Kurecian



# The 2022 Nutcracker Cast

## Divertissements

<b>Spanish:</b>	Nina Dunleavy
<b>Arabian:</b>	Olivia Schanbacher, Jahel Duran-Diaz
<b>Demi Leads:</b>	Amanda Merrick-Tompkins, Anna Smagin
<b>Russian:</b>	Carolyn Purdy, Jack Flynn
<b>Corps:</b>	Rachel Kern, Jess Rushton, Olivia Scarborough, Amelia Smicherko, Raven Whitefawn
<b>Chinese:</b>	Marlee Lapinski
<b>Corps:</b>	Sophie Danelutt, Ella Dunleavy, Stella Guesto, Abigail Mace, Mary Jane Michaels, Ava Smith, Cecelia Weaver
<b>Mirlitons:</b>	Elizabeth Papciak
<b>Corps:</b>	Lily Davis, Liana Winkler, Emma Kane, Isabel Shoemaker
<b>Mother Ginger:</b>	Carlos Candelario
<b>Her Children:</b>	Gracelyn Butcofski, Addyson Cardillo, Charlotte Carlsson, Kensie Haas, Ayla Rowlands, Charlie Smith, Charlotte Smith

# The 2022 Nutcracker Cast

## Waltz of the Flowers

<b>Dew Drop Fairy:</b>	Kelly Grevera
<b>Flower Leads:</b>	Lauren Patrick, Cally Richardson
<b>Corps I:</b>	Natalie Bobeck, Lily Davis, Emma Kane, Marlee Lapinski, Amanda Merrick-Tompkins, Carolyn Purdy, Olivia Schanbacher, Liana Winkler
<b>Corps II:</b>	Rachel Kern, Madison Orrson, Jess Rushton, Olivia Scarborough, Amelia Smicherko, Raven Whitefawn
<b>Understudies:</b>	Nina Dunleavy, Elizabeth Papciak, Isabel Shoemaker

## Finale

### *Corps de Ballet*

## Degnan Ballet Center's Guest Artist

### Dr. TJ Firneno



TJ Firneno is a native of White Haven, Pennsylvania. He began dancing with Ballet Northeast/The Degnan Ballet Center in 1999 and continues to guest artist with the Degnan Ballet Center at the Wilkes Conservatory. Over the past 20+ years, Dr. Firneno has been seen in many supporting roles in Ballet Northeast repertoire including Hillarion in Giselle (2011), the Jester in Cinderella (2003 & 2008), Beethoven's Seventh (2007 & 2010), Von Rothbart in Swan Lake (2009), and Drosselmeier in The Nutcracker (2010-present). He has performed lead roles including the title character in The Nutcracker (2005 & 2006), Concerto

Brillante (2006), and, most notably, in Joplin (2007 & 2009). Some of his choreographic works have been seen on the BNE stage including original pieces and adaptations.

Dr. Firneno received his PhD in Quantitative Biology from The University of Texas at Arlington in 2021 and is currently a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Larson Lab at the University of Denver. Dr. Firneno has also continued to pursue his passion in the performing arts frequently acting, directing, designing, and producing for many community and university theaters in Pittsburgh, PA and Dallas/Fort Worth, TX. Though he currently resides in Denver, CO, he splits his time between there and Harrisburg, PA with his husband, Jake, and their three cats.

Dr. Firneno is delighted to be back as a guest artist with The Degnan Ballet Center/Wilkes University Conservatory and would like to send his utmost gratitude to Mary, Sarah, Adrienne, Alison, Karla, Kristin, and the rest of the Wilkes Conservatory for once again having him back. If you'd like to learn more about both his science and performing arts endeavors visit [www.tjfirneno.space](http://www.tjfirneno.space).

## Acknowledgments

Wilkes University Marketing and Communications

Wilkes University Print Shop

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Families and Friends of the Conservatory Students

