



BAKERSFIELD NUTCRACKER

Let's Play Together

Dear Friends and Community Members,

We are Reviving the Orchestra!

For thirty-nine years The Bakersfield Nutcracker Ballet enchanted, educated, and inspired generations of Kern County families with its local Ballet performed to a *live symphony orchestra*. In 2015, the show's producers handed the responsibility of Bakersfield's Nutcracker to Civic Dance Center, and during the transition, our community demonstrated their appreciation for this rare alliance between our talented local ballet dancers and our dedicated, local professional musicians. After two years of successful "grass roots" fundraising and hiring an orchestra, Civic Dance Center felt that this task was taking their time and attention away from our dancers, and they reluctantly resorted to recorded music. This change negatively affected the Nutcracker experience and many people have sought a viable solution to preserve our Bakersfield tradition.

Civic Dance Center found a partner in me, and the Shafter Symphony Orchestra, a 501-(c)(3) non-profit, to revive the Bakersfield Nutcracker's rich and educational tradition for our future generations.

The performance and its Young People's Concerts (abbreviated and educational performances) reach thousands of students annually with art that touches the lives of those who might not otherwise recognize *The Dance of the Sugarplum Fairies*. Our collaboration shows our audiences and our community what beauty is possible when we *create, work, and play together*. When we do this, our differences become assets that strengthen us and inspire new talent within our community.

Experiencing our local dancers' collaboration with a live orchestra places Bakersfield in class with only a handful of productions nationwide that perform to live music. The full cost of funding the orchestra is nearly \$60,000. This requires a true community effort - we cannot do this alone. Please join me in reviving and preserving this wonderful and rich tradition by considering a tax-deductible financial donation to support the Nutcracker Orchestra, and with it, Bakersfield's Nutcracker tradition. **100% of the funds raised are exclusively for the orchestra.**

I welcome an opportunity to discuss your participation. Please call or email me anytime.
Sincerely,

Stephen Penner
Conductor, Bakersfield Nutcracker Orchestra
Music Director, Shafter Symphony Orchestra

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