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Ballet Virginia Presents:

“The Nutcracker”

Hampton Roads’ professional ballet company

with full orchestra from Symphonicity

(Norfolk, VA — November 8, 2022) – A dream of a magical Nutcracker that comes to life will fill the stage when Ballet Virginia presents “The Nutcracker,” on Dec. 16th at 7:30 PM, Dec. 17th at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM and Dec. 18th at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach.

This “Nutcracker” will feature Ballet Virginia’s professional company in lead roles with a cast of over 100 performers in this beloved holiday classic. Ballet Virginia’s reputation for creating and producing high-quality performances has enabled the organization to attract talented professional dancers from all over the country as well as train the next generation of dancers.

Daniel W. Boothe, Symphonicity’s music director, will conduct the live orchestra of over 50 musicians in all five public performances at the Sandler Center. The orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky’s original score and include strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp, and celesta.

“Our professional company dancers continue to grow as artists. They get better every year and continue to amaze us with their technical and artistic abilities,” said Suzanne Lownsbury, co-director and choreographer for Ballet Virginia.

This year, audiences will notice some big changes. “We continue to make our ‘Nutcracker’ a true Hampton Roads creation,” said Janina Michalski, co-director, and choreographer for Ballet Virginia. “As the professional company grows, we can create a more sophisticated and nuanced ‘Nutcracker’.”

For many years, Michalski and Lownsbury have produced an annual Hampton Roads “Nutcracker” as co-artistic directors. The duo’s past “Nutcracker” productions have graced the stages of Chrysler Hall, Harrison Opera House, and since 2010, the Sandler Center. Ballet Virginia is the resident ballet company at the Sandler Center. In 2021, “Nutcracker” performances, which included five public performances and two student matinees, drew more than 6,500 audience members.

Tickets for Ballet Virginia’s production of “The Nutcracker” with live orchestra at the Sandler Center range in price from \$25 to \$65 and can be purchased at the Sandler Center Box Office or [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). Student matinees will be offered at discounted prices at the Sandler Center on Dec. 15th and 16th at 10:30 AM, providing local students the opportunity to experience this classic holiday event. Further information and reservations can be found by [contacting Ballet Virginia](#).

Please visit [Ballet Virginia's website](#) for additional information and our season performance schedule.

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About Ballet Virginia

Ballet Virginia is a professional ballet company with an associated academy. The organization provides professional quality productions, performances, and training for the Hampton Roads community. The organization also provides opportunities for lighting, set, and costume designers, as well as choreographers, while continuing education and outreach programs for our community at large.

The academy draws from a diverse ballet syllabus inspired by American, Russian, Italian, and French schools. This solid technical base ensures added success in other dance genres offered at the Academy. Our professional productions allow selected students and community dancers the opportunity to experience dance as performance art.

We believe that diversity, equality, and inclusion allow for more meaningful experiences. Dance provides an opportunity to bring people of all backgrounds together to create a community that is richer, stronger, and more innovative.

Our Mission

At Ballet Virginia, we are committed to fostering a lifelong passion for dance through nurturing education, invigorating performances, and artistic excellence. Our Norfolk and Virginia Beach academies teach the whole student by instilling discipline, self-confidence, joy, and a sense of teamwork. Our performances are of the highest caliber as academy students perform side-by-side with professionals. We uphold the highest standards and strive to maintain artistic excellence in all our endeavors.