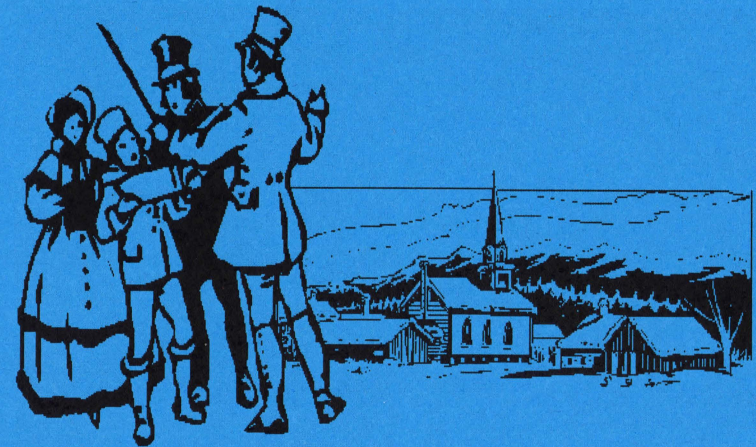


Welcome VILLAGE

A MIDWINTER
CELEBRATION



December 12, 13 & 14, 2003

Music, Dance, Song and Story to Drive the dark away

Frontier Regional School
113 North Main Street
South Deerfield

co-sponsored by WRSI



Performers

Chorus

Montserrat Archbald	Norah Dooley	Alan McArdle
Dominic Baird	Louise Doud	Laura McDonough
Bart Bales	Bob Drinkwater	Fred Momaney
Erin Berard	Carol Flandreau	Deborah Rainey
Grace Berard	Paul Flandreau	Andrea Rogers
Rachel Jonassen	Karro Frost	Geoffrey Rogers
Bittman	Diana Herrera	Lewis Scott
Chelsea Bland	Julie Jonassen	Tom Shattuck
Sarah Boy	Dale Kowacki	Ed Smith
Maggie Brinkerhoff	Joli Lobrose	Liz Smith
Amanda Cadwell-Frost	Saralinda Lobrose	Andy Tarr
Dana Cadwell-Frost	Jinny Mason	H. Martin Wobst
Margaret Christie		

Children

F. Blithe Archbald	Rosalie Charlotte Dooley Fairchild
Hattie Archbald	Brendan Drinkwater
Celia Bales	Eva Kowacki
Elihu Christie Jones	Angus Rogers
Sarah Devine	Killian Venman
Meghan Devine	

Musicians

Patty Devine – Recorder, flute
Norah Dooley – Fiddle
Tom Gajewski – Guitar, Mandolin
Geoffrey Rogers – Guitar, Mandolin
Ed Smith - Guitar

Other Performers

Belles in Bloomers
Juggler Meadow Morris Men
The Blue Willies

Acknowledgments

Most of the music in the show was either arranged by or adapted from arrangements by Thomas W. Hutcheson, Julie Jonassen and Bill Venman. All of the songs are traditional unless otherwise noted.

We wish also to express our appreciation to Jim Boyes (www.nomasters.co.uk), Bob Pegg (www.howl.fsbusiness.co.uk/page2.html) and Roy Gullane (www.tannahillweavers.com) for permission to use their songs.

Production Staff

Artistic Director – Jinny Mason
Producers - Jinny Mason and Alan McArdle
Stage Director - Diana Venman
Choral Music Director - Bill Venman
Assistant Choral Director & Rehearsal Accompanist – Julie Jonassen
Children's Chorus Director – Louise Doud
Mummers Play – Bart Bales
Stage Manager – Casey Mason Temple
Lighting Design - Steve Morgan
Set Design - Linda Stark
Dance Choreography - Andrea O. Rogers, Andrea S. Tarr
Instrumental Music Coordinator – Geoffrey Rogers
Publicity – Montserrat Archbald, Margaret Christie, Louise Doud, Dale Kowacki, Fred Momaney
Light Board Operator – Ben Howard
Costume Design – Marsha Smith
Costume Crew - Marsha Smith, Montserrat Archbald, Jinny Mason, Andrea S. Tarr
House Manager – Rick Rabe
Hair and makeup – Dana Cadwell-Frost, Patty Devine, Risa Sudolsky, Deva Sudolsky
Set Construction and painting – Lewis Scott, Paul Flandreau, Linda Stark, Bill Venman, Dom Baird, Jinny Mason, Louise Doud, Ed Smith
Props - Casey Mason Temple
Children's Chorus Assistance - Patty Devine, Kim Scammon, Peter Venman
Child Care - Rebecca Ramsdell
Program Design – Alan McArdle and Jinny Mason
Assistance with choral direction – Jenny Goodspeed
Production Assistance – Peter Venman, Sally Venman

Produced by the company with assistance from Frontier Regional School

Special Thanks To:

Frontier Regional School Drama Club
Valley Light Opera
Bay State Perennial Farm
The Textile Company
Hampshire Shakespeare Company
Karen Atherton
Lee Whitcomb

Part One

From Harvest Festivities to the longest night of the year

On the Common of an English Village a long time ago

Introductory music

Shepherd's Hey: A Morris dance in the Fieldtown tradition danced by Belles in Bloomers. (Andrea R., Andrea T., Erin, Jinny, Liz, and SaraLinda. Alan plays the pipe and tabour)

Bringing in the Sheaves (Jim Boyes):

Geoff, Paul and Dale are joined by Bart, Tom and Lew followed by the rest of the chorus.

Soul Cake (traditional): Children.

A traditional begging song for the autumn season.

Christopher the Cricket (Fred Momaney): Told by Fred with help from the children. A story about preparing for the winter to come.

Apple Tree Wassail (Traditional, additional verses by Ed Smith): Chorus.

In Somerset, the apple trees are wassailed with cider and song to encourage them to grow in the coming year.

Country Dance/Waltz: Galopede and South Wind.

Two dances to end the harvest celebration and prepare for the longest night. The adventurous in the audience are welcome to join the dancers on the floor.

Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance: Juggler Meadow Morris Men

An ancient ceremonial dance from Somerset first recorded some 600 years ago.

In the Bleak Midwinter (words, Christina Rossetti; music, Gustav Holst):

Karro, Carol, Julie, Louise, Dom, Lew, Tom and Fred.

Fellsway (David Gay): Chorus.

A modern composition in the shape-note tradition.

The Shortest Day: (Susan Cooper, used with permission of Revels, Inc.): Ed and Deb.

Furry Day Carol/Yule Log Processional: (Traditional): Chorus

The Yule log is brought to the fire to be burned to bring luck and health in the coming year. Make a wish as the log goes by if you haven't done so already. (Words included – turn the page)

Rolling Downward (Robert Lowry, new verse by Geoff Rogers):

Geoff, Lew and Martin lead the chorus on this American hymn that has found its way into the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition. (Words included – turn the page)

Intermission

Part Two

From Christmas Day looking ahead to Spring

At a Party in the Village Hall

Border Morris: The Blue Willies

English mid-winter customs include this raucous intrusion to open the party.

Villagers All (Kenneth Grahame): The Children chant this poem to encourage everyone else to join the party.

Sound, Sound Your Instruments of Joy (traditional): Alan starts the Chorus.

A powerful hymn from the West Gallery tradition of English church music.

Twelve Days of Christmas (traditional): Julie, Lew, Montserrat and Tom lead the chorus

The perennial counting song uses words and music that are almost the ones you think they are. (Words included – turn the page)

Seasons Well Seasoned - A Mummers Play (Bart Bales): Bart, Erin, Dale, Ed, Dana, Grace, Hattie, Laura, Maggie and Rachel

Rise Up Jock (Bob Pegg): Bart leads the chorus in a musical variation on a mummer's play theme. (Words included – turn the page)

Pentonville (William Marsh): Chorus

Another song from the West Gallery tradition that is a favorite in Yorkshire pubs.

Brightest and Best (traditional): Diana H. leads the women

An Appalachian version of the Star in the East carol, it's one of our favorites.

Julian of Norwich (Sidney Carter): Children. (Words included – turn the page)

Rooster's Crown (Norah Dooley): An original story told by Norah.

Land Of Light (Roy Gullane): Liz, Sarah, Saralinda, Andrea R., Paul, Geoff, Dale, Alan

To celebrate the awakening of the earth as the seasons change.

Hail, Smiling Morn (traditional): Chorus

A rousing song from the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition.

Lord of The Dance (Sidney Carter): The children lead and Dee and Dom continue with the help of the chorus. (Words included – turn the page)

The King (traditional): Chorus

No year goes by without at least one wrenning song which brings us to

The End

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

Rolling Downward Chorus

Glory, Glory in the highest
On the earth good will and peace to men
Down the ages sound the echoes
Let the glad earth shout again.

Twelve Days of Christmas

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
twelve parsons preaching,
eleven bears a-dancing,
ten ladies skipping,
nine lads a-leaping,
eight deers a-running,
seven swans a-swimming,
six geese a-laying,
five gold rings,
four canary birds,
three French hens,
two turtle doves,
and a partridge in a pear tree.

Rise up Jock Chorus

So it's rise up, Jock and sing your song
For the summer is short and the winter long
Let's all join hands and form a chain
'Til the leaves of springtime bloom again

Bells of Norwich Chorus

Ring out, bells of Norwich and let the winter come and go.
All shall be well again, I know.

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
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Notes from the Producers

Once again Welcome Yule celebrates, with joy, our annual passage through the cold beauty of the midwinter season into the warmer days to come. This year we are focusing more closely on English traditions. We start at the end of harvest time and follow our imaginary village as it descends into Yule tide, observes the midwinter festivities and then looks forward to the coming of spring.

One of the special joys of assembling this show each year is to discover unfamiliar music that is fun to sing. This year we found several songs we particularly like that come from the pub carol singing tradition in Yorkshire, England. People gather in their local pub, sit together with people who sing their vocal part and learn both popular and less well known carols. They sing these in public houses and sometimes in the streets and private homes throughout the Christmas season. Most of the songs and stories we chose for this years' show, whether ancient or modern, share that lively community spirit.

Since August, members of our company have transcribed and adapted songs from recordings and other sources that caught our attention. The chorus has spent some wonderful Sunday afternoons learning how to blend our voices to capture the feel of those English groups. As ever we are awed by the power of the music. We hope we can pass on that seasonal bounty to our audience. The first song we sing in the show (Bringing in the Sheaves) nicely captures in its final verse our feelings about sharing traditions and customs from one generation to the next:

In conclusion bear in mind
What example has begun
What you do today in kind
Has power for everyone.
True strong aims will pass along
To our daughters and our sons
So may they in years to come
Be bringing in the sheaves.

The spirit of Welcome Yule lives in that sense of community we develop together. All the members of our company, whether they are 5 years old or 75, on the stage or behind the scenes, hope they leave you with enough joy and warmth in your souls to hold you through the dark times until warmth and light return.

Wassail!

Jinny & Alan