

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

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Michigan Opera Theatre to Present All New Production of “The Nutcracker” with the Cincinnati Ballet

Production to feature special effects, whimsical sets, additional characters

Nov. 25-26 at the Detroit Opera House

Detroit, Nov. 14, 2017 - Michigan Opera Theatre is proud to offer an exciting all-new production of the perennial favorite “The Nutcracker,” performed by the Cincinnati Ballet. The production features special effects, whimsical sets and additional characters and marks the first return of the ballet company to the Detroit Opera House since 2009. The ballet, presented Nov. 25-26, also includes 80 local dancers and the live MOT Orchestra, conducted by Carmon DeLeone, Music Director of the Cincinnati Ballet.

“We are thrilled to present to our audiences a brand new production that offers some exciting twists to the traditional story,” said Michigan Opera Theatre Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. “With the incredible dancing of the Cincinnati Ballet partnered with live music from our Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra, ‘The Nutcracker’ will be a truly enchanting evening celebrating the most delightful season.”

The ballet tells the tale of young Clara and her beloved Nutcracker-turned-prince as they journey together for a magical night on Christmas Eve to the Land of Sweets. In addition to the familiar story and Tchaikovsky score, the production features pyrotechnic effects, acrobatics and new characters, including an ensemble of dancing poodles.

Cincinnati Ballet Artistic Director Victoria Morgan said the production is completely new since the company’s last visit to Detroit.

“New sets, new costumes, new choreography, new ideas, new magic, new dancers - a new concept!” she said. “This Nutcracker has a whimsical feel to it. It has humor and surprises, in addition to stunning technique.”

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

- Live reindeer on Broadway Street prior to performance
- Photos with Santa and the Nutcracker
- Holiday-themed craft making for the kids at intermission, courtesy of Arts & Scraps
- Free samples of holiday ice cream courtesy of Treat Dreams
- Intermission performances by the Michigan Opera Theatre's Children Chorus and high school and college choirs in the grand lobby
- The Sugar Plum Parade on stage following the performance

Customized holiday ornaments will also be available in the lobby for purchase. Activities will be available beginning 90 minutes before the performance.

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

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

The 2017-18 dance season is made possible by the Lear Corporation. This presentation is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Crane Group.

Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$110. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

<http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/the-nutcracker/>.

Cincinnati Ballet's *The Nutcracker*

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2:30 p.m.

At the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, MI 48226

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Stephen Lord, Principal Conductor; Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus), 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.

About Cincinnati Ballet

Since 1963, Cincinnati Ballet has been the cornerstone professional ballet company of the region, presenting a bold and adventurous array of classical, full-length ballets and contemporary works, regularly with live orchestral accompaniment. Under the artistic direction of Victoria Morgan, Cincinnati Ballet has become a creative force within the larger dance community, commissioning world premiere works and exploring unique collaborations with artists as diverse as Grammy winning guitarist Peter Frampton and popular, Ohio-based band Over the Rhine. With a mission to inspire hope and joy in our community and beyond through the power and passion of dance, Cincinnati Ballet reaches beyond the stage in programs that allow every person in the region to be part of the continued evolution of dance. To that end, Cincinnati Ballet presents exhilarating performances, extensive education outreach programs and offers top level professional ballet training at Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy.