



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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“Get Ready for *The Nutcracker*” at Strong National Museum of Play® November 11 (Veterans Day)

**Featuring Performers from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
and Rochester City Ballet**

Enjoy a preview of a magical family favorite at **“Get Ready for *The Nutcracker*” at Strong National Museum of Play on Tuesday, November 11, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.** The day of storytelling, dance, and live music is presented in conjunction with six upcoming performances of *The Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet, brought to life by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rochester City Ballet at the Eastman Theatre, Friday through Sunday, November 28 to 30.

On the museum's performance schedule:

12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.—Nutcracker Story Time with the Rochester City Ballet. Meet costumed Rochester City Ballet company members who perform such *Nutcracker* roles as Drosselmeyer, The Sugar Plum Fairy, or Clara. Dancers will read the story of *The Nutcracker*, demonstrate a few graceful moves, and encourage children to try a few pirouettes themselves. Rochester City Ballet company members will also be available for pictures and to sign autographs.

1:00–1:45 p.m.—RPO String Quartet. RPO musicians demonstrate their instruments, perform selections from *The Nutcracker*, and explain how the music ties into the ballet and classic story. String Quartet performers include Ellen Rathjen (violin); Daryl Perlo

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2—Nutcracker at Strong

(violin); Olita Povero (viola); and Kathy Kemp (cello).

3:00–3:45 p.m.—RPO Brass Quintet. RPO musicians demonstrate their instruments, perform selections from *The Nutcracker*, and explain how the music ties into the ballet and classic story. Performers are Douglass Prosser (trumpet); Wesley Nance, (trumpet); David Angus (horn); Mark Kellogg (trombone); and Craig Sutherland (tuba).

Kids and families will also enjoy related craft activities throughout the day.

All “Get Ready for The Nutcracker” activities are included with general museum admission fees.

Ticket order forms for *The Nutcracker* performance at Eastman Theatre will be available during the museum event. Ticket prices range from \$24 to \$60. Tickets can also be purchased at www.rpo.org, by phone at 585-454-2100, or in person from the RPO Box office at 108 East Avenue, Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (non-concert Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

Note: Current Strong National Museum of Play members or those joining the museum prior to November 28 may receive a 20 percent discount on selected RPO Nutcracker performances. For more information, contact the Strong Membership Team at 585-263-2700 X254.

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Strong National Museum of Play®, located in downtown Rochester, New York, is the only museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play as it illuminates American culture.

Museum Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Admission Fees:

General Admission (does not include admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®):
Adults \$9.50; Seniors \$8.50; Children (2–17) \$7.50; Children younger than two free; Strong members free.

Admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®:

General Admission fee plus \$3.00 per person for nonmembers and \$1.50 per person for members; Children younger than two free. Due to limited capacity, entry to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*® is by timed ticket only. Advance purchase is recommended. Please call 585-263-2700 to reserve and purchase timed tickets.

Parking: Free parking is available at the museum for all guests on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that, on high visitation days, the museum lot may reach capacity early in the day. If space is not available on site at the time of your visit, you will be directed to additional parking at neighboring municipal garages (fees may apply).