

PUGET SOUND REVELS
PRESENTS

THE CHRISTMAS REVELS®

* A Balkan celebration of the
WINTER SOLSTICE —
* with traditional music,
dance, and drama
Featuring BILL JOHNS

BJ DOUGLAS, *Stage Director* | MEGAN OBERFIELD, *Music Director*

2019 PERFORMANCES:

Saturday, December 14, 2:00pm, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 15, 1:00pm, 5:30pm (*ASL interpreted*)

Tuesday, December 17, 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 18, 7:30pm

RIALTO THEATER, Downtown Tacoma



Share your Christmas Revels experience on social media using #TheChristmasRevels and tagging @psrevels.

WELCOME, WELCOME to *The Christmas Revels*. This year, we revel in the Balkans – a region that for millennia has been a crossroads of cultures, of conquest and defeat, violence and division. This region has lent its name to the term “balkanize” – the breaking into smaller and smaller bits. Multiple traditions have been cherished here and sometimes tragically suppressed and oppressed. In the midst of this roiling competition for hegemony, cultures here have also lived in harmony – valuing each other and each other’s traditions. Our reveling recognizes that the longing for these times of harmony exists around the globe and from ancient times to our own. We know this longing. We celebrate these times of harmony and the cultural treasures and wisdom they produced. In that vein, Radko and our three travelers offer foolish stories specific to the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths. These traditions all knew that laughter opens the heart and creates space for new communal bonds, new insight, fresh joy.

Beneath the minarets, ancient synagogues, and Byzantine churches that are now found across the region, lie the remains of even older civilizations. The streets in the center of Sofia, Bulgaria, lie over the remains of the Thracian Serdi tribe that founded it over 2,500 years ago and an even more ancient 7,000-year-old civilization. The Kukeri in our show represent one cultural remnant of these ancient peoples. They chase away evil spirits, assure a good harvest for the village, and health and happiness in the new year.

Traditional communities looked right into the darkness – especially at the time of the winter solstice, and found light – found color and song and stories, and strength in each other. They discovered that the increasing daylight was a trustworthy cycle that carried the promise of new life and renewal. And so, communally they marked the passages of life and the cycles of the turning year. As do we, this year and every year.

WELCOME YULE!



THE CHRISTMAS REVELS®

*No photos or recording during the performance please.
Persons doing so will be carried off by the Kukeri.*

PART ONE

1. Overture

Antonín Dvořák's Slavonic Dances, No. 7 in C minor, Op 46.
SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

2. Kukeri

Bulgarian Kukeri are elaborately costumed men and boys who dance through villages with their masks and bells before the New Year to frighten away evil spirits. It is such an ancient tradition that they are recognized as an UNESCO World Heritage Folk Tradition. Each Bulgarian village has its own kukeri "style." Youngsters participate in this family tradition, so we too have a young Kukeri. Similar noise making, "fur monsters" exist throughout the Balkans. Sonja is singing Bozha Zvezda "God's Star" from Bulgaria/Macedonia...*Oh, the star that shines first, that is God's star. It shines high and low, all over the world. In its glow a tree grows, and touches the blue sky.*

SONJA WIEDENHAUPT

KUKERI

3. Radko and Three Travelers

For hundreds of years the Balkan region has been a crossroads of cultures, with many traditions and religions living side by side, and each producing treasured stories specific to it. Today we introduce you to three characters who tell humorous stories from the Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions.

BILL JOHNS, *Radko*, ASHLEY ORTENZO, *Jelena*, NICK DUPONT, *Nikola*, MARK O'KELLY, *Hani*

4. Letovanić

This song is about Letovanić, a village on the Kupe River in Croatia (a city now, no longer the village of the song).

REVELS CHORUS

PASHAS OF AURORA

5. Sorcova

Early New Year's morn (in some areas on Christmas morn) children wish family members and neighbors health, wealth, happiness and pat them lightly with the "Sorcova" – a special bouquet made up of one or several specially decorated fruit tree or dogwood twigs.

REVELS CHILDREN

6. Dobar Večer, Dobri Ljudi

A Croatian new year's song from the Zagorja region. Please join in on the English below.

REVELS CHORUS

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

PASHAS OF AURORA

~ ALL SING ~

Good eve - ning, all good peo - ple here, We_ wish you health and all good cheer! May the
We wish you bless - ings on the vine, and_ may you have the sweet - est wine. Here are

New Year bring good_ health_ to you, and boun - ty from your
box - wood greens and_ gar - lands red, for your boys and girls so

har - vest, too, and_ boun - ty from your har - vest, too.
spi - ri - ted, for your boys and girls so spi - ri - ted.

7. Kolendanje

A traditional Croatian carol. "We come to sing to you." arranged by Joško Čaleta.

DAVE AND THE DALMATIANS

8. Dilmano, Dilbero

In this traditional Bulgarian song with sensual references to fertility, the women ask Dilmano how she is able to sow green pepper seeds "to blossom and become fruit so you can pick as much as you wish." Many a dalliance begins in the pepper fields.

REVELS CHORUS

PASHAS OF AURORA

9. Dobrudzanska Reka

An earthy dance from Dobrudski, a farming area of eastern Bulgaria, intended by the women of the village to attract the men.

REVELS DANCERS

PASHAS OF AURORA

10. Children's Songs

Baba Mi Pojde, More, Na Pazaru

A Macedonian song from Mary Sherhart as sung by Hristovski Črepovski. (My Granny went to market and there she bought a rooster that sings, a cow that will give milk...you guess the rest of the verses.)

Da vam Kažem, Braćo Moja

A Serbian song brought to Puget Sound Revels by Mary Sherhart via Dennis Boxell via Dick Krum (noted Balkan folklore researcher). Boxell founded Koleda, perhaps the best traditional Balkan music and dance ensemble in this country. Mary Sherhart is among its alumni. *Let me tell you, boys; this is how we crush the peppers. With our heels/our knees/our elbows...*

PASHAS OF AURORA

11. Ajde Jano

The *kolo*, also known as *horo* and *oro*, is a traditional circle dance familiar throughout the Balkans. "Come on, Jana! Let's dance. Let's sell the horse. Let's sell the house so we can keep dancing."

REVELS CHORUS

PASHAS OF AURORA

12. Radko and the Travelers

The competition begins!

13. Polegnala e Tudora (Tudora Lay Down One Day)

A song from Pazardžik, Bulgaria. A girl scolds the wind for waking her just when she is dreaming that her sweetheart is coming with a bouquet and a ring for her engagement.

REVELS WOMEN

14. Tunes from Pashas of Aurora

"Lily Girl," Bulgarian kopanitzka dance

"Springtime in Jumaya," Greek kalamatiano dance, Zizis Hindsos, Zournadzis

"Abaran," Armenian dance

Sedi dimka" Bulgarian dance, numerous origins

15. Dance – Zonaradikos Tune (Dancing on the Grass)

Zonaradikos is a very common line dance in the Thracian part of (Northeastern) Greece. (More or less the same dance is danced in the Thracian part of Bulgaria, where the dance would most often be called "Pravo trakijsko horo," or simply a "Pravo.") The dance has two different forms of the basic step, plus many variations on each. The word "zonaradikos" derives from the Greek word for "belt," referring to the "belt" of dancers following the leader. Presented by Lee Otterholt in 2009.

REVELS CHORUS

PASHAS OF AURORA

16. Roždestvo Tvoje

A Serbian song sung in church in celebration of the nativity. "The nativity, O Christ, our Lord, Hath given rise to the light of knowledge in this world." A sacred anthem for Epiphany in many Slavic cultures.

QUARTET, MOLLY CALLENDER, TANYA CARTER, NICK DUPONT, MATT OBERFIELD

17. Nevijaska Koleda

Unlike the *koleda* that go house to house singing a specific repertoire of Christmas carols (*koleda*), the main event of *Nevijaska koleda* takes place in the middle of the village – at the crossroads known as *koledisce* on Christmas Eve, New Years Eve, and Epiphany Eve – focusing on ritual bonfires. "May we have a good Christmas, with wealth, with plenty."

REVELS CHORUS

DAVE AND THE DALMATIANS



18. Lord of the Dance

Part one closes, as it does every year, with Sidney Carter's contemporary lyrics to the Shaker song "Simple Gifts." The choreography by Jonathan Morse, Martin Graetz, and Carol Langstaff, is a compilation of Morris steps from various Cotswold village traditions.

MARK O'KELLY, *Singer*

KATHLEEN CROWE, IAN MARTINDALE, *Dancers*

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

~ ALL SING & DANCE! ~

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

19. Dumboko Je Spod Omišalj More

A song from the Croatian island of Kirk that speaks of the sea. "The sea here around Omišalj is very deep, but even deeper is my love for you."

REVELS WOMEN

20. The Little Girl and the Winter Whirlwinds

A Traditional folk tale from Bulgaria.

STORY PLAYERS

21. Na salašu kod Betlema

Traditional Croatian carol. "Let us play for the little King." Arranged by Duane Michael DeLuca.

DAVE AND THE DALMATIANS

22. Kalanta of the New Year

A Greek traditional carol (kalanta). It is commonly sung around the New Year accompanied by light percussion instruments such as the Santouri (an instrument related to the struck zither). Our arrangement with brass is by Megan Oberfield.

REVELS CHORUS

PASHAS OF AURORA

SEATTLE BRASS ENSEMBLE

~ ALL SING ~

It is the dawn-ing of the year in our town. And all the child-ren in the street gath-er
We sing this bless-ing on St. Ba - sil's_ Day. To send the old__ year. pass - ing a -

'round. List - en to the noise. We wish you all the
way. Joy - ful - ly we sing. The New Year, may it

joys of a long, long life with the sing - ing of our bless - ing.
bring you good health and joy from the sing - ing of out bless - ing.

23. Zamuči se Boža Majka

A Bulgarian koleda song about the day of Christ's baptism, the *Jordanovden*. "The Holy Mother took him for a walk by the Jordan River; There she came across Saint John, who baptized the young Son of God."

REVELS CHORUS

24. Pashas of Aurora

"Preparations", Algeria

"Horse to water", Bulgarian kopanitzka dance

"Heavy is the Foreign Land", Bulgarian dance adapted by Philip Koutev

Another Bulgarian "kopanitzka" dance*

All songs from John Zeretzke cassette labeled "village music of Bulgaria", which also contains songs and dances from Greek Macedonia, Thrace, and Asia Minor.

25. Karagiosis

A dance from Greece – "Shadow Puppet" is the translation of the name.

PASHAS OF AURORA

REVELS CHORUS DANCERS

26. Revels Children

Lunica, Zvezdica

Thank you to Sidney Deering for bringing this song to us from the Radost Folk Ensemble. Lunica (literally "moons") and zvezdica (literally "stars") are native flowers of Zagorje, a region in northern Croatia.

PASHAS OF AURORA



Hopa Cupa

This dance is known in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina as well as by Serbs and Croats in Hungary and the USA. All use the same melody and similar footwork, but it goes by different names. USA immigrants and recreational folk dancers know the dance as *Zaplet*. In the "Old Country" it is known by the name of its song, which has various spellings but is most commonly spelled *Opa cupa Skočići*.

PASHAS OF AURORA

27. Što Mi E Milo

Though the lyrics of this song are about the Macedonian town of Struga, the song is known in both Macedonia and Bulgaria. "How I would like to have a shop / In the town of Struga / Hurry, young Kalino."

REVELS MEN

PASHAS OF AURORA

28. Radko and the Travelers

The competition continues...

29. Lepi Juro

A Croatia springtime ritual song.

SYLVIA MUSSELMAN, MEGAN OBERFIELD, ASHLEY ORTENZO



30. Dona Nobis Pacem (Give Us Peace)

A round for peace.

~ 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.

31. Mummers Play

A presentation of traditional Balkan material in folk play form by Patrick Swanson and BJ Douglas. There are some familiar Revels figures here – *Dyano Koleda* (Grandfather Christmas), *Veles* (the Dragon), and even Saint George (who in that part of the world was often known as “Saint George of the Flowers”), but the context is very different from the traditional English mummers play. The hierarchy of world order in the Balkan region is represented by a tree of life. *Perun* is the thunder god at the top, humans are in the branches and down among the roots is a moist underworld. *Veles*, the dragon, guards the gates to the underworld, and routinely challenges the order of things by stealing *Perun*’s son and his cattle.

MUMMERS PLAYERS

Pod ^Sable Sword dance

A style of dance (from a Slovak ethnic enclave in a largely Czech Moravian area of the Czech Republic) meant to keep soldiers in shape. This version is one of the best documented. Traditional source material for our dance was translated and arranged by Steve Corrsin.

TANYA CARTER, KATHLEEN CROWE, LAURA EDMAN, HELEN EDWARDS
SYLVIA MUSSELMAN, CHRISTIE SMITH, JACKIE WALTON

32. U Se Vrime Godišta

One of over 500 Croatian Christmas carols, some of which date to the 12th century. Each carol can have a dozen different melodies and vary by region. This quite old carol has more than fifty different melodic versions in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our arrangement is by Megan Oberfield.

REVELS CHORUS

REVELS CHILDREN

33 Shortest Day

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

BILL JOHNS

~ ALL SHOUT: WELCOME YULE! ~

34. Sussex Mummers Carol

Traditionally sung by the Christmas Mummers in the Horsham district of Sussex, England, this carol has become a *Christmas Revels* tradition. It provides the final moment of singing each year in all the *Christmas Revels* performances across the country. The brass arrangement is by Brian Holmes, with descant and final verse harmonization by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

THE WHOLE COMPANY

~ ALL SING ~



God__ bless the Mas - ter__ of this house with__
God__ bless the Mis - tress of this house with__
God__ bless your house, your chil - dren too, your__



hap - pi - ness be - side; Where - e'er his bo - dy
gold chain round her__ breast; Where - e'er her bo - dy
cat - tle and your__ store; The Lord in - crease you



rides or__ walks, his God must be his
sleeps or__ wakes, Lord send her soul to
day by__ day, __ and send you more and



guide, __ his God__ must__ be__ his guide.
rest, __ Lord send__ her__ soul__ to rest.
more, __ and send__ you__ more__ and more.

WELCOME YULE!



Before the show, at Intermission and after the performance, share your Christmas Revels experience on social media using #TheChristmasRevels and tagging @psrevels.

THE PLAYERS

Featuring **Bill Johns, Radko**

The Revels Chorus

Christine Buoy
Molly Callender
Tanya Carter*
Ruth Chaffee
Brad Cloven
Kathleen Crowe,*
Sword Team Lead

Nick Dupont
George Edman
Laura Edman*
Helen Edwards*
Roxane Hreha
Anne Jones
Loren Kelley
Sylvia Musselman*
Steven Neshyba
Daniel Neshyba-Rowe
Matt Oberfield
Megan Oberfield
Mark O'Kelly
Ashley Ortenzo
Grace Rawsthorne
Christine Roe
Christie Smith*
Carl Toews
Jackie Walton*

* *Sword Dancers*

ASL Interpreters

Paul Bert, Christine Osness

The Revels Children

Celia Bonea
Gretchen Bonea
Allison Carlisle
Josie Crane
Ingrid Grinstead
McKay Loan
Aida Lowin-Thomas
Caroline McCarter
Katie McCarter
Alexia Ouellet
Eleanor Veeck

Kukeri

Benjamin Toews, *little*
Darby Veeck, *big*

Pashas of Aurora

Charles Atwood, *Violin, Outi*
Diz Carrol, *Laouto, Klarino*
Walter Harley, *Toumbeleki, Defi, Baglama*
Roxane Hreha, *Piccolo, Shvi*
Sonja Wiedenhaupt,
Vocals, Flute

Dave and the Dalmatians[§]

Three of the seven-member group are part of our show
Dave Clelland
Greg Posick
Peter Sakurai

Seattle Brass Ensemble

Seth Thompkins, *Tuba*
Laurie Heidt, *Horn*
Michael Leavens, *Trumpet*
Ben McDonald, *Trumpet*
Ryan Wagner, *Trombone*
with Denali Williams, *Timpani*

Mummers

Bill Johns, *Doctor*
Molly Callender, *Room*
Steven Neshyba, *Perun*
Daniel Neshyba-Rowe,
St. George
Matt Oberfield, *Veles*
Mark O'Kelly, *Father Christmas*
Carl Toews, *Tree*
Christine Bouy, *Nurse Cow*

Story Players

Bill Johns, *Narrator*
Celia Bonea, *Little Girl*
Ruth Chaffee, *Grandmother*
Helen Edwards, *Winter Witch*
Mark O'Kelly, *Father Frost*
Tanya Carter, *villager*
George Edman, *villager*
Anne Jones, *villager*
Loren Kelley, *villager*
Jackie Walton, *villager*

[§]This 25-year-old a cappella group sings the songs of the klapa tradition, which originates along the Dalmatian coast and islands in the Adriatic Sea. CDs (in the lobby) include songs from Croatia, Balkans, various Mediterranean islands, Italy, Wales, Russia, Armenia, and Georgia.

PRODUCTION TEAM

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

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Michelle Matlock..... Assistant Stage Director
Megan Oberfield..... Music Director
Gail Thomason..... Stage Manager
Julia Collier..... Assistant Stage Manager
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Stephanie Poire..... Costume Assistants
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2020 CALENDAR

We've got plans!

With Tacoma Creates funding and some new collaborations, we'll be adding to the calendar below so more people in more places can have more fun reveling. Make sure we have your email address (or follow us in the various possible ways!) so you know the fun we are up to.

Add your volunteer energy and enthusiasm to an event. Contact us: psrevels@pugetsoundrevels.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY**Online Auction**

MARCH 19**First Day of Spring Sing**

Adult and Children's Christmas Revels auditions are in the spring.

If you are interested, make sure we have your email address.

MAY 1**May Day Singing, dancing and flower-crown making at Wright Park**

MAY 16.....**Brunch at Ballroom Square**

JUNE 20.....**Summer Solstice Celebration**

SEPTEMBER 7**Abbots Bromliad**

SEPTEMBER 24**Tacoma Sings on the Bridge of Glass**

OCTOBER**Arts Month Concert**

DECEMBER 19-23**The Christmas Revels**



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People who contribute their time, energy, talent, and enthusiasm are the lifeblood of small non-profits. It is due to you all that our happy mission becomes a reality. Many of the people listed here have helped in multiple ways—running events, heading up teams of volunteers, providing rolling stock, hauling, singing, organizing, stuffing, welcoming, decorating, flower-bringers, flower-crown makers, dishwashing, building, baking, painting, PR, cooking, selling raffle tickets, selling merchandise, setting up and tearing down, handwriting, and more... A special shout out to Puget Sound Revels' board trustees — an impressive bunch of joy-flingers.

Many, many thanks to:

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