



## IN THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS - THE NUTCRACKER

### NIGEL BATES

The Arts Society Fylde

Lowther Pavilion Theatre

2 November 2022 at 2.00pm

Some nine years ago (December 2013, to be precise), Nigel Bates made his first visit to speak to members of The Arts Society Fylde, when his subject was built round one of the great theatre arts - opera - in a well-received lecture he called *Tantrums and Tiaras; behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House*. Now, on his second visit he moves skilfully to another theatre art: ballet.

*The Nutcracker* has delighted audiences at Christmas for many decades yet it was deemed a failure at its initial performances in 1892. The composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893), based the work on an adaptation of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by the German writer Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann; as an aside, it's interesting to note that E T A Hoffman was a prolific and influential writer - Jacques Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Delibes' *Coppélia*, for example, both have their origins in Hoffman's work; a good reminder of the international nature of the arts.

Nigel Bates bases his lecture on the current Royal Ballet production by Sir Peter Wright; he will help us to take a closer look at how this well-loved ballet now takes its rightful place on stage and how the music of Tchaikovsky along with story-telling, design, dance and a little bit of stage ingenuity all come together to make the most magical escape for young and old alike. We are promised a chance to enjoy short excerpts from the ballet to illustrate Mr Bates's lecture.

### NIGEL BATES

Nigel Bates has been a performer for more than forty years in and out of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, including seventeen years as Principal Percussionist with the Orchestra and eight years as the Music Administrator of The Royal Ballet.

He has worked with many of the leading figures in the classical music industry and was also a producer for both the BBC's *Maestro at the Opera* and *Pappano's Classical Voices* documentary series. He is a regular contributor to the printed and online content of the ROH.

He has given lectures for over thirty years, including many arts societies and conservatoires in the UK and across Australia.



### FURTHER STUDY

Jennifer Fisher: *Nutcracker Nation*, Yale 2003

David Brown: *Tchaikovsky, the Man & his Music*, Faber & Faber 2010

Streamed and DVD versions of the Royal Ballet's current production: [roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk)

*Image: The composer Tchaikovsky, photographed in Odessa in 1893 (public domain)*

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