

NOTES  
from the  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

My interest in seasonal singing and dancing was sparked when my mother, grandmother and I went to see the Cambridge Revels . At the end of the show, so the story goes, I pointed to a girl taking her bows on the stage and said, "I want to be that girl next year!"

We didn't live in Boston, though, so my mother looked around Franklin County to see what theater opportunities she could find for me. She stumbled upon an annual show called Welcome Yule that was sort of Revels-like, but with more of a community feel. On learning that participation in the show during those early days was contingent upon showing up consistently at rehearsals, my mother and I enthusiastically joined the cast. My younger sister Blithe also joined the cast for several years. A fall commitment to rehearsals that culminated in three performances every December became part of my family's annual activity schedule.

I've been part of the show for 18 of my 22 years. I started out in the children's chorus belting out "Bright Shining Star", transitioned into the teen group and now sing in the adult chorus. As many families return year after year to perform in Welcome Yule, the cast has come to feel like an ephemeral community that recreates itself every year from September, when rehearsals begin, to December when final bows are taken and the set is struck.

Although I sing in the chorus, I prefer the behind-the-scenes work of coordinating, directing and bringing a show to completion. This year, I decided I was ready to write and direct my own show. I spent hours researching songs and traditions. I knew I wanted to set the action in England, but with a twist. When I discovered that Robin Hood was a stock character in old mummer's plays, I was inspired to build the show around this legendary figure.

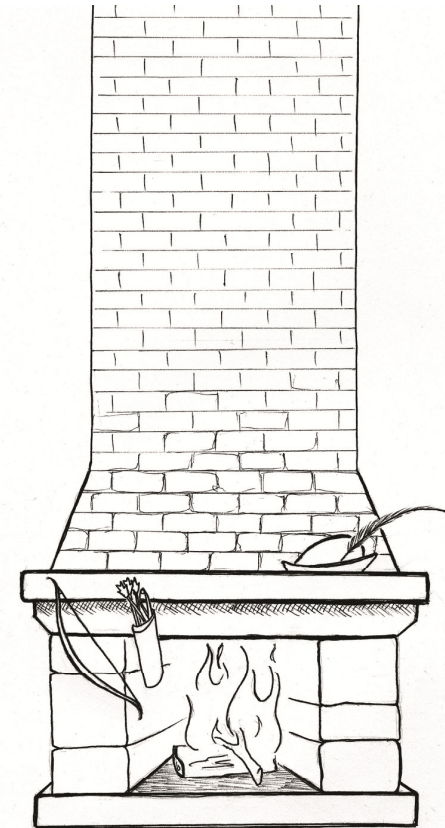
So this year, the action in our fictional village is set 11th century, with the mischievous yet righteous figure of Robin Hood watching over us as we celebrate the return of the light at the winter solstice.

Wassail and Welcome Yule!

Hattie Love Archbald  
Artistic Director, 2014

# Welcome Yule

a midwinter celebration



December 12th, 13th and 14th, 2014  
The Shea Theater  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts



## PERFORMERS

### ADULT CHORUS

Hattie Archbald  
 Montserrat Archbald  
 Margaret Christie  
 Louise Doud  
 Bob Drinkwater  
 Becca Lipton  
 Jolianna Lobrose  
 Saralinda Lobrose  
 Jinny Mason  
 Alan McArdle  
 Eloise Michael

Fred Momaney  
 Loril Moondream  
 Rita Reinke  
 Andrea Rogers  
 Geoff Rogers  
 Rachel Roy  
 Tom Shattuck  
 Liz Smith  
 Andrea Tarr  
 Lorelle Wilson  
 Matt Wilson



### CHILDREN'S AND TEEN'S CHORUS

Calla Jones  
 Larkin Christie  
 Clara Kohrman  
 Solena Davidson Carroll  
 Morgan Lobrose

Granger Smith-Massa  
 Fedya Michael  
 Fiona Rogers  
 Lana Vilcinskaskas  
 Lizzie Wilson



### MUSICIANS

Montserrat Archbald  
 Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy  
 Becca Lipton  
 Jolianna Lobrose  
 Morgan Lobrose

Loril MoonDream  
 Michael Pattavina  
 Geoff Rogers  
 Lana Vilcinskaskas  
 Lizzie Wilson

### ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

Juggler Meadow Morris Men

## WORDS TO THE SONGS



### FURRY DAY CAROL (Chorus)

With hal and toe, sing merry-o,  
 With hal and toe sing merry!  
 With hal and toe sing merry-o,  
 With hal and toe sing merry!

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL (Chorus)

Drink to thee! Drink to thee!  
 With a wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee!



### THIS LONGEST NIGHT

This longest night your candles light,  
 Keep watch over all the earth.  
 Welcome hope and cheer as dawn grows near.  
 And rejoice, rejoice at the sun's rebirth.

### LORD OF THE DANCE

Dance, dance, wherever you may be  
 For I am the Lord of the dance said he  
 And I lead you all, wherever you may be  
 And I'll lead you all in the dance said he.





## Act I



### **Hail to Britannia:** Children's Chorus

Our young people sing a traditional English nursery rhyme.

### **Strike Up Your Instruments of Joy:** Chorus

From the Revels Choral Series, written by John Emunds (1917-1986). Medieval instruments, lords, dames, maids and boys are all exhorted to join in seasonal festivities.

### **The Holly and the Ivy:** Chorus

A traditional Yule carol, sung here to an Old French Melody penned in 1861.

### **We've Been Awhile a-Wandering:** Children's Chorus

A wassail song from Yorkshire, sung by the street *waits* (carolers) traveling from house to house on Christmas Eve. Arranged by Marshall Barron

### **Cutty Wren:** Tom, Alan, Bob, Fred, Geoff, Matt

Wrenning is a widespread tradition in the British Isles centered on the capture and sacrifice of the tiny wren, the King of all birds.



### **The Shortest Day:** Liz Smith and Loril MoonDream

A poem was written by Susan Cooper, and used with permission of Revels, Inc. Please join us in calling "Welcome, Yule!" at the end.

### **Furry Day:** Chorus

A traditional English wassailing carol, and a long-time favorite of Welcome Yule. We invite you to join in the chorus—words included.

### **Wren Boys' Song:** Morgan & Granger, Children's Chorus

More winter activities involving wrens and youngsters.

### **Stick Dance:** Children's Chorus

This traditional English tune is called "The Black Joke".



### **Gower Wassail:** Chorus

Another traditional wassail piece relating the superior qualities of our ale, and expressing best wishes for a bountiful apple crop next year.

**Abbots Bromley Horn Dance:** An ancient ritual dance first chronicled in Staffordshire, England over 600 years ago. It is performed for us every year by Juggler Meadow Morris Men.

### **Musical Interlude:** Loril, Lizzie, Lana

### **Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening:** Children's Chorus

The children lead us into the forest with this much loved poem by Robert Frost, set to music by Brattleboro musician Peter Amidon.



### **Travelers' Prayer:** Fred, Bob, Lorelle, Saralinda, Chorus

A modern carol written and arranged by John Renbourne and based on songs from the Carmina Gadelica, a collection of material gathered by Alexander Carmichael at the turn of the twentieth century.

### **Bright Shining Morning:** Geoff, Chorus

Geoff leads the chorus on the Wild Hunt in this traditional English pub song.

### **Mummers Play:** Lizzie, Eloise, Alan, Jinny, Margaret, Rachel, Tom, Loril and Fedya

Mumming is one of many midwinter customs wherein performers disguise themselves and go house to house, singing and spreading good cheer. They hope to be thanked for their efforts with food and drink.

### **Gloucestershire Wassail:** Chorus

Another annual favorite in which we toast cows, horses, maids and butlers. Join us for the refrain. Words included!

## ∞ Intermission ∞

## Act II

### **Story:** Fred (and children)

The story of Robin Hood, retold.

### **O Sight of Anguish:** Montserrat, Becca, Tom

Inspired by Tim Erikson's rendition of "Occom's Carol", this arrangement was created by Pickering and Archbald.

### **Until the Dark Time Ends:** Calla, Clara, Chorus

A contemporary song by Alouette Iselin from Nelson, NH.

### **This Longest Night:** Chorus

This lovely round by Lorraine Lee celebrates the winter solstice. Words included!



**The Praise of Christmas:** Hattie, Rachel, Joli, Saralinda , Alan, Tom Bob, Loril

This 18th century carol commends this season as a time of merriment and conviviality, as we sing “carols and songs to drive the cold winter away”.

**Here’s a Health to Company:** Liz, Chorus

Traditional Irish Song based in the long history of emigration from Scotland to Ireland. Arranged by Becca Lipton

**Dance:** Company

An English country dance called Bath Carnival and set to the tune Keppel’s Delight. The dance dates to the 1700’s when Bath became a popular spa/resort.

**Apple Tree Wassail:** Louise, Margaret, Eloise

A song from the Somerset region of England toasting apple trees and encouraging them to bear well in the coming year.

**John Ball:** Chorus

The women lead this Sydney Carter song honoring a 14th century visionary who organized an agricultural collective where all were equal in fellowship and land ownership.

**Hail Smiling Morn:** Chorus

Composed in 1810 by Reginald Spofforth, this rousing song comes from the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition

**Lord of the Dance:** Fred, Hattie, Alan, Andrea, Chorus

Set to the tune of the Shaker carol “Simple Gifts”, we celebrate the life giving power of the dance. Join us in the chorus!

**The King:** Chorus

We cannot go a year without singing this Welsh ode to the Wren, the King of all the birds, that celebrates the ancient custom of wrenning.

**Lord of the Dance:** Reprise

Please join the cast in dancing in the aisles as we repeat the chorus of this song. Words are in the program.

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*Much of the music in the show was arranged by, or adapted from arrangements by Bill Venman and Thomas W. Hutcheson*

All songs traditional except as noted above.

[www.welcomeyule.org](http://www.welcomeyule.org)



## STAFF



Producers:

Artistic Director: Hattie Love Archbald

Stage Director: Fred Momaney

Chorus Director: Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy

Children’s Chorus Director: Becca Lipton

Instrumental Director: Geoff Rogers

Producers: Alan McArdle, Jinny Mason, Tom Shattuck

Stage Manager: Devon Mason McArdle

Vocal Arrangements: Bill Venman, Thomas W. Hutcheson, Becca Lipton

Mummer’s Play Authors: Montserrat Archbald, Margaret Christie

Mummer’s Play Directors: Montserrat Archbald, Rachel Roy

Dance Captain: Andrea Rogers

Costumers: Marsha Smith, Jinny Mason

Lighting Design: Mike Friedman

Set Design: Hattie Archbald

Lighting, Set and Stage Crew: Mike Friedman,

Phyllis Stone, Rachel Roy, Tom Shattuck, Joan Deely, Jed Proujansky

Light Board Operator: Phyllis Stone

Poster Design and Illustration: Blithe Archbald

Poster Technical Support: Jeannie Schermesser

Program Layout: Joan Deely

House Manager/Concessions: Jed Proujansky, Joan Deely

Publicity: Louise Doud, Joan Deely, Jinny Mason,

Mik Muller, Bob Drinkwater

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*Produced by Welcome Yule, Inc.*

&

*The Shea Theater*



## SPECIAL THANKS TO

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