

# Welcome Yule

A Midwinter  
Celebration

Music, dance, songs & stories for the whole family

December 6, 7 & 8, 2002



A holiday pageant to drive the dark away



## Performers

### Chorus

Montserrat Archbald  
Bart Bales  
Chelsea Bland  
Anne Renwick Boy  
Sarah Boy  
Judson Brown  
Dana Cadwell-Frost  
Margaret Christie  
Ferron Dooley-Fairchild  
Norah Dooley  
Louise Doud  
Bob Drinkwater

Jan Frazier  
Karro Frost  
Gretchen Harbourt  
Julie Jonassen  
Alice Klingener  
Dale Kowacki  
Saralinda Lobrose  
Jinny Mason  
Alan McArdle  
Laura McDonough  
Risa McGovern  
Fred Momaney

Patrick Momaney  
Liza Ramlow  
Rob Ramlow-Sachs  
Andrea Rogers  
Geoffrey Rogers  
Ed Smith  
Elizabeth Smith  
Rob Smith  
Andy Tarr  
H. Martin Wobst

### Children

Frances Blithe Archbald  
Hattie Love Archbald  
Rachel Jonassen Bittman  
Amanda Cadwell-Frost  
Elihu Christie Jones

Meghan Devine  
Rosalie Dooley-Fairchild  
Brendan Drinkwater  
Eva Kowacki  
Joli Lobrose

David Ramlow-Sachs  
Angus Rogers  
Cody Doud Ross  
Simon Doud Ross  
Killian Venman

### Musicians

Roger Cartwright - Melodeon, Concertina  
Patty Devine - Recorder, flute  
Norah Dooley - Fiddle  
Marese Hutchinson - Harp  
Alan McArdle - Whistle and drum  
Geoffrey Rogers - Guitar, Mandolin  
Ed Smith - Guitar

**Juggler Meadow Morris Men**

## Production Staff

Producers - Jinny Mason and Alan McArdle  
Artistic Director - Andrea S. Tarr  
Stage Director - Diana Venman  
Choral Music Director - Bill Venman  
Assistant Choral Director and Rehearsal Accompanist - Julie Jonassen  
Children's Chorus Directors - Louise Doud and Patty Devine  
Technical Director - Steve Morgan  
Costume Design - Marsha Smith  
Set Design - Linda Stark  
Instrumental Music Coordinator - Geoffrey Rogers  
Publicity - Montserrat Archbald, Louise Doud, Jinny Mason, Fred Momaney  
Stage Manager - Casey Mason Temple  
Board Operator - Steve Morgan  
Lighting Crew - Dan Grzybowski, Tim Merritt, Andrew Plotkin  
Costume Crew - Marsha Smith, Glenys Lemere, Skip Smith, Sally Venman  
House Decorations - Sally Venman  
House Manager - Rick Rabe  
Set Construction - Steve Morgan and Linda Stark  
Prop Construction - Rick Rabe  
Props - Liza Ramlow and Andrea Rogers  
Creative consulting and general kibitzing - Bart Bales  
Children's Assistant - Bob Drinkwater  
Poster Design - Søren Mason Temple  
Program Design - Søren Mason Temple, Alan McArdle, Jinny Mason  
Company Photography - Rick Rabe and Marie Momaney  
Hair and makeup - Patty Devine

Produced by the company with assistance from Frontier Regional School

## Special Thanks To -

Frontier Regional School Drama Club  
Tim Merritt  
Valley Light Opera  
Bay State Perennial Farm  
The Textile Company  
Hampshire Shakespeare Company  
Susan Trompke of J. Polep Distributors



## ❄ Program ❄

### Part One – From a cold midwinter evening in Wales into the warmth of a household

#### **Y Gaeaf (The Winter)** – Andy and Ed

A poem for a cold season from a 13th century Welsh manuscript.

#### **Abbots Bromley** – Juggler Meadow Morris Men

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

#### **Evening Song** – Children

The children return home from the forest to rejoin their families.

#### **Ar Hyd Y Nos (All Through the Night)** – Chorus

A familiar Welsh lullaby to welcome the children in for the longest night of the year.

#### **The Shortest Day** – Robbie, Rob, Dale and Renni

Written by Susan Cooper and used by permission of Revels, Inc.

#### **Yule Log Processional – The Furry Day Carol** - Chorus, 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!)



#### **Come and I Will Sing You** – Chorus

A Cornish version of the counting song for the twelve days of Christmas  
(Everyone is invited to sing along with us. Turn the page!)

#### **Robin Ddiog (Lazy Robin)** – Renni and chorus

The Welsh were once as well known for dancing as for singing though much was lost in the nineteenth century. This dance goes to a tune from South Wales.

#### **Robin Goch (Robin Redbreast)** – Children

Oh, it's cold and the snow is coming! Another traditional song, this one is from North Wales.

#### **Story – Grandfather and the Faerie Harp** – told by Norah, based on versions in John Jones "Stories from Wales" and Sykes "Welsh Folklore."

In Wales, faeries are known as the People of the Mother's Blessings.

#### **Sans Day Carol** – Gretchen, Louise, Judson, Martin and Chorus

This version of *The Holly Bears a Berry* is associated with Saint Day, the abbot of Landevenec in Cornwall in the thirteenth century.

#### **Cornish Wassail** – Liz, Karro, Jan, Andrea, Geoff, Dale

The custom of going from house to house trading songs for food and drink brings good luck to both visitors and visited.

#### **Stick Play** – Children

#### **Mari Lwyd (The Old Grey Mare)** – Bart, Andy, Martin, Liza, Patty, Geoff, Karro, Amanda, Sarah, Rob S., Louise, Alan, Saralinda, Jinny, Dale, Renni

A visit from the Mari Lwyd means a rhyming contest between the householders and the Mari Lwyd crew who hope for food and drink to reward their cleverness, but sometimes things don't turn out the way you might expect... Written by Bart, based on a variety of traditional sources.

#### **Gloucestershire Wassail** – Chorus

One of our favorite songs through the years. It comes from just over the Welsh border.

## ❄ Intermission ❄

### Part Two – from Christmas morning to Twelfth Night

#### **Ar Dymor Gaeaf (In the Winter Season)** – Bart, Alan, and Geoff

Plygain services, all night caroling sessions held in church on Christmas eve, are still held in Wales today. This song, from the early nineteenth century, uses the tune of an English carol with words by the Welsh poet, David Thomas.

#### **Carol Y Swper (The Supper Carol)** – Chorus

The traditional ending song of a Plygain service is usually sung by all the singers who took part in the service.

#### **Border Morris** – Juggler Meadow Morris Men

Morris dances collected from the Welsh border regions are raucous and sometimes downright rude. Interrupting more formal occasions is something of a specialty.

#### **Nos Galan (New Year's Eve)** – Chorus and children

On New Year's Eve in Wales, it is time for Nos Lawen when people gather to entertain each other with music, dance, song and story. This song, Deck the Halls, opens the party. (The first verse is in Welsh, and then you can sing along. Words on the next page!)

#### **Harp interlude** – Marese

The harp is the instrument of choice for much of Celtic music.

#### **Gower Jig (Clog Dance)** – Andrea T, Montserrat, Bart, Sarah, Ed and Andrea R.

One of the few dance traditions that survived in Wales was step clogging. These energetic dances meant to show off are danced in wooden shoes. This one is done to Rickett's Hornpipe played by Norah and Geoff.

#### **Llwyn Onn (The Ash Grove)** – Liz (vocal) and Marese (harp)

Penillion singing evolved from medieval bards who recited poetry to a harp accompaniment. One melody is played on the harp while the vocalist weaves a counterpoint, sometimes improvised, melody.

#### **Calon Lân** (John Hughes) – Sarah and chorus

A nineteenth century hymn that is also a very popular pub song.

#### **Dark the Night** (Canon Owen Jones) – Chorus

In the nineteenth century, Welsh church music was shifting from traditional carols to more formal hymns. The author of this hymn was one of the leaders of the movement.

#### **New Year's Water** – boys

At dawn on New Year's day, groups of boys visit houses in the neighborhood, sprinkling fresh spring water on the people they meet, wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hoping for some coins in exchange.

#### **Calennig** – Children

Another New Year's custom in Wales. Children decorate apples or oranges and carry them from house to house spreading good luck and collecting a New Year's gift.



### **New Year's Day Story** – Fred and children

Some New Year's Days are more memorable than others. An original story based on the New Year's Water and Calennig traditions written by Fred with assistance from Ed Smith.

### **Cutty Wren** – Fred, Bart and Louise

The hunting of the wren is a custom once observed throughout the British Isles. Some songs are quite elaborate in describing the hunt and its aftermath.

### **The King** – Chorus

Once caught, the wren must be displayed. The wren is the king of the birds in this carol from Pembrokeshire, South Wales.

### **Carol** – Chorus

A rousing version of "While Shepherds Watched" from the shape note tradition from Northern Harmony. Not at all Welsh but we couldn't resist singing it. We think the Welsh would enjoy the unusual harmonies.

### **Mari Lwyd Farewell Song** – Everyone (words included – turn the page!)

### **The End**

Except where we have noted it, all of the songs are traditional. Most of the music in the show was either arranged by or adapted from arrangements by Thomas W. Hutcheson, Julie Jonassen and Bill Venman.



### **The Yule Log Processional – The 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!

Women: Come bring with a noise my merry, merry boys  
The Christmas log to the firing.

Men: 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

### **Come and I Will Sing You**

Your one is all alone and ever shall remain so

Two are lily white maids clothed all in green oh  
Three are bright shiners  
Four for the Gospel makers  
Five are the ferrymen in a boat and one of them a stranger  
Six is the cheerful waiter  
Seven are the stars in the sky  
Eight are the archangels  
Nine are the bold rainers  
Ten are the Commandments  
Eleven went up to heaven  
Twelve are the Apostles



### **Nos Galan (Deck the Halls)**

Deck the halls with boughs of holly	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
Tis the season to be jolly	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
Don we now our gay apparel	Fa la la, la la la, la, la, la
Troll the ancient yuletide carol	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la

See the blazing yule before us	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
Strike the harp and join the chorus	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
Follow me in merry measure	Fa la la, la la la, la, la, la
While I tell of yuletide treasure	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la

Fast away the old year passes,	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
Sing we joyous all together	Fa la la, la la la, la, la, la
Heedless of the wind and weather	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la

Soon the hoar old year will leave us,	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
But the parting must not grieve us	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la
When the new year comes tomorrow	Fa la la, la la la, la, la, la
Let him find no trace of sorrow	Fa la la la la, la, la la, la

### **Mari Lwyd Farewell Song**

Farewell you gentle people  
Who welcomed our grey mare in.  
God's blessing be upon your house  
And all those who dwell therein.



## Notes from the Producers



Welcome Yule is a celebration not only of the holidays we usually think of at this time of year, but also of the ancient traditions surrounding the changing of the season, the shortest day and the return of the light. We celebrate every year, and every year brings changes to our show. This year finds us in a new theater with a new focus on Welsh traditions. We have adapted Welcome Yule to this wonderful new theater. But some things never change. As usual, we are blessed with chorus and staff who seem endlessly willing to volunteer their time and energy to make things work. Many members of the staff of Frontier Regional, new friends, have been helpful as well. We are truly grateful for all of their efforts.

As we noted, our show this year is strongly influenced by the traditions and music of Wales. We have discovered, as you will, that Welsh music is frequently familiar. However, the Welsh have a rich collection of traditions that are less well known. We have talked for some time about producing a show based at least partly on those traditions. Andy Tarr, our Artistic Director this year, has done a remarkable job of research to achieve that goal. We are in awe of her dedication and hard work. Andy worked closely with director, Diana Venman, as well as the other members of our production staff to build a show that blends Welsh customs with our own Welcome Yule traditions.

We've been fairly wide-ranging in our definition of Welsh-ness and, in fact, have included music and traditions from lands bordering Wales in the show. But we have tried hard to incorporate the flavor of Wales throughout the show. There are snatches of the Welsh language scattered here and there and indeed one whole song is sung in Welsh. The midwinter customs of Wales have led us to rearrange some of what have become standard elements of our show. Not everything is where you might expect it to be.

We hope you enjoy the results as much as we enjoy bringing them to you.



**Wassail!**

Alan and Jinny



If Wales and its customs intrigue you, more information can be found on our web site –

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