

Performers

Bart Bales	Loril MoonDream
Jolie Bear	Kate Richardson
Owen Bear	Rachel Roy
Ed Smith	Geoff Rogers
Jed Proujansky	Fiona Rogers
Joan Deely	Andrea Rogers
Louise Doud	Amrita Rutter
Karro Frost	Jim Rutter
Thomas Hutcheson	Sita Rutter
Saralinda Lobrose	Ajika Sawyer
Morgan Lobrose	Amelia Sawyer
Jinny Mason	Samara Sawyer
Alan McArdle	Granger Massa Smith
Fred Momaney	Liz Smith

Welcome Yule has been bringing music, dance, songs and story to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls for over 25 years. The program includes both adult and children's choruses and a house band. Our full-length, fully staged performances bring light and hope to Pioneer Valley audiences as the dark days of winter descend.

To celebrate the New Year, we offer a review of some of our favorite songs, along with a recitation of "The Shortest Day". We will tell a story and perform a very short mummings play. The ancient Abbots Bromley Horn Dance starts off our show.

If you enjoyed this afternoon's sampler, join us in 2017 on the second full weekend in December to start your holiday season with good cheer.

Wassail!



*First Night
Northampton 2017*

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welcome yule

A Midwinter Celebration
Music, dance, songs and stories
to drive the dark away

December 31, 2016
First Churches Sanctuary
Northampton, MA

www.welcomeyule.org

New Year's Program

(subject to last-minute change)

Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance

An ancient ritual dance first chronicled in Staffordshire, England over 600 years ago.

Boar's Head Carol

A medieval carol that accompanied boar's head feasts.

The Shortest Day

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

Furry Day

A Welcome Yule standard to welcome wintertime revelers.

Deck the Halls

An old Welsh carol. Sing along with us!

There was a Pig Went Out to Dig

Traditional English country song featuring animals performing the daily labor of agriculture.

The Cutty Wren

Wrenning, a widespread tradition in the British Isles, involved the capture and sacrifice of the tiny wren, the King of all birds.

Apple Tree Wassail

Traditional English carol extolling the marvelous attributes of apple trees. Additional lyrics by Ed Smith

Mummer's Play

A midwinter ritual that jovially reenacts the death and rebirth of the year.

Rolling Downward

An American hymn now part of the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition.

Traveler's Prayer

A modern carol written and arranged by John Renbourne and based on songs from the *Carmina Gadelica*, a collection of material gathered by Alexander Carmichael at the turn of the twentieth century.

Cold Blows the Wind

Words by Robert Burns, Music by Sheena Phillips

Story

The Mitten. An adaptation of a Ukrainian folktale by Joan Deely

Gaudete

A sacred Christmas carol composed in the 16th century.

Hail Smiling Morn

Composed in 1810 by Reginald Spofforth; from the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition.

The King

Traditionally sung on St. Stephen's day to commemorate the ancient custom of wrenning. Words in the program—join us!

Auld Lang Syne

A poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 set to the tune of a traditional folk song.

Join us in the British tradition of crossing one's arms and holding hands with the people on either side of you while we sing our parting song.

Words to the Songs—Sing Along!

Boar's Head - Chorus

Caput apri de fero
Redens laudes Domino

Furry day - Chorus x 2

With hal and toe, sing merry-o
With hal and toe sing merry

Deck the Halls

Don't forget the fa-la-las!

Deck the Halls with boughs of holly,
Tis the season to be jolly.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Troll the ancient yule tide carol.

See the blazing Yule before us,
Strike the harp and join the chorus.
Follow me in merry measure,
While I tell of Yule tide treasure.

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

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

Gaudete – Chorus

Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine Gaudete

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.

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And the days of old lang syne?

Chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.