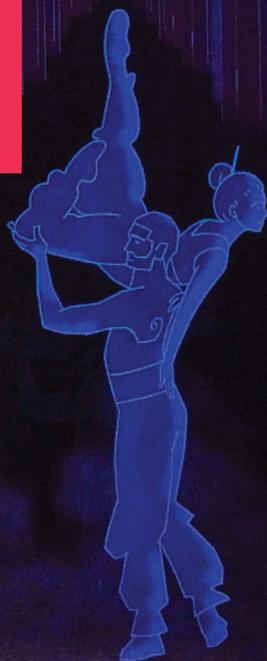


# SYD FEST 19



## THE NUTCRACKER AND I

ALEXANDRA DARIESCU | ROMANIA



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**ALEXANDRA DARIESCU | ROMANIA**

CITY RECITAL HALL  
19 JANUARY  
55 MINS

**Performer and Producer** Alexandra Dariescu

**Director** Nick Hillel

**Art Director and Director of Animation** Adam Smith

**Choreography (Live and Animation)** Jenna Lee

**Ballerina** Désirée Ballantyne

**Technical Producer** Sander Loonen

**Video Design** Yeast Culture

## ABOUT THE SHOW

A reimaging of Tchaikovsky's enchanting Christmas tale merging piano, ballet and state of the art digital animation.

## REPERTOIRE

Arrangements for *The Nutcracker and I*,  
by Alexandra Dariescu

All pieces composed by Tchaikovsky.

1. *Scene* Tchaikovsky
2. *Miniature Overture* arr. Stepan Esipoff
3. *Opening Act One* arr. Gavin Sutherland
4. *March* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
5. *The Battle* arr. Gavin Sutherland
6. *Intermezzo* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
7. *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
8. *Tarantella* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
9. *Arabian Dance* arr. Stepan Esipoff
10. *Russian Dance (Trepak)* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
11. *Chinese Dance* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
12. *Dance of the Reed Flutes* arr. Stepan Esipoff
13. *Pas de deux* arr. Mikhail Pletnev
14. *Flower Waltz* arr. Percy Granger
15. *Finale Act Two* arr. Gavin Sutherland

## ALEXANDRA DARIESCU

Pianist Alexandra Dariescu dazzles audiences worldwide with her effortless musicality and captivating stage presence. In addition to numerous international ensembles she has forged relationships with key UK orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, performing in venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall, Southbank Centre, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and New York's Carnegie Hall.

After the highly acclaimed premiere of Dariescu's own production *The Nutcracker and I* at Barbican's Milton Court in December 2017, Alexandra has taken the Nutcracker on a world tour, performing across Europe at the Wiener Konzerthaus, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, Bozar Brussels, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Konserthuset Göteborg and King's Place London, amongst others, as well as touring China, Australia and the United Arab Emirates.

Dariescu's 2018/19 season marks a special focus on works by female composers in important milestones, including her debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and James Gaffigan, performing Nadia Boulanger's *Fantaisie variée* at London's Barbican and a return visit to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Jessica Cottis, performing Germaine Tailleferre's *Ballade* for piano and orchestra.

Alexandra studied with Sir András Schiff, Imogen Cooper, Nelson Goerner, Alexander Melnikov, Mark Ray, Dina Parakhina and Ronan O'Hora.

A Cultural Ambassador of Romania, Alexandra is patron of Music in Lyddington and an Honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Northern College of Music. In spring 2018, Alexandra received the "Officer of the Romanian Crown" from the Royal Family and was selected as a Young European Leader (YEL40) by Friends of Europe.

## DÉSIRÉE BALLANTYNE

Born in Toronto, Canada, Désirée trained at the Royal Ballet School and English National Ballet School. She joined the English National Ballet in 1999 and was promoted to Soloist in 2007. During her time with ENB Désirée danced in all the major classical repertoire, including the roles of the Lilac Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty*, Myrtha in *Giselle* and Clara in *The Nutcracker*, as well as working with choreographer's including Akram Khan, Russell Maliphant, David Dawson and Itzik Gallili.

Since 2016 Désirée has gone on to dance with companies including the Michael Clark Company (*To a simple, rock 'n' roll ... song*), toured internationally as the principal ballerina with Raymond Gubbay (Strauss Gala Tour) and created the original role of Clara in the groundbreaking multimedia *The Nutcracker and I* by Alexandra Dariescu.