

Holiday Shows and Performances for Seattle Families

ParentMap's annual December arts guide is here

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

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Holiday fun is back

There's nothing like taking in a live show to get into the holiday spirit, and our area has a cornucopia of choices. The options can be a little overwhelming, but ParentMap has rounded up all the holiday performances we could find – from Nutcrackers to Elvis tribute acts – so you can experience the perfect holiday show.

To help you find the holiday entertainment that best suits your family *and* your budget, we've listed regular ticket prices. However, many events offer discounts for early bird purchases, seniors, students, children, military and groups.

The links below can help you find your perfect holiday entertainment.

[Nutcrackers \(https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-your-family-good-time/2#pager-content\)](https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-your-family-good-time/2#pager-content)

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PHOTO: International Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker." Credit: Rex Tranter

Nutcrackers

[“George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker”](https://www.pnb.org/) (<https://www.pnb.org/>)

Pacific Northwest Ballet presents one of the area’s most extravagant and beloved holiday art traditions: George Balanchine’s definitive 1952 choreography for “The Nutcracker,” together with quirky set designs by the late children’s book author Ian Falconer. Every family should go at least once, but many families make it an annual tradition. Guests who want to make an already special occasion even more so may spring for a themed gift box, VIP seats or access to the Nutcracker Suite’s intermission dessert. But even if you stick to the basics, you can still look forward to roaming entertainers, crafts and photo ops in the lobby. Arrive early to explore it all, and be on the lookout for an exciting Easter egg on the set – a nod to Falconer’s most recognizable character, Olivia. Nov. 24–Dec. 27. Digital-only tickets are also available (streaming Dec. 18–27). \$29–\$195. *McCaw Hall, Seattle.*

[“The Nutcracker” – Vashon Center for Dance](https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/the-nutcracker/2023-11-30/) (<https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/the-nutcracker/2023-11-30/>)

Vashon Island has its own decades-long Nutcracker tradition. Vashon Center for Dance kicks off the holiday season early with its all-ages “The Nutcracker” at the Vashon Center for the Arts. Weekend performances are matinees – perfect for island families with young children. Nov. 30–Dec. 3. \$18. *Vashon Center for the Arts, Vashon Island.*

[“Seattle City Nutcracker”](https://www.dassdance.org/seattlecitynutcracker) (<https://www.dassdance.org/seattlecitynutcracker>)

With only two performances, and those taking place before many people are even thinking about holiday shows, it would be easy to miss the one-of-a-kind “Seattle City Nutcracker” from DASSdance. Since 2019, “Seattle City Nutcracker” has given this classic ballet a contemporary and local twist. Clara and Maria travel from their uncles’ Fix-It shop in the Central District to the Land of Sweets, where ballet meets jazz, modern, tap, acrobatics and even aerial performance. The Mini-Nutcracker matinee on Dec. 2 includes a continental breakfast, door prizes, balloon twisting, and pictures with Santa and the Nutcracker characters. Dec. 2–3. \$32. *Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle.*

[“Nutcracker Sweets”](https://arcdance.org/events/category/events/) (<https://arcdance.org/events/category/events/>)

ARC Dance is a ballet school and performance company whose students and professional dancers unite each year to create Nutcracker magic in a 90-minute, kid-friendly “Nutcracker Sweets” showcase. Performances begin Dec. 2 at Cornish Playhouse and will be held on successive weekends in Ballard and Shorewood. \$18–\$48. *Cornish Playhouse, Seattle:* Dec. 2. *ARC Performance Space, Seattle:* Dec. 8–10. *Shorewood Performing Arts Center, Shoreline:* Dec. 16.

[“The Nutcracker” by Emerald Ballet Theatre](https://www.emeraldballet.org/) (<https://www.emeraldballet.org/>)

Emerald Ballet Theatre presents four matinee performances of “The Nutcracker” with a combination of youth and professional performers, and gorgeous costumes and sets. This is

one of a handful of “Nutcrackers” accompanied by live music, in this case performed by the Emerald Ballet Theatre Orchestra, conducted by David Waltman. The orchestra will be joined by Columbia Choirs of Metropolitan Seattle for the first weekend. Dec. 2–10. \$21–\$49. *Northshore Performing Arts Center, Bothell.*

[“Wade Walthall’s The Nutcracker”](https://www.evergreencityballet.org/the-nutcracker) (<https://www.evergreencityballet.org/the-nutcracker>)

Evergreen City Ballet celebrates its 30th anniversary with “Wade Walthall’s The Nutcracker,” in two productions of different lengths and at two venues: Auburn Performing Arts Center and Renton Ikea Performing Arts Center. Students and guest dancers perform together in this South Sound classic, with one performance at each venue presented as an abbreviated, one-hour show perfect for the littlest ballet fans. *Auburn Performing Arts Center: \$39; Dec. 8–10. Renton Ikea Performing Arts Center: \$44; Dec. 15–17.*

[“The Nutcracker” by International Ballet Theatre](http://www.ibtbelleuve.org/) (<http://www.ibtbelleuve.org/>)

International Ballet Theatre’s “The Nutcracker” has been an Eastside tradition for decades. International Ballet Theatre performs the beloved ballet with choreography created by Vera Altunina in the style of the traditional Russian version, featuring Arabian dancers and a fierce battle scene. Dec. 8–23. \$62 (\$31, kids younger than 12). *Meydenbauer Theatre, Bellevue.*

[Ballet Northwest’s “The Nutcracker”](https://balletnorthwest.org/nutcracker-tickets-olympia/) (<https://balletnorthwest.org/nutcracker-tickets-olympia/>)

With its professional sets and costumes, Ballet Northwest’s large-scale South Sound production is one of the region’s longest-running “Nutcrackers.” This year’s guest artist is James Kirby Rogers, principal dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet. Dec. 8–17. \$17–\$38. *Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia.*

[Tacoma City Ballet presents “The Nutcracker”](https://www.tacomacityballet.com/performance-season/) (<https://www.tacomacityballet.com/performance-season/>)

Families can enjoy a holiday classic and still get the youngest ballet fans to bed on time with Tacoma City Ballet’s all-matinee run of the original Russian version of “The Nutcracker.” Like Emerald Ballet Theatre’s production, this “Nutcracker” is presented with live orchestral accompaniment. Dec. 9–23. \$27–\$127. *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 has its own version of the holiday favorite ballet, but the choreography by OBT artistic directors Oleg Gorboulev and Mara Vinson still includes your favorite scenes from the original – snowflakes, mouse battle, flowers and all. There’s a full length, 2-hour version and a slightly abbreviated morning matinee, each performed in two venues. *Everett Performing Arts Center: Dec. 8–10; \$27–\$55. Edmonds Center for the Arts: Dec. 14–20; \$10–\$55. .*

Up next: [Carols and Nights Before](https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-your-family-good-time/3#pager-content) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-your-family-good-time/3#pager-content>)

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

Carols and Nights Before

[ACT's "A Christmas Carol"](https://acttheatre.org/a-christmas-carol-2023/) (<https://acttheatre.org/a-christmas-carol-2023/>).

For nearly 50 years, ACT's annual production of "A Christmas Carol" has been as much a Seattle tradition as Dickens' original story, and for families, the 90-minute show is a rite of passage. Famously too scary for small children, there is an enforced minimum age of 5 to attend. Nov. 24–Dec. 24. \$49–\$94. *ACT – A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle*.

["A\(n Improvised\) Christmas Carol"](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/541819746447) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/541819746447>).

With dozens of audience suggestions redirecting the performers during the performance, Unexpected Productions Improv's "A(n Improvised) Christmas Carol" might turn into something completely different from Dickens' story. The one thing you can count on: Unexpected Productions will keep things family friendly. Nov. 24–Dec. 23. \$20. *Unexpected Productions, Seattle*.

[Harlequin Productions' "A Christmas Carol"](https://harlequinproductions.org/show/a-christmas-carol-4/) (<https://harlequinproductions.org/show/a-christmas-carol-4/>).

Last year, Harlequin Productions introduced an all-new staging of its artistic director Aaron Lamb's adaptation of this holiday classic, with new designs and special effects. But the story of transformation and redemption remains timeless. Nov. 24–Dec. 24. \$33–\$57. *The State Theater, Olympia*.

["Twas the Night"](https://studio-east.org/season/twas/) (<https://studio-east.org/season/twas/>).

Studio East's annual reimagining of the classic poem rejects the idea that not even a mouse was stirring on that special night before Christmas. With a man in red on the roof, there was bound to be some chaos. Expect runaway mice, hungry cats, the reindeer and of course, Santa, all performed by actors ages 6–19. Dec. 2–17. \$23. *Kirkland Teen Union Building, Kirkland*.

[Allen Fitzpatrick in "A Christmas Carol"](https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/vrt-a-christmas-carol/2023-12-16/) (<https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/vrt-a-christmas-carol/2023-12-16/>).

Allen Fitzpatrick, who worked with Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber, and has appeared in 28 productions at Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre, follows in the footsteps of Dickens himself, who performed public readings of the story for many years. Now in its third year, this solo adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" is becoming a Vashon Island holiday tradition. Dec. 16. \$18–\$25. *Vashon Center for the Arts, Vashon*.

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PHOTO: "Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley" at Taproot Theatre. Credit: Robert Wade

Holiday theater

[“A Very Electric Christmas”](https://www.sct.org/onstage/productions/a-very-electric-christmas-2/) (<https://www.sct.org/onstage/productions/a-very-electric-christmas-2/>).

If you're tired of the classics, consider this fresh story of a bird named Max who gets blown off course on his flight south for winter. Landing at the North Pole, he encounters dancing toy soldiers, caroling worms and performing poinsettias in a cutting-edge light show with glow-in-the-dark dancers on a darkened stage. Classic music by Nat King Cole, Mariah Carey and Tchaikovsky anchor the show in tradition, as do its themes of family, friendship and hope. Nov. 16–Dec. 31. \$40–\$73. *Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle.*

[“Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley”](https://taproottheatre.org/shows/2023/georgiana-kitty-christmas-at-pemberley/) (<https://taproottheatre.org/shows/2023/georgiana-kitty-christmas-at-pemberley/>).

It's the third and final postscript to the beloved Jane Austen classic “Pride and Prejudice.” You don't need to be familiar with Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon's previous stories about the other Bennet sisters to enjoy this holiday show about the babies of the Bennet and Darcy families. “Georgiana & Kitty” promises music, ambition, sisterhood and forgiveness as antidotes to the chronic holiday challenges of meddling families and outdated expectations.

Recommended for ages 12 and older. Nov. 22–Dec 30. \$20–\$57. *Taproot Theatre, Seattle.*

[“Irving Berlin's White Christmas”](https://www.5thavenue.org/shows/2023-2024/irving-berlin-s-white-christmas/) (<https://www.5thavenue.org/shows/2023-2024/irving-berlin-s-white-christmas/>).

Based on the classic holiday movie, “Irving Berlin's White Christmas” follows four performers during their Christmas gig at a Vermont resort. The title song and other standards from the movie, paired with onstage snowfall, make this a favorite holiday musical for the whole family. Other family friendly treats include the Dickens Carolers and appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus at select showings. Children younger than 4 are not admitted. Nov. 25–Dec. 27. \$39–\$149. *The Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle.*

[“Snowed In”](https://www.artswest.org/events/snowed-in/) (<https://www.artswest.org/events/snowed-in/>).

Inspired by classic holiday TV specials and musicals about putting on a musical, ArtWest is presenting a self-aware holiday play about writing a holiday play. When ArtsWest sends four artists on a retreat to write the world's best holiday show, a blizzard hits and tensions rise. Never mind the perfect play, they're going to need some holiday magic just to finish the project. Nov. 30–Dec. 23. \$40–\$45. *ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery, Seattle.*

[“Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley”](https://www.secondstoryrep.org/product-page/miss-bennet-christmas-at-pemberley/) (<https://www.secondstoryrep.org/product-page/miss-bennet-christmas-at-pemberley/>).

“Miss Bennet” is a sequel to Jane Austen's “Pride and Prejudice” and the first in a trilogy about the other Bennet sisters by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon. Set two years after the book ends, the play gives the dowdy middle sister, Mary, an opportunity to step out of the shadows and maybe even find love. Dec. 1–23. \$30. *SecondStory Repertory, Redmond.*

["A Charlie Brown Christmas"](https://taproottheatre.org/shows/2023/a-charlie-brown-christmas-2023/) (<https://taproottheatre.org/shows/2023/a-charlie-brown-christmas-2023/>).

Your kids can help Charlie Brown overcome the commercialization of Christmas with Taproot Theatre's production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Based on the television Christmas special classic about a pageant, a spindly tree and a heartfelt speech, the play's runtime is only 40 minutes, short enough to hold even the squirmiest child's attention. Dec. 1–23. \$7–\$32. *Taproot Theatre, Seattle*.

["It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play"](https://olympialittletheater.org/shows/itsawonderfullife/) (<https://olympialittletheater.org/shows/itsawonderfullife/>).

Reimagining one of America's favorite holiday movies as a 1940s live radio play, Olympia Little Theatre brings dozens of characters to the stage to tell the story of the fateful Christmas Eve that reminded George Bailey what really matters in life. Dec. 1–17. \$10–\$16. *Olympia Little Theatre, Olympia*.

["A Christmas Story, The Musical"](https://www.manestagetheatre.com/current-season) (<https://www.manestagetheatre.com/current-season>).

The 1983 "Christmas Story" movie, set in 1940s Indiana, walks a fine line between heartfelt nostalgia and sidesplitting comedy. But no matter how funny stockings, leg lamps, bunny jammies and flagpole licking might be, musical theater, presented here by ManeStage Theatre Company, has a way of tipping things toward the heartfelt, making this a Christmas dream that probably won't shoot your eye out. Ages 4 and older. Dec. 1–17. \$30. *Liberty Theater, Puyallup*.

["The Velveteen Rabbit"](https://olyft.org/announcing-our-23-24-season/) (<https://olyft.org/announcing-our-23-24-season/>).

If you want those warm holiday feelings without quite so much Christmas, Olympia Family Theater presented "The Velveteen Rabbit." The simple story about a little boy's favorite Christmas gift contains powerful lessons about the way that love makes us both beautiful and real. Dec. 8–31. Recommended for ages 5 and older. Pay what you can, \$5–\$35. *Olympia Family Theater, Olympia*.

["Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"](https://www.tacomalittletheatre.com/blog/20232024/rudolph)

(<https://www.tacomalittletheatre.com/blog/20232024/rudolph>).

An all-new musical adaptation of the classic holiday television special, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" contains hits like "Holly Jolly Christmas" and, of course, the titular song, along with all your favorite weirdo, outcast characters, ready to teach another generation that what makes you different is what makes you special. Dec. 8–31. \$31. *Tacoma Little Theatre, Tacoma*.

["Black Nativity"](https://www.intiman.org/black-nativity/) (<https://www.intiman.org/black-nativity/>).

After a decade off the stage, "Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity" is being revisited by Intiman Theatre, with an all-new creative team led by Valerie Curtis-Newton. The reimagined production celebrates the Christmas story with actors, dancers, soaring vocals, a rousing gospel choir and the chance to sing along. Dec. 12–30. \$5–\$105. *Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle*.

["Christmas With C.S. Lewis"](https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/christmas-with-cs-lewis) (<https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/christmas-with-cs-lewis>).

For some young readers, discovering the Christian themes in "The Chronicles of Narnia" was a disappointment. For others, it made the much-loved children's fantasy series even more precious. If your family is in the second group, this play about an Oxford Christmas hosted by author C.S. Lewis, who shares the story of his own conversion, will be a must-see. Dec. 21. \$64. *Theater on the Square, Tacoma.*

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About the Author



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Seattle-based freelance writer Gemma Alexander focuses on the intersection of parenting and the arts. When she's not writing for "ParentMap," she blogs at gemmaealexander.com and tweets at [@gemmaeettweet](#).

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PHOTO: "O Christmas Tea" – A British Comedy. Credit: Adam Pulicichio

Comic Romps

["A Very Die Hard Christmas"](https://www.seattlepublictheater.org/current-season) (<https://www.seattlepublictheater.org/current-season>).

Even if you are in the camp that argues "Die Hard" is not a Christmas movie, you can't deny that Seattle Public Theater's "A Very Die Hard Christmas" is holiday hilarity. It might not be for everyone, but if you like your Christmas entertainment with lots of action, '80s jokes, soft rock jams and snarky German terrorists, we'll see you there. Nov. 22–Dec. 23. Sliding scale \$10–\$100. *Seattle Public Theater, Seattle.*

["Sleeping Beauty, A Holiday Panto"](https://centerstagetheatre.com/sleeping-beauty-a-holiday-panto/) (<https://centerstagetheatre.com/sleeping-beauty-a-holiday-panto/>).

Although it doesn't always have a holiday theme, panto is a holiday tradition. This version of the "Sleeping Beauty" fairy tale is filled with pop music, raucous routines, hysterical humor and dynamic dances. Audience participation is encouraged in Centerstage's annual British panto show. Nov. 25–Dec. 17. \$42–\$45. *Knutzen Family Theater, Federal Way.*

["O Christmas Tea" – A British Comedy](https://ochristmastea.com/) (<https://ochristmastea.com/>).

The British comedy duo James and Jamesy present a panto-inspired show that has been compared to the antics of Monty Python, Mr. Bean and Dr. Seuss. Hailed as "Rich in wordplay, comic physicality, and cleverly crafted interactive elements," this show about a Christmas tea party gone wrong promises to be an all-ages laugh fest. *Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue*: Dec. 1; \$32–\$64. *Rialto Theater, Tacoma*: Dec. 2; \$30–\$54. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland*: Dec. 12; \$39–\$73. *The Neptune Theatre, Seattle*: Dec. 14; \$24 and up.

["Fa la la la la, ha ha ha ha: A Holiday Musical Extravaganza!"](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fa-la-la-la-la-ha-ha-ha-ha-a-holiday-musical-extravaganza-tickets-636193169897?aff=oddtcreator) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fa-la-la-la-la-ha-ha-ha-ha-a-holiday-musical-extravaganza-tickets-636193169897?aff=oddtcreator>).

Unexpected Productions' ensemble performers Sarah Hanchar and Christine Riippi celebrate the best part of the holidays – made-for-TV movie musicals! Starting with a sing-along and concluding with a movie musical based on audience suggestions, this family-friendly improvised show promises joyous yuletide fun. Dec. 2–23. \$15–\$20. *Unexpected Productions, Seattle.*

["Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs"](http://www.fremontplayers.com/) (<http://www.fremontplayers.com/>).

The Fremont Players and Fremont Philharmonic Orchestra are back with an all-new, original show in the British panto tradition. If you're new to panto, you might be surprised that it's a tradition of fractured fairy tales and cracked classics loaded with childish jokes aimed at the kids and double entendres lobbed over their heads. Expect audience participation and slapstick in this mashup of wolf-centered fairy tales. Dec. 9–Jan. 7. \$12–\$22. *Sunset Hill Community Club, Seattle.*

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PHOTO: Seattle Men's Chorus performs "A TREEmendous Holiday."

Holiday music

[The Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition](https://www.pikeplacemarket.org/event/the-great-figgy-pudding-caroling-competition-2023/) (<https://www.pikeplacemarket.org/event/the-great-figgy-pudding-caroling-competition-2023/>).

Join thousands of others in kicking off the holiday season on Dec. 1 with the Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition. In this fundraiser for the Pike Market Senior Center and Food Bank, dozens of caroling teams will compete to outsing each other under the Market clock and sign. Kids will relish being out after dark while families do their holiday shopping and enjoy seasonal drinks and treats at the Market, all accompanied by carols. Dec. 1. Free, but consider donating to a good cause. *Pike Place Market, Seattle.*

["A TREEmendous Holiday"](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2023-2024/23smc-holiday) (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2023-2024/23smc-holiday>).

Seattle Men's Chorus brings its annual holiday concert to Seattle (Dec. 9–23), [Tacoma](https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/a-treemendous-holiday) (<https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/a-treemendous-holiday>). (Dec. 1) and Everett (Dec. 3) with holiday fun and cheer, and an opportunity for audience members to join in the Pacific Northwest's gayest sing-along. *Pantages Theater, Tacoma: Dec. 1; \$43 and up. Everett Civic Auditorium, Everett: Dec. 3; \$34 and up. Benaroya Hall, Seattle: Dec. 9–23; \$44–\$104.*

["The Snowman"](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23fam2) (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23fam2>).

At Seattle Symphony's Family Concert, designed for kids ages 6–12, kids can watch the classic film about a snowman who takes a little boy to the North Pole, with live musical accompaniment. The program also includes pieces like Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 1, performed by teenage piano prodigy Jonathan Zheng. Dec. 2. \$20–\$25. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

[For King & Country](https://www.angelofthewindsarena.com/events/detail/for-king-and-country-drummer-boy) (<https://www.angelofthewindsarena.com/events/detail/for-king-and-country-drummer-boy>).

Grammy-winning duo For King & Country presents "A Drummer Boy Christmas Tour: The 2023 Tour Experience" in Everett. It's a high-spirited performance of songs from the duo's "A Drummer Boy" album and other hits, including "Love Me Like I Am." Dec. 2. \$48 and up. *Angel of the Winds Arena, Everett.*

[Masterworks Choral Ensemble: "Making Spirits Bright"](https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/making-spirits-bright/) (<https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/making-spirits-bright/>).

Join Masterworks Choral Ensemble for a festive family-friendly evening of delightful carols and seasonal works. Audience members are encouraged to sing along. Dec. 2. \$24. *Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia.*

Symphony Tacoma: “Winter Wonderland”

(<https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/winter-wonderland>).

The first of Symphony Tacoma’s holiday performances is a matinee of its annual chorale concert of holiday pops at Pantages Theater. It will feature both the Symphony Tacoma Voices and Tacoma Youth Chorus. Dec. 3. \$28–\$91 and \$35–\$53. *Pantages Theater, Tacoma.*

Six13 Hanukkah Concert (<https://sjcc.org/event/sjcc-sha-present-six13-hanukkah-concert-430-pm/>)

Six-man a cappella group Six13 juxtaposes traditional and contemporary Jewish music, including favorites such as “Elton Johnukah,” “West Side Chanukah” and “Feliz Chanukah.” Sing along in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish and Ladino. There will be crafts and a Six13-led beatbox workshop before the show. Dec. 3. \$30. *Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island.*

Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four in “Joy to the World!”

(<https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14455/jenny-oaks-baker-family-four-in-joy-to-the-world>).

Violinist Jenny Oaks Baker and her children, musical group Family Four, present an inspiring Christ-centered show of sacred music and beloved Christmas carols. They are joined by soprano Alex Sharpe of Celtic Woman and the Seattle Ensign Choir, and by dancers from the Allegro Performing Arts Academy and the Haley Prendergast School of Irish Dance. Dec. 4. \$25 and up. *The Moore Theatre, Seattle.*

Mark O’Connor’s “An Appalachian Christmas”

(<https://www.edmondscenterforthearts.org/events/detail/601/mark-o-039-connor-039-s-an-appalachian-christmas/4264>).

Three-time Grammy winner Mark O’Connor presents original songs and playful takes on traditional ones performed in bluegrass and Americana styles. Fiddler Mark and his wife, Maggie, also a fiddler, will be joined by a variety of musical guests. Dec. 4. \$35–\$65. *Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds.*

Seattle Opera Holiday Chorus Concert (<https://www.seattleopera.org/holiday>)

For a holiday concert unlike any other in the region, Seattle Opera’s holiday concert program includes music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Verdi, Menotti and P.D.Q. Bach. Enjoy seasonal tunes, traditional carols, hidden gems from the opera and choral repertoire, and, to end the performance, an audience sing-along featuring beloved holiday classics. But act fast — seating is limited and tickets were already disappearing at press time. Dec. 6–10. \$65. *Tagney Jones Hall at the Opera Center, Seattle.*

The Klezmatics – Hanukkah Dance Party (<https://townhallseattle.org/event/the-klezmatiks/>)

Globally renowned klezmer superstars The Klezmatics will perform their unique blend of Eastern European Jewish tradition, contemporary themes and diverse musical influences on the first night of Hanukkah at Town Hall Seattle. Dec. 7. \$20–\$25. *Town Hall Seattle.*

Celtic Christmas with the Gothard Sisters

(<https://www.edmondscenterforthearts.org/events/detail/658/a-celtic-christmas-with-the-gothard-sisters/4391>).

Celtic folksters the Gothard Sisters celebrate the season with a blend of Christmas carols, Celtic music, Irish dancing and more. Dec. 7. \$20–\$30. *Edmonds Center for the Arts, Edmonds.*

“Hometown Holiday” (<https://www.audacity.com/seattlewolf/events/hometown-holiday-2023>).

The music may not be entirely holiday themed, but 100.7 The Wolf’s “Hometown Holiday” is arguably Seattle’s country music event of the year, and it is certainly festive. This year, the lineup includes Brothers Osborne, Elle King, Nate Smith, Riley Green, Ian Munsick, Bryan Martin and others. Dec. 7. \$30–\$150. *Accesso ShoWare Center, Kent.*

The Strings: “Holiday String-Along”

(<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23tt2>).

Perfect for families with small children, this 35-minute interactive program of musical games, stories and songs is performed by musicians of the symphony’s string section and includes your favorite holiday music. Pre-concert activities begin 30 minutes before each show. Don’t wait — these tickets sell out fast! Dec. 8–9. \$12. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

Holiday Pops (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23pops2>).

This year for its annual Holiday Pops concert, Seattle Symphony features conductor Stuart Chafetz and vocalist/trombonist Aubrey Logan (you may have seen her perform with Postmodern Jukebox) for a lighthearted, joyful concert. Dec. 8–10. \$45–\$102. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

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

This 75-member choir, bringing together members of Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint! Seattle, continues its 45-year tradition based on the Christmas Eve observance at King’s College in Cambridge, England. The 90-minute classical performance consists of nine Christmas readings, each followed by traditional carols performed by the choir and audience. Dec. 8–20. \$25–\$83. *Multiple venues in Lynnwood, Kirkland and Seattle.*

Bainbridge Chorale Family Holiday Concert (<https://seattlesings.org/event/family-holiday-concert-2155/>).

The Bainbridge Chorale’s family concert includes a range of holiday works selected to appeal to all ages. At only one hour long, it’s perfect for families with smaller children or anyone who doesn’t want to sit still for a long concert. Dec. 9. \$18. *Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church, Bainbridge Island.*

["A Pacific Northwest Christmas"](https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/a-pnw-christmas/2023-12-09/) (<https://vashoncenterforthearts.org/event/a-pnw-christmas/2023-12-09/>).

For a truly Northwest Christmas concert, the Vashon Island Chorale will perform 10 works by local composers, including Reginald Unterseher's ebullient "Christmas Joy," Jessica French's nostalgic "The Oxen," Giselle Wyers' "After the Winter" and a world premiere by Calvin Rice. Dec. 9–10. \$25 (younger than 18 free). *Vashon Center for the Arts, Vashon Island.*

[Sing-Along with Santa](https://tmp.org/index.php/2023-2024-tmp-special-events/) (<https://tmp.org/index.php/2023-2024-tmp-special-events/>).

If your kids would rather sing with Santa than take pictures with him, this is the Saturday-morning holiday event for you. Dec. 9. \$10. *Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma.*

["A Clear View of the Holidays" – Brass Choir Holiday Show](https://studentorchestras.org/event/ho-ho/)
(<https://studentorchestras.org/event/ho-ho/>).

For those of you who like your music loud, enjoy a brassy concert by the horn section of the Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia. Selections include both the traditional and the not so traditional. Dec. 9. \$8–\$35. *Westminster Presbyterian, Olympia.*

["Christmas Around the World"](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2023-2024/23ensign2) (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2023-2024/23ensign2>).

The spiritually focused Ensign Symphony & Chorus explores Christmas music from countries around the world in this musical journey. Dec. 11. \$25–\$45. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

[The Midtown Men](http://www.kpcenter.org/event/the-midtown-men/) (<http://www.kpcenter.org/event/the-midtown-men/>).

Specializing in 1960s hits, The Midtown Men (best known as the original cast of the Broadway hit "Jersey Boys") present an energetic performance of holiday favorites. Dec. 13. \$86. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland.*

[Symphony Tacoma: "Hallelujah!"](https://symphonytacoma.org/event/hallelujah/) (<https://symphonytacoma.org/event/hallelujah/>).

Symphony Tacoma's second holiday concert is a performance of Handel's "Messiah," with its uplifting oratorio performed by Symphony Tacoma Voices. Dec. 15. \$35–\$53. *St. Charles Borromeo Church, Tacoma.*

[Handel's "Messiah" by Seattle Symphony](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23messiah)

(<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23messiah>).

Many Northwest families never miss Seattle Symphony's annual performance of Handel's "Messiah." But every family should hear it performed live with a full chorus and talented soloists at least once. Dec. 15–17. \$25–\$85. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

[The Coats](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2023-2024/23coats) (<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/benaroyahall/bh-calendar/2023-2024/23coats>).

In what has become a holiday tradition at Benaroya Hall, The Coats perform another uplifting holiday concert of catchy, danceable songs while demonstrating their impressive vocal ranges and harmonies. Dec. 16–17. \$50. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

[“Caroling! Caroling! An A Cappella Christmas!”](http://www.kpcenter.org/event/caroling-caroling-an-a-cappella-christmas/) (<http://www.kpcenter.org/event/caroling-caroling-an-a-cappella-christmas/>).

This joint performance of A Cappella Northwest, Northwest Sound Men’s Chorus and Northwest Mix Chorus is inspired by the tradition of door-to-door carolers and presents a program ranging from the sacred to the standards. Dec. 17. \$25–\$35. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland.*

[“Messiah” Sing-Along](https://studentorchestras.org/event/messiah-sing-along/) (<https://studentorchestras.org/event/messiah-sing-along/>).

If you have a hard time staying quiet when the chorus really gets going, you’re in luck. At Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia’s “Messiah” concert, you are invited to sing along (though you don’t have to, if you’d rather listen). If you do want to sing, concert programs and recordings are available on the SOGO website so you can practice ahead of time. Dec. 18. Free. *Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia.*

[The Journey’s Annual Christmas Concert](http://www.kpcenter.org/event/the-journeys-annual-christmas-concert-with-special-guests-breath-of-aire/) (<http://www.kpcenter.org/event/the-journeys-annual-christmas-concert-with-special-guests-breath-of-aire/>).

Folk harpist Bronn Journey will be joined by the Breath of Aire choir and a small ensemble featuring strings, flutes, clarinet, piano and percussion to present a Christmas concert of inspired music and gentle humor. Dec. 19. \$30. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland.*

[Portland Cello Project: “Under the Mistletoe with Saeeda Wright”](http://www.kpcenter.org/event/portland-cello-project/)

(<http://www.kpcenter.org/event/portland-cello-project/>).

Vocalist Saeeda Wright joins the nationally recognized Portland Cello Project to present an evening of cello-centered arrangements of much-loved holiday music. Dec. 21. \$44. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland.*

[Seattle Symphony presents Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony and a New Year’s Eve Party](https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23nye)

(<https://www.seattlesymphony.org/en/concerttickets/calendar/2023-2024/23nye>).

Alternately awe-inspiring and uplifting, and with its “Ode to Joy” chorus, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony is a wonderful way to stride joyously into the new year. After the concert, enjoy dancing, champagne and revelry in the lobby. If the party runs too late for your kids, but you still want that “Ode to Joy,” Seattle Symphony will have earlier performances (sans after-party) of the Ninth for the three days leading up to New Year’s Eve. Dec. 28–31. \$29–\$156. *Benaroya Hall, Seattle.*

Up next: [Unique treats](https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-your-family-good-time/7#pager-content) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/let-holidays-show-your-family-good-time/7#pager-content>).

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Holiday Shows and Performances for Seattle Families

ParentMap's annual December arts guide is here

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

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PHOTO: "An Inspirational Christmas With Elvis"

Unique treats

[Red, White & Blue Holiday Concert](https://www.auburnwa.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=11470638&pageId=13193688&objectId.255257=19717409&contextId.255257=13193690&parent12-03T14:00&localEndDate=2023-12-03T14:00&ref=mesTP9fg96fVsgzpWYeogD88I12o9BJFwc8%2fppAnGzY%3d) (<https://www.auburnwa.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=11470638&pageId=13193688&objectId.255257=19717409&contextId.255257=13193690&parent12-03T14:00&localEndDate=2023-12-03T14:00&ref=mesTP9fg96fVsgzpWYeogD88I12o9BJFwc8%2fppAnGzY%3d>)

It's the rousing annual community holiday concert performed by America's First Corps Band. Admission is free, but tickets are required, and nonperishable food donations to the Auburn Food Bank are encouraged. Dec. 3. Free. *Auburn Performing Arts Center, Auburn.*

[A Big Band Christmas with the Swing Reunion Orchestra](https://tmp.org/index.php/2023-2024-tmp-special-events/) (<https://tmp.org/index.php/2023-2024-tmp-special-events/>)

For one night only, the Swing Reunion Orchestra plays Christmas music big-band style. Dec. 4. \$25. *Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma.*

["An Inspirational Christmas With Elvis"](https://www.auburnwa.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=11470638&pageId=13193688&objectId.255257=19717419&contextId.255257=13193690&parent12-07T19:00&localEndDate=2023-12-07T19:00&ref=mesTP9fg96fVsgzpWYeogHPo5pETfT3qfiOswXlCgbU%3d) (<https://www.auburnwa.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=11470638&pageId=13193688&objectId.255257=19717419&contextId.255257=13193690&parent12-07T19:00&localEndDate=2023-12-07T19:00&ref=mesTP9fg96fVsgzpWYeogHPo5pETfT3qfiOswXlCgbU%3d>)

Enjoy Auburn's Elvis tradition with Danny Vernon's annual Elvis illusion holiday concert. Families can expect to hear their favorite songs by "The King," along with traditional Christmas selections (sung in Elvis' distinctive style). Dec. 7. \$25. *Green River College, Cascade Hall, Auburn.*

[Theater Anonymous Presents "It's a Wonderful Life"](https://www.the1448projects.org/season) (<https://www.the1448projects.org/season>). It is possible to combine holiday classics with experimental theater. Just ask the 14/48 Projects, which produces the holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life" every year. But the casting is not announced in advance – even to the cast! Dec. 9. \$30. *Cornish Playhouse, Seattle.*

[Mariachi Sol de Mexico – "Jose Hernandez's Merry-Achi Christmas"](https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14215/mariachi-sol-de-mexico) (<https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14215/mariachi-sol-de-mexico>)

Mariachi Sol de Mexico presents a musical celebration of Mexico's Christmas traditions in a multicultural concert featuring holiday favorites from both Mexico and the United States, mariachi style. Dec. 13. \$40–\$60. *The Moore Theatre, Seattle.*

[Greater Seattle Tubachristmas](https://www.seattlecenter.com/events/event-calendar/winterfest-entertainment-greater-seattle-tubachristmas) (<https://www.seattlecenter.com/events/event-calendar/winterfest-entertainment-greater-seattle-tubachristmas>)

Winterfest at Seattle Center involves all sorts of fun family activities, from a Christmas market (which will also include live Christmas music) to the much-loved model trains. On weekends there are live performances in the Armory. Not all of them are Christmas themed, but one unique holiday-centered show is "Tubachristmas," which is exactly what it sounds like. Dec. 15. Free. *Seattle Center Armory, Seattle.*

[“Dreaming of a Nite Wave Christmas”](http://www.kpcenter.org/event/nite-wave/) (<http://www.kpcenter.org/event/nite-wave/>).

The '80s are still too recent a memory to qualify as classic or traditional, but the decade is distant enough to generate nostalgia. Gen X and older millennial parents will be drawn to New Wave revival band Nite Wave's program of '80s Christmas hits from artists like Prince, Depeche Mode and Duran Duran. You may be surprised by how many of the songs your Internet-age kids already know. Dec. 16. \$46. *Kirkland Performance Center, Kirkland.*

[The Midwinter Revels](https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/the-midwinter-revels) (<https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/the-midwinter-revels>).

For its 30th annual celebration of the winter solstice, Puget Sound Revels returns to the Rialto to present “Silk Road Merchants Meet Medieval England,” written and directed by BJ Douglas. Look forward to sing-alongs, dancing, and more holiday merriment in a combination of tradition and art. Dec. 16–20. \$TBD. *Rialto Theater, Tacoma.*

[“Have You Heard of Christmas?”](https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14826/matt-rogers-have-you-heard-of-christmas) (<https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14826/matt-rogers-have-you-heard-of-christmas>).

Best known for cohosting the pop culture podcast “Las Culturistas with Matt Rogers and Bowen Yang,” actor and comedian Matt Rogers spoofs pop-star yuletide musical extravaganzas with holiday stories and songs from a new Christmas album that no one asked for. Also featured are performances and comedy sketches with special guest stars. The show is all-ages, but family friendliness is debatable. Dec. 19. \$36 and up. *The Moore Theatre, Seattle.*

[“Million Dollar Quartet Christmas”](https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/million-dollar-quartet-christmas/) (<https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/million-dollar-quartet-christmas/>).

Inspired by the true story of Sun Records' legendary 1956 holiday homecoming, this production has members of the Million Dollar Quartet — Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley — come together for a heartwarming, nostalgic evening filled with rock 'n' roll holiday classics like “Run Rudolph Run,” “Jingle Bell Rock” and “I'll Be Home for Christmas.” Dec. 20. \$49–\$99. *Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Olympia.*

[“The Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Show”](https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14554/the-jinkx-de-la-holiday-show) (<https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14554/the-jinkx-de-la-holiday-show>).

Christmas queens Jinkx Monsoon and Ben DeLa Creme — both “RuPaul's Drag Race” alums — are back with their holiday show. There may be some adult themes and language mixed in with the drag spectacle, along with sharp comedy and music, so use your own judgment in deciding if your kids are ready for this all-ages holiday show. Dec. 21–24. \$46 and up. *Moore Theatre, Seattle.*

[“Rocky Mountain High Experience: A John Denver Christmas”](https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/rocky-mountain-high-experience-a-john-denver-christmas)

(<https://www.tacomacitytheaters.org/events/detail/rocky-mountain-high-experience-a-john-denver-christmas>).

If your child has recently surprised you by singing “Country Road,” you're not alone. John Denver's music is having a moment. Nostalgic parents can capitalize on that with the “Rocky

Mountain High Experience," a matinee Christmas concert by Denver tribute artist Rick Schuler that draws from Denver's Christmas albums and 1970s holiday TV specials. Dec. 23. \$64. *Rialto Theater, Tacoma.*

["Fiddler on the Roof" Sing-Along \(https://www.siff.net/programs-and-events/holiday-favorites/fiddler-on-the-roof\)](https://www.siff.net/programs-and-events/holiday-favorites/fiddler-on-the-roof)

If Christmas is not your holiday, where do you go on Dec. 25? To SIFF, of course, for its long-running, non-holiday traditional screening of the best Jewish musical ever, "Fiddler on the Roof." Sing along to "If I Were a Rich Man" and "To Life" accompanied by live klezmer music from Orkestyr Farfeleh. Also enjoy free vegetarian noodle takeout from Leah's Kosher Catering. Dec. 25. \$25. *SIFF Cinema Uptown, Seattle.*

[Moulin Rouge! New Year's Eve Sing-along \(https://www.siff.net/programs-and-events/holiday-favorites/moulin-rouge-new-years-eve-sing-along\)](https://www.siff.net/programs-and-events/holiday-favorites/moulin-rouge-new-years-eve-sing-along)

If your kids are up for the New Year's Eve fireworks but not for waiting outside in the cold, join SIFF for a New Year's Eve "Moulin Rouge" sing-along. Attendees receive a free bling ring, and the screening ends in time for them to walk over to Seattle Center to watch the fireworks. Dec. 31. \$14. *SIFF Cinema Uptown, Seattle.*

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