

September 2023

Dear Friend of Ballet Theatre of Scranton,

The Nutcracker is a beloved holiday gift presented to the community annually by Ballet Theatre of Scranton since 1976. Among its many awards, the production has been cited in national publications as the only Nutcracker Ballet given as a community gift in the United States and was proud to be the recipient of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce “Hometown Star Award” for *The Nutcracker’s* cultural and economic impact on our community.

From bare beginnings, *The Nutcracker* has grown to an impressive production featuring over 100 dancers, professional sets, costumes, and mesmerizing special effects. To date, we have entertained close to 375,000 patrons and have come to be revered by the Northeastern Pennsylvania community. For many, it is their first introduction to this beautiful art form and for others, it is the only opportunity for families to witness such an extravagant theatrical production. Each year, audiences continue to attend and fill every seat for every performance! The vision of our late founder Constance Reynolds and carried on, since 1991, by Artistic Director Joanne Arduino, this production has become a tradition for families in NEPA and beyond.

The Nutcracker has never missed a performance in its 47-year history! Even during the pandemic, a professional film was produced and had two viewings at the Circle Drive in Theater, free of charge, as well as four airings on local FOX affiliate stations.

We are happy to be back in the theater once again this year at The Theatre at North and will kick off the 2023 holiday season with our performances on **November 24, 25 and 26, 2023 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm.**

Although we do not charge the public for tickets to *The Nutcracker*, the production is certainly not free to present. Over the years, we have experienced difficulty raising the necessary funds to continue our mission. As a result, we established *The Nutcracker Annual Benefit Fund* in 2008, whose purpose is to raise funds to preserve *The Nutcracker* and continue to present it in the spirit in which it was intended – as a *gift*. Your financial contribution of \$100 or more will enable us to continue this gift to the community.

To thank you for your \$100 donation, we will reserve up to 4 seats in your name at a performance of *The Nutcracker*. You will be acknowledged in the Nutcracker Program if your donation is received by the printing deadline of November 1, 2023.

Please fill out the attached benefactor ticket request form and send it in with your donation. **The deadline for benefactor tickets is November 1, 2023.**

Your donation would be most appreciated. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation, your donation may be tax deductible, as provided by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Thank you for your generosity and support of this treasured holiday gift!

Most Sincerely,

Ballet Theatre of Scranton Executive Council