FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ballet Chelsea and Jackson Symphony Orchestra Bring The Nutcracker to the Stage December 11–13

CHELSEA, MI — Some holiday memories begin with the first notes of an orchestra and the anticipation of a curtain rising. This December, Ballet Chelsea invites audiences to share that experience as its 29th annual production of *The Nutcracker* returns to Potter Center at Jackson College for four performances, December 11–13, 2026, in collaboration with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

Featuring the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, Northwest High School Choirs, and Jackson College Vocal Point, the production brings together dancers, musicians, and singers to tell a Christmas Eve story filled with imagination and adventure. Tchaikovsky's familiar score, performed live, carries audiences alongside Clara on her journey to the enchanted Kingdom of Sweets.



Photo courtesy of Michael Bessom Photography



Photo courtesy of Coley Kennedy Stay Gold Photo

From the swirling Snow Scene to the arrival of the Sugar Plum Fairy, the ballet offers moments of wonder for children discovering the story and adults returning to a favorite holiday tradition. Colorful costumes, expressive choreography, and the energy of live music make each performance an opportunity to step away from the holiday rush and share an afternoon or evening at the theater.

Ballet Chelsea and the Jackson Symphony Orchestra first partnered in 2017. Their continued collaboration gives audiences the opportunity to experience the close connection between music and movement, with dancers and musicians bringing the story to life together.

The Nutcracker Performance Schedule
Potter Center, Jackson College

- **Friday, December 11, 2026:** 7 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 12, 2026:** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 13, 2026:** 2 p.m.

Add a Little Sweetness: Sugar Plum Tea

Families can begin their Sunday celebration with the **Sugar Plum Tea on December 13 at noon**, before the 2 p.m. matinee. Held in Potter Center's Robert Snyder Dining Commons, the event includes a catered tea party, character meet-and-greets, crafts, treats from the Land of Sweets, and an opportunity to watch company class onstage.

The tea offers young guests a closer connection to the characters and a glimpse of the preparation behind the performance. Space is limited, and advance reservations are encouraged.

Tickets for *The Nutcracker* and Sugar Plum Tea are available now. Whether continuing a family tradition, introducing a child to ballet, or planning a holiday outing with friends, audiences are encouraged to reserve their seats at **balletchelsea.org/tickets/**.

About Ballet Chelsea

Ballet Chelsea is a nonprofit dance organization dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through dance, offering professional-quality performances, dance education, and community outreach programs throughout southeastern Michigan.

About Jackson Symphony Orchestra

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra enriches the region's cultural life through exceptional orchestral performances, music education, and community engagement, serving audiences throughout south-central Michigan and beyond.