

Welcome Yuletide

A Midwinter
Celebration

Music, Dance, Stories & Songs



Shea Theater



Performers



Chorus

Monserrat Archbald ✓
Dominic Baird ✓
Bart Bales ✓
Erin Berard ✓
Susannah Berard ✓
Norah Dooley ✓
Louise Doud ✓
Carol Flandreau ✓
Paul Flandreau ✓

Jan Frazier ✓
Diana Herrera ✓
Julie Jonassen ✓
Barbara Kasper ✓
Rose Regina Lawrence ✓
Saralinda Lobrose ✓
Jinny Mason ✓
Alan McArdle ✓
Fred Momaney ✓

Liza Ramlow ✓
Robert Ramlow-Sachs ✓
Lewis Scott ✓
Tom Shattuck ✓
Liz Smith ✓
Rob Smith ✓
Beth Sperry ✓
Andrea Tarr ✓
H. Martin Wobst ✓

Children

Heather Love Archbald
Frances Archbald
Grace Berard ✓
Chelsea Bland ✓

Ferron Dooley Fairchild
Rosalie Dooley Fairchild
Joli Lobrose
Laura McDonough

Risa McGovern
David Ramlow-Sachs
Skye Smith
Robert Sperry

Musicians

✓ Roger Cartwright – Melodeon, Concertina
Brittany Kaplan – Fiddle
✓ Paul Kaplan – Guitar
✓ Alan McArdle – Whistles and Drum

Juggler Meadow Morris Men

John Brode
Roger Cartwright
Wendell Hale Kelley Jr.

Craig Marden
David Nixon
Geoffrey Rogers

Mark Skinder
Jonathan Tauer
Ken Wildman

Production Staff

Stage Director – Diana Venman

Producers – Jinny Mason & Alan McArdle

Choral Music Director – Bill Venman

Instrumental Music Director – Paul Kaplan

Children's Chorus Director – Paul Kaplan

Mummer's Play Director – Jim Ellis ✓

Technical Director and Stage Manager – Steve Morgan

Set Design – Linda Stark

Set and Light Crew – Janet Mankowski, Skip Smith

Light Board Operator – Skip Smith

Production Assistants – Sally Venman, Patty Devine ✓

Costumes by GEM ✓

Costume Crew ✓ Marsha Smith, Gail Villeneuve, Denise Lemay

Set Construction – Linda Stark, Steve Morgan

Props – Andrea Tarr

Rehearsal Accompanist – Julie Jonassen ✓

Children's Assistant – Wilma Lawrence ✓

Child Care – Devon McArdle

Publicity – Louise Doud and Jan Frazier

Poster Design – Mary Decker

Program Design – Søren Mason Temple

Co-produced by the Company and the Shea Theater

Special Thanks To -

The families and friends of Welcome Yule

Valley Light Opera

Ja' Duke Productions

Arena Civic Theater

The Blue Willies

Bay State Perennial Farm

Amherst Regional Middle School

Maryanna Whittemore, Superintendent's Office, Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools

First Congregational Church of Amherst

Turners Falls High School Drama Department

The Textile Company

Hampshire Shakespeare Company

UMass Fine Arts Center

Part One

Cornish Wassail: Dee, Dom, Liz, Martin and Roger (melodeon)

The village "waits" went from house to house bringing good luck with their singing.

Pattapan: Adult Chorus and Alan (drum)

Traditional Burgundian carol

The Land Beside the Sea*: Paul F., Carol and Fred

Words by Susan Cooper to a traditional Breton tune

The Shortest Day: Barbara and Lewis

Written by Susan Cooper; used with permission of Revels, Inc.

Yule Log Processional:** Adult Chorus and Musicians

Touch the Yule Log with a holly leaf and make a wish for the New Year.

(Everyone is invited to sing along with us. Turn the page!)

English Country dance: "The Woolly Jumper" for all who will

The Holly and the Ivy:** Jan, Adult Chorus and Musicians

The weaving together of the seasons is represented here by the summer's ivy and the winter's holly.

The Wren Song: Children's Chorus and Musicians

On St. Stephen's Day in Ireland and Cornwall, children would capture a wren and parade it door to door, demanding money.

The King of the Birds: Bart and the children

Adapted by Bart from traditional sources.

The Wren Boys:** Bart, Adult Chorus and Musicians

Green Grow the Rushes O!*:** Alan, Adult Chorus and Musicians

A counting song for the twelve days of Christmas

(Everyone is invited to sing along with us. Turn the page!)

Mummer's Play: Erin, Lewis, Andrea, Liza, Fred and Paul F.

Gloucestershire Wassail*:** Adult Chorus and Musicians

Wassail means 'Be in good health'. Here we salute the health of a succession of horses and cows.

Intermission

Part Two

Stopping By Woods: Children's Chorus and Brittany (fiddle)

Poem by Robert Frost, melody by Peter Amidon (used with permission).

The Mitten: Norah and the Children

A story adapted from a Ukrainian folk tale.

In the Bleak Mid-Winter: Adult Chorus

Words by Christina Rossetti, music by Gustav Holst

This Longest Night: Adult Chorus

A round by Lorraine Lee

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance: Juggler Meadow Morris Men

An ancient ceremonial dance from a village in Somerset, England first recorded over 600 years ago.

Dona Nobis Pacem: Chorus

Brightest and Best: Women's Chorus

Milford (by Joseph Stephenson) and **While Shepherds Watched***:** Adult Chorus

Two rousing songs, the first from the shape note tradition, the second to a traditional tune, different settings of the shepherds' story.

Lord of the Dance*:** Bart, Adult Chorus and Musicians

Music: "Simple Gifts," a Quaker melody. Lyrics by Sidney Carter

(Everyone is invited to sing along with us. Turn the page!)

The King*:** Adult Chorus

The Wren King is celebrated one last time in this traditional carol from Pembrokeshire, South Wales

The End — after which we invite you to join us in a farewell round

The Road is Calling: Full Chorus, Musicians and Audience (by John Krumm)

(Everyone is invited to sing along with us. Turn the page!)

Welcome Yule!

All songs traditional, except where noted.

* Arrangement by Paul Kaplan

** Arrangement by Bill Venman

*** Arrangement by Thomas W. Hutcheson

The Yule Log Processional (Furry Day Carol)

God bless the master of this house
And all that are there in-a
And to begin to Welcome Yule
With mirth now let us sing-a!

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!

Come bring with a noise my merry, merry boys
The Christmas log to the firing.
While my good dame bids you be free
And drink to your hearts desiring!

Chorus

So now is come our joyful feast
Let everyone be jolly.
Each room with ivy leaves is dressed
And every post with holly!

Chorus

The Wren Boys (Chorus)

Hurrah, me boys, hurrah! Hurrah, me boys, hurrah!
Knock at the knocker and ring at the bell.
What will you give us for singing so well?
Singing so well, singing so well
Give us a copper for singing so well!



Green Grow the Rushes, O

Twelve for the twelve apostles,
Eleven for the eleven who went to heaven
Ten for the Ten Commandments
Nine for the nine bright shiners
Eight for the April rainers
Seven for the seven stars in the sky
Six for the six proud walkers
Five for the symbols at your door
Four for the Gospel makers
Three, three the rivals
Two, two the lily white boys clothed all in green-o
One is one and all alone and ever more shall be so

The Lord of the Dance (Chorus)

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.

The Road is Calling

The road is calling,
The leaves have fallen.
It's back to home,
Our travels are all done.
We'll sit by the fire and drink a toast to all of you.
Farewell, we must be gone.



A Note from the Producers



There are things that become such an integral part of our experience that it's hard to imagine life without them. *Welcome Yule* has become one of those things in our lives. Each fall as the days shorten and the frost starts to go deeper in the ground, we find ourselves preparing a show to celebrate the return of the light. It's not quite deepest winter yet but it's a time to get a good running start to carry us through the Christmas season and the coldest, darkest part of the winter still to come.

This year is *Welcome Yule's* first without its founder, Rose Sheehan. Rose has left the area but the show she created 16 years ago wouldn't die. For those of us who have found our lives intertwined with the show for so long, it was not clear whether we would be able to make it happen again but we also knew that we couldn't let it die. Some of us started thinking about the transition during the summer. Early this fall, we found ourselves unexpectedly well organized with a full production crew ready and a very enthusiastic cast. Just like the light returning inevitably to our turning planet, *Welcome Yule* goes on.

The dedication of the people who have volunteered absurd quantities of time and energy has left us awed. We have repeatedly been amazed by the enthusiasm and energy this show generates among the company. Never knowingly over-rehearsed, *Welcome Yule* makes up in passion what it may lack in professionalism and polish.

We hope we return to you some of the joy we share in creating the show.

Wassail and *Welcome Yule!*