

A large, ornate nutcracker soldier stands next to a classical column in a grand hall. The nutcracker is red with gold and white details, wearing a black hat with a white plume. The background is a warm, reddish-orange glow, possibly from a stage light or a fire. The column is white and has intricate carvings at the top.

TCHAIKOVSKY

The Nutcracker

COMPLETE BALLET
ARRANGED FOR SOLO PIANO

STEWART GOODYEAR



STEINWAY & SONS

Proclaimed as "a phenomenon" by the Los Angeles Times and "one of the best pianists of his generation" by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Stewart Goodyear is an accomplished young pianist whose career spans many genres - concerto soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, and composer.

Mr. Goodyear has performed with major orchestras of the world, including Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields, Bournemouth Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Goodyear began his training at The Royal Conservatory in Toronto, received a bachelor's degree from Curtis Institute of Music, and completed a master's degree at The Juilliard School. Known

also as a composer, he has been commissioned by orchestras and chamber music organizations, and performs his own solo works. In the 2012 and 2013 seasons, Mr. Goodyear performed all 32 Beethoven Piano Sonatas in one day at Koerner Hall, McCarter Theatre, and Mondavi Center. His recordings of the complete Beethoven sonatas and Diabelli Variations are released on the Marquis Classics label. In 2014, his recording of the complete sonatas received a Juno nomination for Best Classical Solo Recording. His critically acclaimed recording of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Grieg's Piano Concerto and his latest album of the Rachmaninov Concertos 2 & 3, each recorded with the Czech National Symphony, are released on the Steinway and Sons label.



Highlights for the 2015-2016 season are a recital celebrating Glenn Gould's US debut at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C, a Canadian tour with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra (BC), and performances with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, l'Orchestre de Paris under Paavo Järvi, and MDR Symphonieorchester under Kristjan Järvi.

The Nutcracker

The premiere of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* — which occurred in 1892 at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre — was not a success: the ballet was too new, too novel, too bizarre. The story revolved around children! There was a fantastical dream sequence that made for the bulk of the ballet. There was a music box, a celesta! The choreography was deemed confusing; the libretto was pooh-poohed as lopsided and the Alexandre Dumas adaptation considered unfaithful to the E.T.A. Hoffman tale from which the Mouse King sprung; and Antonietta Dell'Era, in her role as the Sugar Plum Fairy, was labeled a fatty.



Flash forward seven decades to the late 1960s and *The Nutcracker* — thanks in no small part to Tchaikovsky's 20-minute orchestral *Nutcracker Suite* — became and remains a perennial favorite. Major American ballet companies today generate around 40% of their annual ticket revenue from *Nutcracker* performances. In short, *The Nutcracker* is great music that appeals to many for many different reasons.

"You can look at *The Nutcracker* as the Walt Disney of music," says pianist Stewart Goodyear. "It enchants on the same levels as Disney does: there's the humor; for some, there's the love

story; for some, adventure. All of those aspects are there: it's like listening to Technicolor, listening to animation.

"I grew up with the entire ballet," Goodyear continues, "just listening to it over and over and over again. I was enchanted by the music and just loved the storyline, not only the dances, but the battle between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King — so intense! There were just so many layers, I thought 'I have to do the whole thing!'"

"The whole thing" for Goodyear meant doing his own arrangement — not just the *Suite*, but the entire score. At first blush, it would appear that a piano arrangement of *The Nutcracker* would whitewash Tchaikovsky's orchestral color, but in fact the opposite occurs: textures come to the surface and details pop. Goodyear explains that as he listened again and



again, everything seemed "so pianistic," and it was simply up to him — as arranger and musician — to put the color in.

"I'm just trying to create as faithful an arrangement as possible," says Goodyear, "with all of the orchestral elements there — the woodwinds, the brass, so it doesn't feel like the audience is missing anything — it's all there."

All there and more. To hear Tchaikovsky's music without the visuals is fascinating in that it allows us to focus on all the brilliant craftsmanship of the composer, while the piano brings with it a new palette of color. That Goodyear could undertake such a project speaks to his genius. That he succeeds speaks to Tchaikovsky's.

— Ben Finane

The Nutcracker
was recorded February 25—27, 2015 at
Sono Luminus Studios, Boyce, VA

Producer: Dan Merceruio | Engineer: Daniel Shores
Additional Editing: David Angell
Equipment: Metric Halo ULN-8, DPA 4006 microphones
Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner



Photography: *Fox Nutcracker Tree* by Todd Shearon
Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo
Piano: Steinway Model D #590904 (New York)
Piano Technician: John Veitch

Includes multi-channel 5.0 and stereo mixes
The SACD master was derived from the
24bit, 192kHz master recordings

The Nutcracker

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840—1893)

STEWART GOODYEAR, piano

- 1 Overture [3:09]
- 2 The Christmas Tree [3:36]
- 3 March [2:20]
- 4 Galop and Dance of the Parents [2:12]
- 5 The Presents of Drosselmeyer [5:23]
- 6 Grandfather Dance [5:45]
- 7 Clara and the Nutcracker [6:22]
- 8 The Battle and Transformation Scene [3:16]
- 9 A Pine Forest in Winter [3:50]
- 10 Waltz of the Snowflakes [6:12]
- 11 The Magic Castle [3:59]
- 12 Clara and Prince Charming [4:35]
- 13 Chocolate (Spanish Dance) [1:10]
- 14 Coffee (Arabian Dance) [3:26]
- 15 Tea (Chinese Dance) [0:59]
- 16 Trepak (Russian Dance) [0:59]
- 17 Dance of the Reed Pipes [2:05]
- 18 Polchinelle (The Clown) [2:35]
- 19 Waltz of the Flowers [6:26]
- 20 Intrada [5:09]
- 21 Variation I (Tarantella) [0:35]
- 22 Variation II (Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy) [2:05]
- 23 Coda [1:13]
- 24 Final Waltz and Apotheosis [5:00]

Playing Time: 82:23



Steinway & Sons
©© 2015 Steinway, Inc.
Steinway and the Lyre are registered trademarks.
All rights reserved. Made in the USA.

Compatible with CD
players. Includes high
definition stereo and
surround tracks that can
be read by SACD
players. SACD and
its logo is a trademark
of Sony.



Stereo
Multi-ch

DSD
Direct Stream Digital

