

Welcome Yule

a midwinter celebration

*Music, Dance, Songs and Stories
To Drive the Dark Away*



A Virtual Celebration of the Season
featuring
Performances Both Old and New

Opening online
December 11th, 2020
www.welcomeyule.org

in cooperation with
Shea Theater Arts Center
Turners Falls, Massachusetts



NOTES from the Artistic Directors



Welcome Yule 2020 continues to celebrate the turning of the year notwithstanding the ongoing global pandemic. Despite the travails facing us now, comfort can be found in the constant rotation of the stars and planets. Although we may not meet in person with most of our friends and families, we depend more than ever on the care and support of our communities. And our efforts to work toward achieving a just and equitable world for all continues unabated.

Darkness is always followed by light. After sorrow, comes joy.

This year, our annual celebration of the winter solstice occurs courtesy of the marvels of technology. We have pored over hours of video recordings from the past 30 years of Welcome Yule performances.

Careful attention has been given to selecting clips representative of the range of material we have staged, and includes singing, dancing and general carrying-on. Children's choruses from years past include cast members who are now parents of today's youngest cast members!

We collected images that combined wonderful performances with good video and audio quality. This year's live performances have been recorded safely at cast members' homes near and far...as far away as Barcelona!

It is our hope that the 2020 audiences will enjoy seeing and hearing cast members past and present singing and dancing to drive the dark away. And we wish health, love and peace, from our communities to yours, wherever they may be.

Wassail - Jed, Joan, Jinny and Alan

Act I

Ring Out, Wild Bells: Andy Tarr (2006)

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1850. A pealing of bells was rung to usher out the old year and welcome in the new at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Malpas Wassail: Bart Bales, Rose Sheehan, Steve Morgan (1991)

The salutation “wassail” means “be whole”. The custom of wassailing includes house to house visiting and singing, partaking of food and drink along the way to bring good luck to both the visitors and the visited.

Welcome Here: Chorus (2012)

A Shaker hymn

Cold December: Liz Castro, Anna Cabre (2020)

A traditional Catalan carol from the 16th century. The words were translated to English by Howard Hawhee in 1978.

Shortest Day: Andy Tarr, Ed Smith (2020)

A poem written by Susan Cooper and used with permission of Revels, Inc.

Furry Day: Chorus (2005)

A Welcome Yule standard to welcome wintertime revelers.

Community Dance: (2007)

A dance with the impressive name *Sir Roger DeCoverley*. The revelers dance while awaiting the arrival of the Yule log.

Rag Dance Song: Saralinda Lobrose, Morgan Lobrose, Dan Frank, Jess Emery (2020)

This rousing call and response tune, also known as Le Guignollee, depicts a medieval French New Year's Eve custom that has been transported to the Americas, featuring travelers going door to door begging for treats in midwinter.

Praise of Christmas: Chorus (2001)

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

Great Big Star: Children's Chorus (1993)

Traditional, African American. A spiritual introduced to Welcome Yule by Rose Sheehan in the early years of the show.

Story: Joan and Norah (2020)

A tale in which a weary knight makes a discovery...

Fairest Maid: Teen Chorus (2010)

Traditional, English. Music by Anabel Graetz. The old year is ushered out, the new year is welcomed in.

Trunch Wassail: Jinny, Joan (2015)

A parody by Chris Sugden

Apple Tree Wassail—Chorus (2015)

A song from the Somerset region of England that toasts apple trees and encourages them to bear bountifully next spring.

Abbots Bromley: Juggler Meadow Morris Men (2003)

This ancient ritual dance was first performed in Staffordshire England over 600 years ago.

Mummers Play: Jed, Jinny, Joan, Alan, Jack, Bart (2020)

Mumming is a time-honored tradition from the British Isles, with variations in France, Ireland and as far away as Newfoundland. Here, we relate the tale of St. George and the Dragon with a stable of stock characters in this allegory of death and rebirth.

Gloucestershire Wassail: Chorus (1994)

Traditional. A midwinter toast raised to cows, horses, corn, beer, butlers and maids. Join us for the refrain—words in the program.

Act II

Border Morris: The Blue Willies (2006)

Border dances are part of the British Isles dance traditions, performed in winter for fun, strong ale and a bit of money.

Milford: Chorus (2012)

A song from the shape note tradition.

Boar's Head Carol: Rita Reinke, Eric Johnson (2020)

Published in 1521 in Wynkyn de Worde's *Christmasse Carolles*. Before the extinction of wild boar in England, the hunting season ran from Christmas to Candlemas. A boar's head was presented to great acclaim at a Yuletide feast.

Wren Boys: Bart Bales, Children (2006)

The wren is celebrated as the King of All Birds, though it may be small.

In The Bleak Winter: Chorus (2003)

Lyrics by Christina Rossetti, music by Gustav Holst. The song's evocative poetry and music have made this a perennial favorite.

Wren Song: Jim Ellis, Children (1993)

Traditional. One of many songs celebrating the small but mighty wren.

Comfort of Singing Voices: Rachel Roy, Phyllis Stone, Fred Momaney, Kathryn Aubry-McAvoy (2020)
Alouette Iselin. A contemporary song of friendship and the importance of song.

Bampton Weavers—A Sword Dance: Andrea, Saralinda, Liz, Phyllis, Andy (2018)
Traditional. A dance first performed in Great Orton, England in 1781, reconstructed by Mike Jensen and named Bampton Weavers

Copper Family Christmas Song: Kate Richardson, Alden Booth, Lissa Greenough (2020)
Traditional. A tune collected and sung by the legendary Copper family of Sussex, England. The lyrics are derived from a poem written in the 1700's by Thomas Brerewood of Horton, Cheshire.

See the Sun A-rising: Chorus (2016)
The tune is an old setting of Dona Nobis Pacem. The words, often used in Solstice celebrations, are from the EarthSpirit Community.

Personent Hodie: Chorus (1993)
Traditional. A Christmas carol originally published in 1582 in the Finnish song book Piae Cantiones, and much later, arranged for unison voices by Gustav Holst in 1916..

Story: Joan and Norah (2020)
...and vanquishes a dragon!

Carol of the Birds: Chorus (2016)
Traditional. A new arrangement of an old Spanish carol—hear the birdsong!

Hail, Smiling Morn: Chorus (2012)
Reginald Spofforth, 1810. This rousing song is part of the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition.

The King: Chorus (2015)
Traditional. Our annual ode to the lowly wren, the King of all birds, . Sung on St. Stephen's day to commemorate the ancient custom of wrenning. Words in the program—join us!

Lord of the Dance: Chorus (2006)
Traditional. The tune is from a Shaker hymn, the words are by Sidney Carter. Please join in on the refrain—words in the program!

Curtain Call: Chorus and musicians, Everyone. (2006)

All songs traditional except as noted
www.welcomeyule.org



STAFF

Artistic Directors: Jed Proujansky, Joan Deely, Jinny Mason, Alan McArdle

Archivist: Alan McArdle

Producer: Alan McArdle

Mummer's Play: Jinny Mason, Bart Bales, Jed Proujansky

Story: Joan Deely, Norah Dooley

Props: Jinny Mason

Poster and Program Layout: Joan Deely

Publicity: Jinny Mason

Video Editor: Jed Proujansky

Filmmaker: Daniel Keller



As we sing and dance this year, we remember those cast and crew members we have lost.

- Bill Venman:** Our Musical Director for many years, possessed of razor-sharp wit, larger-than-life personality, and given to anguished cries of "Diction! Diction!"
- Sally Venman:** Sally served as costume wrangler for many performances of Welcome Yule.
She also successfully managed Bill Venman for many years.
- Evelyn De La Barre:** beloved daughter of Welcome Yule founder Rose Sheehan.
- Loril Moondream:** Singing in the chorus as a tenor, Loril wrote and directed Welcome Yule 2017.
- Bill Davis:** Bill painted scenery, hung lights and climbed those very high ladders many years after his retirement.
- Charles Adams and Joe Mawson:** Very fine actors and singers, both.

Produced by Welcome Yule, Inc.





WORDS TO THE SONGS



Sing along!

FURRY DAY CAROL (Refrain)

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 (Refrain)

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

LORD OF THE DANCE (Refrain)

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



THE KING (All of it!)

Joy, health, love and peace	We have traveled many miles,
Be all here in this place,	Over hedges and stiles,
By your leave, we will sing,	In search of our king,
Concerning our king.	Unto you we bring.
Our king is well dressed,	We have powder and shot,
In silks of the best,	To conquer the lot,
In ribbons so rare,	We have cannon and ball
No king can compare.	To conquer them all.



Old Christmas is past,
Twelfth night is the last
And we bid you adieu,
Great joy to the new.



RING OUT, WILD BELLS

Alfred, Lord Tennyson



Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.



Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.



Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.



Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.