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Canton Ballet Nutcracker is a Northeast Ohio Holiday Tradition

Under the artistic direction of Cassandra Crowley Canton Ballet will present its sparkling holiday showpiece, *The Nutcracker*, in four performances on December 12, 13 and 14 at Canton's Palace Theatre. Performance times are Friday, 7:30 pm; Saturday, 2 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, 2 pm. Canton Ballet has offered its beloved audience favorite since its first public performance in 1968. The tale of *The Nutcracker*, written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816, has fascinated and inspired artists, composers and audiences for almost 200 years. Its first presentation as a classic ballet took place at the Maryinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1892.

One of the brightest stars on northeast Ohio's annual holiday scene is Canton Ballet's *Nutcracker*, presented in lavish sets and costumes to the gorgeous music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky with choreography by Cassandra Crowley, Angelo Lemmo and Carol Hageman. In two acts *The Nutcracker* tells the story of a Christmas Eve in 1860 at the home of young Clara and her family during their holiday party. The mysterious magician

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Drosselmeyer makes a surprise visit and presents Clara with a very special Nutcracker doll. Thus begins the amazing journey of Clara and her Nutcracker prince from a frenzied battle between toy soldiers and child-sized mice to the Kingdom of Snow and the Land of Sweets.

Admission is \$18 to \$22 for adults, \$14 to \$18 for seniors and \$8 to \$10 for children. Reserved seat tickets may be purchased online at cantonballet.com and in person or by telephone at 330-455-6880 at the ballet box office in the Canton Cultural Center for the Arts, 1001 Market Ave. N. in Canton during regular business hours.

The beautifully restored historic Palace Theatre is located at 605 Market Ave. N. in downtown Canton. There is a wheelchair seating area on the main floor. The theatre box office opens one hour before performance times for walkup sales only. Ticket purchase in advance is recommended for this popular event.

For additional information and to order tickets call the ballet office at 330-455-7220 or cantonballet.com. Canton Ballet's winter season of *The Nutcracker* is funded in part by ArtsinStark, Ohio Arts Council, The Repository, WHBC and WKSU/FM.

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With an annual budget of over \$600,000 Canton Ballet is Ohio's largest preprofessional ballet company. The Ballet's school ranks among the three largest preprofessional dance training centers in Ohio. Since inception in 1965 Canton Ballet has produced over 130 premieres. Its educational outreach programs serve up to 5,000 students annually. Additionally the Kerri Hunter Minority Scholarship program provides full tuition for talented and underserved youth. Since 1983 Canton Ballet has been an Honor company in Regional Dance America and is a member of OhioDance. Canton receives funding support from county arts council ArtsinStark and the Ohio Arts Council.