

THE MIDWINTER REVELS®

PRESENTED BY
PUGET SOUND REVELS

*A celebration
of the
winter solstice –*

*This year featuring song, dance
and story from Medieval England and
music from points along the Silk Road.*



BJ DOUGLAS, *Stage Director* | MICHELLE MATLOCK, *Ass't Stage Director*
MEGAN OBERFIELD, *Music Director*

2023 PERFORMANCES

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2:00pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 17, 1:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2:00pm

RIALTO THEATER, TACOMA



WELCOME, WELCOME to *The Midwinter Revels*. After last year's visit to 19th century Mexico, our 2023 show finds us in medieval England in a market town along the Silk Road trade routes. BJ Douglas (stage director and scriptwriter) and Megan Oberfield (music director) have spent the year mining the archives for gems of stories, songs, and traditions to help us not just survive, but to thrive in vibrant community through the darkest days of the year. So add your voices to the song, join in the dance, and come together with friends old and new. As the old year dies, and the new year begins, we wish you light, renewal, and an abundance of joy.

WELCOME YULE!



A VERY SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Our Stage Director of 30 years, **BJ Douglas**, is retiring after this production. BJ has written scripts, painted posters, coached actors, and given tirelessly to the artistic quality of Puget Sound Revels. BJ's sense of whimsy has led us to be known in the national Revels circle as "The funny Revels". BJ, your legacy runs deep, full of meaning, and what you have created will live on in future productions. We thank you with all of our hearts!



THE MIDWINTER REVELS®

*Please do not take photos or recordings during the performance.
Persons doing so will be required to ride a camel while wearing a skirt.*

Before the show and at Intermission, share your Revels experience on social media using
#TheMidwinterRevels and tagging *@psrevels*.

PART ONE

1. Overture

"Gaudete! Christus est natus" ("Rejoice! Christ is born") is a medieval carol published in the 1582 collection of Finnish and Swedish sacred songs, *Piae Cantiones*. Arranged for brass by Todd Marchand.
SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE



2. NOWELL, OWT OF YOUR SLEPE ARYSE

This anonymous carol with text in Middle English is from a 15th c. manuscript in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Selden B. 26). It is part of the extensive library of John Selden (1584-1654), an English jurist and scholar.

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

REVELS RYNGERS

3. JOY TO THE WORLD

Words to this familiar carol were written by the “father of English hymnody,” Isaac Watts, who traveled back in time to allow us this moment of joyful singing. Brass arrangement by Edgar Phillips.

REVELS SYNGERS

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

~ ALL SING ~

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

4. ALLE PSALLITE CUM LUYA

A 13th century conductus from the Montpelier Codex. The composer used wordplay and polyphony to urge us all to sing praises to God.

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

REVELS RYNGERS

5. UPTON UPON SEVERN STICK DANCE

Though Morris Dancing is thought to have roots in Medieval ritual and celebration, the folk nature of Morris Dancing – of peasants teaching peasants – has left no written record. This version of the Upton on Severn Stick Dance takes inspiration from both Border and Cotswolds traditions.

REVELS STIKKE & SWORD

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

6. APPLE TREE WASSAIL

This wassail ritual, performed by firelight, ensured new growth in the fruit trees. Bits of bread, dipped in old cider were affixed to the branches and the roots well watered with the same. Singing and dancing was punctuated with loud banging noises and shouts to drive away evil spirits. This variant from Somerset reflects the early origin of the carol which involved taking hands and singing while dancing in a ring around a bush or tree. Arranged by Alice Parker for Revels.

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

7. THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

“The Friendly Beasts” is a traditional Christmas song about the gifts that a donkey, cow, sheep, dove, and camel give to Jesus at the Nativity. The song seems to have originated in 12th-century France, set to the melody of the Latin song “Orientis Partibus.”

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

8. ORIENTUS PARTIBUS

The Feast of the Ass was celebrated in the 11th-15th centuries celebrating the donkey-related stories in the Bible. Often a donkey would be led or ridden into the church to stand by the altar during the mass.

Our donkey headpiece was created by the late puppetmaster and set designer, Ralph Lee. Founder of the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade, MET collection contributor, and creator of the SNL Landshark are only a few of the accomplishments in his long life of artistry.

CHANTAL HULET, *Donkey*

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

9. DANCE

With foundations in regional folk and social traditions, this dance is influenced by Egyptian raqs sharki, Arabic for “dance of the east”, and contains elements from the traditions of many cultures, both from court and village.

Tunes include *Abundance de Felonie*, a bitter love song by Jehan de L’Escurel, and *Two Cantigas de Santa Maria: Quen a Omagen & Par Deus* from the famous collection of songs written by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim poets in 13th century Spain.

CATHERINE BIRD, *Dancer*

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

10. FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

ENAVOIS

From the Lochamer Liederbuch, originally written for organ in the 15th century, by Conrad Pauman, a blind organist and composer, who was one of the first international musical celebrities.

LA QUINTE ESTAMPIE REAL

From 13th century France, a rare example of European instrumental music from before 1420.

11. NOVA, NOVA

A 15th century carol describing the Angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary telling her the news that she will bear a son, Jesus.

MARK O’KELLY, BRIAN FRANZMAN, ASHLEY ORTENZO, *Soloists*

REVELS SYNGERS

REVELS RYNGERS

12. DANCE

The tune, *Schiarazula Marazula*, comes from a collection curated by the 16th century Italian musician, composer, and occultist, Giorgio Mainero. Mainero was such a vivid character that he is featured in a modern day horror comic based on true aspects of his life and entwined with other mythologies of the time.

REVELS DAUNCERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

13. IN TABERNA QUANDO SUMUS

A medieval Latin Goliardic poem, part of the collection known as the Carmina Burana, written between the 12th and early 13th centuries. The Goliards were church-educated men who used satire to draw attention to the short-comings of the Church, and whose disillusionment with their leaders sometimes led them to make similarly unethical choices. This rough drinking song draws a parallel between blessings and toasts. The singable English translation is shared with us by David Parlett.

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS



14. THE LORD OF THE DANCE

Sydney Carter's modern lyrics to the Shaker song "Simple Gifts" are here translated into dance using a compilation of traditional Morris steps by Carol Langstaff, Martin Graetz and Jonathan Morse. It is now a Revels tradition.

MARK O'KELLY, *Singer*

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

CLAIRE KELLER-SCHOLZ, KELSEY BOYCE, *Dancers*

~ ALL SING ~

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
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.

INTERMISSION

(15-minutes)



PART TWO

15. ABBOTS BROMLEY

This ritual dance for good luck in the hunt is to this day danced annually in the little village of Abbots Bromley, England. It is believed to be the oldest folk dance in Britain. Carbon dating of the reindeer antlers used in Abbots Bromley dates them to 900 CE, about the time of the Danish invasion. Its four supernumerary characters – the Folk Fool, the Man-Woman (Maid Marian), the Hobby Horse, the Boy Archer – link it with the mumming traditions of Christmas.

REVELS DAUNCERS

CHRIS BRIDEN, *Viola Da Gamba*

16. WORLDES BLIS

Anonymous, 1265 from the Rawlinson Manuscript. This bleak chant exhorts us to turn from earthly pleasure and do good works. Our arrangement comes from the Helen Deeming transcription and is modeled on performances by The Lorelei Ensemble.

MEGAN OBERFIELD, KELSEY BOYCE, SYLVIA MUSSELMAN, CLAIRE KELLER-SCHOLZ, *Soloists*

REVELS WOMMEN

17. MIRI IT IS

A Middle English song from the early 13th century about longing for summer in the face of approaching cold weather and lean times. It is one of the oldest songs in the English language, and one of the few examples of non-liturgical music from medieval England.

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

18. BACHE BENE VENIES

A piece from the Carmina Burana extolling the praises of Bacchus and the qualities of wine. Our singable English translation is by Carol Anne Perry Lagemann.

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

19. DANCE

Ly Bens Distonys is a medieval English dance from the Gresley manuscript (15th century).

REVELS DAUNCERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

20. LORD OF MISRULE

At our Revels, as in medieval times during the Feast of Fools, a Lord of Misrule is chosen from the “common folk” to preside in topsy-turvy fashion over the celebration.

CATHERINE BIRD, *dancer*

21. FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

MIT GANCZEN WILLEN

Another 15th century composition for organ, found in Lochamer and Buxheimer Liederbuchs. This is a setting of a secular song, “With all my heart,” by Pauman.

ANGELUS AD VIRGINEM

A 3-part song from late 14th century England. The story of the Annunciation.

22. RESONET IN LAUDIBUS (Latin for “Resound in praises”)

A 14th century Christmas carol widely known in medieval Europe and still sung today.

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

23. ROMAN SOLDIERS

This children’s singing game played in England has a long and varied history, changing with the times and the imaginations of the players. Ritual and play have always been important activities which help children develop an understanding of grown-up events. We hope our children will choose a path of peace.

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

24. MAKE WE MERRY, BOTH MORE AND LESS

This anonymous 15th century song invites the high and the low to make merry at Christmas.

REVELS MEN

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

25. 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

A traditional English “forfeit” carol.

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

~ ALL SING ~

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me
A partridge in a pear tree.

Second day of Christmas..... Two turtle doves
Third day of Christmas Three French hens
Fourth day of Christmas Four calling birds
Fifth day of Christmas Five gold rings
Sixth day of Christmas Six geese a-laying
Seventh day of Christmas Seven swans a-swimming
Eighth day of Christmas..... Eight maids a-milking
Ninth day of Christmas Nine ladies dancing
Tenth day of Christmas Ten lords a-leaping
Eleventh day of Christmas Eleven pipers piping
Twelfth day of Christmas Twelve drummers drumming



26. EDI BEO THU HEVENE QUENE

A 13th century English gymel (a sort of early English polyphony) in praise of the Virgin Mary. Our singable English translation is by Carol Anne Perry Lagemann

REVELS SYNGERS

FRATRIBUS PERVERSIS

27. DONA NOBIS

The origin of this round for peace is unknown.

~ ALL SING ~

1. Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem,
2. Do - na no - bis pa - cem,
3. Do - na no - bis pa - cem,
Do - na no - bis pa - cem.
do - na no - bis pa - cem.
do - na no - bis pa - cem.

28. MUMMERS PLAY

A version of the traditional mummers play, which celebrates the rites of fertility, death and rebirth. The sword dance and ritual execution survive from a time when the death of the hero or "Year King" was considered necessary to ensure fertility. The "lock" formed by the dancers' swords symbolizes the sun and the cutting down of the old so the new can spring to life.

REVELS STIKKE & SWORD

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

29. PERSONENT HODIE

A Christmas carol from a 1360 manuscript. The Latin text is probably a musical parody of an earlier song written in honor of St. Nicholas. Arranged for Revels by Megan Oberfield.

REVELS SYNGERS

REVELS RYNGERS

REVELS SMALLESYNGERS

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

30. THE SHORTEST DAY

Written for Revels by author Susan Cooper in 1977, this poem is part of every *Midwinter Revels* throughout the country.

TONY CURRY

31. SUSSEX MUMMERS CAROL

Traditionally sung by the Christmas Mummers in the Horsham district of Sussex, England, this carol has become a *Midwinter Revels* tradition. It provides the final moment of singing each year in all the *Midwinter Revels* performances across the country. We hope that our new lyrics bless everyone for a healthy and prosperous New Year. The brass arrangement is by Brian Holmes, with descant and final verse harmonization by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

~ ALL SING ~

1. Our play is done, we must be gone, we stay no longer here. We
 2. God bless you all with in this house, With hap-pi-ness be-side. Where
 3. God bless your house, your chil-dren too, Your cat-tle and your store; The

wish you all, both great and small a bless-ed bright New
 e'er your bo-dies ride or walk, Your God must be your
 Lord in-crease you day by day, And send you more and

Year, A bless-ed bright New Year.
 guide, Your God must be your guide.
 more, And send you more and more.

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Cast

Tony Curry, *Lord Derian*
Terence Mejos, *Habib*
Debbie Birkey, *Lady Derian*
Kristine Nelson, *Agnes*
Mark O'Kelly, *Khalid*
George Edman, *Malko*
Sylvia Musselman, *Aghavni*
Holly Diaz, *Woman*

Mummers Play

Kristine Nelson, *Room*
Debbie Birkey, *Mother Christmas*
Christine Buoy, *Johnny Jack*
Kelsey Boyce, *Fool*
Brian Franzman, *Giant*
George Edman, *Hobby Horse*
Matt Oberfield, *Dragon*
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Matt Boyce, *Doctor*

Revels Smallesyngers

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Revels Stikke & Sword

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Instructor*

Fratribus Perversis

*Named in reference to a Carmina
Burana drinking song lyric.*
Jacob Breedlove
Chris Briden
Denali Williams

Seattle Brass Ensemble

Laurie Heidt, *French Horn*
Michael Leavens, *Trumpet*
Paul Evans, *Tuba*
Ryan Wagner, *Trombone*
Karl Ronning, *Trumpet*
with Denali Williams, *Timpani*

ASL Interpreters

Paul Bert
Christine Osness



PRODUCTION TEAM

All stage work is performed by employees represented by I.A.T.S.E. local 15.

Special thanks to Accelerator Design lending for us a cyclorama.

Thank you to Alex Lewington for lending costumes to this production.

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Michelle Matlock..... Assistant Stage Director
Megan Oberfield..... Music Director
Julia Collier.....Stage Manager
Ayu Uematsu.....Assistant Stage Manager
McKay Loan.....Backstage Runner, Props
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Shane Schindler.....Stitchers
Mikayla Heineck, Ruth Nelson,
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2024 CALENDAR

Sing and Dance through the year with us! Many events are all ages and free. Follow us and/or make sure we have your email address so you hear about event details through the year (and new events or changes).

- DECEMBER 31, 2023 Tacoma Light Trail Parade
- JANUARY 2024 Tacoma Light Trail Programming
- FEBRUARY 17, 2024 Valentines Dance
- MARCH 21, 2024 Spring Pub Sing – a gathering of singing and poetry to welcome spring

We audition for The Midwinter Revels Adult and Children’s Choruses in the spring.
If you are interested, please make sure we have your email address.

- APRIL 27, 2024..... Stay tuned for a new event announcement!
- MAY 1, 2024 May Day Celebration – *Singing, dancing and flower-crown making*
- JUNE 2024 Ocean Fest Activity, Juneteenth, Summer Solstice Celebration
- AUGUST 2024 Farmers Market Activity
- SEPTEMBER 2024 Abbots Bromliad and Cultural Dance Exchange – *dancing with antlers!*
- SEPTEMBER 2024 Tacoma Sings on the Bridge of Glass
- OCTOBER 2024 Tacoma Arts Month – *Our Truths*
- DECEMBER 14,15,17 &18, 2024..... **The Midwinter Revels**

Were you or someone you know in the cast of a show?
We are looking for contact information so that we can plan a Cast Reunion! Please spread the word and contact our office with information! psrevels@pugetsoundrevels.org • 253-756-1804

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THANKS TO: **David Parlett and Carol Anne Perry Lagemann** for translations
Betsy Fulford at Washington Revels for research help
Emily Marvosh and the Lorelei Ensemble for arrangement guidance



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our website

MISSION STATEMENT: *Sound Revels builds and celebrates community through traditions of song, dance and story drawn from many cultures. We seek to offer theater productions, seasonal celebrations, and educational opportunities for people of all ages, races, genders and across the community.*

PSR ACHIEVES ITS MISSION BY: ***Nurturing the traditional arts** – the seedbed of all the arts • **Honoring** community, within which traditional expressions of the arts flourish • **Creating** welcoming performances and celebratory gatherings*

JEDI STATEMENT: *We recognize the harm caused by racism and other forms of violence and oppression in our communities. Through our seasonal communal events, we aim to offer a sanctuary where all people can gather, share stories, and find collective healing through artistic expression.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *Puget Sound Revels operates on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup and Nisqually Tribes, and on lands with deep significance to other Coast Salish tribes. Coast Salish people have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial and continue to do so today.*

Founded in 1992, we license the name **The Midwinter Revels** from Revels, Inc. (Watertown, MA). We are one of many Revels companies including Boulder, CO; Hanover, NH; Houston, TX; Oakland, CA; Portland, OR, Santa Barbara, CA, and Washington, DC.

