



**NUTCRACKER SEASON IS HERE!
MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS TEN NUTCRACKERS
ACCOMPANIED BY LIVE ORCHESTRA**

As the holiday season approaches, so does the rich pageantry of Manassas Ballet Theatre's *THE NUTCRACKER*! Anchored by MBT, Northern Virginia's largest professional ballet company, the story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince comes alive at the Hylton Performing Arts Center with the help of an ensemble cast and the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra. Dates are December 15-23, with both evening and matinee shows to choose from.

Known for its exquisite costumes, choreography and scenery, MBT's production of *THE NUTCRACKER* has become Northern Virginia's go-to family holiday tradition. MBT had a near sell-out of eight shows in 2015, and tickets to 2016's ten shows are moving fast. "Every year, we try to make some spectacular additions to our Nutcracker," says artistic director Amy Grant Wolfe. "For 2016, we have commissioned more custom scenery, which will help set the stage for some holiday magic!" With 25 full-time, professional dancers from around the world and a supporting youth cast from affiliated school Manassas Ballet Academy, the grandness of Nutcracker is sure to be a delight for all ages.

On December 15, opening night, MBT presents the annual Salute to the Military, with tickets for active duty and veterans free of charge (see below for information).

Tickets start at \$25 and are available at <http://www.hyltoncenter.org> and (888) 945-2468. Performances are as follows: Thursday-Friday, December 15-16, 7:30pm; Saturday-Sunday, December 17-18, 3:00pm & 7:30pm; Tuesday-Wednesday, December 20-21, 7:30pm; Thursday-Friday, December 22-23, 3:00pm. For tickets, ticket discounts (including discounts for Prince William County/Manassas City employees and teachers) and information, please visit <http://www.manassasballet.org> or call the studio at (703) 257-1811.

ABOUT SALUTE TO THE MILITARY

Salute to the Military is a ceremony that celebrates and thanks all military members and branches for their service, featuring the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra playing the National Anthem and the four service anthems, bagpipes playing “Amazing Grace” from the second balcony, a color guard and an introduction of this year’s honoree, retired Brigadier General Michael J. Squier. For the December 15 Nutcracker performance, both active duty and veterans are invited to attend at no charge, with accompanying tickets offered at 20% off.

Military tickets (plus accompanying tickets at 20% off) for Salute to the Military on the opening night of *THE NUTCRACKER*, Thursday, December 15, are only available by calling the studio at (703) 257-1811 or emailing info@manassasballet.org.

ABOUT MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE

Manassas Ballet Theatre is a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1983. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in Northern Virginia by providing accessible, affordable professional ballet performances, educational outreach to the community, and the highest caliber of training to students of all levels. MBT is funded in part by the National Endowment For the Arts, the Virginia Commission of the Arts, Prince William County and the City of Manassas, and is the resident ballet company at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the Manassas campus of George Mason University.

<http://www.manassasballet.org>

ABOUT BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL J. SQUIER

MICHAEL J SQUIER is the former Deputy Director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, Washington, DC in from 1998 to 2002. As Deputy Director, he is responsible for assisting the Director, Army National Guard in formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans affecting the Army National Guard and its more than 362,000 citizen-soldiers. Prior to this assignment, he served in various positions at National Guard Bureau, to include: Chief of Staff, Army National Guard; Executive Officer to the Chief, National Guard Bureau; Chief, Readiness Division; and Deputy Chief, Public Affairs.

Born in Boise, Idaho, Brigadier General Squier enlisted in the Idaho Army National Guard in August 1963. Brigadier General Squier was commissioned

through the Infantry Officer Candidate School in August 1965. As a young officer, he served at the state level in a variety of command and staff positions in the 116th Ordnance Company and the Idaho State Military Academy, culminating in the positions of Company Commander and Commandant respectively. In September 1978, Brigadier General Squier was assigned to National Guard Bureau where, as a Major, he served in various positions of the Mobilization Readiness Division, ultimately serving four years as Assistant Executive to the Chief, National Guard Bureau. In 1987, he assumed command of the 145th Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Idaho National Guard. His last State assignment before returning to National Guard Bureau was his second command assignment, battalion level command at The Equipment Maintenance Center in Europe.

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