



NOTES from the CREATIVE DIRECTOR



I have been involved with Welcome Yule for over 20 years and for about three months of each year, the members of the company are my friends, my family. While we might squabble like siblings sometimes sharing things is what we do best. We share ideas, we share music, dancing, stories; we share food and drink. We are a community that wants to put on a great show and share it with our audience.

The most important thing we can share at this coldest time of the year is food, drink and merriment. That thought led to the realization that not all of us have enough food for ourselves or our families, and that this condition has been true for many hundreds of years.

I've tried to wrap this idea around our mythical, mid-winter English village, though, admittedly, I've stretched customs and costumes over a few hundred years. Our celebration starts around the winter Solstice, progresses through Christmas, St. Stephen's Day, and New Year's Day, and on to Plough Monday, the traditional last day of the winter celebrations. On this day, farm laborers visited the big houses and demanded food and drink before returning to work the next day. Misrule abounds at the mid-winter festivals, and the normal separation of social groups is broken. In this show, I've extended the topsy-turviness of the season right through to that last feast.

We want to inspire you and have you share with us the eerie feeling of the cold and dark of the midwinter and the triumph of the reawakening of spring. I hope the bounds between audience and cast can be broken and you will sing, laugh, and even get up and dance and become a part of the community that has grown to be "Welcome Yule."



Wassail!

Jinny

Welcome Yule

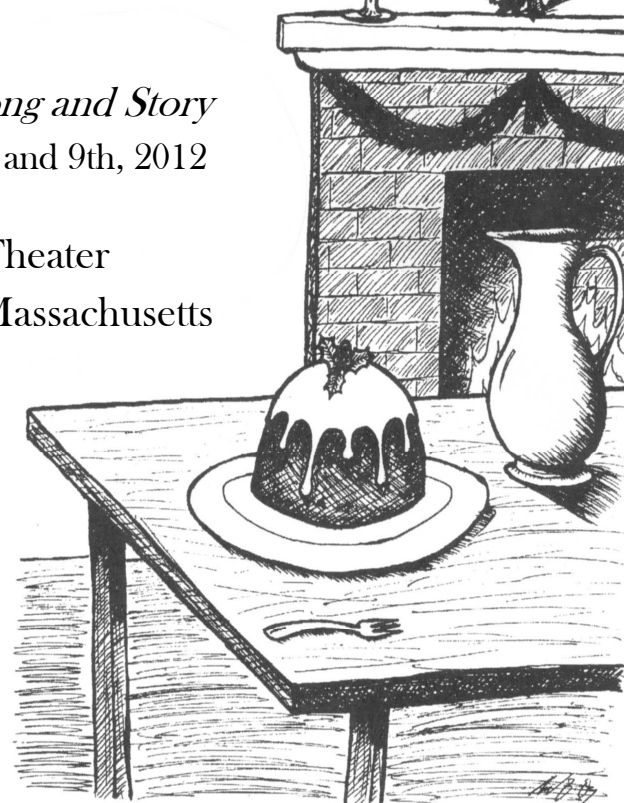
a midwinter
celebration



Music, Dance, Song and Story

December 7th, 8th and 9th, 2012

The Shea Theater
Turners Falls, Massachusetts



We sing and dance this year in honor of the memory of
Evelin Rose de la Barre 1992-2012



PERFORMERS

CHORUS

Eileen Almeida	David Jackson	Andrea Rogers
Hattie Archbald	Joli Lobrose	Tom Shattuck
Montserrat Archbald	Saralinda Lobrose	Ed Smith
Bart Bales	Jinny Mason	Liz Smith
Catharine Ball	Alan McArdle	Charles Stevenson
Liz Castro	Eloise Michael	Andy Tarr
Margaret Christie	Fred Momaney	John Thompson
Joan Deely	Loril Moondream	Lorelle Wilson
Bob Drinkwater	Miette Flaherty Muller	Matt Wilson
Dan Frank	David Nixon	Amanda Witman
Galen Frank-Bishop	Michael Pattavina	Everest Witman
	Kate Richardson	

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Cecilia Ball	Morgan Lobrose	Fiona Rogers
Silvia Cabré	Lucia Mason	Max Shapiro
Larkin Christie	Granger Smith-Massa	Lizzie Wilson
Elijah Jackson	Fedya Michael	Alden Witman
Rose Jackson		Avery Witman
Calla Jones		Ellery Witman

MUSICIANS

Dan Frank - Mandolin, Hurdy Gurdy	Angus Rogers - Fiddle
Joli Lobrose - Fiddle	Ed Smith - Guitar
Loril Moondream - Harp	Alden Witman - Penny Whistle
Michael Pattavina - Upright Bass, Guitar	Amanda Witman - Fiddle
Kate Richardson - Accordion	Avery Witman - Fiddle
Geoff Rogers - Guitar	Ellery Witman - Fiddle
Everest Witman - Guitar	

ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

The Blue Willies
Juggler Meadow Morris Men



WORDS TO THE SONGS



THE KING OF ALL BIRDS (Chorus)

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!

HERE WE COME A-WASSAILING (Chorus)

Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail, too,
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.

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!



GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL (Chorus)

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

LORD OF THE DANCE

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,
For I am the Lord of the dance, said he.



Act I



Rolling Downward: Geoff Rogers, Chorus *Robert Lowry*

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

The King of All Birds: Bart, Children and Chorus *Traditional*
The day after Christmas, on St. Stephen's Day, packs of children travel from house to house demanding pennies and sweets for their wren.

Poem: Alan *Girolamo Fracastoro*
Based on a translation by Ruth Kennedy, 1937.

Here We Come a-Wassailing: Chorus *Traditional*
This "traditional" English carol was apparently composed c. 1850, and tells of poor children begging for food and drink and hoping for the kindness of the rich.



Apple Tree Wassail: Chorus
Traditional English carol, additional words by Ed Smith.

Time to Remember the Poor: Chorus
Collected by Sabine Baring Gould from John Taylor of Postbridge on Dartmoor. Some verses were collected in Yorkshire.

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance: This ancient ritual dance was first chronicled in Staffordshire, England over 600 years ago.

Gower Wassail: Chorus *Traditional*
The Welsh wassail from the town of Gower provides us with yet another opportunity to celebrate apple trees, cider and neighbors.

Act II

The Shortest Day: Saralinda, Loril
A poem written by Susan Cooper, used with permission of Revels, Inc.

Furry Day: Chorus
Traditional English carol. Touch the Yule log with a piece of holly and make a wish for the coming year. Words are in the program—sing along!

Welcome Here: Chorus *Shaker Hymn*

Waltz: Greensleeves
A waltz by the House Band, *Henry VIII*.



Sussex Mummers Carol: Chorus *Traditional*

A popular carol historically associated with mummers plays, it was collected near Horsham, Sussex in the late 1870's. The last verse bestows a blessing on the home in which the play was performed.

Boar's Head: Tom and Chorus *Traditional*
In medieval times, this carol accompanied the boar's head feasts, which marked the season for hunting wild boars.



Milford: Chorus *Joseph Stephenson*
A song from the shape note tradition.

Seasonal Ditties: Children from "Wassail: A traditional celebration of an English midwinter," John Kirkpatrick, et al.
Mince meat tarts, Christmas pies or puddings are all parts of a traditional English mid-winter feast.

Old Christmas Return'd: Chorus, *From the Ballad Collection of Samuel Pepys*

From the 17th century, this carol is about the return of Christmas customs after the waning of the Puritans' philosophy, and reestablishment of the obligation of the rich to "keep open house" for their tenants and trades people. It celebrates merriment, feasting and good cheer with one's neighbors.

Mummers Play: Lizzie, Eileen, David, Chas, Eloise, Bart, Jinny, Larkin *Ann E. Mouse*

Mumming is one of many midwinter customs where the performers disguise themselves and go from house to house, singing and spreading good cheer. They hope to be thanked for their efforts with food and drink.

Gloucestershire Wassail: Chorus
Wherein we toast a succession of horses, cows, butlers and maids. Join in!

Intermission

Act III

The Christmas Song: Liz Castro, Kate Richardson, Liz Smith
This song is from the Copper family of Rottingdean, England. The Copper family's tradition of unaccompanied harmony singing has been passed down through the family for generations.



Fellsway: Chorus *David Gay*

From the First Edition of *Northern Harmony*.



Good King Wenceslas: *John Mason Neale*

Written in 1853, this song was based on the legend of the historical Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia (907–935), a pious man known for helping the poor.

Bonny at Morn: Amanda, Everest, Alden, Ellery and Avery

Sword Dance: Welcome Yule Sword Dancers *The Bampton Weavers*

Reconstructed by Carlisle Sword from an eighteenth century dance.

Story: Joan

Our story is based on Norah Dooley's interpretation of the traditional story of "Stone Soup", a universal tale about the need for the poor to trick the richer folks into sharing food.

Gaudete: Chorus *Piae Cantiones, 1582.*

A chant of jubilation—"Rejoice, rejoice!"

Hail Smiling Morn: Chorus

This rousing song by Reginald Spofforth comes from the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition.

Lord of the Dance: Chorus *Traditional Shaker tune, lyrics by Sydney Carter*

Come dance with us!

The King: Chorus *Traditional*

A song from Wales celebrating the ancient custom of wrenning. The wren is the King of all birds.



Much of the music in the show was arranged by, or adapted from arrangements by, Bill Venman and Thomas W. Hutcheson

All songs traditional except as noted above.

www.welcomeyule.org



STAFF



Creative Director: Jinny Mason

Producer: Alan McArdle

Assistant Producer: Joan Deely

Stage Director: Jed Proujansky

Choral Music Director: Bill Venman

Assistant Choral Music Director: Kate Richardson

Instrumental Music Coordinator: Geoff Rogers

Children's Chorus Co-Directors: Catharine Ball, Eloise Michael

Children's Assistant: Hattie Archbald

Lighting Design: Rachel Roy

Stage Manager: Devon McArdle

Dance Coaches: Andrea Rogers, Alan McArdle

Publicity: Margaret Christie, Bob Drinkwater,

Mik Muller & Jinny Mason

Costume Design: Marsha Smith

Costume Crew: Marsha Smith, Jinny Mason

Props: Jinny Mason, Cass Mason, Axel Boy

Rehearsal Accompanist: Kate Richardson

Front of House Staff: Phyllis A. Stone, Tom Massa, Marie

Paquette & volunteers

Set Construction: Tom Shattuck, John Thompson, Jed Proujansky,

Poster Design and Illustration: Soren Temple Mason, Axel Boy

Program Design: Joan Deely

Lighting Crew: Rachel Roy, David Nixon, Eileen Almeida, Andy Tarr

Story Consulting: Norah Dooley

Videography: Mik Muller

Assistant Snack/Rehearsal Staff: Tristan Osgood

Produced by Welcome Yule, Inc.



SPECIAL THANKS TO

ST. JAMES CHURCH  THE TEXTILE COMPANY  GUIDING STAR GRANGE
VALLEY LIGHT OPERA  WAKE ROBIN MORRIS

