

Nutcracker Audition Information Packet 2017 MetroWest Ballet

Thank you for your interest in *MetroWest Ballet's The Nutcracker*. The following information packet will give you an idea as to what is involved in your participation in this favorite holiday tradition and will define our expectations for your involvement. It will also list things that you will need during the rehearsal process and performances. We urge you to keep this information in a convenient place and to refer to it to answer your questions. Audition results will be posted by September 22, 2017.

Pre-professional/professional dancers age 18+

Any pre-professional/professional dancer age 18+ interested in participating in the performance should contact Jennifer Markham to discuss available roles and set up a date to meet. Please contact Jennifer directly at jmarkham@metrowestballet.com.

Actors - Novice to Experienced for character roles

Any actors interested in participating should contact Jennifer Markham to discuss available roles and rehearsal schedule. Young male dancers or actors age 11-14 interested in the role of The Prince must set up an interview no later than October 9, 2017. Please contact jmarkham@metrowestballet.com

Here is a sense of the rehearsal schedule for Actors:

Party Parents (novice to experienced actors)

Wednesday November 8th 6:15-7:00

Wednesday November 15th 6:15-7:00

As well as full cast rehearsals for Act I listed on the rehearsal schedule.

NOTE: There is some flexibility in rehearsal schedule for this role

Drosselmeyer (actor with experience)

November 11 and/o November 18 1:00-3:00

As well as full cast rehearsals for Act I and II listed on the rehearsal schedule.

NOTE: There is some flexibility in rehearsal schedule for this role

Prince (may be choreographed for novice actor to intermediate/advanced dancer)

Wednesday October 18 6:15-7:00

Wednesday October 25 6:15-7:00

Wednesday November 1 6:15-7:00

Saturday November 11 2:00-4:00

Saturday November 18 2:00-4:00

As well as full cast rehearsals for Act I and II listed on the rehearsal schedule.

NOTE: There is some flexibility in rehearsal schedule for this role

Dancers age 7-18 (no experience required for some roles)

Dancers must audition on September 16, 2017 in order to receive a role or roles in the performance. Please check the website for the appropriate time. In order to be eligible to audition, each child must meet the following requirements:

1. He/she must be at least seven years old at the time of the audition.
2. He/she must submit a completed application form no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the audition signed by both parent and child.
3. He/she must submit a \$10 audition fee

Here are a few answers to some possible questions. Please review all.

When should we arrive?

Your child must arrive promptly 30 minutes before the designated audition time for which they are eligible.

12:00-1:00pm: Ages 7-8

1:00-2:30pm: Ages 9-12

3:00-4:30pm: Ages 13+

Where is it located?

The audition will be held at the studios of MetroWest Ballet. 14 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hudson.

Is there any registration form?

Yes. A registration form is included in this packet. Please fill it out completely and provide parent and child's signatures at the bottom.

Is there an audition fee?

Yes. A \$10.00 audition fee must be submitted prior to taking the audition.

What type of clothing is appropriate?

Girls – Leotard, tights or socks and ballet or jazz shoes. Boys – T-shirt, pants, shorts or tights, ballet or jazz shoes.

Do I need to come in to drop off and pick up?

A Parent or Guardian must come in to sign in the Dancer and complete the registration. Please list a phone number where you can be reached during the audition for emergency purposes. If you leave the studio, **please return to the studio 30 minutes before your child is due to finish** - you must sign your child out of the audition. Your child will not be allowed to leave until you sign them out.

NOTE: ONLY SERIOUS APPLICANTS SHOULD APPLY. YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE HIS/ HER FULL EFFORT TO PARTICIPATION IN *MetroWest Ballet's The Nutcracker*. SERIOUS APPLICANTS, ONLY.

Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. Rehearsal scheduling is at the discretion of the MetroWest Ballet Artistic Staff. If your child is cast, he/she will be given a complete rehearsal schedule. **ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ADHERE TO THIS SCHEDULE, WE ASK THAT YOU CHECK THE WEBSITE AND YOUR EMAIL IN CASE OF CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.**

Nutcracker children may be required to rehearse on any or all of the following days. The times given are NOT specific; this schedule is **ONLY** to give you a general idea of the time commitment involved in your participation. Please remember to check the website and your e-mail prior to each rehearsal for new postings or any changes.

Below are the times when your child may be required to rehearse. Further details will be available upon casting.

- Saturdays week of September 18-December 16/17th performance weekend in addition full cast rehearsals and performances listed below on the rehearsal schedule. Young dancers will have rehearsals between 12pm-3pm on a typical weekend. Older dancers will rehearse between 11:00-5:00 on a typical weekend.
- Older students may also be asked to rehearse on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during October and November.

- Clara will be asked to attend a weekday practice on Wednesdays during October and early November
- Actors will attend a weekday rehearsal schedule on Wednesdays (see page 1) and full cast rehearsals and performances listed on the rehearsal schedule.

Full Cast Rehearsals and Performance Dates

Week of 11/20

Monday FULL CAST

4:30-5:00 warm up int/adv dancers only
 5:00-6:30 Party with Party Children, Cousins, Clara, Nephew, Fritz, Maids, Party Parents, Dros
 6:30-7:00 Battle with Rats, Queen, Nutcracker, Clara, Prince (no Mice)
 7:00-8:00 Run Diverts, Snow, Flowers (no Reindeer, Angels, or Lambs)

Tuesday FULL CAST

4:30-5:00 warm up int/adv dancers only
 5:00-6:30 Party with Party Children, Cousins, Clara, Nephew, Fritz, Maids, Party Parents, Dros
 6:30-7:00 Battle Rats, Queen, Nutcracker, Clara, Prince (no Mice)
 7:00-8:00 Run Diverts, Snow, Flowers (no Reindeer, Angels, or Lambs)

Wednesday-Sunday
 Off
 Thanksgiving

Week of 11/27

Wednesday
 6:15-7:00 TBA principals/advanced

Thursday
 Studio A
 TBA principals/advanced

Friday
 6:30-7:30 TBA principals/advanced

Saturday FULL CAST
 11:00-12:00 warm up int/adv dancers only
 12:00-1:30 Party with Party Children, Cousins, Clara, Nephew, Fritz, Maids, Party Parents, Dros
 1:30-3:00 Battle and Snow with Mice, Rats, Queen, Nutcracker, Prince, Clara, Dros, Snow, Reindeer
 3:00-4:30 All Act II with Angels, Lambs, and all Diverts

Week of 12/3

Wednesday
 6:15-7:00 TBA principals/advanced

Thursday
 Studio A
 TBA principals/advanced

Friday

6:30-7:30 TBA principals/advanced

Saturday FULL CAST

11:00-12:00 warm up int/adv dancers only
 12:00-1:30 Party with Party Children, Cousins, Clara, Nephew, Fritz, Maids, Party Parents, Dros
 1:30-3:00 Battle and Snow with Mice, Rats, Queen, Nutcracker, Prince, Clara, Dros, Snow, Reindeer
 3:00-4:30 All Act II with Angels, Lambs, and all Diverts

Week of 12/11

Production Week

Monday

Studio Full Cast Act I and II

4:00-4:30 warm up intermediate and advanced
 4:30-6:00 Act II
 6:00-7:30 Act I
 5:00-7:30 technical set up at theater

Tuesday

Theater Blocking

4:30-6:30 Act II
 6:30-8:00 Act I

Wednesday

Theater Technical Rehearsal with live orchestra

4:30-5:30 warm up
 5:30-6:30 notes
 6:30 30-minute call
 7:00-8:30 Dress Rehearsal
 8:30 Notes (young dancers dismissed)

Thursday

Theater Dress Rehearsal with live orchestra

4:30-5:30 warm up
 5:30-6:30 hair and make up/notes
 5:30-7:00 guest artists have the stage as needed
 6:30 30-minute call
 7:00-8:30 Dress Rehearsal
 8:30 Notes (young dancers dismissed)

Friday December 16

TBA

Saturday

Performance - matinee and evening

Sunday

Performance - matinee

Audition Expectations

Dancers will be assigned a number for identification, and the number will be pinned to the front of their audition outfit. When the dancers are called into the studio they will be given a few combinations. The Artistic Staff is looking for the dancers technical ability and presentation. We suggest you have fun, show what you know, and dance everything as you would if you were on stage in front of an audience. The Artistic Staff will be considering many factors in the casting process, including technical proficiency, presentation, musicality and ability to follow directions. Also, dancers must fit into the available costumes, so height is considered heavily. We expect that you be prompt, quiet, calm and courteous. Please do not audition this year if you cannot follow-through with ALL the audition, rehearsal, and performance expectations.

Cast Expectations

Dancers must return a signed Dancer's Participation Agreement form at the Parents meeting. The form must be accompanied by a \$75 production fee. Cast members are expected to review the rehearsal schedule and understand that a full commitment is necessary. Dancers with poor attendance to rehearsals may be dismissed from the cast. Only doctor documented illness, injury, family emergency, or college/company audition will be considered an excused absence. Exceptional attendance is mandatory. Dancers should not miss more than two rehearsals. All performances are mandatory unless noted in red above. Dress rehearsals are also mandatory. A code of conduct is explained in the Dancer's Participation Agreement, and any deviation from this code may lead to dismissal from the cast.

The cast list, rehearsal schedule, and Dancer's Participation Agreement will be posted on a password protected page on the MetroWest Ballet website by September 22, 2017. Families will receive an email with a link to the page as well as their username and password. Casting is subject to change.

If multiple roles are assigned, Dancers must accept all roles. No Dancer will be allowed to pick which role he or she performs.

Parents Meeting

A Parent's Meeting (mandatory for all NEW parents) is scheduled to answer any questions you may have regarding your child's participation. The meeting takes place on Tuesday September 26th 5:30-6:30 at the studios of MetroWest Ballet. If a parent cannot attend, they may have another adult represent them at the meeting. An adult must sign in for the dancer. Any student who does not get signed in at the meeting will be dismissed from the cast.

The following will be collected at the Parents Meeting:

1. Dancer's Participation Form
2. Production Fee
3. Consent and Waiver/Photo Release
4. Proofing of Dancer's name for program
5. Community Newspaper Form
6. Volunteer Sign Up or *Nutcracker Help* fee in lieu of a volunteer position
(families who have been part of the Nutcracker cast before need only return all of the above items by September 26th. You do not need to attend the meeting)

The following forms and packets will be handed out at Parent's Meeting:

1. Information for Nutcracker Cast Parents
2. DVD order form
3. Cast Portrait sign up and order form
4. Production Week Guide
5. Costume and Make Up requirements
6. Ticket Order Form

7. Sponsorship/Program Ad form

(These forms will also be available on the password protected page on the website for families not required to attend the meeting).

Please find the Audition Registration Form attached.

If you have additional questions, please email jmarkham@metrowestballet.com or call 987-567-8808.

**Nutcracker Audition Registration Form
MetroWest Ballet 2017**

Name _____
(Exactly as you would like it to appear in the program!)

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Height _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

best email _____
(all correspondence between MWB and Nutcracker families will be done through email)

best phone _____
(circle: mom's cell dad's cell home phone mom's work dad's work)

Name of Current Dance School _____

Number of years of training after the age of 6 _____ Years on pointe _____

Please list all health concerns or injuries:

By signing below, I understand MetroWest Ballet's expectations and agree to the Waiver of Liability and Photo Release as follows:

1. The undersigned parent (or guardian) acknowledges reading and clearly understanding the Nutcracker Audition Information Packet 2017. The Parent (or guardian) and Dancer/Actor and I are prepared to follow through with the expectations as indicated once the Dancer/Actor receives a part in MetroWest Ballet's *The Nutcracker*.

2. For and in consideration of participation in the event aforementioned above, including its audition, all rehearsals, and performances, the Parent (or guardian) of Dancer/Actor hereby fully, finally and forever releases and discharges and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless MetroWest Ballet Inc (MWB), and its related entities of whatever kind or nature, successors, assigns, officers, directors, attorneys, agents and employees, from all liability regardless of the cause, claims, demands, actions, causes of action, damages, lawsuits and expenses of any and every kind or nature which Dancer/Actor and Parent or Guardian (individually and collectively), their attorneys, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns may have or may in the future have against MWB, including, but not limited to, suits, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions or any actions sounding in tort or contract or pursuant to any statute or regulations, whether direct or indirect, whether presently discoverable or undiscoverable, whether caused by the negligence of MWB or any other

person or entity in connection with any activity in which Dancer/Actor, Parent or Guardian (individually or collectively) participates during the period in which these events take place, including any period traveling to and from the events described.

Furthermore, the undersigned Parent (or guardian) hereby states that the Dancer/Actor is in proper physical condition to participate with MWB. The undersigned parent (or guardian) hereby appoints MWB to authorize unexpected medical care, and/or hospitalization for Dancer.

3. The undersigned Parent (or guardian) agrees that any participant may be photographed or videotaped in the Audition, Rehearsal or Performance at the direction of MWB and agrees that such photographs or videos may be used by MWB for promotional and archival purposes.

Print Dancer/Actor: _____

Dancers Signature: _____ Date _____

Print Parent (or Guardian): _____

Parent (or Guardian) Signature: _____ Date: _____