



THE SLEEPING BEAUTY EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

DEAR EDUCATOR,

Here at Interlochen Center for the Arts we are excited to share our production of *The Sleeping Beauty* and thank you for taking the time to plan for and organize your visit to the ballet. We invite you to use this guide as a starting point to explore this classical ballet with your class even before you arrive. The guide is to be used to complement and enhance the teaching and learning occurring in your classroom.

The guide is intended to help you and your students gain a basic understanding and to provide an opportunity to investigate more deeply the historical, social, emotional, and cultural aspects of the production as a whole.

When the time comes, we can't wait for you to join us for an enchanting event. This much-loved and perennially delightful ballet combines a feast for the eyes and a score that is endlessly sumptuous and varied.

For more details and teaching ideas be sure to see the online guide:
guides.interlochen.org/sleeping-beauty

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Music by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Featuring the **Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra**

Conducted by **Dr. Leslie Dunner, Interlochen Arts Academy Conductor**

Directed and Staged by **Joseph Morrissey, Interlochen Arts Academy Dance Division Director**

With original and newly revised choreography after **Marius Petipa** (1890)

Story for this choreographic version written and adapted by **Joseph Morrissey** after **Charles Perrault's *La Belle au Bois Dormant* (*The Sleeping Beauty in the Woods*)** & **The Brothers Grimm's *Dornröschen* (*Little Briar Rose*)**.

ACT 1, SCENE 1: CHRISTENING



The King and Queen have given birth to the beautiful Princess Aurora. Catalabutte, the King's Master of Ceremonies, has arranged for a Christening Party and invites six fairies with their cavaliers to bestow gifts of virtue to the newborn princess. Soon ominous thunder is heard and it is revealed to the King's dismay that Catalabutte did not invite the evil fairy Carabosse to the Christening. Furious at being crossed off the invitation list, Carabosse arrives with her demons and bestows her own gift upon the princess. Embittered, she casts a vengeful spell; upon Aurora's sixteenth birthday, the Princess will prick her finger on a spinning needle and die. The Lilac Fairy cannot undo the powerful spell but softens it by ensuring that while Aurora will indeed prick her finger, she will not die but fall asleep for 100 years until a handsome prince awakens her with a kiss. Carabosse departs the palace, promising her spell will come true - a fate the King vows to fight.



ACT 1, SCENE 2: SIXTEEN YEARS LATER, PRINCESS AURORA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY



The kingdom's villagers merrily dance around the palace courtyard at Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday party, in anticipation of her arrival. Four worldly and competitive suitors arrive to woo the princess before she joins them to fanfare. Each suitor presents the princess with a rose, as she impresses everyone with her poise and virtuosic dancing. Soon fairy tale characters including Little Red Riding Hood and The Big Bad Wolf; Puss in Boots and The White Cat; Cinderella and Prince Charming; and The Frog Prince and his Princess dance and entertain everyone.



As the festivities continue, a strange light in the window of the castle tower distracts Aurora and entices her to wonder inside. There, she finds a mysterious room where a peddler woman spins thread on a spindle wheel. Intrigued by the unusual contraption, Aurora pricks her finger on its spinning needle before dizzily returning to the palace courtyard, eventually appearing to fall dead to the ground. The peddler woman reveals herself to be Carabosse in disguise and, reminding the kingdom of her spell, concocts a windstorm to aid her demons in battle with Aurora's suitors. The Lilac Fairy appears and assures everyone that Aurora is only asleep and shall be so for the next 100 years. To ensure that Aurora will not be alone when she awakens, The Lilac Fairy puts the entire kingdom to sleep - protecting the palace from intruders by covering it with vines and thorns.



ACT 2, SCENE 1: THE HUNT



A royal hunting party comes to a halt in a mysterious forest nearby the enchanted castle where Princess Aurora sleeps. Prince Florimund joins everyone and games and dancing amongst the hunting party ensue. A Bluebird appears, seemingly trying to woo his love, the Enchanted Princess, by teaching her to fly. Florimund asks the Bluebird and his Enchanted Princess to dance for the hunting party. Overcome by the Bluebird's expression of love, the Prince sends his hunting party on without him as he reflects on his lack of love in solitude.

ACT 2 SCENE 2: THE DREAM



Falling asleep, Florimund dreams that the Lilac Fairy appears and asks if he has found true love. He answers no and she, in turn, conjures an apparition of forest nymphs, culminating with a vision of the spellbound Princess Aurora. The Prince and Princess meet in their shared dream and dance together before Aurora disappears in the distance and Florimund is left alone in his sleep.

ACT 2, SCENE 3: THE AWAKENING



The Prince awakens to a nightmarish reality as Carabosse's demons descend on him. The Lilac Fairy appears sending the demons away, guiding Florimund to the palace by a sailboat. They arrive in front of the palace where Aurora sleeps and Caarabosse awaits. The Lilac Fairy gives Prince Florimund a golden sword for his forthcoming battle with Carabosse and her demons. Carabosse arrives and before nearly being slain, turns herself into a monstrous dragon. Meanwhile, the fatigued Prince slays Carabosse's demons one by one and inevitably destroys the dragon with a bout of strength from the Lilac Fairy. He enters the doors to the palace and finds Aurora in bed, awakening her a kiss. Slowly yet joyously the kingdom awakes, realizing the spell has been broken. The entire kingdom celebrates the love that Princess Aurora and Prince Florimund found together in their dreams.

