PRESS RELEASE

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High resolution images available here.

Tradition continues with The Nutcracker this Thanksgiving Weekend

Young Alaska dancers and Anchorage Symphony Orchestra perform with Eugene Ballet

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – The Nutcracker is back again to bring the holiday magic for this Thanksgiving weekend. For 36 years, The Nutcracker has become a beloved Anchorage tradition that reminds people to dream bigger, leap higher, and experience the wonders of being a kid again.

For the 36th year of this cherished tradition, Anchorage Concert Association is bringing back the elegant Eugene Ballet to perform with Anchorage Symphony Orchestra and young Alaska dancers coordinated by Alaska Dance Theatre.

Eugene Ballet's production features fantastical sets, costumes, and special effects that leave audiences spellbound and cheering for more, accompanied by live music from the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra and a record high of 140 local children coordinated by Alaska Dance Theatre. With Willam Christensen's historic choreography and Tchaikovsky's beloved score, many families will kick off the holiday season with this timeless classic.

Since its founding in 1978, and under the leadership of award-winning Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer, Toni Pimble, Eugene Ballet has grown to become one of the West's busiest and most versatile professional dance companies. Built upon an engaging repertoire of full-length classical ballets, contemporary works, and accessible family programs, Eugene Ballet continues to collaborate across multiple cultural disciplines to create innovative new pieces, as well as timeless classics like The Nutcracker.

ConocoPhillips Alaska sponsors *The Nutcracker* and supports a community dress rehearsal for clients of local social service organizations. More than 1,000 people will experience the magic of this treasured ballet for free, thanks to support from ConocoPhillips.

Experience the joy and wonder of *The Nutcracker with Eugene Ballet*, Nov. 27-29 in the Atwood Concert Hall. Presented by Anchorage Concert Association. Sponsored by ConocoPhillips Alaska, TOTE Maritime Alaska, and Anchorage Daily News. Tickets available at the CenterTix box office (263-ARTS) and anchorageconcerts.org.

The Nutcracker by the numbers

- For 36 years Anchorage Concert Association has presented *The Nutcracker* at the PAC
- 50+ social service organizations invited to the community dress rehearsal

- 1,000+ social service clients attending ConocoPhillips Community Dress Rehearsal for free
- 140 Alaska dancers ages 8 to 18, (alongside 20+ professional dancers with Eugene Ballet)
- 60 Alaska musicians with Anchorage Symphony Orchestra
- 20+ Alaska stagehands working on *The Nutcracker* behind the scenes with Eugene Ballet artistic and production staff
- 60+ Anchorage Concert Association volunteers and staff who contribute their time to the dress rehearsal, lobby events and selling souvenirs and gifts at the much-loved Nutcracker Store during public performances.
- 50+ Alaska Dance Theatre staff and volunteers who contribute their time with the local dancers
- 11,000+ total attendees at *The Nutcracker* presented by Anchorage Concert Association in 2025

ANCHORAGE CONCERT ASSOCIATION

Anchorage Concert Association is a nonprofit organization with the mission to inspire and enhance community through the performing arts. Anchorage Concert Association connects people through performance and presents local and internationally acclaimed artists from the entire spectrum of the performing arts. Learn more at anchorageconcerts.org.

Anchorage Concert Association Upcoming Events

- **Vitamin String Quartet** – Nov. 13, 2026, Atwood Concert Hall
- **The Nutcracker with Eugene Ballet -** Nov. 27–29, 2026, Atwood Concert Hall
- **The Ugly Sweater Holiday Show -** Dec. 4 & 5, 2026, Discovery Theatre
- **Celtic Woman -** Dec. 11–12, 2026, Atwood Concert Hall
- **Chris Funk -** Jan. 8 & 9, 2027, Discovery Theatre
- **International Guitar Night XXVII,** Jan. 22 & 23, 2027, Discovery Theatre
- **Breabach -** Jan. 30, 2027, Atwood Concert Hall

See full list of shows.

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES & STORY IDEAS

- **Story ideas:**
  - The ConocoPhillips Community Dress Rehearsal offers 1,000+ tickets to the clients of social service organizations
  - The Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center has a program called the Feed Me Hope Bakery program that bakes cookies for attendees of the social service dress rehearsal every year. Their baker is willing to be interviewed.
  - Mark and Danielle Tucker are Principal Dancers with Eugene Ballet. They have developed deep and lasting ties to the Anchorage community. Through their guest teaching at Alaska Dance Theatre, and traveling to Anchorage for Nutcracker, they have come to know many of our local dancers by name, watching them grow and develop year after year.

- **Media Night:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27 for reviewers and journalists. Media can request up to 4 tickets per journalist. RSVP by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 223. Limited tickets available.

- **Contact** Mitchell Hansen to RSVP and for interview requests, mhansen@anchorageconcerts.org, 907-272-1471