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CONTACT:

Erica Hobbs  
(313) 237-3403  
[ehobbs@motopera.org](mailto:ehobbs@motopera.org)

## Michigan Opera Theatre Kicks Off the Holiday Season with BalletMet's *The Nutcracker* *Annual production features local performers, holiday activities Nov. 25-27 at the Detroit Opera House*

**Detroit, Nov. 14, 2016** – Michigan Opera Theatre kicks off the holiday season with the return of BalletMet's [The Nutcracker](#), with four performances **Nov. 25-27 at the Detroit Opera House**. The annual tradition features more than 80 local dancers, as well as the live Michigan Opera Theatre orchestra playing the classic Tchaikovsky score.

The ballet tells the story of the young Clara and her beloved Nutcracker-turned-prince as they journey together for a magical evening on Christmas Eve to The Land of Sweets. Featuring traditional Victorian costumes, dazzling sets and more than 122 characters on stage, BalletMet's production creates an enchanting atmosphere to captivate children and adults alike.

"*The Nutcracker* is a classic, beloved ballet, and we are excited to present it again with our partners at BalletMet," said Artistic Director **David DiChiera**. "With music by our Michigan Opera Theatre orchestra, live reindeer and holiday-themed activities to complement the performance, we are proud to offer a truly magical experience to get the entire family into the holiday spirit."

Based in Columbus, Ohio, BalletMet is renowned for its versatility and innovative repertory and ranks among the nation's 20 largest ballet companies.

"Even though this ballet is more than 100 years old, each year of preparing *The Nutcracker* brings us new interpretations and some surprises with the performances of these beloved characters," said BalletMet Artistic Director **Edwaard Liang**.

To enhance the magical experience, Michigan Opera Theatre is offering several complementary activities during each of the family matinees:

- Live reindeer prior to performance
- Photos with Santa & Nutcracker
- Holiday-themed craft making for the kids courtesy of Arts & Scraps
- Free samples of holiday ice cream courtesy of Treat Dreams
- The Sugar Plum Parade on stage following the performance
- High school choirs in the grand lobby at intermission

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A **free conversation with the artists** begins one hour prior to each performance.

BalletMet will also give a master class on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to beginner to intermediate ballet students. Class is free with corresponding ticket to *The Nutcracker* or \$25 without. Pre-registration is required. More information is available at <http://www.michiganopera.org/learning/dance-education/>.

The 2016-17 dance season is made possible by the **Lear Corporation**.

Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$110. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org), by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit). Tickets may also be purchased at Ticketmaster.com, at any Ticketmaster outlet, or by calling (800) 745-3000.

For more information visit <http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/the-nutcracker/>.

## **BalletMet's *The Nutcracker***

Friday, Nov. 25, 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 26, 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2:30 p.m.

At the Detroit Opera House

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## **About Michigan Opera Theatre**

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director), one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Visit the website at [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org).

## **About BalletMet**

Renowned for its versatility and innovative repertory, BalletMet ranks among the nation's largest dance companies. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has made the commission and performance of new works a core organizational priority, with more than 150 World Premieres and hundreds of Company Premieres performed throughout its history. BalletMet stages 60 to 70 performances each year at home and on tour. In the past, the company has toured 28 U.S. states and internationally to Russia, Poland, Egypt, Spain and Canada. BalletMet also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs serving nearly 30,000 people annually. The DanceReach program offers up to 60 scholarships

# MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

each year to talented youth, many from minority and under-served groups, who could not otherwise participate.