



THE NUTCRACKER
CHAMPAIGN URBANA BALLET

Friday, December 3, 2021, at 7:30pm;
Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 2pm and 7:30pm;
Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 2pm and 6 pm
Tryon Festival Theatre

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THIS PERFORMANCE

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PROGRAM

THE NUTCRACKER

A ballet in two acts after the story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E. T. A. Hoffmann

Music by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography by Deanna Doty

Presented by

Champaign Urbana Ballet

Deanna Doty, Artistic Director

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Mike Ross, Director

The Nutcracker

Overture

ACT I

The Party

The Battle

The Land of Snow

20-minute intermission

ACT II

The Land of Sweets

A classical ballet in two acts, *The Nutcracker* is based on E. T. A. Hoffmann's tale *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (1816). Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky created the music for the ballet of this charming story in close collaboration with Marius Petipa, the renowned choreographer who, due to illness, turned the project over to his assistant, Lev Ivanov. *The Nutcracker* was first performed in 1892.

ACT I

On Christmas Eve, the Stahlbaum household prepares for a grand holiday party. Clara, her brother Fritz, and their parents have invited guests to dance and celebrate. The arrival of Clara's eccentric godfather Herr Drosselmeyer brings a sudden air of surprise to the party. Drosselmeyer gathers the children and presents each with a special gift including a nutcracker for Fritz and two magical life-sized dolls for Clara. While the guests are enamored with all Drosselmeyer's creations, Clara is only interested in the nutcracker. A playful Fritz steals the key to the life-sized dolls, and his mischievous behavior causes them to dance frenetically and frighten the guests. Afraid that the party has gone awry, Mrs. Stahlbaum calls for the adults to assemble in the dining room for a holiday feast. No longer under the watchful eye of his parents, Fritz and his friends disrupt the girls at play, causing the nutcracker doll to break in two. Drosselmeyer reappears and, to console his goddaughter, repairs the broken doll before leaving in a dash. After a final dance, the guests depart and the family retires for the night.

Just before midnight, Clara steals down to the eerily darkened room to find her nutcracker. She falls asleep, and the events from the day slip into her dreams. The Rat Queen and her legions of rodents appear, threatening Clara. As the

nightmarish taunting escalates, Drosselmeyer shows his power by casting the rodents and furniture away and making the Christmas tree grow to enormous heights. The Nutcracker, grown to life size, yet trapped in toy form, appears with his army of soldiers and cavalry at his side. A fierce battle with the rats and mice ensues. The Rat Queen and the Nutcracker fall injured despite Clara's bravery in defending the Nutcracker. Ice fairies appear and revive the fallen Nutcracker who comes to life in his true princely form. The Nutcracker and Clara begin their journey to his homeland and dance among snowflakes in the Land of Snow before they are magically carried away.

ACT II

Clara and the Nutcracker travel across a lemonade sea toward his homeland, the Land of Sweets, where they are greeted warmly by the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Clara recounts her heroic tale in which the Sugar Plum Fairy presents Clara with a magnificent crown and flavorful dances of foreign confections, including the beautiful waltz of flowers, before the entire court joins in a final gavotte. Drosselmeyer reappears, and Clara's reverie begins to fade as she is magically returned to the comforts of home and the memory of a fantastic dream.

CAST

ACT I: THE PARTY

Drosselmeyer

Rob Rypka*
Brett Feddersen^

Clara

Grace Williams-Kim*
Janaki Raj-Underhill^

Fritz

Trae Jackson Griffiths*
Irene Kim^

Mrs. Stahlbaum

Erica Johnston*
Hanna Laible-Seif^

Mr. Stahlbaum

Brett Feddersen*
Kevin Burnside^

Party Mothers

Taylor Feddersen
Erica Johnston^
Hanna Laible-Seif*
Emma Rypka
Ava Teague
Farah Willenbrock

Party Fathers

Kevin Burnside*
Sam Drasgow
Tony Hynes
Oscar Lewis
Rob Rypka^
Dallas Trinkle

Party Girls

SB Gergen*
Jimin Kim
Sarah Lee
Jett Lewin^
Belle Lewis*
Lahori Mitra*
Sameena Raj-
Underhill^
Christina Rao
Eleanor Rypka^

Party Boys

Nathaniel Batsie
Colin Dykstra*
Alexander Mahaffey
Fletcher Sowers
DJ Trinkle-Hague^

Boy Doll

William Shunk*
James Noel Griffiths^

Girl Doll

Emily Shunk*
Eleanor Kraatz^

Footman

Leo Lewis

Maid

Janie Lee*
Cate Feinen^

ACT I: THE BATTLE

Nutcracker

James Noel Griffiths*
William Shunk^

Rat Queen

Zoey Rypka

Rats

Sam Boesch
Kevin Burnside
Zane Coulter
Brett Feddersen*
James Noel Griffiths^
Trae Jackson Griffiths
Leo Lewis
Oscar Lewis
Quincy Payton
Rob Rypka^
William Shunk*

Mice

Julia Bruhn*
Alaina Davis
Colin Dykstra^
Lillian Hinds
Makinzee Hopkins^
Helen Kim
Gabriela MacKay*
Ellery Messer*
Alice Putnam^
Rachel Riha
Ivy Rose Rowell^
Margaret Stevens
Julianne "JJ" Wang
Elise Yang
April Yu
Penelope Yunes

Cavalry

Shanley Davis*
Annika Drasgow*
Cate Feinen*
Daisy Grace Lewis^
Claudia Lundsgaard*
Victoria Mahaffey^
Emily Shunk^
Lydia Stevens
Emma Tong^
Samantha Walden

Captains

SB Gergen^
Jimin Kim
Sarah Lee
Jett Lewin*
Christina Rao

Soldiers

Madison Ames-
Emrick^
Nora Anderson
Nathaniel Batsie*
Rhiannon Breg^
Nora Croop
Lenora Donohue
Lucy Gan*
SB Gergen*
Amelia Grant^
Piper Grotrian
Jett Lewin^
Belle Lewis
Kate Lippert
Lillian Lockhart*
Nina Lokshin*
Alexander Mahaffey
Lahori Mitra
Sameena Raj-Underhill

*denotes dancers performing in the evenings on December 3, 4, and 5

^ denotes dancers performing in the matinees on December 4 and 5

Eleanor Rypka
Fletcher Sowers
Athena Stanek^

ACT I: THE LAND OF THE SNOW

Ice Fairies

Taylor Feddersen
Eleanor Kraatz
Hanna Laible-Seif
Emma Rypka
Ava Teague
Farah Willenbrock

Snowflakes

Shanley Davis
Annika Drasgow
Cate Feinen
Irene Kim
Janie Lee
Daisy Grace Lewis
Claudia Lundsgaard
Victoria Mahaffey
Janaki Raj-Underhill*
Elizabeth Seong
Emily Shunk
Emma Tong
Grace Williams-Kim^

ACT II: THE LAND OF THE SWEETS

Lemonade Sprites

Annika Drasgow
Irene Kim
Janie Lee
Daisy Grace Lewis
Claudia Lundsgaard
Victoria Mahaffey
Janaki Raj-Underhill*
Emma Rypka
Elizabeth Seong
Lydia Stevens
Ava Teague

Emma Tong
Samantha Walden
Farah Willenbrock
Grace Williams-Kim^

Heralds

Nora Anderson
Shanley Davis
Lenora Donohue
SB Gergen
Piper Grotrian
Eleanor Rypka

Sugar Plum Fairy

Taylor Feddersen

Cavalier

Kevin Burnside

Spanish Dancers

Cate Feinen
Eleanor Kraatz

Chinese Butterfly

Emily Shunk

Chinese Dragon

Leo Lewis

Chinese Dragon Legs

Nora Croop
Amelia Grant
Belle Lewis
Kate Lippert
Nina Lokshin*
Alexander Mahaffey^
Lahori Mitra
Fletcher Sowers
Elise Yang

Arabian Princess

Hanna Laible-Seif

Arabian Bearers

Brett Feddersen*
Tony Hynes
Oscar Lewis

Rob Rypka^
Dallas Trinkle

Arabian Harem

Annika Drasgow
Irene Kim
Victoria Mahaffey
Lydia Stevens
Emma Tong
Samantha Walden

Ribbon Candy

Janie Lee
James Noel Griffiths^
William Shunk*
With
Shanley Davis
Trae Jackson Griffiths
Jimin Kim^
Sarah Lee*
Jett Lewin*
Daisy Grace Lewis
Claudia Lundsgaard
Sameena Raj-
Underhill^
Christina Rao
Elizabeth Seong

Dairy Queen

Erica Johnston

Cat

Jimin Kim*
Sarah Lee^

Adele

Olivia Swanson

Betsy

Nadia Tawfick

Brandy

Christine Park

Brooke

Iona Donohue*

Gemini

Mae Anderson*
Amelia Shyu^

Moonboy

Niko Hammack^

Pasta

Emmi Bruhn*
Aria Lewin^

Reese

Ellie Kim*
DJ Trinkle-Hague^

Saturn

Serena Lee*
Alison Green^

Rose Queen

Farah Willenbrock

Rose Buds

Emma Rypka
Ava Teague

Flowers

Shanley Davis
Annika Drasgow
Cate Feinen
Irene Kim
Eleanor Kraatz
Hanna Laible-Seif
Janie Lee
Daisy Grace Lewis
Claudia Lundsgaard
Victoria Mahaffey
Janaki Raj-Underhill*
Zoey Rypka
Elizabeth Seong
Emily Shunk
Emma Tong
Samantha Walden
Grace Williams-Kim^

PROFILES

COMPANY ARTISTS



KEVIN BURNSIDE (Soloist) returns in his tenth season with CU Ballet. As a soloist, Burnside's repertoire includes *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, selections from *La Bayadère*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*. Burnside studies

with Deanna Doty at Champaign Ballet Academy and is a former dance major at the University of Illinois where he danced in several roles and was a member of a nationally ranked competitive dance team. He is the co-owner of I-Power School of Gymnastics where he serves as head coach.



TAYLOR FEDDERSEN (Soloist) trained with Champaign Ballet Academy (CBA) for 13 years and performed as a company dancer with CU Ballet through 2016. Feddersen's repertoire with CU Ballet included *The Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum Fairy), *Swan*

Lake (Odile), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Lilac Fairy), *Cinderella*, and *Coppélia*. From 2016 to 2020 while attending the University of Michigan, Feddersen performed in *The Nutcracker* with Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre and Ballet Detroit dancing in the roles of Mrs. Stahlbaum and the Sugar Plum

Fairy. Upon graduating from the University of Michigan and returning to Champaign, she has been an instructor at CBA, the official school of Champaign Urbana Ballet. Feddersen is currently employed by Microsoft as a software engineer.



ERICA JOHNSTON

(Contracted artist and CU Ballet alumna) works in many facets of the performance world including costume design: Peridance Contemporary Dance Company (Igal Perry, Dwight Rhoden); the Ailey School

(Claudia Schreier, Virginie Méçène); JChen Project; and Marymount Manhattan College (Adam Barruch, Christian Von Howard). Costume builds/wardrobe: Jon Batiste; HBO's *Legendary S1*; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; New York City Ballet; BalletX; ABT Studio Company; Ephrat Asherie; José Limón; A\$AP Rocky; and Art Garfunkel. Performance credits include works by Paul Taylor, Gustavo Sansano, Cesar Valentino, and Christopher Jackson. Johnston is a guest instructor with the Champaign Ballet Academy and New York City's Ailey Extension, and a proud Butler Ballet and CU Ballet alumna. In 2021, she directed an album of original music for ballet class (composed by Nevada Lozano and performed by Wesley Ducote) and authored a paired text on teaching introductory music theory to dancers.

DANCERS

BRETT FEDDERSEN has appeared in over 25 productions with CU Ballet. His previous credits include *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*. He is a senior research programmer with the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

CATE FEINEN is a freshman at University Laboratory High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors for eight years. A second-year company member, Feinen has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, selections of *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, and six performances of *The Nutcracker*.

JAMES NOEL GRIFFITHS is an eighth grader at St Isaak's Academy. A first-year senior company member, he has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy for four years under the direction of Deanna Doty with a five-week summer intensive at BalletMet. Griffiths has performed in CU Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, selections from *Coppélia*, *Cinderella*, and *Giselle*. This is his fourth performance of *The Nutcracker*.

ELEANOR KRAATZ is a sophomore at University Laboratory High School. She has trained with Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors for 10 years. A third-year company member, Kraatz has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and selections from *Giselle*. She has also performed in nine performances of *The Nutcracker*, dancing the role of Clara in 2019.

HANNA LAIBLE-SEIF is a junior at Fisher Junior/Senior High School. She has been dancing since she was five years old and is in her sixth year at Champaign Ballet Academy. She has trained under Deanna Doty and several guest instructors while attending Champaign Ballet Academy. Laible-Seif is a third-year company member and has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, scenes from *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*.

JANIE LEE is a junior at Centennial High School. She has been training at Champaign Ballet Academy for 10 years under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors. A fourth-year company member, she has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *The Nutcracker*, and selections from *La Bayadère*.

JANAKI RAJ-UNDERHILL is an eighth grader at Countryside School and has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy for eight years under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors. She is a first-year senior company member and has performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, and *Coppélia*.

EMMA RYPKA is a sophomore at Academy High School and has been dancing since the age of three. She currently trains under Deanna Doty and guest instructors at Champaign Ballet Academy. She attended the Kansas City Ballet Summer intensive in 2021 as well as multiple workshops with the Virtual Ballet Collective and Ballet Chicago. Rypka is a fourth-year senior company member with CU Ballet and has performed in *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, selections from *Giselle* and *Coppélia*, and nine productions of *The Nutcracker*.

ROB RYPKA is a character artist performing in his seventh season with CU Ballet. He has previously appeared in CU Ballet's productions of *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*.

ZOLEEN RYPKA has trained with Deanna Doty and guest instructors at Champaign Ballet Academy since 2016. She is a fifth-year company member and has performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *Paquita*. In 2018, Rypka participated in the teacher training program at Champaign Ballet Academy and then joined the staff in 2021. She is currently an accounting major at Parkland College.

EMILY SHUNK is a junior at University Laboratory High School. A fourth-year company dancer, she has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors for eight years. She has performed in several Champaign Urbana Ballet productions including, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Swan Lake*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*.

WILLIAM SHUNK is a freshman at Academy High School and has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy for two years under the direction of Deanna Doty. A first-year company member, he has performed in Champaign Urbana Ballet's 2019 production of *The Nutcracker* and selections from *Cinderella*, *Coppelia*, and *Giselle*.

AVA TEAGUE is a freshman at Central High School. She is in her fifth year of training at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty and other guest instructors. A fourth-year company member, Teague has performed in CU Ballet productions of *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and several productions of *The Nutcracker*, dancing the role of Clara in 2019.

FARAH WILLENBROCK is a senior at University Laboratory High School. She has trained at Champaign Ballet Academy under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors for 12 years with a semester-long interlude at Salt Creek Ballet. A sixth-year company member, she has appeared in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *Coppélia* and in 2019, danced the role of Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*.

GRACE WILLIAMS-KIM is a sophomore at University Laboratory High School. She has been dancing for nine years and has trained under the direction of Deanna Doty and guest instructors at the Champaign Ballet Academy for the past seven years. She is a third-year company member and has performed in CU Ballet's productions of *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*.

DIRECTORS AND DESIGNERS

DEANNA DOTY (Artistic Director and Choreographer) was born in Chicago, Illinois, to ballet dancer Joan Marley Doty and graphic designer/photographer David Doty. She began her training at the Evanston School of Ballet and Ellis-Du Boulay in Chicago. At age 16, she moved to train and subsequently dance under Harvey Hysell of New Orleans Ballet. Doty continued her career with Robert Ivy Ballet in South Carolina, with Lexington Ballet in Kentucky, and as a guest artist with Ballet Alaska, Mississippi Ballet, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

Throughout her years dancing, Doty enjoyed many opportunities to teach and continued to do so when she moved to Champaign. In 1998, she opened Champaign Ballet Academy, and in the fall of that same year, she founded Champaign Urbana Ballet and continues to serve as its Artistic Director. Although most of her students train in ballet while pursuing academic excellence at regional schools, her instruction is credited for preparing others for professional careers in ballet including Devon Teuscher of American Ballet Theatre and Kate Hosier of National Ballet of Canada.

Doty describes her motivation in this way: “I have spent the past 24 years dedicating myself to the establishment of a nationally recognized school and company right here in Champaign. It is an honor and a privilege to make my living as an artist and teacher, and I feel lucky to be able to do it in a community like this. My hope is to be able to give back to our ballet families, and community, as much as they have given to me.”

KEVIN GAWLEY (Lighting Designer) has designed lights for CU Ballet’s productions of *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *Coppélia*. Gawley earned a BFA and an MFA from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his MBA from DePaul University.

His freelance work has been seen at the Lifeline Theatre—where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of *Jane Eyre* and the After Dark Award for his design of *Strong Poison*—the Organic, Porchlight, Theatre on the Lake, Metropolis, StoreFront, Loyola University Chicago, Revels Chicago, Midwest Jewish, and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. He taught at Loyola University Chicago, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire before joining the faculty at University of Louisville as Associate Professor, Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer.

TRACY MCCABE (Production Manager) brings decades of ballet training and theatre experience to bear in support of our production. A former board member for Champaign Urbana Ballet and Springfield Ballet Company, McCabe has staged theatrical sections of CU Ballet’s productions for over a decade including the Battle Scene for *The Nutcracker*. He also conceived and choreographed CU Ballet’s *Cinderella*. McCabe is a senior administrator at the University of Chicago.

CORY RODEHEAVER (Production Designer) has been working as a freelance scenic designer for the past 19 years designing productions in theatre, musical theatre, opera, and dance. During that time, Rodeheaver also worked as a Technical Director and as an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. Beyond the world of theatre, he has worked both as the Senior Exhibit Designer and Art Director at Taylor Studios Inc., designing award-winning museum exhibits and themed environments across the country for nine years. Currently, Rodeheaver is employed as a designer with the Spectrum Design Group based in Champaign, Illinois, where he lives with his wife Jennifer and three children—Ethan, Emmy, and Ella. He holds an MFA in scenic design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Direction

Deanna Doty

Music

Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky

Choreography

Deanna Doty

Production Manager

Tracy McCabe

Administration

Kay Greene

Assistant to the Artistic Director

Hailan Shanbhag

Production Design

Cory Rodeheaver

Lighting Design

Kevin Gawley

Lighting Design Assistant

Shane O'Neil

Media Projections

Alec LaBau

Stage Management

Jamie Fuller

Master Electrician

Jeffrey Hannah

Costume Conceptualization

Deanna Doty

Costume Manager

Erin Rypka

Head Fitter

Sally Kim

Costume Leads

Aida El-Khadra

Christy Lee

Denise Seif

Rene Shunk

Kim Walden

Additional Costuming

The late Anne de Velder

John Dayger

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John Odum

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Kay Greene, Executive Director
Hailan Shanbhag, Assistant to the
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Erin Rypka, Costume Shop Manager
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Champaign Urbana Ballet



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AGENCY

Champaign Urbana Ballet was formed in 1998 to promote classical and contemporary ballet, to offer training and performance opportunities to talented youth, and to enrich and involve the community through the art of dance. Under the artistic direction of Deanna Doty, founder, the company has diversified its repertory and earned a reputation in the dance community as a superb training ground for preprofessional classical dancers. Through outreach programs, Champaign Urbana Ballet exposes children to the history and beauty of ballet. Champaign Urbana Ballet is sponsored in part by the generous support of the Illinois Arts Council, corporations, businesses, and individuals.

Champaign Urbana Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* each December and a full ballet each spring, including traditional works such as *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, *Paquita*, *Le Corsaire*, as well as newly choreographed pieces such as *Arensky Variations*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and selections from *La Bayadère*. The 2021-2022 season marks the company's 24th and includes this production of *The Nutcracker*, a new ballet, *The Little Mermaid*, coming to the Virginia Theatre on May 6 and 7, 2022, and a student production at the Second Stage at Parkland College on June 11, 2022.

SOLOISTS

Kevin Burnside
Taylor Feddersen
Erica Johnston

COMPANY

Annika Drasgow
Cate Feinen
James Griffiths
Irene Kim
Eleanor Kraatz
Hanna Laible-Seif
Janie Lee
Daisy Grace Lewis
Claudia Lundsgaard
Janaki Raj-Underhill
Emma Rypka
Zoey Rypka
Elizabeth Seong
Emily Shunk
Wes Shunk
Ava Teague
Farah Willenbrock
Grace Williams-Kim

JUNIOR COMPANY

Shanley Davis
Trae Griffiths
Jimin Kim
Sarah Lee
Victoria Mahaffey
Christina Rao
Lydia Stevens
Emma Tong
Samantha Walden

APPRENTICES

Nora Anderson
Nora Croop
Lenora Donohue
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Jett Lewin
Belle Lewis
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Kristin Feddersen

Chuck and Deb Feinen

Tatiana Garcia

Cate Gerard

Mark and Amanda Gergen

Landria Seals Green

Isak and David Griffiths

Tracy Grotrian

Devon Hague

Bill Hammack

Jingrui He

Vickie Hemann

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Andrea Johnston

Sora Jung

Doyeon Kim

Matt Kraatz

Jinhwa Lee

Jong Lee

Porcha Lewin

Ryan and Jocelyn Lippert

Bo Liu

Anna Lockhart

Michael and Jenny Lokshin

Morten Lundsgaard

Patrick MacKay

Sean and Qiaozhi Mahaffey

Tobey Martinez

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Nicole Swanson

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