

WELCOME YULE

A Midwinter Celebration

Music, Dance, Songs and Stories
to Drive the Dark Away



December 9th & 10th at 7:30 pm
December 11th at 2:00 pm
The Shea Theater, Turners Falls



PERFORMERS

ADULT CHORUS

Montserrat Archbald
Hattie Archbald
Catharine Ball
Liz Castro
Anna Cabré
Margaret Christie
Benjamin Coan-Nixon
Louise Doud
Bob Drinkwater
Brendan Drinkwater
Dan Frank

Galen Frank-Bishop
David Jackson
Maya Karpovich
Joli Lobrose
Sarialinda Lobrose
Alan McArdle
Jinny Mason
Eloise Michael
Fred Momaney
David Nixon
Katharine Payne

Rachel Roy
Kate Richardson
Geoff Rogers
Andrea Rogers
Tom Shattuck
Liz Smith
Charles Stevenson
Clara Swartzentruber
John Thompson
Amanda Witman
Everest Witman

CHILD AND TEEN CHORUS AND PUPPETEERS

Cecilia Ball
Celia Bales
Sílvia Cabré
Larkin Christie
Elijah Jackson
Rose Jackson
Calla Jones

Morgan Lobrose
Lucia Mason-
Weintraub
Fedya Michael
Miette Flaherty Muller
Johanna Payne
Saphira Payne

Max Shapiro
Granger Smith-Massa
Alden Witman
Avery Witman
Ellery Witman

MUSICIANS

Geoff Rogers (guitar, mandolin)
Dan Frank (guitar, hurdy-gurdy)
Angus Rogers (fiddle)
Hope Leary (nyckelharpa)
Katharine Payne (fiddle)
Joli Lobrose (fiddle)
Michael Pattavina (bass)
Rose Jackson (fiddle)

OTHER PERFORMERS

Juggler Meadow Morris Men
The Blue Willies



WELCOME YULE PRODUCTION CREW

Artistic Director: Liz Smith

Stage Director: Rachel Roy

Choral Music Director: Bill Venman

Instrumental Music Directors: Geoffrey Rogers and Dan Frank

Children's Chorus Directors: Eloise Michael and Catharine Ball

Producers: Alan McArdle & Jinny Mason

Assistant Producer: Louise Doud

Stage Manager: Dan Sweetser

Choreographer: Rachel Roy

Technical & Lighting Director: Rachel Roy

Lighting Crew: Rachel Roy, Jesse Ball,
Brendan Drinkwater and David Nixon

Light Board Operator: Phyllis Stone

Puppet Makers: Montserrat Archbald, Axel Boy, Joan Deely,
Cass Mason, Jinny Mason and Soren Mason Temple

Rehearsal Accompanist: Kate Richardson

Costume Coordinator: Marsha Smith

Costume Crew: Marsha Smith, Karro Frost

Front of House Crew: Chris Mason, Johanna Swartzentruber,
Jed Proujansky, Joan Deely and Fiona Rogers

Set Design: Rachel Roy, Liz Smith

Set Construction: Rachel Roy, Tom Shattuck, Liz Smith,
Jed Proujansky, John Thompson, Charles Stevenson

Publicity: Margaret Christie, Bob Drinkwater, Mik Muller,
Fred Momaney, Liz Castro

Poster and Program Design: Lynne Rudié

Poster and Program Illustration: Karen Gaudette

Make-up Crew: Andrea Rogers, Kay Lyons, Patty Devine

Childcare: Owen Baines

Commissary Manager: Andrea Rogers

General Factotum: Cass Mason

Produced by: Welcome Yule, Inc. and the Shea Theater

Special Thanks to: Arena Civic Theater, Valley Light Opera

ACT I

Prologue

In which the children find a mysterious book called East of the Sun, West of the Moon, and are led to play out the story over the course of the longest night of the year.

Three Kings Come Star-led Riding – All

A round telling of the three kings' quest and the star they follow

Chant for the Seasons – (Words Mark L. Belletine, Arr. Grace Lewis-McLaren; Music Czech folk tune) – Montserrat, Amanda, Dan and Fred

This Unitarian carol describes the Star-Wheel turning as we look up into the sky throughout the year.

Shortest Day – Amanda

(written by Susan Cooper, courtesy of Revels, Inc.)

Furry Day Carol/Yule Log Processional: All, log carried by Andrea and Everest

The Yule log is brought to the fire to be burned to bring luck and health in the coming year. Touch the log with a holly sprig for luck when it comes by.

Green Grow the Rushes, O – Louise, Hattie, Miette and All

Traditional counting song. Please sing along if you wish, words in the program.

Hunting the Wren: Risky Rob – Alan, Dan, and the rest of the Men

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. Our version this year is shamelessly "borrowed" from Nowell Sing We Clear.

East of the Sun, West of the Moon, Part One – Kids and Fred

Bells in the High Tower: (Words, Howard Box; Music, Hungarian Carol) – Kids, Teens, then Hattie, Kate, Eloise, Margaret, Louise, Joli, Geoff, DJ, Bob, Tom, Alan, Dan

In this beautiful carol, the bells ring out for the coming of each season of the year,

Sans Day Carol – All

A version of the "Holly and the Ivy" Arranged by Julie Jonassen

El Desembre Congelat (Cold December's Winds Were Stilled) – Liz C and Anna (Catalan verse) and chorus.

Based on a traditional Catalan Carol

East of the Sun, West of the Moon, Part Two – Kids and Kate

Animals' Yule – (copyright Hilda Marshal) – Kids

Even when we humans don't know the light is coming back, the animals surely do.

Orkney New Year's Carol – Geoff and All

Another traditional midwinter carol sung by groups going from home to home on the first day of the year. Please sing along if you wish, the words are in the program.

Mummers' Play – David, Fred, Eloise, Jinny, Everest, Rachel and Tom

Mumming is part of a body of mid-winter customs in which the performing troupe disguises themselves and visits, often unannounced, house to house bringing good cheer. Our play this year is heavily adapted from a traditional version.

Gloucestershire Wassail – All

In which we toast a succession of cows, horses as well as a butler and a maid.

ACT II

Dark the Night – (Canon Owen Jones) – Chorus

From a Welsh Carol. In this carol, one of the three kings glimpses the star and begins his heart's true quest.

The Fairest Maid – (Words traditional English, Tune: Anabel Graetz, arranged by Bill Venman)

The women's chorus sings this quiet carol.

East of the Sun, West of the Moon, Part Three – Kids, with Kate and Fred

We've Been Awhile A-Wandering – Kids

A wassail song from Yorkshire.

Take Joy – Andrea

Attributed to Fra. Giovanni's "Letter to a Friend" from 1513, and adapted by Tasha Tudor.

Star in the East – Chorus

A song in the shape note tradition. From Southern Harmony (1835).

ACT II (continued)

Past Three O’Clock – (Arranged by Tom Hutcheson.) Rachel, Eloise, Andrea, Saralinda, Geoff, DJ, Tom and David

A carol based on the songs of the night watch in the 18th century, and set to the traditional tune “London Waits,” with words by George Ratcliffe Woodward.

The Bellman’s Song – Alan

A Carol collected in Warwickshire

Långt ner i Småland/Konvolusjonslåt – (Roger Tallroth/Anders Norudde) Dan, Hope and Katharine.

Two Swedish tunes to brighten up a cold wintry night.

East of the Sun, West of the Moon, Part Four – Kids and Saralinda

Over the Hill and Over the Dale – Kate, Montserrat and Alan

Melody from Piae Cantiones (1582), words by J.M.Neale. Arranged by Colin Delabarre.

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance –

An ancient ritual dance from Staffordshire first recorded some 800 years ago

East of the Sun, West of the Moon, Part Five – Kids and Saralinda

Sing We Noël – (Words by Susan Cooper, to an early French tune. Arr. by Marshall Barron from The Christmas Revels) – Kids and Chorus.

A processional. Please sing along if you wish, the words are in the program

Sherburne – (Nahum Tate and Daniel Read) from *The Sacred Harp* – Chorus

Gaudete – Liz S. and Chorus

A chant of jubilation from Piae Cantiones (1582). “Rejoice! Rejoice!”

Christmas Eve is Here – All

Early French Carol arranged by Marshall Barron

Lord of the Dance – (Sidney Carter) Fred and All

To the tune of the Shaker carol “Simple Gifts” It celebrates the life giving force of the dance. Please join us in the chorus

The King – All

This has become a Welcome Yule anthem. It is an homage to the wren.

Much of the music in the show was arranged by or adapted from arrangements by Bill Venman, Thomas W. Hutcheson, and Julie Jonassen, except as noted. All songs traditional, except as noted.



WORDS TO THE SONGS

FURRY DAY CAROL (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!

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

ORKNEY NEW YEAR'S CAROL (REFRAIN)

Refrain 1: We are all Queen Mary's Men
Refrain 2: And that's before our Lady!

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL (CHORUS)

Drink to thee! Drink to thee!
With a wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee!

SING WE NOEL (REFRAIN)

Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel

LORD OF THE DANCE (CHORUS)

Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said he
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said he.



NOTES FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Look at the night sky in Midwinter, and the constellation Orion the Hunter is high in the sky; look at the night sky in Midsummer, and Ursa Major–The Great Bear, The Big Dipper–predominates. This is the inspiration behind this year's show, which features songs and stories about stars, bears, and kings. While the adult chorus sings of a star in the east that guides three kings to the birth of the Son/Sun, the children and teens travel east of the sun and west of the moon to re-tell an ancient tale of a girl's quest for her heart's desire. Our storylines separate, intertwine, and come together again, as we while away the longest night of the year, and celebrate the new light dawning.

Many thanks to this year's cast, crew, and audience, who have come together for another year to turn the Star Wheel and remind each other, once again, that the light will return. May we always have the hope and spirit to seek our heart's desire.

Wassail,
Liz

A NOTE ON THE STORY:

"East of the Sun, West of the Moon" is a Northern European retelling of the story of Cupid and Psyche, a tale with roots in ancient Egypt and Greece. The main idea is familiar: a girl weds a person she never sees but who is disguised as a monster or an animal by day. She is driven by her curiosity to see who comes to her room by night and sleeps nearby but remains hidden in darkness. By breaking her host's rules, she finds that he is a handsome young man. Then he is accidentally awakened, and explains that if she had held out just a little longer, she would have broken the spell that kept him enchanted by day. Instead, he must go away from her now. The girl bravely endures a long journey and many trials before she can win her true love back again.

For several thousand years, this story has been told in various forms. Eventually, in the way these things do, the tale came to the Scandinavian countries, and bears and trolls and winter and ice became part of the tale. And yet, the main kernel of the story is still recognizable as the one written down in desert lands centuries before, not unlike other familiar stories that traveled from the same region. Our particular retelling was adapted from a translation in the anthology called *East of the Sun, West of the Moon: Old Tales From the North*, originally published in 1914. The book was incomparably illustrated by Danish artist Kay Nielsen, whose Art Nouveau-style of illustration was also the inspiration for some of our set design.