



Practice Material for Nutcracker Auditions

- 1. For Snowflakes/Sled Girls** Bourree turn to R/L with arms demi seconde. MUST KNOW R from L without prompting. Soft graceful arms reaching from demi seconde to alonge over head, and returning (like a butterfly). Plie and releve in first with good placement.
- 2. For Snow Maidens** Lovely pointed feet. Nice port de bras. Graceful and presentational upper body. Epaulement. Smile. Glissade from 1st position. Plie/releve with arms alonge. Pas de courru (bourree in parallel first)
- 3. For Mice** Ability to get into character. Fun and energetic personality. Hunched over in upper chest contraction and slight forced arch, passe parallel and return to parallel first with accent DOWN. (R/L), releve with claws strong over head, tuck jump with claws by chest. Glissade in parallel first with attack, hunched, and mice claws up by chest.
- 4. Party Scene** Beautiful stage presence, smile, genuine open joy in the face and the dancing. From fifth position. Echappe, coupe derriere L, echappe, coupe derriere R, echappe, coupe derriere L, jump to fifth (like soubresaut). Pointe R devant, L, R, L, first. Counts are hold R 1-2, hold L 3-4, point R 5, L 6, first on 7 (hold 8). Chasse R 3x, tap to parallel (character), repeat L, curtsy R/L
- 5. Pages**
 - **Spanish**- Battement a la seconde (high) to a forced arch to side, pull to first parallel, arms back (like prep position but behind back). Snap 4x, alternating R/L in front with epaulement. **Sass, confidence, smeyes.**
 - Chinese**- With "CHinese fingers" Huge echappe form fifth, close, echappe open and sit in big turned out second. Scooch around in circle, keeping heels planted and hips nicely turned out. **Precise, clean, huge happy smile, strong, pointed jumps.**
 - Russian**- (Character) Toe in, heel out, march 3x parallel (repeat L) Grande plie in first, pop up to heels with feet open. **Strong, dynamic. confident, energy, nice smile**
 - French**- walk 2x articulating through foot, pique 2x in efface devant, close to first. (repeat L). **Gorgeous feet, soft, gentle, sweet demeanor,**

gentle smile, lovely port de bras and epaulement

6. Act II

-Spanish- from stage left, pique R to attitude LEFT croise devant, step L, chasse R, saut de chat R with arms opening overhead through 3rd (blossom arms). Repeat L. Three consecutive single pirouettes from fifth to best side. Tight, clean landings. **Strong, confident, smeyes**

-Chinese- Step L croise devant, developpe R to ecarte devant HIGH, failli, run like prances to downstage left corner, coupe L derriere in fondu, brush to R arabesque in fondu HIGH, return to coupe derriere L, arabesque R, coupe L. (repeat other side). Echappe, fifth, echappe fifth, echappe, 1/2 turn land in 2nd. 1/2 turn land in 2nd, close fifth. **Peppy, happy, eager, big smile, precise, crisp**

-Russian- (Character shoes) tap toe behind, whack up to attitude derriere with turned lean of upper body, arcing toe to head, run 2x parallel, kicking behind, repeat other side. Pique R into croise derriere attitude, fondu leaning upper body to R and pitching F, contretemps, repeat other side. **strong, powerful, attack, smile**

-Snow Princesses- Temps leve arabesque, failli, glissade, pas de chat. nice bourrees. **Clean, lifted, graceful, articulate**

