

Let the Holidays 'Show' Your Family a Good Time

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ParentMap's annual December article

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BY GEMMA ALEXANDER (/AUTHOR/GEMMA-ALEXANDER) |

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PHOTO: Pacific Northwest Ballet's "The Nutcracker"

Holiday fun is back

It's been a minute since we were able to celebrate the holiday season like we used to. Bu couple of years of canceled, postponed and virtual celebrations, this year things are look The pandemic was hard on the arts community, and not every organization pulled throug now that it's starting to be safe to gather again, the ones that did are ready to show your good time for the holidays.

Use the arrows above, or click on the links below to find your perfect holiday entertainme

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PHOTO: International Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker"; Photography by Rex Tranter

‘The Nutcrackers’

George Balanchine’s ‘The Nutcracker’ (<https://www.pnb.org/nutcracker/>)’

Pacific Northwest Ballet’s staging of “The Nutcracker” is one of the area’s most beloved traditions. If you haven’t seen George Balanchine’s 1952 choreography paired with Ian Faquir’s quirky sets, there’s no better time than now. And if you go every year, no doubt you are all looking forward to the roaming GiggleWorks magicians during opening weekend, photo c

throughout the lobby for the entire run and the "[Nutcracker Suites](https://www.pnb.org/nutcracker/suites/)" (<https://www.pnb.org/nutcracker/suites/>)" add-on for folks to nosh during intermission. Only tickets are also available. Nov. 25–Dec. 27. \$27–\$180. *McCaw Hall, Seattle*

[Wade Walthall's 'The Nutcracker' \(https://www.evergreencityballet.org/the-nutcracker/\)](https://www.evergreencityballet.org/the-nutcracker/)

After a two-year hiatus, Evergreen City Ballet is back with Wade Walthall's "The Nutcracker" company is offering four performances each at two venues: Auburn Performing Arts Center (Dec. 9–11) and Renton Ikea Performing Arts Center (Dec. 16–18). One of the performances at each venue will be an abbreviated, one-hour performance perfect for the littlest ballet fan at \$35.

['Nutcracker Sweets' \(https://arcdance.org/events/category/events/\)](https://arcdance.org/events/category/events/)

The annual "Nutcracker Sweets" performances by ARC Dance showcase ARC School of Dance students together with members of the professional company. The dancers bring the music of "The Nutcracker" to life in a 90-minute version of the classic ballet specifically designed to appeal to young audience members. Performances begin Dec. 2 in Leavenworth and will continue on successive weekends in Ballard and Shoreline. Dec. 2–17. \$15–\$47. *Venues in Leavenworth, Seattle and Shoreline*

['The Nutcracker' \(https://www.tacomacityballet.com/\)](https://www.tacomacityballet.com/)

Tacoma City Ballet presents an all-matinee run of the original Russian version of "The Nutcracker," featuring live accompaniment by the Tacoma City Ballet Orchestra. Dec. 10–11. \$17–\$102. *Pantages Theater, Tacoma*

['The Nutcracker' by Olympic Ballet Theatre \(https://www.olympicballet.org/performance-season/the-nutcracker/\)](https://www.olympicballet.org/performance-season/the-nutcracker/)

Olympic Ballet Theatre presents its annual, full-length performance of the holiday favorite. The choreography by OBT artistic directors Oleg Gorboulev and Mara Vinson includes your favorite scenes from the original — snowflakes, mouse battle, flowers and all. Dec. 9–20. \$25–\$35. *Venues in Everett and Edmonds*

['The Nutcracker' by International Ballet Theatre \(https://www.ibtbellevue.org/season/2022-2023/the-nutcracker/\)](https://www.ibtbellevue.org/season/2022-2023/the-nutcracker/)

International Ballet Theatre's "Nutcracker" is an Eastside tradition. This production of the beloved ballet is performed in the traditional Russian style, with choreography by Vera Albrecht plus Arabian dancers and a fierce battle scene. Dec. 9–23. \$25–\$55. *Meydenbauer Center Theatre, Bellevue*

['The Nutcracker' by Ballet Northwest \(https://balletnorthwest.org/nutcracker-tickets-2022-2023/\)](https://balletnorthwest.org/nutcracker-tickets-2022-2023/)

For more than 35 years, Ballet Northwest has presented a large-scale "Nutcracker" with more than 200 dancers, including guest artists. This year, Sanford Placide from Dance Theatre Harlem will be showcased in the production. Dec. 9–18. \$15–\$36. *Washington Center, Olympia*

['The Nutcracker' by Emerald Ballet Theatre \(https://www.emeraldballet.org/2022-2023-season/the-nutcracker/\)](https://www.emeraldballet.org/2022-2023-season/the-nutcracker/)

Now in its 15th year, ParentMap Golden Teddy–winning Emerald Ballet Theatre's annual matinee production of "The Nutcracker" is performed by a combination of talented professional and student performers. It is one of a handful of local "Nutcrackers" performed with live music courtesy of the Emerald Ballet Theatre Orchestra, conducted by David Waltman. On Dec. 3–11, a.m., a mini performance will introduce the youngest dancers to the stage. Dec. 3–11. \$25–\$35. *Northshore Performing Arts Center, Bothell*

Seattle City 'Nutcracker' (<https://www.dassdance.org/performances>)'

Bicoastal dance company DASSdance introduced its "All-Terrain Nutcracker" in 2019. The Seattle City "Nutcracker" prefers innovation over tradition and features an LED-lit mecha and black-lit AI robots in the battle scene. Dec. 10–11. \$27–\$32. *Broadway Performance Seattle*

'The Nutcracker' by Studio West Dance Theatre

(<https://www.washingtoncenter.org/organizer/studio-west-dance-theatre/>)

Kicking off the holiday season in the newly refurbished Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Studio West presents its own production that hews closely to the traditional ballet - few comical surprises. For an extra \$15, kids ages 3 and older can join Clara's Nutcracker one hour prior to each matinee performance to make a holiday keepsake, enjoy a "Nutcracker story time, take pictures with characters from the ballet and eat treats. Nov. 25–28. \$18- *Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia*

'The Nutcracker' by Vashon Center for Dance (<https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/nutcracker-2022/2022-12-02/>)

The Vashon Center for Dance will present its beloved all-ages "Nutcracker" Dec. 1–4. \$18- *Vashon Center for the Arts, Vashon Island*

Up next: 'Christmas Carols' and 'Nights Before Christmas'

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PHOTO: Studio East's "Twas the Night..."

‘Christmas Carols’ and ‘Nights Before Christmas’

‘A Christmas Carol (<https://acttheatre.org/a-christmas-carol-2022/>)’

Now in its 47th year, ACT’s annual production of “A Christmas Carol” is almost as much a tradition as Dickens’ original story. Famously (or infamously, depending on your perspective) this version is too scary for some kids, and the theater enforces a minimum age of 5 for attendance. But for older and bolder children, this holiday thriller is unmissable. Nov. 25–24. \$39–\$94. ACT – A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle

'A Christmas Carol (<https://harlequinproductions.org/show/a-christmas-carol-3/>)'

Harlequin Productions presents a new staging of artistic director Aaron Lamb's adaptati holiday classic. It promises a healthy dose of cheer and ghostly special effects in this 80 one-act show that's appropriate for all ages. Nov. 23–Dec. 24. \$25–\$49. *The State Theat Olympia*

'A Christmas Carol (<https://www.secondstoryrep.org/product-page/a-christmas-carol-5>)'

SecondStory isn't doing its junior version this year, but the mainstage adaptation of Char Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" (now in its eighth year) is an all-ages affair replete with trad Christmas carols. For regular attendees, this will be the last season to see John Clark in of Scrooge. Dec. 2–23. \$30. *SecondStory Repertory, Redmond*

'Ebenezer's Christmas Carol (<https://www.stonesouptheatre.org/>)'

Stone Soup offers theater by and for kids in one act at a bargain price. But there are only performances of this family-friendly 'Christmas Carol' starring fourth- through ninth-grad be sure to buy tickets early. Dec. 8–10. \$TBA. *Wallingford Presbyterian Church, Seattle*

'A Christmas Carol (<http://www.rosebudctc.org/buy-tickets/>)'

Rosebud Children's Theatre Conservatory trains young performers and presents commu theater by and for all ages. This year, its December production is "A Christmas Carol." De \$18. *Federal Way High School, Federal Way*

'Twas the Night ...' (<https://studio-east.org/twas-the-night/>)'

Experience a chaotic yet cute "Night Before Christmas" from the point of view of runawa hungry cats, the reindeer and the Man in Red himself. Studio East's annual reimaging o classic poem is performed by actors ages 6–19. Dec. 2–4. \$26. *Kirkland Performance Ce Kirkland*

'Humbug (<https://ci.ovationtix.com/35408/production/1123386>)'

A modern take on "A Christmas Carol" in the same vein as "Scrooged," "Humbug" spends Christmas Eve with Eleanor Scrooge, a power-hungry Wall Street executive whose attempt wrap up a corporate takeover in time for Christmas gets sidetracked by three (presumab supernatural business advisers. Dec. 2–17. \$21–\$26. *Renton Civic Theatre, Renton*

Up next: [Other holiday theater picks \(<https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holiday-your-family-good-time/4#pager->](https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holiday-your-family-good-time/4#pager-)

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PHOTO: "Paddington Saves Christmas". Photo credit: Rockefeller Productions

Other holiday theater picks

'Rudolph and Other Holiday Stories (<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/community-centers/bellevue-youth-theatre/bellevue-theatre-productions>)'

Family members of all ages will enjoy this mashup of short holiday stories featuring Rudolph and other characters, both familiar and new, all performed by local youth actors. Shows can be attended in person or via livestream. Dec. 16–18. \$12. *Bellevue Youth Theatre, Bellevue*

'Paddington Saves Christmas (<https://www.sct.org/onstage/productions/paddington-saves-christmas-2/>)'

What parent of small children can't relate to hapless Paddington Bear, whose well-intentioned efforts so often go wrong? In Seattle Children's Theatre's holiday production, Paddington makes seasonal marmalade jam and helps his neighbor tidy up to prepare for a holiday houseguest. Chaos ensues. Can Paddington save Christmas? Nov. 15–Dec. 31. \$20–\$40. *Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle*

'Nyx and the Long Night (<https://olyft.org/nyx-and-the-long-night/>)'

Long before there was a Christmas holiday, cultures around the world celebrated the winter solstice. "Nyx and the Long Night," an Olympia Family Theater coproduction with String & Shadow Puppet Theater, presents one of those winter folk myths in a full stage play with musicians and large puppets. When sisters Sol and Luna drop the sun during their daily quest to catch it, it falls to Nyx – part girl, part tree – to save the world. Dec. 9–24. Recommended for ages 5 and older. \$5–\$35. *Olympia Family Theater, Olympia*

'The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley (<https://taproottheatre.org/shows/2022/the-wickhams-christmas-at-pemberley/>)'

Jane Austen liked to end with a wedding, but weddings are just the beginning of dealing with in-laws and difficult relatives. In this "Pride and Prejudice" postscript by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon, Lydia is home for the holidays and the downstairs staff are scrambling to keep secrets. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Nov. 23–Dec. 30. \$25–\$51. (Read the [parent review \(<https://www.parentmap.com/article/taproot-theatres-wickhams-christmas-at-pemberley/>\)](https://www.parentmap.com/article/taproot-theatres-wickhams-christmas-at-pemberley/).) *Taproot Theatre, Seattle*

'Mr. Dickens and His Carol (<https://www.seattlerep.org/plays/202223-season/mr-dickens-and-his-carol/>)'

In this world premiere, Charles Dickens' publishers demand a Christmas book within a month or else. Adapted from Samantha Silva's critically acclaimed novel, this fictional take on the life of Dickens' classic story is destined to become a new holiday classic in its own right. Nov. 23–Dec. 23. \$17 and up. *Bagley Wright Theatre, Seattle*

'A Charlie Brown Christmas (<https://tmp.org/index.php/winter-honor-camp/>)'

Delight in the performances of Tacoma Musical Playhouse's experienced youth actors in roles as the Peanuts gang, overcoming the commercialization of Christmas with a pageant float, a spindly tree and a heartfelt speech. Dec. 18–24. \$10. *Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma*

'The Flight Before Xmas (<https://www.machatheatreworks.com/flight-before-xmas-2023/>)'

Being stuck in the airport is the opposite of feeling Christmas cheer. But sometimes you can't be a little late to truly appreciate what you're rushing toward. Maggie Lee's "Flight Before Christmas" is a modern holiday show about finding your way home and the family we discover for ourselves. Dec. 2–23. \$20–\$100. Recommended for ages 7 and older; no babes in arms. *West of Levee Theatre, Seattle*

'One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall

(<http://www.olympialittletheater.org/shows/thewickhams/>)'

Much like the TV holiday classic "A Christmas Story," Olympia Little Theater's "One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall" presents an all-American holiday. In eight vignettes, a series of characters, from Baby Jesus–snatching teens to a lonesome elf, connect in a shopping trip

Christmas Eve. Despite petty crime, arguments and shopping dilemmas, this holiday cha promises to warm hearts on and offstage. Dec. 2–18. \$9–\$15. All ages. *Olympia Little T Olympia*

'Christmastown: A Holiday Noir' (<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=139627>)

This film-noir-inspired thriller is back for the last time. Hardboiled detective Nick Holiday searches for the truth about Big Red and faces many un-holiday-like shenanigans involvi glamorous elf, a used-Christmas-tree salesman, a muckraking reporter and a quick-think driver. Dec. 2–Dec. 24. \$36. *Seattle Public Theater at the Green Lake Bathhouse, Seattle*

'A Christmas Story' (<https://www.tacomalittletheatre.com/blog/20222023/xmasstory>)'

"A Christmas Story" somehow manages to capture a nostalgic feeling for a childhood C unlike anything most of us born after Woodstock or west of the Rockies have ever experi Forever-9-year-old Ralphie collected cereal box tops, licked a frozen flagpole and nearly s eye out so we don't have to. Dec. 2–24. \$27. *Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma*

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PHOTO: Driftwood Players "Elf - The Musical"

Comic romps and pantos

'Dashing Through the Snow' (<https://www.tptedmonds.org/>)

From the same creative team that wrote the hit '80s TV show "The Golden Girls," "Dashin Through the Snow" offers a collection of four vignettes set against the backdrop of a Chi themed inn. While there are some implied adult situations, the show is family-friendly and act centers on a theme of family. Nov. 25–Dec. 18. \$25. *The Phoenix Theatre, Edmonds*

'An Improvised Christmas Carol (<https://unexpectedproductions.org/shows-2/christmascarol/>)'

UP Improv's "An Improvised Christmas Carol" might belong up above in the "Christmas C section. But then, Dickens' story is just a starting point, and with dozens of audience suggestions redirecting the performers midstream, there's really no telling where you and Scrooge will end up. The one thing you can count on: Unexpected Productions will keep it friendly. Nov. 25–Dec. 23. \$20 online, \$25 at the door. *Unexpected Productions, Seattle*

'A Very Die Hard Christmas (<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=139625>)'

Putting an end once and for all to the great question "Is 'Die Hard' a Christmas movie?" Seattle Public Theater presents a musical parody that is sure to blow the roof off the joint. If you are old enough to enjoy the movie, your whole family will love the action, '80s jokes, soft jams and snarky German terrorists in this production. Nov. 25–Dec. 20. \$38. *Seattle Public Theater at the Green Lake Bathhouse, Seattle*

'The Empress' New Clothes (<http://www.fremontplayers.com/>)'

British traditionalists will welcome the return of The Fremont Players and Fremont Philharmonic Orchestra with their annual British panto production of cracked classics loaded with joke both at the kids and over their heads. Expect audience participation and slapstick in a very Hans Christian Andersen's tale he never would have expected. Dec. 11–Jan. 8. \$20. *Sunshine Community Club, Seattle*

'Elf – The Musical (<https://edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org/shows-tickets/>)'

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear ... which the Driftwood Players are doing in this musical adaptation of Will Ferrell's beloved contemporary classic Christmas movie, "Elf." Raised at the North Pole as an elf, Buddy, who is actually a human, comes to New York City to meet his birth father — and rescue him from Santa's Naughty List. Recommended for ages 8 and older. Nov. 18–Dec. 18. \$28. *Wade James Theatre, Edmonds*

'Elf – The Musical

(<https://tickets.manestagetheatre.com/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent155.html>)'

Buddy's journey from the North Pole continues south in ManeStage Theatre Company's production of "Elf – The Musical" in Puyallup. Now South Sound families can enjoy Buddy's brand of Christmas cheer and unironic joy without walking through the Lincoln Tunnel or dealing with I-5 traffic. Dec. 2–18. \$30. *Liberty Theater, Puyallup*

'Cinderella (<https://centerstagetheatre.com/cinderella/>)'

The British panto-style version of the Cinderella fairy tale is filled with sparkle, glitter and fun. For more than 15 years, Centerstage has provided holiday laughs in the panto tradition. This year, as always, audience participation is encouraged to enhance the cleverly choreographed mayhem, as the Fairy Godmother, Cinderella, Prince Charming and the evil stepsisters (Katie and Khloe) deliver holiday joy and belly laughs. Nov. 26–Dec. 18. \$42–\$45. *Knutzen Family Theatre, Federal Way*

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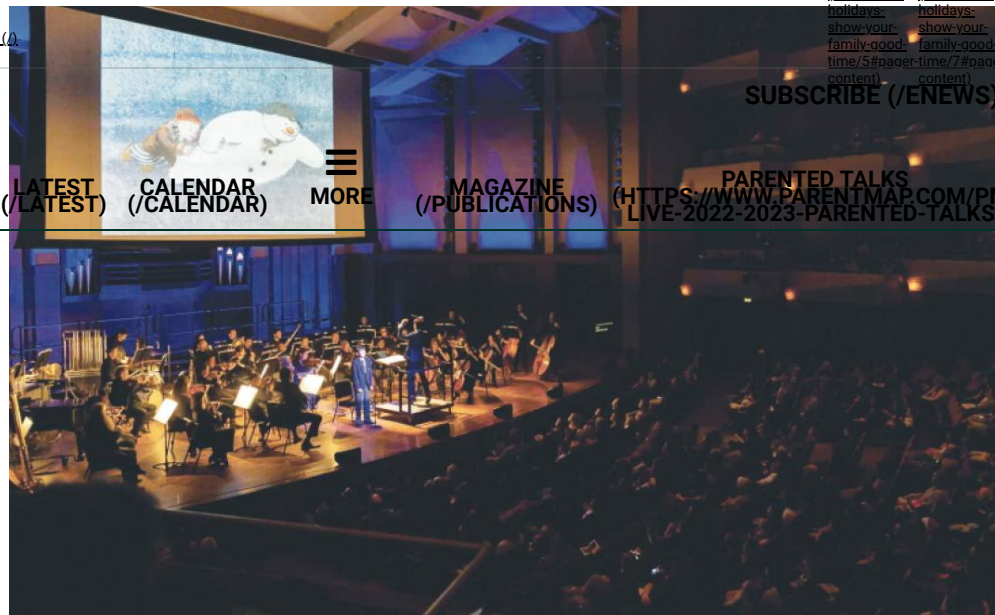


PHOTO: Seattle Symphony's Family Concert "The Snowman"

Holiday music

‘Jake Shimabukuro: Christmas in Hawai’i’

Folks from Olympia to Seattle can kick off Christmas with the spirit of aloha. Ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro brings Hawaii to your holidays with a mix of classic Christmas carols, pop songs and selections from “Jake & Friends.” He’ll be joined on stage by Jackson Wa Justin Kawika Young and Herb Ohta Jr. Dec. 9, \$45–\$69 at [The Washington Center for th](#)

[Performing Arts \(https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/22-12-09-jake-shimabukuro/\)](https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/22-12-09-jake-shimabukuro/)
Olympia; Dec. 10, \$40 and up at [Moore Theatre, Seattle](https://www.stgprepresents.org/calendar/13495/jake-shimabukuro)
(<https://www.stgprepresents.org/calendar/13495/jake-shimabukuro>).

[Symphony Tacoma: Holiday Favorites and Handel's 'Messiah](https://symphonytacoma.org/concerts/upcoming-concerts/)

(<https://symphonytacoma.org/concerts/upcoming-concerts/>)'

Symphony Tacoma offers two holiday options this year. On Dec. 4, don't miss a matinee annual chorale concert of family favorites at Pantages Theater. On the evening of Dec. 1 Charles Borromeo Church, a performance of Handel's "Messiah" will feature its classic o performed by Symphony Tacoma Voices. \$24–\$87. *Pantages Theatre and St. Charles Bo Church, Tacoma*

[The Snowman \(https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2022-2023/22fam2/\)](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2022-2023/22fam2/)

Enjoy the classic children's film about a snowman who comes to life and takes a little bo North Pole at Seattle Symphony's Family Concert, designed for ages 6–12. In addition to there will be a musical program, including "Carol of the Bells" and childhood favorite "Jin Bells," as well as Howard Blake's "The Snowman." Dec. 3. \$15–\$25. *Benaroya Hall, Seattl*

[On Earth, Peace! \(https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/66248/2022-12-10/\)](https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/66248/2022-12-10/)

In honor of the 150th birthday of Ralph Vaughan Williams, the Vashon Island Chorale will perform "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" together with some of the composer's shorter, seasonally appropriate works and songs by his contemporaries, including Gerald Finzi's "pax." The choir will be accompanied by a local string orchestra. Dec. 10–11. \$20. *Vashor for the Arts, Vashon Island*

[Maccabeats' Hanukkah Concert \(https://sjcc.org/event/maccabeats-hanukkah-concert-show/\)](https://sjcc.org/event/maccabeats-hanukkah-concert-show/)

A cappella Jewish music vocalists the Maccabeats integrate traditional and secular sou an all-ages show with an eclectic repertoire of Jewish and Israeli songs, pop hits and sig mashups, such as the Hanukkah parody "Candlelight." In-person tickets sold out in Octob you can still buy virtual tickets or get on the waiting list for in-person possibilities. Dec. 4 *Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island*

[Kalani Pe'a Christmas Show](https://www.edmondscenterforthearts.org/events/detail/501/kalani-pe-039-a-christm-show/3716/)

([https://www.edmondscenterforthearts.org/events/detail/501/kalani-pe-039-a-christm show/3716/](https://www.edmondscenterforthearts.org/events/detail/501/kalani-pe-039-a-christm-show/3716/))'

Three-time Grammy winner Kalani Pe'a kicks off the holidays with his "Hawaiian contemp soul," performing a mix of Hawaiian favorites and Christmas standards, sung in both Eng Hawaiian. Dec. 1. \$19–\$49. *Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds*

[Mannheim Steamroller Christmas](https://www.angelofthewindsarena.com/events/detail/mannheim-steamroller-1/)

(<https://www.angelofthewindsarena.com/events/detail/mannheim-steamroller-1/>)'

Thirty-five years ago, Mannheim Steamroller released its first Christmas album. This holi season, Grammy winner Chip Davis offers families a chance to celebrate that anniversar the "Mannheim Steamroller Christmas" multimedia show, set to the signature holiday so Mannheim Steamroller. Dec. 16. \$30–\$59. *Angel of the Winds Arena, Everett*

[MCE: Carols and Bells \(https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/masterworks-carole-12-03-22/\)](https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/masterworks-carole-12-03-22/)

Combining the traditions of handbell ringing and singing carols, the Masterworks Choral

Ensemble and the Celebration Handbell Ensemble are joining forces in a concert to ring in the holiday season with family and friends. Dec. 3. \$24. *Washington Center for Performing Arts, Olympia*

Seattle Men's Chorus' 'Holiday Falala-liday (<https://www.seattlechoruses.org/attend/coevents/>)'

The Seattle Men's Chorus is back with a holiday concert featuring Christmas carols presented with a mix of nostalgia and humor, plus a conga line and sing-along. Benaroya Hall is making an exception to its "no children younger than 5" policy for the Dec. 23 matinee performance which will be only one hour in duration and emphasize the dance numbers and sing-along. Dec. \$29–\$102. *Venues in Seattle, Tacoma and Everett*

Tacoma Concert Band: 'Sound the Bells (<https://www.tacomacconcertband.org/upcomingseason/>)'

One of the earliest holiday concerts in the area, Tacoma Concert Band kicks off the holiday season with "Sound the Bells," a family-friendly holiday music matinee on Nov. 27. \$21–\$45. *Pantages Theater, Tacoma*

Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition (<https://www.pikeplacemarket.org/this-little-comes-home/>)

This fundraiser for the Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank is moving back to Pike Place Market this year. Dozens of caroling teams will compete to outsing each other under the market's iconic clock and sign. Kids will relish being out after dark while families do their shopping and enjoy seasonal drinks and treats, all accompanied by carols for a good cause. Dec. 2. Free. *Pike Place Market, Seattle*

Jim Brickman: 'A Very Merry Christmas

(<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/holidays/22jim-brickman/>)'

Songwriter-pianist Jim Brickman's holiday tour, "A Very Merry Christmas," celebrates music and family. The program includes festive favorites and Brickman's own hit songs, including "Gift," "Sending You a Little Christmas," "Angel Eyes" and "If You Believe." Dec. 4. \$45–\$80. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle*

'Blessings in Bethlehem (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2022-2023/22ensign2/>)'

Ensign Symphony & Chorus performs to bless and uplift audiences with inspiring sacred and secular music. Its joyous Christmas concert celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Dec. 12. \$45. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle*

Karla Bonoff and Livingston Taylor: 'Home for the Holidays

(<https://www.edmondscenterforthearts.org/events/detail/502/karla-bonoff-amp-livingston-taylor-home-for-the-holidays/3644/>)'

Karla Bonoff and Livingston Taylor's "Home for the Holidays" concert will include performances of some of the duo's best-known songs, together with holiday classics and songs from Benaroya's holiday album "Silent Night." Dec. 21. \$19–\$54. *Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds*

The Coats: 'Annual Holiday Show' (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2022-2023/22coats/>)

A Benaroya holiday tradition, singing quartet The Coats returns with another uplifting holiday concert of catchy, danceable songs performed with impressive vocal range and harmonies. Dec. 17–18. \$50. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle*

'Holiday Pops (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2022-2023/22pops2>)'

Stuart Chafetz conducts Seattle Symphony and vocalist Dee Donasco in a cheerful program of popular holiday favorites and traditional carols. Dec. 9–11. \$36–\$127. *Benaroya Hall, .*

'A Festival of Lessons and Carols (<https://www.nwchoirs.org/events/lessons-carols-22>)'

The 80-member combined Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint! present the story of the Nativity told through reading, choral setting and audience carols. Dec. 9–21. \$25–\$83. *Multiple venues: Lynnwood, Medina and Seattle*

Handel's 'Messiah' (<https://seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2022-2023/22bar2>)

If you only recognize one piece of classical music, the chances are good that it's the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah." For many Northwest families, the Seattle Symphony's performance is an annual tradition. But every family should hear it performed live with a chorus and talented soloists at least once. Dec. 16–18. \$25–\$85. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle*

Geoffrey Castle's 'Celtic Christmas Celebration (<http://www.kpcenter.org/event/geoffrey-castle-celtic-christmas/>)'

Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas concert upends expectations, with music performed on Castle's electric six-string violin. It's nothing like the Christmas concerts of your own childhood, but it's becoming a Northwest holiday tradition. Dec. 22–23. \$41. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland*

'Hometown Holiday (<https://www.audacy.com/seattlewolf/events/hometown-holiday-is>)'

The music may not be entirely holiday-themed, but 100.7 The Wolf's "Hometown Holiday" is arguably Seattle's hottest country music event of the year, and it is certainly festive. This lineup includes Brett Young, Elle King, Nate Smith, Bailey Zimmerman, Ashley Cooke, Corbin Allister and Michael Ray. Dec. 9. \$30–\$145. *Accesso Showare Center, Kent*

Brass Choir Holiday Show (https://studentorchestras.org/?page_id=570)

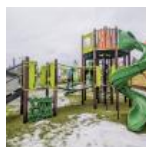
For folks who like their music loud, enjoy a brassy concert by the horn section of the Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia. Dec. 10. \$10–\$13. *Westminster Presbyterian, Olympia*

Messiah Sing-Along (https://studentorchestras.org/?page_id=570)

Why let the experts have all of the fun? At Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia's "Messiah Sing-Along," you can come to sing or just to listen. If you want to sing, a concert program recording is available on the SOGO website so that you can practice ahead of time. Dec. 10. Free. *Washington Center, Olympia*

Up next: Unique treats (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-you-a-good-time/7#page-1>)

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Let the Holidays ‘Show’ Your Family a Good Time

ParentMap’s annual December arts guide

BY GEMMA ALEXANDER (/AUTHOR/GEMMA-ALEXANDER) |

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PHOTO: "An Inspirational Christmas With Elvis"

Unique treats

'The Jinx & DeLa Holiday Show (https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/13511/the-jinx-holiday-show)'

Jinx Monsoon and BenDeLaCreme – both “RuPaul’s Drag Race” alums – are bringing b their holiday show tour. Promising drag spectacle, sharp comedy, and a mix of favorite a songs, these Christmas queens bring sweetness and spice to their all-ages holiday show 21–24. \$35 and up. *Moore Theatre, Seattle*

'The Midwinter Revels (<https://www.pugetsoundrevels.org/calendar.html>)'

For its annual celebration of the winter solstice, Puget Sound Revels travels to the Mexican 1890s to present music, stories, dancing and singing in a combination of tradition and art. Dec. 17–21. \$20–\$36. *Rialto Theater, Tacoma*

Disney in Concert: Tim Burton's 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'

(<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2022-2023/22nightmare-before-christmas>)

For most people, Halloween kicks off the holiday season that builds to a peak at Christmas; for others, Halloween is the high point, and it's all downhill from there. If your family prefers the macabre, from Skellington to Old St. Nick, you're not alone. Seattle Symphony is screening "The Nightmare Before Christmas" with dialogue, singing and effects, accompanied by a live orchestral performance of Danny Elfman's earworm-riddled score. Dec. 1–4. \$35–\$105. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle*

'An Inspirational Christmas With Elvis (<https://www.auburnwa.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11470638&pageId=12529138>)'

The Auburn Ave. Theater may be closed, but you don't have to miss the Auburn tradition of Danny Vernon's holiday Elvis illusion concert. Families can hear classic Elvis music along with some great traditional Christmas selections (including Elvis' own), replete with The King's famous pompadour. Dec. 8. \$25. *Green River College, Cascade Hall, Auburn*

Memphis Belles: 'Winter Wonderland (<https://www.auburnwa.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11470638&pageId=12529138>)'

Seasonal cheer without so much Christmas, the Memphis Belles' "Winter Wonderland" concert will feature all kinds of beloved winter music, including "Sleigh Ride," "Mele Kalikimaka," "Snow," "My Favorite Things" and "Winter Wonderland." Dec. 10. \$23. *Green River College, Cascade Hall, Auburn*

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