

2018 “Musical Wunderkind – Strings” – Liza Sommers

Liza Sommers performing as a Wunderkind in the Moscow Ballet Nutcracker Performance on Dec 6, 2018 at the Auditorium Theater.



Rochester's [Elizabeth \(Liza\) Sommers](#) began her musical studies on the violin at age 8 with Alice Kanack of the Kanack School of Musical Artistry, and took up the viola about six years later. Her musical interests range widely beyond the standard classical repertory; in addition to being a violist in the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra for two years, she plays in the Eastman School of Music's Schola Cantorum, an

ensemble directed by Stephen Kennedy, offering weekly historically-informed performances of Gregorian plainchant and Renaissance and Baroque motets. Liza is also in a band, playing fiddle for the Rochester Contra Dance several times per year. She is currently studying the Baroque violin with Boel Gidholm, violinist and co-director of Publick Musick, a Rochester-based early music ensemble. A high school senior this year, Liza plans to pursue historical performance on the Baroque violin.

About Wunderkind:

“[Musical Wunderkind](#)” youth musicians accompany Moscow Ballet principal ballerinas in Saint Saen’s “[Dying Swan](#)” from *Carnival of the Animals*, now commonly known as the influence for Odette’s movements in *Swan Lake*, in many cities on the national tour. The Wunderkind, each in their respective cities, rehearse with the principal ballerina and open the *Great Russian Nutcracker* in a duo of musician and ballerina to the delight of audiences.

Moscow Ballet’s cross discipline program, “[Musical Wunderkind](#),” is a acknowledges the talent of pre-professional Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition winners across the country and is an unprecedented live performance opportunity. The live experience develops young musicians’ interpretation skills in a way practice cannot. This program is one example of Moscow Ballet executing its [mission](#) to *provide art enrichment for the local communities in which it performs*.

Learn more about Wunderkind in each city: <https://www.nutcracker.com/Community-Engagement/musical-wunderkind-strings>