

REVELS SPRING SING!

A Family Celebration of the Vernal Equinox

Sunday, March 20, 2022

The Center for the Arts
at the Armory
Somerville, MA

ELIJAH BOTKIN, Revels Music Director

GEORGE EMLEN, Spring Sing Music Director

STAN STRICKLAND, Spring Sing Associate Music Director

PATRICK SWANSON, Revels Artistic Director

FEATURING

GUEST SOLOISTS & SONGLEADERS

Dr. Kathy Bullock

David Coffin

Claire Dickson

Stan Strickland

Patrick Swanson

WITH

The Revels Spring Sing Chorus

The Revels Spring Sing
Children's Chorus

The Stan Strickland Spring
Sing Jazz Quartet

and YOU!

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WELCOME TO REVELS SPRING SING!

Through all the alarms and uncertainties of this past year the seasons continue to turn, seemingly sure in the knowledge that we would be back again to raise our joyful voices, no matter what. Music Directors (outgoing, George Emlen, and incoming, Elijah Botkin) have assembled a truly stellar group of musicians and singers including our old friend Stan Strickland, who has introduced a jazz-infused element into the musical mix. Strengthening that connection are Revels alumna Claire Dickson, taking a moment away from her songwriting project, Myrtle, and her musical career in New York, and Revels longtime baritone soloist, songleader and multi-instrumentalist, David Coffin. Joining us for the first time for this memorable *Spring Sing* is songleader, performer, teacher, scholar, and tradition-bearer, Dr Kathy White Bullock.

Revels is growing within the framework of our mission, finding new ways to connect through music, theater and education. We hope that you are as happy as we are to be back together in this new setting, sampling some new sounds, singing some old favorites and reveling in the feeling of a truly live event!

Paddy
Paddy Swanson
March 2022



SPRING SING 2022 LYRICS

Sing With Us!



COUNTRY LIFE *(Traditional, arr. Elijah Botkin)*

REFRAIN:

I like to rise when the sun she rises
Early in the morning
And I like to hear them small birds singing
Merrily upon their laylum
And hurrah for the life of a country boy
And to ramble in the new mown hay

1. In spring we sow, at the harvest mow
And that is how the seasons round they go
But of all the things if choose I may
I'd be rambling through the new mown hay

REFRAIN

2. In winter when the sky is gray
We hedge and ditch our times away
But in the summer when the sun shines gay
We go ramblin' through the new mown hay

REFRAIN X2





CELEBRATION

(Ronald "Kahlis" Bell, Claydes Charles Smith, George Melvin Brown, James "J.T." Taylor, Robert "Spike" Mickens, Earl Eugene Toon Jr., Dennis "D.T." Thomas, Robert "Kool" Bell, Eumir Deodato)

Wahoo!
Wahoo!

Celebrate good times, come on!
Celebrate good times, come on!

There's a party going on right here
A celebration to last throughout
the years
So bring your good times and your
laughter too
We're gonna celebrate your party
with you, come on

Celebration!
Let's all celebrate and have a
good time
Celebration!
We gonna celebrate and have a
good time

It's time to come together
It's up to you - what's your pleasure?
Everyone around the world, come on!

Wahoo!
Wahoo!

Celebrate good times, come on!
Celebrate good times, come on!

Celebration! We're gonna have a
good time tonight,
Let's celebrate, it's all right
Celebration! We're gonna have a
good time tonight,
Let's celebrate, it's all right

Wahoo!
Wahoo!

Celebrate good times, come on!
Celebrate good times, come on!



WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN *(Traditional Spiritual)*

REFRAIN:

Walk togetha, children, dontcha get weary,
Walk togetha, children, dontcha get weary,
Walk togetha, children, dontcha get weary,
There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land.

Sing togetha children, children, dontcha get weary,
Sing togetha children, children, dontcha get weary,
Sing togetha children, children, dontcha get weary,
There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land.

1. Gonna walk and nevuh tiyah,
Gonna walk and nevuh tiyah,
Gonna walk and nevuh tiyah
There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land.

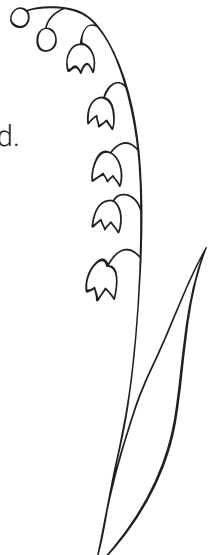
REFRAIN

2. Gonna sing and nevuh tiyah,
Gonna sing and nevuh tiyah,
Gonna sing and nevuh tiyah
There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land.

REFRAIN



This song is performed in a preferred dialect.
nevuh = never
tiyah = tire





LE CAPITAINE DE SAINT-MALO

(Traditional Chantey)

BOLD = SING ALONG!

Le capitaine de Saint-Malo

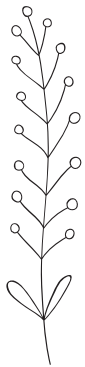
(All Sing) Ali alo

Qui fait la pêche aux cachalots

Ali ali ali alo

Ali alo

(5x verses with the same call-and-response)



MOON RIVER *(Henry Mancini & Johnny Mercer)*

1. Moon River, wider than a mile,
I'm crossing you in style some day.
Oh, dream maker, you heart breaker,
Wherever you're goin', I'm goin'
your way.

2. Two drifters, off to see the world –
There's such a lot of world to see.
We're after the same rainbow's end,
Waitin' 'round the bend,
My huckleberry friend,
Moon River and me.





CHARLES RIVER
conservancy

We love celebrating the changing seasons with Revels!

The Charles River Conservancy is a proud supporter of Revels and co-founder of RiverSing. We are grateful for all of their hard work to make each equinox a joyful occasion! Thank you for being incredible partners in activating the Charles River parks.

To learn more about the CRC and how to help us make the Charles River parks more active, attractive, and accessible, please visit www.thecharles.org.



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@CharlesRiverCRC



@CharlesRiverConservancy



OVER THE RAINBOW *(Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg)*

1. Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high,
There's a land that I've heard of
Once in a lullaby.

2. Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true.

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me,
Where troubles melt like lemon drops,
Away above the chimney tops –
That's where you'll find me.

3. Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly,
Birds fly over the rainbow –
Why, oh then why, can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow,
Why, oh why, can't I?



The Weight of Water



The Spring arrives with open hand
To ease the grip of ice and snow
To green with hope the barren land
And let the frozen waters flow

Between its banks the river runs,
Its progress slow and serpentine,
Yet forty-five point 33 tons,
Will pass, while I, speak these, four lines.

The weight of water gives one pause,
Such *gravitas* so well disguised,
As rowers dip their gleaming oars,
And ripples startle dragonflies.

Forgive me for this metaphor,
It may strike you as rather odd,
That I should reference here *folklore*,
In context of the river god.

As generations pass along
What they decide may be of worth,
The river translates into song,
The weight of life, death, and rebirth.

And bear with me a moment more,
For rivers all run to the sea,
And when they reach that common shore,
They are as one – that is the key.

All people have their songs and stories,
Heroes, saints, and sinners too,
All have embarrassments and glories,
And all have folks like me and you.

The metaphor of river in
Its constant journey to the sea,
Invokes another pilgrimage,
From otherness, to you and me.

So, let's do this together here,
Let's find all the things that rhyme,
Let's sing the songs that banish fear,
And share the fruits of summertime.

Paddy Swanson for Spring Sing 2022



SUMMERTIME (George Gershwin & DuBose Heyward)

1. Summertime, and the living is easy,
Fish are jumping, and the cotton is high.
Oh, your daddy's rich, and your ma is good-looking,
So, hush, little baby, don't you cry.

2. One of these mornings you're gonna rise up singing,
Then you'll spread your wings and you'll take to the sky.
But 'til that morning, there's a-nothing can harm you,
With daddy and mammy standing by.



BLUE SKIES (Irving Berlin)

1. Blue skies smiling at me,
Nothing but blue skies do I see.

2. Bluebirds singing a song,
Nothing but bluebirds all day long.

Never saw the sun shining so bright,
Never saw things going so right.
Noticing the days hurrying by –
When you're in love, my how they fly!

3. Blue days, all of them gone,
Nothing but blue skies from now on.



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March 27 Appalachian Musical Storytelling
with traditional singer **Suzannah Park**

April 24 Music from the Middle East with
Lebanese vocalist **Christiane Karam**

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a generous grant from the Ithaka Foundation

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HERE COMES THE SUN *(George Harrison)*

REFRAIN:

Here comes the sun, doo doo doo doo
Here comes the sun
And I say it's all right

1. Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here

REFRAIN

2. Little darling, the smiles returning to the faces
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here

REFRAIN

Sun, sun, sun, here we come (5x)

3. Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear

REFRAIN X2



I'LL FLY AWAY *(Albert E. Brumley)*

1. Some bright morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away.

REFRAIN:

I'll fly away, oh glory,
I'll fly away, (in the morning)
When I die, hallelujah by and by,
I'll fly away.

2. When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away,
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly,
I'll fly away.

REFRAIN

3. Oh how glad and happy when we meet,
I'll fly away,
No more cold iron shackles on my feet,
I'll fly away.

REFRAIN

4. Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away,
To a land where joys will never end,
I'll fly away.

REFRAIN X2





SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT *(Traditional African American)*

REFRAIN:

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home.

1. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see?
Comin' for to carry me home,
A band of angels comin' after me,
Comin' for to carry me home.

REFRAIN

2. If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home.
Tell all of my friends I'm-a comin' there too,
Comin' for to carry me home.

REFRAIN



I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW *(Johnny Nash)*

I can see clearly now the rain is gone,
I can see all obstacles in my way,
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind,
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day,
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.

Yes I can make it now the pain is gone,
All of the bad feelings have disappeared,
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for,
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.

Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies,
Look straight ahead, there's nothing but blue skies.

I can see clearly now the rain is gone,
I can see all obstacles in my way,
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for,
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.





WILD MOUNTAIN THYME *(McPeake Family)*

1. O the Summertime is coming
And the trees are sweetly blooming.
And the wild mountain thyme
grows around the purple heather
Will you go, lassie, go?

REFRAIN:

And we'll all go together
To pull wild mountain thyme
All around the blooming heather
Will you go, lassie, go?

2. I will build my love a bower
By yon clear crystal fountain
And on it I will pile
All the flowers of the mountain
Will you go, lassie, go?

REFRAIN

3. If my true love she were gone
I would surely find another
To pull wild mountain thyme
All around the purple heather,
Will you go, lassie, go?

REFRAIN



Performers + Crew



HOST

Elijah Botkin,
Revels Music Director

Alex Hall
Cathy Hersh
Terri Kellen
Laura Swanson
David W. Torrey

SOLOISTS & SONGLEADERS

Dr. Kathy Bullock
David Coffin
Claire Dickson
Stan Strickland
Patrick Swanson

The Revels Spring Sing Children's
Chorus

Ida Ellsworth
Whitby Ellsworth
Louise Hardigg
Bianca Hellman
Auden Malone
Nathan Morris
Nico Rosenberg
Henri Wilson Spencer

BAND

The Stan Strickland Spring Sing
Jazz Quartet

Stan Strickland,
soprano saxophone
Russell Hoffmann, *keyboard*
Yoron Israel, *drums*
Ron Mahdi, *bass*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Elijah Botkin & George Emlen,
music directors
Stan Strickland, *associate music
director*
Patrick Swanson, *artistic director*
Miguel Flores, *production
manager*
Paul Buckley, *photographer*
Tyler Graham-Stevens,
videographer
Springtide Studio, *program
design*

CHORUSES

The Revels Spring Sing Chorus

Nick Browse
Elizabeth Buckley
Stephen Campbell
Samantha Fleishman
Mary French
Nicole Galland
Pepper Greene

Thank you

Thanks to the Center for the Arts at the Armory for their assistance and sharing their beautiful space with us, to the Charles River Conservancy and Houghton Chemical Corporation for their generous sponsorship of this event, and to the Inn at Harvard for similar kindnesses.

THANK YOU RIVERSING VOLUNTEERS!

Julia Bloom, Cathie Ghorbani, Ita Dennehy, John Magnani, Linda Martin, Elissa Senra Sargent, Emma Stickgold



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Founded in 2000, the Charles River Conservancy is a nonprofit citizens' organization dedicated to the renewal and stewardship of the Charles River Parklands from the Boston Harbor to the Watertown Dam. The Conservancy aims at making the Parklands more attractive, active, and accessible for all. It was the collaborative efforts of CRC and Revels that created the first RiverSing in the fall of 2004.



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Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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WHEN I WORK,
BUT He **LOVES**
ME WHEN I
SING!

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE

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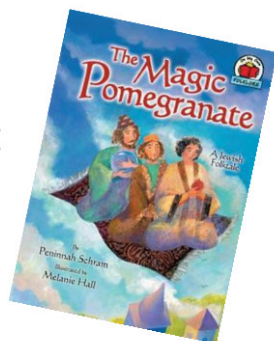
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