

Narrator script excerpt

Music: Overture

Underscore (Start in 2nd bar after overture, vamped strings) - Not so long ago on Christmas eve, a young girl called Clara and her brother Fritz were excitedly helping their parents put the finishing touches to the Christmas tree. The magnificent tree stood proudly in the grand hall of their home. Soon many distinguished guests from all around the town would descend for the traditional Christmas Eve party, hosted by her father, the Mayor. The air was full with the smell of pine needles and the magical anticipation that only Christmas Eve can bring.

Music

Underscore: (on cue - bass triplets) - Just as Clara hung her last gingerbread man onto a tree branch, the clock struck nine. The tree was ready, but there was no time to admire her handiwork - the guests could be heard fast approaching the front door.

Music

Underscore: Scene 1 (on timp role) - The mayor flung open the door, and the towns people and their children flooded inside, all clutching gifts, their voices raised in festive merriment. They doffed their coats and hats and made their way to the grand hall.

Music

Underscore: Scene 1 continued (straight after FF chord) - Suddenly (string trem chord) silence falls over the previously raucous crowd.... as the guests enter the hall they are transfixed by the beauty and magic of the magnificent Christmas tree, that had been so lovingly decorated. The candles bathed their warm light over the baubles making them sparkle and the sticky candy canes shimmered red and white. (Three Pizz. Chords)

In silence - The party began and the adults laughed, drank and danced. The children played games, and some, hoping for toy soldiers in their stockings on Christmas day, began to march around the tree.

Music: No. 2. March

After March, in silence - The party was in full swing, but out of the window Clara spotted, a strange, hooded figure walking towards the house. All the guests had arrived...so who was this mysterious person approaching the front door?

Music (Woodwind – 3 bars)

Underscore: (Orchestra 'knock knock') Knock-knock, **(orchestra 'knock knock')** knock-knock!

Straight after - In silence - The booming wraps on the door seemed to echo through the house and grabbed the attention of all the guests, who immediately fell silent. Clara tentatively followed her father into the hallway to see who had arrived. All by itself the door mysteriously creaked open revealing the outline of the cloaked figure. **(Underscore starts, bassoon vamp)** In a single flamboyant whirl, the figure removed his cloak, revealing his identity and sacks full of presents. The guests breathed a sigh of relief...it was Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara's godfather.

Music: (clarinet)

In silence - Herr Drosselmeyer was the local councilman and known to be a fantastic magician, inventor and toy maker. **(Underscore, low basses and cellos)** Every year he created fantastical mechanical toys to entertain the children. This year was no exception, and much to the delight of all the guests, Herr Drosselmeyer wound up two of his Lifesize dolls and set them off dancing for the captivated crowd.