



FEATURING:
MUSIC, DANCE, SONGS & STORIES

December 8th–10th 1995

The Shea Theatre
71 AVENUE A TURNERS FALLS

PERFORMERS

Chorus

Big Bart Bales
Dominic Baird
Erin Berard
Rick Bingham
Patricia Crosby
Joan Deely
Carol Flandreau
Paul Flandreau
Caitlin Flynn
Jan Frazier
David L. Gibbons

Nan Gibbons
Scorrel Hatch
Diana Herrera
Thomas W. Hutcheson
Jean Johnson
Ryan Johnson
Elysse Link
Cindy Mathews
Devon McArdle
Fred Momaney
Naomi Oberski
Jean Lorelle Paul

Michael Pattavina
Carol Pike
Julian Proujansky
Renee Schatteman
Rose Sheehan
Liz Smith
Andrea Stover
Olivia Tamzarian
Andrea Tarr
Martin Wobst
Natalia Wobst

Children

Owen Baines
Addie Berard
Grace Berard
Susannah Berard
Elizabeth Carlton

Leah Garfield-Wright
Benjamin Gibbons
Jonathan Gibbons
Madeleine Gibbons
Rhys Hatch
Autumn Johnson

Ember Johnson
Rose Lawrence
Christopher Momaney
Patrick Momaney
Nora Proujansky

Musicians

David de la Barre — whistles, Scottish small pipe, melodeon, recorder
Pat Devine — recorder
David Gibbons — recorder
Nan Gibbons — recorder
Thomas W. Hutcheson — fiddle, drum
Cindy Naughton — flute
Carol Pike — recorder
Rose Sheehan — melodeon
Bill Tiernan — concertina

That Long Tall Sword

Tony Asche
Marge Bruchac
Nat Case
Lyle Gray

Steve Howe
Justin Kennick
Geoffrey Moss
Cindy Naughton

George Naughton
Lynn Noel
Ijod Schroeder
Sarah Strong

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director — *Rose Sheehan*

Stage Director — *Jim Ellis*

Music Director — *Bill Venman*

Technical Director — *Steve Morgan*

Musicians' Coordinator — *Thomas W. Hutcheson*

Business Managers — *Jinny Mason, Alan McArdle*

Stage Manager — *Diana R. Venman*

Costumes — *Jeanne Closson*

Set Design and Puppet Construction — *Mary Decker*

Set & Lighting — *Mary Decker, Jim Ellis,
Matt Kimmel, Steve Morgan, Martha Olver,
Bill Venman, Diana Venman*

Props — *Andrea Tarr*

Rehearsal Accompanist — *Cindy Naughton*

Additions to the Shea Basic Lighting Plot
Made by *Steve Morgan*



Special Thanks To

Hugh Davis

*University of Massachusetts
Fine Arts Center*

Valley Light Opera

Hampshire Shakespeare Company

Country Players

The Lord Jeffrey Inn, Amherst

*Windsor Castle Border
Ballet & Fire Brigade*

Amherst Regional High School

PART ONE

*Overture**

*Chant for the Seasons*** – Lorelle, Jan, Paul, Martin
Words: Mark L. Belletini Music: Czech folk song

*Apple Tree Wassail** – Liz, Rose, Andrea S., Bart, Thomas
"Wassail" is a salutation to "be whole"

The Shortest Day – Thomas
Written by Susan Cooper; used with permission of Revels, Inc.

*Yule Log Procession** – Chorus and Children
Touch the Yule Log with a holly leaf and make
a wish for the New Year!

Green Grow'th the Holly – Chorus

The North Wind Doth Blow – Children

The Twelve Months – Rose
Adapted from Greek and Russian folk tales

*Green Grow the Rushes, O** – Chorus
(Words included. Turn the page!)

Sword Dance – That Long Tall Sword

The Wren Song – Children
Wrenning, an Irish tradition, is a remnant of ritual involving
the sacrifice of a King, the wren being King of the birds.

Hunting the Wren – Michael, Alan, Bart, Julian & Alden

The Cutty Wren – Men

Mummer's Play – King Winter–Fred, Simon Simple–Alan, Daffy Dilly–Erin,
Dame Summer–Renee, The Escort–Bart, Fall Guy–Rick, Holus Bolus,
M.D.–Joan, Horse–Jinny
Written by Jim Ellis

Gloucestershire Wassail –Chorus
Traditional, new refrain*
In this wassail, we toast a succession of horses and cows

INTERMISSION

PART TWO

Stopping by Woods –Children
Words: Robert Frost

*Bells in the High Tower*** – Chorus
Words: Howard Box Music: Hungarian carol

*All Beautiful the March of Days*** – Chorus
Words: Frances Whitmarsh Wile
Music: English melody, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Milford– Chorus
Words & Music: John Stephenson

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance – That Long Tall Sword

This Longest Night –Women
Words & Music: Lorraine Lee

Garden Song – Cindy, Devon, Sorrel, Olivia, Caitlin, Natalia

The White Bird – Rose
Adapted from a story by N. Wood

The New Year Song – Chorus

*The King** – Chorus
From Wales, another wrenning song

Great Big Star –Children

*Lord of the Dance** – Bart
Words: Sydney Carter Music: Traditional Shaker
(Words included. Turn the page!)

*Gower Wassail** –Chorus

THE END

* Arrangement by Thomas W. Hutcheson

** Used with permission of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Green Grow the Rushes, O

I'll sing you one, O
Green grow the rushes, O
What is your one? O
One is one and all alone and ever more shall be so.

Two, two the lily white boys, clothed all in green O
Three, three the rivals
Four for the gospel makers
Five for the symbols at your door
Six for the six proud walkers
Seven for the seven stars in the sky
Eight for the April rainers
Nine for the nine bright shiners
Ten for the ten commandments
Eleven for the 'leven who went to heaven
Twelve for the twelve apostles

Lord Of The Dance

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
I will lead you all in the dance said he.

WELCOME TO THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF WELCOME YULE!

This year we celebrate the full circle of the year. Our production opens with a grand procession of the seasons, set to the turning of the star wheel and culminating in the arrival of winter. We move from the hall of the seasons to a village square where the ***Apple Tree Wassail*** begins our mid-winter ritual making. This driving song not only makes merry of the season, but pays homage to the apple tree, asking it to bear well in the new year. The ***Shortest Day*** focuses us directly on the birth of the new year, while reinforcing our continuity with all the new years which have been celebrated and all those yet to come. In the ***Yule Log Procession***, we present the ceremonial Yule Log, chosen to be the fuel for the first fire of the new year. The yule log is thought to have magical properties and to touch the log and make a wish is sure to bring good luck. ***Green Grow'th the Holly*** rejoices in the evergreen strength of holly and ivy and celebrates the beauty of the four seasons. ***The North Wind Doth Blow*** is a familiar children's rhyme depicting the fierceness of winter, while anticipating the return of spring. ***The Twelve Months*** reveals the beauty and balance of the full year, while emphasizing the special magic of winter. ***Green Grow the Rushes, O*** is a rollicking, fun variant of the ***Twelve Days of Christmas***. Please sing along! The sword dance in its intricate windings and turnings, suggests the interconnectedness of life. ***The Wren Song*** and ***Cutty Wren***, although light and amusing, hint at the need to give in order to receive, to let go in order to move forward. Our ***Mummer's Play*** marks the death and rebirth of the year with great mirth (and terrible puns). The ***Gloustershire Wassail*** is a consummate drinking song and the highpoint with which we conclude Part One.

In Part Two, we leave the merrymaking of the village and enter a nocturnal winter garden on the longest evening of the year. ***Stopping by Woods*** calls us to take time, turn inward and consider where we are. ***Bells in the High Tower*** and ***All Beautiful the March of Days*** provide deeper reflection on the beauty of the year. ***Milford*** is a fervent American fuguing tune from the Sacred Harp tradition. Drawing from biblical text, it is another joyous sounding for new life. The ***Abbots Bromley Horn Dance*** is an ancient ritual, possibly the oldest surviving ceremony in Britain. Great spirits and legends of the forest, reindeer, the Bowman, Maid Marian, The Fool and the Hobby Horse, snake and twist in an eerie mid-winter procession. ***This Longest Night*** further builds the anticipation of the imminent new year. ***The Garden Song*** gently traces nature's cycle through the four seasons. The story of ***The White Bird*** allows us to experience the preparation of the heart in order to receive the new year's gifts. ***The New Year Song*** is the familiar *Greensleeves* rejoicing in the year's turning. ***The King***, a particularly beautiful Welsh wrenning song, exalts in the arrival of the new. ***Great Big Star*** is the light of the young, shining forth in song. ***Lord of the Dance*** tells the story of one whose message of light and life still may be discerned through the distractions of our celebrations. We close with the ***Gower Wassail***, a Welsh carol that defines our human boundaries thusly:

"We know by the moon, that we are not too soon,
And we know by the sky that we are not too high.
We know by the star that we are not too far,
And we know by the ground that we are within sound."

Wassail, to you now and throughout the new year!



Please sign our guest book in the lobby. We would like to have you on our mailing list.