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Michigan Opera Theatre Opens Holiday Season with the Return of BalletMet's "The Nutcracker"

Event features complimentary children's activities, live reindeer

Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 at the Detroit Opera House

DETROIT, Nov. 19, 2019 - Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) will present Columbus's BalletMet at the Detroit Opera House Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 for three performances of "The Nutcracker". The company is making its eighth visit to the Opera House and will bring its popular, traditional production of the Tchaikovsky ballet. The production features Company member and Metro Detroit native Sophie Miklosovic, as well as more than 60 local children dancers. Per MOT tradition, the event will include a series of complimentary activities, including live reindeer and photos with Santa and the Nutcracker.

The ballet tells the story of the young Clara and her beloved Nutcracker-turned-prince as they journey together for a magical journey to The Land of Sweets. The production includes Victorian costumes, dazzling sets and more than 122 characters on stage. It is performed with the live Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra.

"BalletMet's beloved production has become a holiday tradition to our Metro Detroit audiences," said MOT Artistic Advisor for Dance Jon Teeuwissen. "Paired with our holiday activities and live orchestra, it's a magical experience for children and adults alike."

Miklosovic, originally from Shelby Township, joined the company two years ago at age 17. Prior to becoming a professional ballet dancer, she completed part of her training at Spotlight Dance Works in Chesterfield and at Valentina's Ballet in Clawson, both in Macomb County.

The complete list of holiday activities include:

- Live reindeer on Broadway Street prior to performance
- Selfies with Santa and the Nutcracker
- Holiday-themed craft making for kids with Arts & Scraps prior to performance
- Free samples of holiday ice cream courtesy of Treat Dreams prior to performance
- The Sugar Plum Parade, where children have the opportunity to meet the characters and view costumes and sets on stage following the performance

Activities will be available beginning 90 minutes before the performance.

A free ballet talk begins one hour prior to each performance.

BalletMet will also give a master class on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to ballet students ages 8-13. Class is free with a ticket to "The Nutcracker" or \$25 without. Pre-registration is required. More information is available at <https://michiganopera.org/learn/summer-programs/#dancemasterclasses>.

The 2019-20 dance season is made possible by a generous gift from Joanne and Richard Brodie and The Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation. It is also supported by the Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest, 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 start at \$29 and may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

For more information visit <https://michiganopera.org/season-schedule/the-nutcracker/>.

BalletMet's "The Nutcracker"

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

Sunday, Dec. 1, 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, 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 by Dr. David DiChiera, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. The organization is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown and Chairman of the Board Ethan Davidson. Visit the website at 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 each year to talented youth, many from minority and under-served groups, who could not otherwise participate.