FIKA

Concerts - Coffee - Cookies - Conversation

MUSIC SERIES

The Nutcracker: A Musical Storybook

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
10AM

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIKA MUSIC SERIES

In Sweden, the tradition of fika (pronounced "fee-ka") is as common as breakfast—something almost everyone does at least once a day. It's a moment to take a break, often with a cup of coffee or tea and a baked good to enjoy alongside it. At its core, fika means "to drink coffee," but it represents much more: a time to pause, socialize, enjoy good company, and slow down. To truly fika is to make space in your day for connection and refreshment. The Fika Music Series at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church embraces this same spirit, inviting audiences to pause from life's busyness and gather around the joy of live music.

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2026–2027 season of the Fika Music Series, featuring four unique programs celebrating the variety and richness of musical storytelling. The season opens with *Rhapsody & Songs: The Music of George Gershwin* on October 11. Our two Family Fika performances invite listeners of all ages into magical musical worlds with Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite* on November 21 and Ravel's *Mother Goose* Suite on February 6. The season concludes April 11 with *Waltzing Through Vienna*. Concerts last about 40-50 minutes and are presented in the Sanctuary from either the choir loft or the front of the space, offering an intimate experience with the performers. Bring a friend, enjoy the music, and make time to fika with us!

Jordan Buchholtz, Coordinator of Fika Music Series

2026-2027 SEASON CONCERTS

Sunday, October 11, 2pm
Rhapsody & Songs: The Music of George Gershwin

Family Fika - Saturday, November 21, 10am
The Nutcracker Suite

Family Fika - Saturday, February 6, 10am
The Mother Goose Suite

Sunday, April 11, 2pm
Waltzing Through Vienna

PROGRAM ORDER

The Nutcracker Suite — Tchaikovsky arranged by Yoon Jae Lee

Overture

March

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Russian Dance

Arabian Dance

Chinese Dance

Dance of the Reed Flutes

Waltz of the Flowers

Musicians:

Sullie Ojala Helmbolt, narrator
Julie Johnson, flute
Dana Donnay, oboe
Jake Meyer, clarinet
Sunny Draves-Kellerman, bassoon
Kira Seidel, horn
Takako Senn, trumpet
Claire Loudon, violin 1
Renata Steve, violin 2
Marissa Frye, viola
Diane Loudon, cello
Julian Malaby, bass
Emily Gerard, harp
Joel Alexander, percussion
Miriam Jensen, keyboard
Jordan Buchholtz, conductor

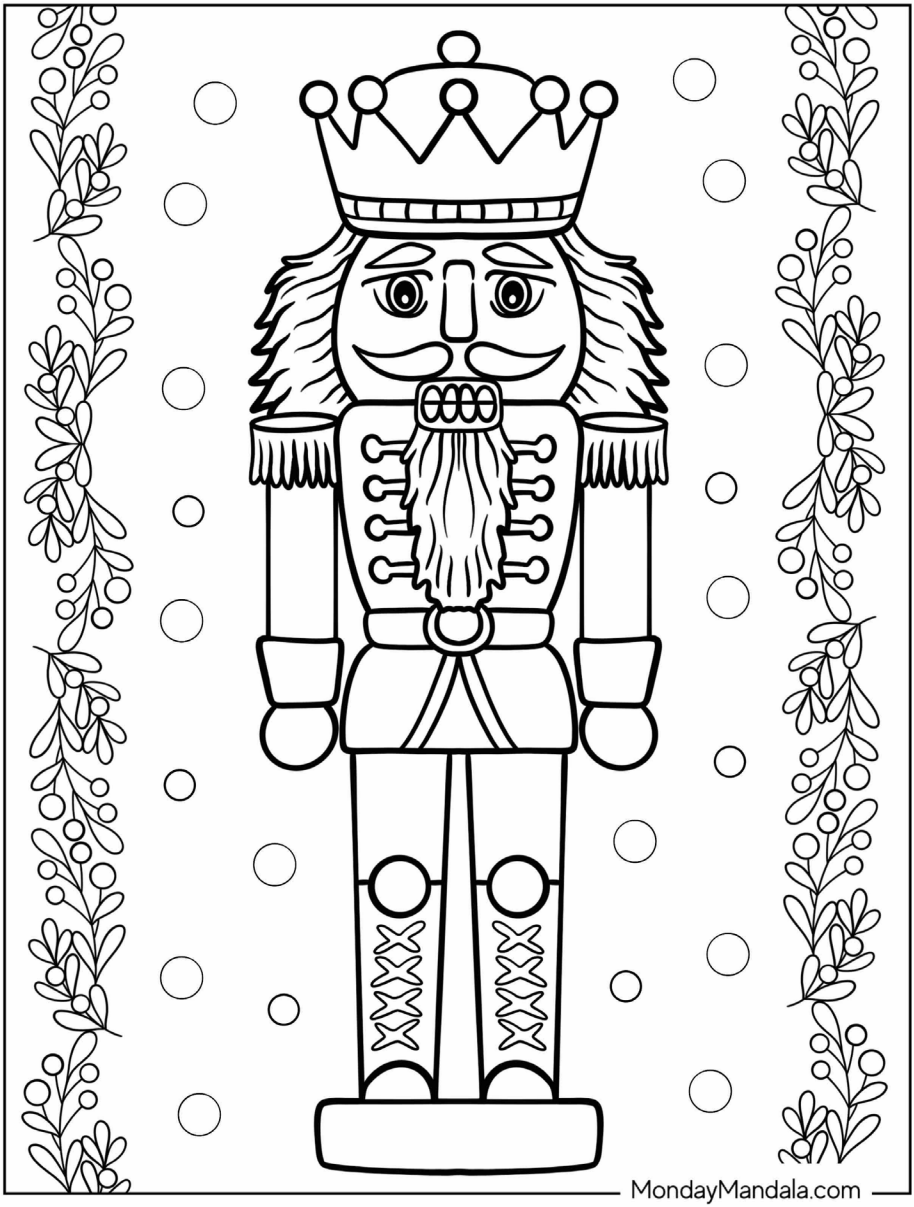
PROGRAM NOTES

The Nutcracker — A Musical Storybook

Composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1891–1892, The Nutcracker was the composer's final ballet, inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's fairy tale as adapted by French writer Alexandre Dumas. Before the complete ballet premiered at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, in December 1892, Tchaikovsky selected eight musical numbers to create The Nutcracker Suite, which premiered in March of that year and quickly became a concert favorite. From the playful Miniature Overture and spirited March to the enchanting Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy and the grand Waltz of the Flowers, the music brings to life a world of Christmas wonder, toy soldiers, magical kingdoms, and dancing flowers. In today's performance, a live narrator joins the instrumental ensemble to tell Clara's story, guiding listeners through her extraordinary Christmas Eve adventure and inviting audiences of all ages to discover the magic behind this beloved holiday classic.

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall for a fun craft, a cup of coffee or lemonade, some sweet treats, and time to visit with friends
Then take this program home and have fun coloring the pages featuring your favorite Nutcracker characters!

THE NUTCRACKER PRINCE



THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY



THE MOUSE KING



MUSIC & ART
AT MOUNT OLIVET

MUSIC IN COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 6, 3:15pm rehearsal, 4pm performance
***Messiah* Sing-Along**
Get ready for Mount Olivet's annual *Messiah* Sing-along!
This festive December tradition brings the community together in a powerful celebration of music and joy. Register online at mtolivet.org.

Sunday, December 13, 2 & 4pm, Mpls Campus
Mount Olivet Annual Christmas Concert: ***Amid the Winter's Snow***
Join us for a spectacular celebration of the Christmas season for these free must-see concert, filled with the beauty and joy of the holidays.

Thursday, March 4, 7pm, Mpls Campus
Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest
This coming Lenten season, Mount Olivet is honored to present its third *Requiem* concert. All singers are invited to participate.
Register online at mtolivet.org.

ART CLASSES

Monday, November 16, 6pm, Mpls Campus
Gouach Koi Pond
Experiment with gouache, an opaque watercolor medium that includes mixing, layering, and adding texture.

Tuesday, December 15, 6pm, Mpls Campus
Rosemaling Ornament
Learn a traditional Scandinavian folk art style using basic strokes and patterns.

MOUNT OLIVET SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS

music and art made in community

Now in its 23rd year, MOSOMA continues to thrive with excellence and energy! With over 25 professional teachers and 250 students, the school continues to champion the importance of Music and Art. The MOSOMA represents a warm, welcoming environment where people come first, learning feels safe and supportive, and exceptional teachers inspire every step of the way. For more information, check out our MOSOMA teachers online and then fill out the private lesson interest form at mtolivet.org/mosoma.

BECOME A SUPPORTER!

Thank you for sharing your time with us today. If you are interested in helping support the FIKA Music Series or you would like to be added to our Mount Olivet Music Events email list, please use the QR codes below. Thank you for your interest and generosity in supporting Music and the Arts at Mount Olivet. For more information, please contact Beverly Claflin at beverlyc@mtolivet.org.

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