



CLASSICAL ARTS ENTERTAINMENT, INC. PRESENTS

**THE STATE BALLET  
THEATRE OF  
UKRAINE**

P. Tchaikovsky

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
*BALLET - FAIRY IN TWO ACTS WITH AN EPILOGUE*

Adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann's story  
**“The Nutcracker and the Mouse King”**

Libretto by *Marius Petipa*

Edited by *Volodymir Troshchenko*

Choreography by *Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov,  
Olexander Gorsky, Vasil Vanonen and Anatoly Yemelyanov*

**Andrii Litvinov**, *Artistic Director of the Ballet*

Season 2024-2025

**Piotr I. Tchaikovsky**

## Composer



Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was the author of some of the most popular themes in all of classical music. He founded no school, struck out no new paths or compositional methods, and sought few innovations in his works. Yet the power of his best music elevates it to classic status. It was Tchaikovsky's unique melodic charm that could, whether in his *Piano Concerto No. 1* or in his ballet *The Nutcracker* or in his tragic last symphony, make the music sound familiar on first hearing.

Tchaikovsky was born into a family of five brothers and one sister. He began taking piano lessons at age four and showed remarkable talent, eventually surpassing his own teacher's abilities. By age nine, he exhibited severe nervous problems, not least because of his overly sensitive nature. The following year, he was sent to St. Petersburg to study at the School of Jurisprudence. The loss of his mother in 1854 dealt a crushing blow to the young Tchaikovsky. In 1859, he took a position in the Ministry of Justice, but longed for a career in music, attending concerts and operas at every opportunity. He finally began study in harmony with Zarembo in 1861, and enrolled at the St. Petersburg Conservatory the following year, eventually studying composition with Anton Rubinstein.

In 1866, the composer relocated to Moscow, accepting a professorship of harmony at the new conservatory, and shortly afterward turned out his *First Symphony*, suffering, however, a nervous breakdown during its composition. His opera *The Vayvoda* came in 1867-1868 and he began another, *The Oprichnik*, in 1870, completing it two years later. In 1869 Tchaikovsky entered into a working relationship with composer Milly Balakirev, leader of The Five; the result was Tchaikovsky's first recognized masterpiece, the fantasy-overture *Romeo and Juliet*. Other works were appearing during this time, as well, including the *First String Quartet* (1871), the *Second Symphony* (1873), and the ballet *Swan Lake* (1875).

In 1876, Tchaikovsky traveled to Paris with his brother, Modest, and then visited Bayreuth, where he met Liszt. By 1877, Tchaikovsky was an established composer. This was the year of *Swan Lake's* premiere and the time he began work on the *Fourth Symphony* (1877-1878). It was also a time when he married Antonina Milyukova, an obsessed admirer, their disastrous union lasting just months. The composer even attempted suicide. Near the end of that year, Nadezhda von Meck, a woman he would never meet, became his patron and frequent correspondent. The period of subsidy by Mme von Meck was abundantly productive for Tchaikovsky with a spate of outstanding compositions, including the *Serenade for Strings* (1881), *1812 Overture* (1882), and the *Fifth Symphony* (1888). In both 1888 and 1889, Tchaikovsky went on European tours as a conductor, meeting Brahms, Grieg, Dvorak, Gounod, and other notable musical figures. *Sleeping Beauty* was premiered in 1890, and *The Nutcracker* in 1892, both with success.

Throughout Tchaikovsky's last years, he was continually plagued by anxiety and depression. In 1893 he finished his *Sixth Symphony (Pathétique)* and it was successfully premiered in October the same year. Ten days after the first performance of the new work Tchaikovsky died of cholera in St. Petersburg on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1893.

## Creation of the “The Nutcracker”

The third and last ballet of P.I. Tchaikovsky, the *Nutcracker*, was completed only a year before the composer’s death. This ballet ingeniously combines the straightforward openhearted joy of a child with the deep philosophical reflection of the composer on life and death, beauty of the jest in the name of love and happiness. The libretto for the *Nutcracker* comes from Marius Petipa based on the literary material of the novel by the German romanticist Hoffman.

In his creation P.I. Tchaikovsky followed the treatment of Petipa. But he grasped and put into music a much deeper meaning of the fairytale. The composer created a symphonic poem about a young innocent girl standing at the threshold of the great world out there, dreaming about happiness and defeating evil. The music paints a vivid picture of the children’s world, their joyful games, Masha’s magical dreams, which are sometimes quite uneasy and sometimes full of happiness.

The first production was performed by the gifted choreographer Lev Ivanov in 1892 in the Mariinsky Theater. Tchaikovsky was present at the premier and afterwards wrote in his letter to his brother about the great success of the performance. In Moscow the ballet was staged for the first time only in 1919 by the choreographer Aleksandr Gorsky.

The production of the *Nutcracker* by Vasili Vainonen in 1934 was the third theatrical version of the ballet. This production was stages with consideration of the experience and mistakes of the previous two. V.I. Vainonen wrote: “Tchaikovsky’s music is so graphic, dancelike and emotional, that I could not resist the temptation of recreating it in movement.”

# THE NUTCRACKER

*(Ballet - Fairy in Two Acts with an Epilogue)*

Adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann's story

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Libretto by ***Marius Petipa***

Edited by ***Volodymir Troshchenko***

Choreography by ***Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov,  
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Production by ***Volodymir Troshchenko***

Set design by ***Olena Gavdzynska***

Costume design by ***Nadya Shvets***

## CAST

<b>President Sidberhaus</b>	Sergei Zdansky
<b>Mrs. Sidberhaus, his wife</b>	Liakhova Margarita
<b>Marie, their Daughter</b>	Maria Lolemko, Ilona Baitler,
<b>Fritz, their son</b>	Sitkevich Dmitry
<b>Drosselmeier, the councilman</b>	Kuchvar Yevhenii
<b>Nutcracker, the prince</b>	Litvinov Alexandru, Zdanchi Sergiu
<b>Nutcracker, the toy</b>	chorych Oleksii
<b>Mouse King</b>	Vinogradav Denys
<b>Pink Doll</b>	Vierietina Alina
<b>Harlequin</b>	Ivanov Daniel
<b>Little Arab</b>	Sviridov Valentyn
<b>Chocolate (Spanish Dance)</b>	Baitler Ilona, Dubrovina Daria
<b>Coffee (Arabian Dance)</b>	Bivol Luminita, Alkhimov Dmitro
<b>Tea (Chinese Dance)</b>	Roska Nikolae, Samara Mariia
<b>Candy Canes</b>	Buduhai Mariia, Cojocari Dmytro
<b>Waltz of the Flowers</b>	Bielan Yulia, Hrystenko Polina. Babenko Bohdan, Andritcia Magdalena, Buraieva Romina, Grama Alexandru, Ilchenko Valeria, Beahna Ion, Kuznetsova Yelyzaveta, Hrystenko Polina, Prudnnikova Daria, Barna Ulyiana, Avramenko Iryna, Pedan Olena.

# Synopsis

## Prologue

Drosselmeyer is preparing gifts for President Sielberhaus' children in his room. There is a nutcracker, a toy for cracking nuts, and the Mouse King among them. Drosselmeyer does not like the Mouse King toy and leaves it at home.

## ACT I

### Scene 1

President Sielberhaus is having a Christmas Eve reception. The children look forward to seeing the Christmas tree and the Christmas gifts.

Finally, the moment comes, and a toymaker (Drosselmeyer) disguised as a magician enters the room and strikes everybody with his art. A puppet show is presented in front of the children. The show is about the Nutcracker who defeats the Mouse King protecting the Princess.

Drosselmeyer shows two windup toys, the Harlequin, and the Pink Doll. The house host has them put away for safekeeping, not to be broken by children.

Marie is upset to see the dolls being taken away and Drosselmeyer gives her another doll, a clumsy and funny Nutcracker, but Fritz purposely breaks it. Drosselmeyer chases the nuisance away and wants to fix the doll. Marie lulls the toy she likes so much.

The adults come back from the neighboring room. They perform a nice ceremonial dance called Grossfater and leave.

### Scene 2

Drosselmeyer comes home and sees a lonely toy left behind the Mouse King. The toy suddenly stops obeying Drosselmeyer and runs away. Drosselmeyer chases it.

### **Scene 3**

Marie sleeps in an armchair near the Christmas tree. The Mouse King sneaks into the room and hides under the tree. Drosselmeyer enters.

The clock strikes midnight. Drosselmeyer waves his wand and everything around changes. The walls move, the Christmas tree starts growing and the toys come alive.

Suddenly, mice come out of the fireplace led by the Mouse King. The dolls are terrified. The smart and brave Nutcracker saves them by taking the tin soldiers to fight against the mice army. However, the forces are not equal. The Nutcracker remains the only soldier fighting against the Mouse King and his mice. To help her favorite toy, Marie takes a shoe off her foot and throws it at the Mouse King. The mice retreat scared, and a miracle happens. The ugly funny toy transforms into a handsome Prince. He thanks Marie for saving his life.

### **Scene 4**

The tracery made by frost on the windowpanes turns into a magic winter forest. Prince and Marie are moved into the Waltz of Snowflakes.

## **ACT II**

A magic trip continues. Drosselmeyer takes Prince and Marie to a fairy tale castle. The lights are on; Christmas toys come alive and greet the couple. Suddenly, the mouse King appears with his mice. Prince Nutcracker goes into battle and wins.

Everybody celebrates the victory over the mice. Chocolate performs a Spanish dance, Coffee performs an Arabian dance, Tea performs a Chinese dance, and Candy Canes perform a Russian dance. French lollipops present the Reed Flutes dance.

At the top of festivities, the kind toymaker presents a basket of pink flowers. Marie and Prince are happy.

However, it is just a dream. The Christmas Eve is over, and a new day comes. Marie is near the Christmas tree and a toy nutcracker is next to her.



## ***THE STATE BALLET THEATRE OF UKRAINE***

The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine is situated within the building of the prestigious Opera Theater, where the greatest divas of Ukrainian ballet performed on stage, from Anna Pavlova to Galina Ulanova and Maya Plisetskaya.

Since 2009 the ballet manager has been Yuri Vasyuchenko, an Honorary Artist of Ukraine and exclusive soloist for National Oper on Ukraine in its glorious era under the tutelage of Yuri Grigorovich. The Ukrainian Company is recognized as one of the most prestigious institutions of classical ballet in Ukraine and can boast an extremely varied repertoire, carrying the honor and the task to preserve the precious heritage of the Great Ukrainian ballets.

A part of the company's repertoire has always been the great masterpieces of classic ballet, from "Sylphide" by Bournonville, to "Giselle" by Adam, "Don Quixote" and "La bayadère" by Minkus, „Sleeping Beauty”, „The Nutcracker” and „Swan Lake” by Tchaikovsky, to the various twentieth century ballets by Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Falla and Shchedrin.

The ballet company consists of the best performers, graduates of prestigious Ukrainian and world choreography schools. Many talented artists have danced with the State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine company in its different periods and many of them have been soloists in major international companies.

Over the years, due to the many tours all over the globe, the State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine ballet has earned its first-class international reputation.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:**

The year 1923 marks an important date in the history of the Ukrainian Opera Theater; it is the year when the first ballet was staged by the theater's ballet company: "Swan Lake", followed by others, starting with "Little Horse", and following with "Coppélia" and "Le Corsaire".

In 1926 the great innovator Kasyan Goleizovsky arrived in Ukraine, a choreographer who greatly influenced the fate of the Odessa ballet. His ballets "Joseph the Beautiful", "In the Sun" and mostly the famous "Polovtsian Dances" from Borodin's opera "Prince Igor" enchanted the audience, and the press celebrated the success of these performances by pronouncing the Ukrainian ballet "*a modern factory for new dance*". Since the end of the twenties and the entire following decade, the repertoire quickly broadened to include new titles such as "Don Quixote" and "Giselle", accompanied by works of contemporary authors such as Paul Virsky, Alexander Terekhov and Mikhail Moiseev.

From 1940 on, the ballet had been managed by Vakhtang Vronskij – Nadiradze, who succeeds to add "Esmeralda" to the repertoire, before war forced the theater to slow its growth and the company to relocate temporarily to Krasnoyarsk, where they had been forced to work in difficult conditions until Ukrainian Opera would be finally liberated in April 1944. After the war, a period of genuine prosperity began for the company, with the arrival of ballet stars such as Marina Semyonova and Galina Ulanova in 1949, and especially the great Maya Plisetskaya, who was at the pinnacle of her glory.

During the next two decades the company and its repertoire continued their constant growth, adding other important works, such as "Laurencia", "Peer Gynt" by Edvard Grieg (1959), "Spartacus" by Khachaturian (1962), "The Great Waltz" by Johann Strauss (1958). During the '70s and '80s, due to the work of choreographers such as Natalia Ryzhenko and Victor Smirnov-Golovanov, the company's repertoire is augmented by new ballets such as "Anna Karenina" by Rodion Shchedrin (choreography by Maya Plisetskaya) (1976), "Masquerade" by Aram Khachaturian (1982).

During the '90s, under the tutelage of Vladimir Troshchenko, the great classics were staged once more, such as "Sleeping Beauty", "Swan Lake", "The Nutcracker" and "La Bayadère".



Since 2009, as we already mentioned, the ballet company has been managed by the Honorary Artist of Russia Yuri Vasyuchenko, who staged “Don Quixote” again and added to the repertoire other important titles, such as “Paquita”, “Walpurgis Night”, as well as the dances in the operas “Turandot”, “Don Juan”, “Aida”, “Prince Igor” and others

**Andrii LITVINOV**  
*Artistic Director of the Ballet*  
*People's Artist of Ukraine*



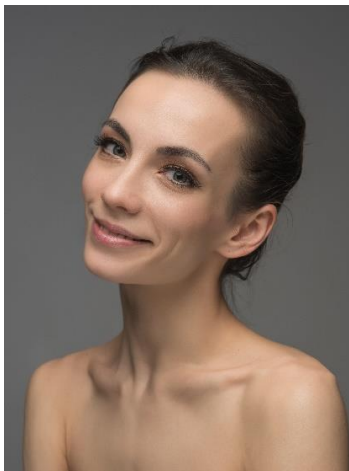
Chief Choreographer of the Dnipropetrovsk Academic Opera and Ballet Theater.

Andrei Litvinov began his ballet biography as a ballet dancer in 1986. at the M. Biesu National Opera and Ballet Theater, Republic of Moldova; he has been in the same theater since 1991. holds the status of Premiere of the ballet (all the leading ballet parties of the classical repertoire dance: Prince in the ballet Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker by P. Tchaikovsky; Basil in Don Quixote by L. Minkus; Prince Albert in Giselle A Adana; Romeo in “Romeo and Juliet” by S. Prokofiev, etc.) Since 2005 combining a ballet career, Andrei Litvinov begins active teaching as a ballet teacher; in 2007, he is appointed the theater’s chief choreographer.

Kharkov, Lvov, Sibiu (Romania). As the choreographer, he staged the following productions: “The Nutcracker,” “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” “Sleeping Beauty,” “Swan Lake,” “Corsair,” “Coppelia,” “Spartak,” “Corsair,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Cinderella.”

Andrei Litvinov enjoys authority in the ballet world, as evidenced by his constant participation in the jury of the International choreographic competitions: Terpsichore (Greece), Dance Power (Moldova), Junior Ballet Fest (Lvov), Crystal Swan (Bucharest), Riga Spring (Latvia). Litvinov A.I. is a member of the CID International Dance Council at UNESCO in France. He is a professor at the National Choreographic College of the Republic of Moldova. The success of his students confirms his authority as a choreographer and highly professional teacher. In 2019 his students, Sergei Zdansky and Ivan Bryakhna became laureates of international choreographic competitions and received the Grand Prix; today, they are leading ballet dancers at the Dnipropetrovsk Academic Opera and Ballet Theater. Awards: Diploma of the best partner at the International Competition of Ballet Dancers in Romania, Constanta. Diploma of the Russian Cultural Charitable Fund - “Diaghilev’s House.” Awarded with a nominal medal of Yuri Grigorovich Awarded the Golden Badge of Honor- “Antioch Cantemir.” Madis (Moldova-Ukraine.)

**MARIA LOLENKO**  
Prima Ballerina



**Maria Lolenko** was born in Ukraine, in the city of Pavlograd, on July 10, 1990. In 2008 she graduated from the choreographic school at the **Dnepropetrovsk Academic Opera and Ballet Theater**. Teacher - E.A. Dubrovina in 2014, she graduated from the Theater and Art College.

In 2005 she was admitted to the ballet troupe of the theater, and in 2012 she received the position of a soloist of the Dnipro Ballet.

She made her debut as Scheherazade in 1000 and One Nights.

As a member of the theater and the combined ballet troupes, she has been on tour in France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Italy, Romania, Switzerland, and the USA. Repertoire: "1000 and One Nights" by Scheherazade; "Romeo and Juliet" - Juliet, "Swan Lake" - Odette, Odilia, Pas-de-Roix, big swans, brides; "Sleeping Beauty" - Fairy of Tenderness, great ladies-in-waiting, Fairy Gold; "The Nutcracker" - Masha, Spanish, French, Russian doll; Don Quixote - girlfriends, street dancer; "Corsair" - Medora, Gulnara. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" - Stepmother Queen. "Cinderella" - Cinderella.

**Also performed parts in the author's ballets:**

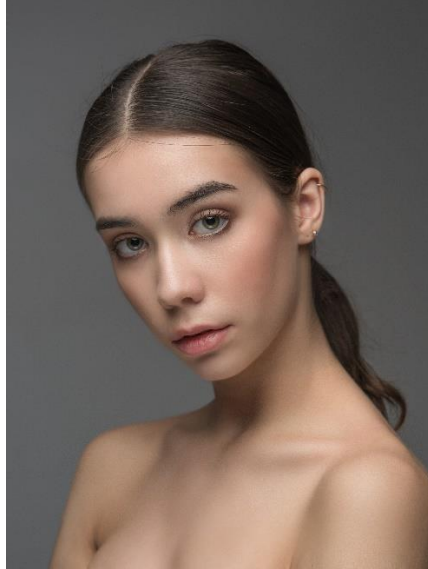
"Jesus" - Mary Magdalene.

"The Night Before Christmas" - Oksana.

"Princess Olga" - Princess Olga.

"Big Waltz" - Olga

***ILONA BAYTLER***  
Principal Dancer



***Ilona Baytler*** was born in Ukraine, in the city of Dnipro, on January 27, 2002.

I am a 4th year student at the Dnepropetrovsk Theater and Art College

Also, this year I am graduating from the Dnepropetrovsk school of classical dance.

Teacher-Dubrovina E.A.

Since 2020, she has been admitted to the ballet troupe of the ***Dnepropetrovsk Academic Opera and Ballet Theater*** in the position of the 2nd category.

As a member of the theater, as well as the combined ballet troupes, she was on tour in France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland

Repertoire: "Swan Lake" Pas de Trois, dance of little swans

"Nutcracker" Chinese doll, Russian doll

"Sleeping Beauty" Fairy of Courage

"Don Quixote" Cupid

"Cinderella" Fairy "Summer"

***Laureate of international ballet competitions***

"Thought -Stream" 2017 (Kiev) 2nd place.

"Thought -Stream" 2018 (Kiev) 2nd place.

Slobozhanske Kolo 2018 (Kharkov) 1st place.

"Best fest" 2015 (Kharkov) 1st place.

"Ballet seasons in Odessa" 2021 (Odessa) 1st place.

***ALINA VERETINA***  
Principal Dancer



**Alina Veretina** born in Ukraine, in the city of Dnipro on November 8, 1988. Graduated from the Dnepropetrovsk Choreographic School. Teacher T. Omelchenko. Enrolled in 2004. Theater and art school. She was accepted into the troupe of the **Dnepropetrovsk Opera and Ballet Theater**. She danced her first solo part at the age of 13. At her 20th, she became a leading ballerina at Dnipro Opera.

**Danced in performances:**

“Don Quixote” - Kitri.

“Giselle” - Giselle, pas de deux insert.

“The Nutcracker” - Princess Masha.

“Romeo and Juliet” - Juliet.

“Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” - Snow White.

“Swan Lake” Odile, Pas de Troyes.

“The Sleeping Beauty” - Aurora, Princess Florina.

“In vain precaution” - Lisa.

“Big waltz” - Olga

“Cinderella” - sisters.

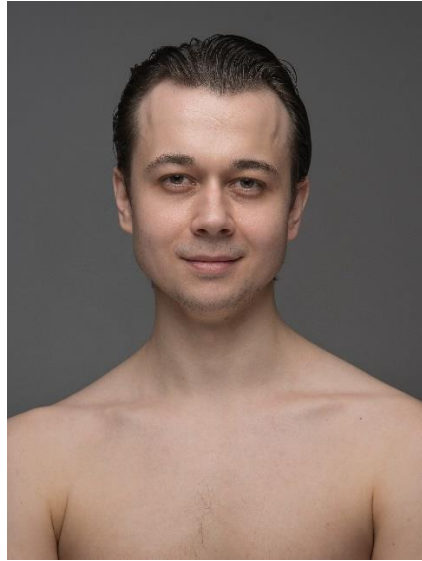
Contemporary ballet “Degazhe.”

Received three awards, Sicheslavna.

Various pas de deux - Marketanque, Gensanne, Flames of Paris.

Has toured in France, Switzerland, Romania, Italy, Spain, China, Germany.

***ALEXANDER LITVINOV***  
Principal Dancer



**Alexander Litvinov** was born in Moldova, in the city of Chisinau, on July 4, 1993. In 2012 he graduated from the Moldavian National Choreographic College. The teacher is Andrey Litvinov. From 2012 to 2015, he worked at the National Opera and Ballet Theater Maria Biesu, Chisinau. From 2018 to 2019, he worked at a private ballet company in Sibiu, Romania. In 2019 he was admitted to the ballet troupe of the **Dnipro Academic Opera and Ballet Theater** for the Ballet's position. As a member of the theater and the combined ballet troupes, he was on tour in France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Italy, Romania, Switzerland, the USA, and Canada.

**Repertoire:**

"Corsair" - pas de Skylar.

Romeo and Juliet - Tybalt.

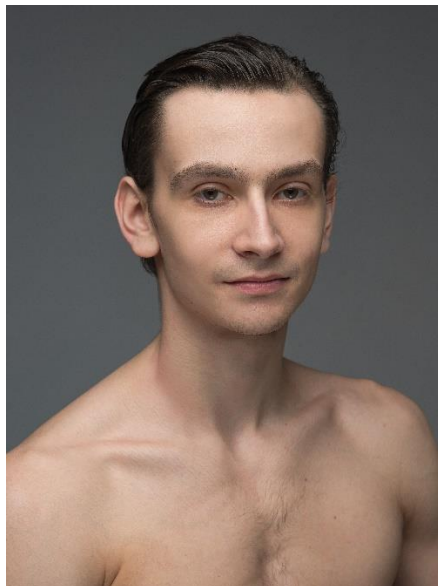
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs - Jaeger.

Swan Lake - Siegfried, Pas de Trois, Spanish dance.

"Nutcracker" - Spanish, French dolls.

"Cinderella" - The Prince.

***Sergei Zdarskii***  
Principal Dancer



Sergei Zdarskii was born in the Republic of Moldova, in Chisinau, on January 11, 2000. Graduate of the Colegiul National de Coregrafie in 2019. Teacher - Andrei Litvinov

In 2017 he was admitted to the ballet troupe of the Chisinau Theater. In 2019, Sergei moved to the city of Dnipro in Ukraine and received the title of Leading Ballet Soloist. He made his debut as Siegfried in "Swan Lake." As a theatrical and national ballet company member, he has toured in France, Germany, Spain, China, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Repertoire:

"Swan Lake" Siegfried, pas de trois

"Nutcracker" Prince, Frenchwoman, Spanish doll "Sleeping Beauty" - Prince Dazir, gentlemen.

Don Quixote - Basildon

"Corsair" is Ali's slave.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" - The Prince.

Laureate of international ballet competitions.

Riga Spring - Grand Prix

Vienna International Competition - 2nd place

Romania Crystal Swan - 1st place

Italy 1st place.