NUTCRACKER FOR KIDS

2018–19 FAMILY MUSICAL MORNINGS SERIES

Pacific Symphony
Roger Kalia, conductor
James McHale, narrator
Festival Ballet Theatre – Salwa Rizkalla, Artistic Director

Tchaikovsky

EXCERPTS FROM THE NUTCRACKER
The Christmas Tree & March
Arrival of Drosselmeyer
Clara’s Gift
The Battle
A Pine Forest in Winter (Journey through the Snow)
Divertissement:
The Spanish Dance (Chocolate)
The Chinese Dance (Tea)
The Russian Dance (Candy Canes)
Dance of the Reed Flutes
Waltz of the Flowers
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
Final Waltz and Grand Finale

Various

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG
The Dreidel Song
Deck the Halls
Jingle Bells

Saturday, December 8, 2018 @ 10 & 11:30 a.m.
Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Education and Community Engagement programs are supported in part by Pacific Symphony League. To learn more, visit www.pacificsymphony.org/League.
Dear friends,

I am thrilled to have all of you with us today for our performance of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. I will be conducting the fantastic musicians of Pacific Symphony as well as the talented dancers from Festival Ballet Theater for this unique production.

From the very opening notes played by Pacific Symphony, our imaginations will take us to a fantastical world filled with dolls, mice and sugar plum fairies. We will also feature the percussion section, which is our Spotlight Instrument for this concert.

The percussion section consists of many instruments including the tambourine and ratchet, both of which you will hear during the performance today. The ratchet represents none other than the Nutcracker!

Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* contains some of the most inspiring and beautiful music ever written. In addition to the Sugar Plum Fairy’s dance, we will also experience dances from exotic places like Spain, Russia and China.

I also hope that you will join us on January 12 for our next concert, Mozart’s *The Magic Flute – Opera for Kids*, which will feature amazing singers and actors! But first, enjoy the magical journey that you are about to embark on, and who knows, maybe there will even be a special guest chanting the words, “Ho, Ho Ho…”

May your holidays be filled with joy and I wish you all the best for the New Year!

Sincerely,

Roger

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**SPOTLIGHT ON PERCUSSION**

Of all the instrument families in the orchestra, the percussion family has the widest variety of instruments. This is because percussion includes anything that makes a sound when it is shaken, scraped or hit. Instruments like the tambourine and the maracas are shaken, while the güiro is scraped with a stick to make sound. Keyboards and all kinds of drums are hit with drumsticks, mallets or hands. Even more percussion instruments, like the cymbals or castanets, make sound when you hit them together. Everyday things you might not think of—like pots, buckets or even mechanical items like a ratchet—can also be used as percussion instruments!

The Nutcracker features many percussion instruments throughout the different dances. Each instrument helps add to the story of *The Nutcracker*, representing different characters from the ballet. For example, a ratchet makes the Nutcracker’s sound, while the tambourine helps make the dancing dolls come to life. Perhaps the most recognizable percussion instrument in *The Nutcracker* is the celeste, a keyboard instrument that represents the Sugar Plum Fairy with its light, high-pitched sound. Listen for these and many other percussion instruments as you watch today’s concert!
FESTIVAL BALLET THEATRE

Celebrating 30 years of artistic excellence, Festival Ballet Theatre, a non-profit arts organization founded in 1988 by Artistic Director Salwa Rizkalla, is Orange County’s premier, accomplished professional ballet company. Our mission is to enrich Orange County’s artistic and economic vitality, to inspire love and appreciation for dance, and to invigorate ballet by:

- Presenting a season of exhilarating classical and contemporary performances,
- Providing a nurturing environment for dancers and choreographers,
- Offering stimulating educational outreach programs.

With reverence for classic masterpieces and a focus on developing future tours de force, Festival Ballet Theatre is committed to presenting the best of dance, enriching lives, and developing a new generation of audiences and artists. Arts Orange County named Festival Ballet Theatre Outstanding Arts Organization of the Year in 2001, and also recognized artistic director Salwa Rizkalla with the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award in 2014.

Festival Ballet Theatre is proud to collaborate with Pacific Symphony for over 10 years in presenting Nutcracker for Kids at the Segerstrom Concert Hall showcasing FBT’s talented company dancers and the students of Southland Ballet Academy, the official school of FBT.

Southland Ballet Academy, founded in 1983, is dedicated to excellence in dance training. Named one of the top seven producing schools in the nation by Pointe magazine, Southland Ballet Academy provides elite ballet training in a creative and nurturing environment. Southland Ballet Academy graduates have gone on to dance professionally in renowned ballet companies across the globe.

NUTCRACKER FUN FACTS!

NUTCRACKERS

Nutcrackers are in a lot of German folktales. In fact, many people believe that nutcrackers bring good luck and protection. Because of these beliefs, many children are given nutcrackers at Christmastime.

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

The Nutcracker is one of the most popular pieces of classical music and is performed by ballet companies all over the world. Tchaikovsky (the composer) did not think it was his best ballet and actually felt his music for The Sleeping Beauty (another ballet) was much better.

THE CELESTE

The beautiful twinkling you hear in “The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” is played by an instrument called the celeste. Celestes look similar to pianos but instead of having strings they have steel plates. When a celeste key is pressed, small hammers strike the steel plates creating a very unique sound.

DANCERS

During the first performance of The Nutcracker, the roles of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince were danced by children. In later professional productions, these roles were sometimes given to adults. Some ballet companies still choose to feature young dancers as Clara.
ROGER KALIA

Hailed as a conductor who leads with “passionate intensity” and recognized as “one to watch,” Kalia is one of America's most exciting young conductors. A three-time recipient (2018, 2017, 2013) of The Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Kalia was recently named music director of Orchestra Santa Monica. He is also entering his fourth season as assistant conductor of Pacific Symphony and music director of the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra. Kalia also serves as co-founder and music director of the Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York, which was recently featured in the League of American Orchestras’ Symphony magazine as one of the premier summer classical music festivals in the country.

Upcoming engagements for the 2018-19 season include debuts with the Spokane Symphony, Symphony New Hampshire, and a re-engagement with the Wheeling Symphony. During the 2017-18 season, he made his European subscription debut with the Szczecin Philharmonic in Poland to rave reviews, led the Camarada Chamber Orchestra of San Diego, returned to conduct the Bakersfield Symphony on their annual gala concert, and collaborated with the Orange County Music and Dance School in a benefit concert titled “From Classical to Rock” featuring rock stars Johnny Rzeznik (Goo Goo Dolls) and Nancy Wilson (Heart).

Kalia started his career as music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony and Indianapolis Symphony. Kalia started his career as music director of the YMF Debut Orchestra of Los Angeles, following in the footsteps of such conductors as Michael Tilson Thomas and André Previn.

Passionate about teaching the next generation of musicians, Kalia maintains a regular teaching relationship with The Colburn School and California State University, Fullerton, and he recently conducted the Missouri All-State Symphony Orchestra. Kalia has also created family and educational concerts for orchestras across the country in a variety of concert formats including the use of multimedia, semi-staged operas, and collaborations with Cirque de la Symphonie and TV personality Randy Jackson.

A native of New York, Kalia holds degrees from Indiana University, the University of Houston and SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School of Music.

JAMES McHALE

James McHale is delighted to be performing again with Pacific Symphony. McHale was featured in the Family Concert King Arthur and the Dragon’s Lair, and wrote and directed Beethoven: Trials to Triumph, Pacific Symphony’s Class Act Youth Concert. He most recently performed in the musical Once at Lamb’s Players’ Theater and Much Ado About Nothing at The Old Globe in San Diego. McHale is a resident artist at Anaheim’s Chance Theater, where he was recently seen in In A Word and Middletown (2017 Stage Scene LA Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role). Other theater credits include Hamlet in Hamlet and Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead, Dogfight, Samsara, Maple and Vine (OC Weekly’s Best Play of the Year 2015), and The Laramie Project Cycle (LA Stage Times’ Top 10 of 2013). He received his B.A. in theater arts performance from CSU Long Beach, and has studied with the Michael Chekhov Association and The Actor’s Center (NYC).

SALWA RIZKALLA

Artistic Director Salwa Rizkalla has been firmly committed to developing the art of ballet and the future of dance in Orange County. For more than 30 years, Rizkalla has presented the finest classical and contemporary repertoire ranging from full-length classical ballets to world-premiere contemporary works through Festival Ballet Theatre.

During her professional dancing career, Rizkalla graced the stage in leading roles in well-known classical ballets as well as contemporary pieces. She had the privilege of working under the direction of world-renowned choreographers Leonid Lavrovsky and Serge Lifar. As a young dancer, Rizkalla trained in the Russian Vaganova method and studied with ballet masters of the Bolshoi and the Kirov. As the culmination of her training, Rizkalla completed a bachelor of arts degree in ballet pedagogy. She established Southland Ballet Academy in 1983 and debuted Festival Ballet Theatre in 1988. In addition to teaching and directing, Rizkalla was a faculty member of several area institutions. Many arts organizations have recognized her service. The Orange County Music and Arts Administrators and Orange County Performing Arts Center jointly presented her the Orange County Arts Educator of the Year Award for Secondary Dance (2003); Youth America Grand Prix awarded Rizkalla Outstanding Teacher accolades since its inception; and Arts Orange County recognized Rizkalla with the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award (2014). Rizkalla was named one of OC’s 100 Most Influential in 2017 by the OC Register.

Rizkalla has been honored to impact the lives of hundreds of students and their families through her teaching. She is proud to be a dedicated educator, an energetic promoter of the arts, and an active participant in the cultural life of her community.