

## *The Nutcracker: Clara's Journey* finally back at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier!



Photo: Félix Renaud | Dancer: Mai Kono

**Montreal, November 19, 2021** – Les Grands Ballets is pleased to announce the eagerly awaited return of the iconic holiday-season ballet *The Nutcracker!* After a year's absence, the company will dance its renowned production from **December 9 to 28**, at **Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier** in Place des Arts, with a formula tailored to the health measures in effect.

All the wonder and enchantment of Fernand Nault's piece will be on the menu as always, while this year the company will be presenting audiences with a double bill: *The Nutcracker: Clara's Journey*. Since young dancers under the age of 12 cannot currently be vaccinated, it would be impossible to present onstage the first act of the show – which includes the famous Christmas party scene where Clara receives her nutcracker – without losing the magic that the many young dancers who light up this part of the ballet bring to it. Les Grands Ballets, anxious to preserve the integrity of Fernand Nault's work in addition to ensuring the safety of all its artists, will therefore only be staging the second act of the ballet in its entirety, with the company's dancers and children over the age of 12. *The Nutcracker: Clara's Journey* will come to life onstage to the notes of **Tchaikovsky's** famous score, interpreted by Les Grands Ballets' Orchestra, directed by Principal Conductor **Dina Gilbert**.

The first part of the show will offer audiences the gift of a brand-new holiday-season creation. **Ivan Cavallari**, artistic director of the company, has chosen to give free rein to his imagination and present a magical moment in celebration of his favorite time of year. His new creation, ***The Enchanted Gift***, is a fairy tale for the whole family set to composer Heitor Villa-Lobos' music, sure to entertain kids and grownups alike. Christmas Eve finds Professor Christmas in his laboratory. This year he'd like to be able to offer children toys that they won't get tired of in a hurry. Struck by an ingenious idea, he immediately sets to work and succeeds in creating...toys that come alive and perform! What follows is entertainment of every sort, featuring well-known characters from various ballets: Harlequin, for example, and Puss in Boots, the Little Red Riding Hood and a number of others, who dance before the children's dazzled eyes. A new Christmas tale courtesy of Ivan Cavallari, promising any number of plot twists!

Tickets for *The Nutcracker: Clara's Journey* are on sale now, available online at [grandsballets.com](http://grandsballets.com) or by telephone at 514 849-0269.

***THE NUTCRACKER: CLARA'S JOURNEY***  
and ***THE ENCHANTED GIFT***

December 9, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, 27 at 7.30 PM  
December 11, 12, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28 at 2 PM

Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier  
**Presented with orchestra**

### **The Nutcracker Fund for Children**

Eager to favour an exposure to art for all, to democratize ballet and to take part in the cultural education of the new generation, Les Grands Ballets offer each year a full-length performance of The Nutcracker, with orchestra, to 2,800 children from youth foundations and to students from underprivileged areas selected by Une école montréalaise pour tous, a program of the Ministère de l'éducation.

This year the Educational Matinee will take place on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, and will be presented on a reduced scale to respect the distancing imposed by health measures in effect. A program will be specially designed for this presentation.

**Media Requests:**

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