

DIRECTED BY PATRICK SWANSON
MEGAN HENDERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA

Sanders Theatre

DECEMBER 14–29, 2018

A **NORDIC CELEBRATION**
of the Winter Solstice

The Christmas Revels





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

—RABINDRANATH TAGORE

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The 48th annual production

The Christmas Revels®

A **NORDIC CELEBRATION**
of the Winter Solstice

DIRECTED BY PATRICK SWANSON
MEGAN HENDERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 14–29, 2018
18 PERFORMANCES—MATINEES & EVENINGS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA

Sanders Theatre

Infrared listening devices and
large print programs are available
at the Sanders Theatre Box Office.

Please visit our lobby table for
Revels recordings, books, cards
and more. Our new CD, *The Gifts of
Odin: A Nordic Christmas Revels*,
features much of the music from
this year's show!

With

David Coffin
Merja Soria
The Kalevala Chorus
The Solstånd Children
The Brilliant String Band
The Northern Lights Dancers
The Midnight Sun Mummer
The Pinewoods Morris Men
Karin's Sisters
Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

Lynda A. Johnson, *Production Manager*
Jeremy Barnett, *Set Design*
Jeff Adelberg, *Lighting Design*
Heidi Hermiller, *Costume Design*
Bill Winn, *Sound Design*
Ari Herzig, *Projection Design*

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Introduction

Welcome to the 48th annual *Christmas Revels*!

Sven is a dreamer and his father's patience is wearing thin. It is Christmas and the big house is bustling with preparations for a party that will bring together ministers and dignitaries from all the Scandinavian countries to meet the new Ambassador of Finland. The seasonal festivities do little to reduce Sven's moodiness that seems to be tied to the loss of his favorite uncle. Change

comes in the guise of three unusual Christmas presents. They usher Sven into an alternative universe populated by witches, snakes and superheroes, where he is reunited with his late uncle in a series of life-changing adventures.

Propelled by the narrative of the *Kalevala*, the Finnish epic poem, and illuminated by the ethereal sounds of *nyckelharpa*, *hardingfele*, *kantele*, accordion, gemshorn and five-string fiddle, our story takes us via fjords and rivers all the way to the icy mountains of the Northlands and back. Count on trolls, dragons and house elves to pop up. Perhaps even Hamlet. With gorgeous melodies, rich choral harmonies and filigree ornamentation, this will be a mythical, musical experience that awaits only one final ingredient—your participation.



Paddy Swanson
Artistic Director

CONTENTS

Please join us in "All Sings" on pages 5, 10, 12, 14 and 16!

THE PROGRAM

page 4

PARTICIPANTS

page 17

FEATURED ARTISTS

page 22

A NOTE ON THE KALEVALA Finland Finds Its National Identity

page 35

Susan Cooper

THE WARMTH OF DARKNESS Festive Fires and Yule Logs

page 38

Megan Henderson, *Music Director*

MEET THE NORTHLANDS INSTRUMENTS What Are Those Wonderful Sounds?

page 45

Merja Soria, *lydia ievins*, Toby Weinberg

DEAR FRIENDS (KÆRE VENNER)

page 48

Stine O'Brien, *Chair, Board of Directors*

REVELS 2019 CALENDAR

page 73



Program

Act One

1. OVERTURE: FANTASIA ON FINLANDIA

Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

This overture, written by Megan Henderson in 2018, is based upon *Finlandia*, a beautiful hymn written by famous Finnish composer Julius (Jean) Sibelius (1865-1957).

2. ÓLAFUR LILJURÓS

David Coffin, voice • The Men of the Kalevala Chorus • Abe Finch, percussion

This song has been known in Iceland for at least seven hundred years. The Vikivaki is the accompanying folk dance, making this a perfect example of a “carol,” or song-dance.

3. KULNING (HERDING CALL)

Sunniva Brynnel, voice

“I learned this melody from my mother, Swedish folk singer Rosa Brynnel, who would use this very melody and calling technique whenever I got lost in the shopping mall. She never did like mobile phones.” — Sunniva Brynnel

4. NU ÄR DET JUL IGEN (NOW IT IS CHRISTMAS AGAIN)

Andrea Larson and Loretta Kelley, fiddles • Lydia Ievins, 5-string fiddle • Corey DiMario, bass
Sunniva Brynnel, accordion • The Kalevala Chorus • The Solstånd Children

This lively Swedish folk tune from the 1850s has made its way into many Scandinavian Christmas celebrations and is featured in the 1982 Ingmar Bergman film, *Fanny and Alexander*.

Christmas is here and Christmas lasts until Easter!
No, that is not true, for in between is Lenten fasting.

5. THE BRAVE SHIP

The Kalevala Chorus • The Solstånd Children • Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

This tune (*Tempus adest floridum*) comes from the *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of sacred and secular Latin songs. The pieces were compiled by a Finnish clergyman and first published in 1582. The melody is now best recognized as *Good King Wenceslas*. The words we sing here were written by Susan Cooper for Revels in 1993.

All Sing! Verse Two

Join them as they come ashore,
Bring them joyous greeting;
Open wide the willing door
For this merry meeting;
Revel now with dance and song
Till the darkness lighten
Pray that friendship grown so strong
Will the whole world brighten.

6. YKSI, KAKSI, KOLME, NELJÄ (ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR)

Merja Soria, voice and percussion • The Men of the Kalevala Chorus

This Finnish folk song is based on the well-known 15th-century Portuguese melody *La Folia*. This arrangement is by Merja Soria.

One, two, three, four, let me be happy.
When the sorrow comes, please let her pass.
Horseflies are singing, four mice are jumping,
Cat plays the drum and the whole world is roaring!

7. KLING KLANG, KLOCKAN SLÅR (KLING, KLANG, THE CLOCK CHIMES)

The Solstånd Children

This Swedish shepherd's song of Finnish origin, tells of bells ringing, an empty belly, talking trees and night falling in the mountains.

8. SPURVEN SIDDER STUM BAG KVIST (SPARROW SILENT ON THE BOUGH)

The Solstånd Children • Sunniva Brynnel, accordion

The quiet sparrow observes the fireside scene inside the home from its perch in the blowing wintry snow. Composer, poet, novelist and political activist Jeppe Aakjær wrote this lilting ode to Danish farm and family life around 1910.

9. SLÄNGPOLSKA EFTER OLA PERSSON LUNDQVIST, SKÅNE

Andrea Larson, *fiddle* • Lydia Ievins, *5-string fiddle* • Northern Lights Dancers

The Swedish slängpolska is a dance both new and old, rooted in tradition and fed by an enormous wealth of energetic tunes in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Described as a walking dance in figures, the original source was a peasant dance from Poland recorded as early as the 15th century. Introduced to the French royal court in the 17th century (thus polonaise + polska = Polish in French and Swedish, respectively), the dance became popular and spread throughout Europe and up to Sweden, where it mingled with existing folk melodies.



10. BACCHI KALENDAR (BACCHUS'S CALENDAR)

Ken Mattsson, *voice* • The Men of the Kalevala Chorus

Prolific Swedish composer Carl Michael Bellman (1740-1795) penned the text and tune of this cautionary little ditty. The year started off well for the singer as he bought some fine new clothes for himself. Sadly, the bottle got the best of him by November and he ended up inebriated, miserable and unclothed waiting for Christmas to return. Arranged by Megan Henderson.



11. I DENNE SØTE JULETID (IN THIS BLESSED YULETIDE)

Loretta Kelley, *hardingfele* • Sunniva Brynnel, *accordion* • The Women of the Kalevala Chorus

The text of this sweetest of Norwegian seasonal hymns was penned by Danish bishop Hans Adolph Brorson in 1732. It reflects his passionate reverence for the religious essence of the Christmas celebration. This traditional tune was arranged by Linn Andrea Fuglseth, a member of the Trio Mediæval.

12. THE KALEVALA

Part One: The Creation of the World

Noni Lewis, Sarah Morrisette, Matt Winberg, Christopher Kandra, Ewan Swanson, *actors*
The Kalevala Chorus • Mark Ward, *puppeteer*

Adapted by Susan Cooper from two translations of the great Finnish folkwork, this account has the universe brought into being from a primeval omelette. If the meter seems oddly familiar, it's because Henry Wadsworth Longfellow borrowed the epic form and verse pattern of the *Kalevala* for his poem *Hiawatha*.



13. ST. THOMASKLOKKESLÅTTEN (THE BELLS OF ST. THOMAS)

Loretta Kelley, *hardingfele*

Legend has it that one of the church bells was lost in the waters of Vang Lake during transport. The remaining bells sounded sad and muffled in their new home, as if mourning for their lost sister.



14. DUUI DIDDL

Merja Soria, *voice*

This traditional Finnish song is for those moments in life when there are simply no words to express how you feel.

15. VILLEMANN OG MAGNHILD (VILLEMANN AND MAGNHILD)

The Kalevala Chorus • Abe Finch, *percussion*

The tune of this 14th-century Norse ballad is based on the 12th-century troubadour song *Kalenda Maya*. This choral arrangement is by Megan Henderson.

Villemann went down to the river
to the most beautiful of lindens.
To where he could play the harp.
The runes did not bode well.



Villemann would stand against the torrents
to the most beautiful of lindens.
Masterfully he would play the harp.
The runes did not bode well.



He played it gently, he played it loudly
to the most beautiful of lindens.
He played Magnhild free of the Nykken's arm.
The runes did not bode well.

Then the troll rose up from the depths of the lake, to the most...
It rumbled in the mountains and crashed in the clouds.
The runes did not bode well.

But he struck the harp with all of his might, to the most...
And vanquished the troll's strength and power.
The runes did not bode well.



16. KÄRA MIN MODER (MY DEAR MOTHER)

Sunniva Brynnel, voice • Lydia Ievins, nyckelharpa • Annemarie Pluhar, dancer



My dear mother, do not punish me
Because I'm late in the evening
The boys loved me a lot.
That's why I was so long.
The player played for dancing
The boys danced, danced in trance.
Yes, that's what I did and it went so well.



17. VI ÄRO MUSIKANTER (WE ARE MUSICIANS)

Andrea Larson, fiddle • Lydia Ievins, 5-string fiddle • Corey DiMario, double bass
Sunniva Brynnel, accordion • The Solstånd Children

This exuberant Swedish folk song is also sung to celebrate midsummer.

We are musicians from Skaraborg.
We can play the vio- vio- violin. We can play the bass and flute!
And we can dance bomfalaralla, bomfalaralla, bomfalaralla,
We can dance bomfalaralla, bomfalarallalay!
And we can dance the other way, the other way, the other way too!



18. SANKT STAFFANS VISA (ST. STEPHEN'S SONG)

David Coffin and Sunniva Brynnel, voice • Loretta Kelley and Andrea Larson, fiddles
Lydia Ievins, 5-string fiddle • Corey DiMario, double bass • The Kalevala Chorus
The Solstånd Children • Abe Finch, percussion

St. Staffan rose from a lowly stable boy to become the patron saint of horses. This song tells of the rider going from house to house looking for food in the dark of a winter's night. Arranged by Megan Henderson.

“... The dawn is not yet visible, but the stars, they sparkle in the sky.”

19. TELESRINGAR DANCE

Loretta Kelley, hardingfele • Karin's Sisters

The *sringar* is a centuries-old Norwegian couple dance. As in swing dancing, the dancers maintain the rhythm with their feet and follow the figures of the dance; the rest is improvisation. At its best, this is a three-way interplay between the dancing partners, who craft their dance to fit the particular tune, and the solo fiddler, who uses musical variations to inspire the dancers. Here, the tune “Luse-Søren” is played on the Hardanger fiddle in the tradition of the master fiddler



Olav Løndal (1904-1986) from Tuddal in Telemark, Norway. This tune was a favorite of a village eccentric and music lover nicknamed “Luse-Søren” (“lousy Søren”), who lived in the last half of the 1800s and was a regular attendee at all the local dances.

20. THE FIRST KANTELE

Merja Soria



21. THE KALEVALA

Part Two: The Hiding of the Sun

Noni Lewis, Ewan Swanson, Sarah Morrisette, Matt Winberg, actors • The Kalevala Chorus

Susan Cooper's adapted Runo 47 of the *Kalevala* in which Louhi, the witch of the Northland, steals the sun and the moon.

22. VÄINÄMÖINEN'S SONG (TRADITIONAL FINNISH RUNE SONG)

Merja Soria, voice and kantele

Translation by Merja Soria

I am longing, I am thinking
to begin singing, start reciting.
In my mouth the words are melting,
through my lips so softly falling,
upon my tongue the words come rushing,
around my teeth they are dancing.



23. HEYR, HIMNA SMÍÐUR (HEAR, SMITH OF THE HEAVENS)

The Kalevala Chorus

One of the most powerful clan chieftains in 12th-century Iceland, Kolbeinn Tumason wrote this deeply personal prayer on his deathbed. The text was recently set by one of Iceland's most prominent Icelandic pianists and composers, Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson (1938-2013).

Listen, smith of the heavens, what the poet asks.
May your mercy come softly unto me.
So I call on thee, for you have created me.
I am thy slave, you are my Lord.



God, I call on thee to heal me. Remember me, mild one.
We need Thee most.
Drive out, O king of suns, generous and great,
every human sorrow from the city of the heart.

24. LOST

Ewan Swanson

Poem by Patrick Swanson

25. LORD OF THE DANCE

David Coffin, voice • Pinewoods Morris Men • The Company

“Simple Gifts” is the Shaker tune that Sydney Carter used to set these modern lyrics. It has been translated into dance using a compilation of traditional English Morris steps by Carol Langstaff, Martin Graetz and Jonathan Morse.

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

There will be no introductory remarks before Act Two, so please return to your seats promptly.

Win a Scandinavian adventure of a lifetime! Return your raffle ticket with payment to our volunteers in red aprons. Thank you for supporting Revels!

Program Act Two

26. SOFÐU UNGA ÁSTIN MÍN (SLEEP MY YOUNG LOVE)

David Coffin, gemshorn • Sunniva Brynnel, harp • The Kalevala Chorus • Abe Finch, percussion

Icelandic composer Jóhann Sigurjónsson (1880-1919) juxtaposes beauty and fear—key motifs in the mythology of Iceland—in this haunting lullaby. Arranged by Megan Henderson.

Sleep my little love,
Outside the rain is weeping.
Mommy keeps watch over your gold,
Old leg bones and a little treasure chest.
Let's not stay awake through dark nights.

Sleep long, sleep tight,
It's best to wake up late.
Hardship will teach you soon,
When the day turns to night,
That the people love, lose, weep and mourn.

27. ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE

Pinewoods Morris Men • David Coffin, recorder

Fool: Div Slomin
Man-Woman: Jake Nunes

Hobby Horse: Michael Chase
Boy Archers: Theo Price Lynn, Theo Sheldon

This ancient ritual dance for good luck in hunting the stag is still danced every year in the village of Abbots Bromley in England. Its supernumerary characters—the folk fool, man-woman, hobby horse and the boy archer—tie it to the mumming traditions of Christmas.

28. YGGDRASIL (THE ASH TREE)

David Coffin, soprano and tenor gemshorns and voice • Sunniva Brynnel, harp
Abe Finch, percussion • Mark Ward, puppets

At the center of Norse mythology stands a gigantic ash tree that connects all worlds and reaches its sacred, green branches up to the heavens. The original text is from the poetic *Edda*, a 13th-century compilation of traditional texts. Stag by Ralph Lee.

29. TWO POLONÄS FROM SEXDREGA

polonäs från Sexdrega in G (del 3 nr 1) (Vol 3, number 1)

polonäs från Sexdrega in A (del 1 nr 72) (Vol 1, number 72)

The Briljant String Band

A treasure trove of traditional 18th-century music was discovered in Sexdrega, Sweden, a small hamlet in the historical province of Västergötland in the 1920s, when a new land-owner (and music lover) came upon the collection and donated it to a cultural history museum in nearby Gothenburg. Now available for all to see (and play!) thanks to the Swedish Archive, Sexdregasamlingen is a window into the popular music of the era and features *polonäs*, *menuet* and *marsch* tunes.

30. TREMANNSDANS FRÅ TELEMAR

Karin's Sisters and Andrea Larson, *dancers* • Loretta Kelley, *hardingfele*

Here a *gangar* (a walking dance in even rhythm) from Telemark is performed by three dancers, hence the name "Tremannsdans." The fiddler plays the tune "Kåfjell" (The Kå Mountain) in the tradition of the fiddler Olav Flåto (1914-2000) from Hovin, Telemark.

31. SILENT NIGHT

Merja Soria, *voice* • The Solstånd Children • The Kalevala Chorus

All Sing!

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

32. DONA NOBIS PACEM

The Company

Our traditional round for peace.

All Sing!



33. TOMTARNAS JULNATT (CHRISTMAS NIGHT ELVES)

Loretta Kelley, *fiddle* • Corey DiMario, *double bass* • The Solstånd Children

The mischievous mythical creatures of the Nordic night are afoot on Christmas eve while the adult humans are fast asleep in their cozy beds!

34. GAMMEL REINLENDER DANCE

Andrea Larson, *lydia ievins*, Loretta Kelley, *fiddles* • Corey DiMario, *bass*
Sunniva Brynnel, *accordion* • David Coffin, *pennywhistle*

The *reinlender* is one of the most common couple dances in Norway. It originally came from Central Europe in the second half of the 19th century. In Sweden it is called *schottis*. This version, known as "Gammel (or "old") Reinlender," is popular with dance groups in the US and Norway. The band plays "Ringnesen," a *reinlender* tune by the fiddler and tradition bearer Ola J. Ringneset (1811-1902) from Vågå in Gudbrandsdal, Norway.

35. KYLÄ VUOTTI UUTTA KUUTA (NEW MOON IN THE VILLAGE)

Merja Soria, *voice and kantele* • The Kalevala Chorus

Translation by Merja Soria

The village waited for the new moon,
the world waited for the sun to rise.
I waited for my sister-in-law.

Rise, duck, from rowing
Rise up without lifting
Get up without getting up.

Place one foot by the stairs, the other one on the threshold,
step with the steps of a goose, tap with the feet of a teal.

36. MITT HJERTE ALLTID VANKER/DEN SIGNADE DAG

(MY HEART ALWAYS WANDERS/THE BLESSED DAY)

Sunniva Brynnel, *accordion and voice* • The Women of the Kalevala Chorus
Corey DiMario, *tenor guitar*

We have paired a traditional Norwegian carol about the heart always finding its way to the birthplace of Jesus during the Christmas season (text by Danish bishop Hans Adolph Brorson) with a Christmas psalm from Seglora, Sweden, that dates back to the Middle Ages.

This blessed day, which we now see
Descends to us from heaven.
May he be content with us, may he show himself,
For the joy and benefit of us all.
Yes, may the great Lord today
Save us from sin and sorrow.



37. HAN SKAL LEVE (MAY HE LIVE WELL)

David Coffin • The Kalevala Chorus

This traditional Danish toasting song celebrates long life and good cheer.

38. PAPA STOUR SWORD DANCE

Pinewoods Morris Men • Andrea Larson, *fiddle*

This ancient tune from the Shetland Islands is like no other. Legend has it that the tune was to be played for a sword dance when Odin invited seven Norse gods to dance. Each of the gods held the end of another's sword while dancing in a circle—a powerful representation of peace.

39. SÅ MÖRK ÄR NATTEN (SO DARK IS THE NIGHT)

Andrea Larson, *fiddle* • Sunniva Brynnel, *accordion* • The Kalevala Chorus
The Solstånd Children

Written by early-20th-century composer Carl Bertil Agnestic, this popular carol honors St. Lucia, who comes to lighten the darkness of the long Swedish midwinter with her luminous crown of candles. The text of verse three is by Megan Henderson, as is the choral arrangement.

All Sing! Verse Three

Lucia comes to light our way
with peace and gladsome tidings.
Her loving presence is a sign
of all good things abiding.



40. NO KOMA GUDS ENGLAR (NOW COME THE ANGELS OF GOD)

Sunniva Brynnel, *voice* • Loretta Kelley, *hardingfele* • Lydia Ievins, *nyckelharpa*
David Coffin, *tenor recorder* • The Kalevala Chorus

Nineteenth-century theologian Elias Blix (1836-1902), considered the Poet of Nordland, translated the definitive Norwegian version of the Old Testament and composed this hymn, which is noted as the first from Norway ever sung in a church. Robert Lockwood wrote the choral arrangement.

41. SOLSTICE PSALM

The Kalevala Chorus • Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

Adapting Psalm 103 in the *Pratum Spirituale* by composer Mogens Pederson (1585-1623), Megan Henderson wrote a new text for the Revels musicians to celebrate the winter solstice.

42. MUMMERS' PLAY

A mash-up of characters and plot from Shakespeare's Danish drama presented in traditional mummers' play style.

Room: Christopher Kandra
Hamlet: Ewan Swanson
Claudius: Matt Winberg
Gertrude: Noni Lewis

Ophelia: Sarah Morrisette
Dragon: Alexander Hall
Troll: Sam Colton



43. PUER NOBIS

Michael Chase, Heather Mell, Lakshmi Nayak, Eric Schneider, Yasmin Tal,
Simon Horsburgh and Melissa Robie, *handbells* • The Company

George Emlen pulled out all the musical stops in his arrangement of this centuries-old tune from the ancient Finnish songbook *Piae Cantiones* (1582). The English words were written by Susan Cooper in 1993 for Revels.

44. THE SHORTEST DAY

David Coffin

This poem, written for Revels by Susan Cooper, in 1977 has become a traditional part of *Christmas Revels* performances in each of the nine Revels cities around the country.

All Shout!

WELCOME YULE!



45. THE SUSSEX MUMMERS' CAROL

The Company Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

This traditional carol is sung as an ending to the folk play in Horsham, Sussex. In all American cities where *Revels* is performed annually, audiences join in at the conclusion of each performance. The brass arrangement is by Brian Holmes, with descant and third verse harmonization by Ralph Vaughn Williams.

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 -
gold chain 'round her breast; Where -
cat - tle and your store; The
e'er his bo - dy rides or walks, his God must be his
e'er her bo - dy sleeps or wakes, Lord send her soul to
Lord in - crease you 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!

Endirinn!

Participants

Master of Ceremonies

David Coffin

The Players

Christopher Kandra
Noni Lewis
Sarah Morrisette
Ewan Swanson
Matt Winberg

Kalevala Chorus

Lyle Bibler*
Nick Browne*
Michael Chase
Ned Cheesman
Dennis Coakley*
Sam Colton
Lynne Dichter*
Karen Edwards*
Haley Fisher
Mae Fuchs
Monique Fuguet
Nicole Galland
Ned Gulley*
Alexander Hall*
Sarah Higginbotham*
Simon Horsburgh
Mac Howland
Jamie Jaffe
Liluye Jhala
Matthew Johnsen
Heather Koerber Nunes*
Noni Lewis
Ken Mattsson*
Heather Mell
Sherry Merrick
Aleka Molokova*
Lakshmi Nayak*
Jake Nunes
Jennie O'Brien
Margy O'Donnell
Haris Papamichael*
Melissa Robie*
Eric Schneider*
Div Slomin
Nora Susana Sotomayor
Vijaya Sundaram
Yasmin Tal
Kirsten Wiberg*

*Northern Lights Dancers

Solstånd Children

Mira Bakshi
Aidan Buck
Cole Davis
Perla Diaz
Emily Fish
Sophia George
Anneliese Story Goldsmith
Isabel Jackson
Molly Jackson
Theo Price Lynn
Kesariya Nallari-Jhala
Nora O'Brien
Maisie Rounds
Matthew Salgado
Theo Sheldon
Nina Zalosh

Karin's Sisters

Annamarie Pluhar
Catherine E. S. Springer

Midnight Sun Mimmers

Sam Colton
Christopher Kandra
Alexander Hall
Noni Lewis
Sarah Morrisette
Ewan Swanson
Matt Winberg

Briljant String Band

Sunniva Brynnel
David Coffin
Corey DiMario
Lydia Ievins
Loretta Kelley
Andrea Larson
Merja Soria
accordion, harp, voice
recorder, voice,
gemshorn
double bass, guitar
nyckelharpa,
5-string fiddle
fiddle, hardingfele
fiddle
kantele, voice,
percussion

Pages

Sam North
Lillie Salgado
Maxwell Sheldon
Colette Dasse
Kiliana Van Dussen
Kira Young

Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

Dan Davis
Tom Duprey
Richard Hudson
Greg Gettel
Michael Weinstein
Philip Swanson
Kenneth Amis
Abe Finch
trumpet
trumpet
horn
trumpet
horn
trombone
tuba
percussion

Pinewoods Morris Men

Jerry Callen
David Conant
Michael Friedman
Fred Gerhard
Dan Groher
Peter Kruskal
Joe Kynoch
Chris O'Brien
Dave Overbeck
Sam Overbeck
Steve Roderick
Dan Rosen
Dan Sheldon
Nathaniel Smith
Hamish Swanson



Artistic Staff

Stage Director: Patrick Swanson
Music Director: Megan Henderson
Set Design: Jeremy Barnett
Costume Design: Heidi A. Hermiller
Lighting Design: Jeff Adelberg
Sound Design: Bill Winn
Projection Design: Ari Herzig
Choreography: Annamarie Pluhar,
Catherine E.S. Springer
Puppeteer: Mark Ward
Program Notes: Patrick Swanson,
Megan Henderson
Script by Patrick Swanson

Production Team

Production Manager: Lynda Johnson
Production Stage Manager:
L. Arkansas Light
Stage Manager and Props Coordinator:
Elizabeth Locke
Assistant Stage Manager:
Gillian E. Stewart
Technical Director/Master Carpenter:
Andy Barnett
Crew Chief: Andrew Hebert-Johnson
Master Electrician: Steven McIntosh
Assistant Master Electrician: Whitney
Brady-Guzmán
Children's Stage Manager:
Lynda Johnson
Children's Dress Room Manager:
Mari Young
Backstage Coordinator: Susan Only
RAP Wrangler: Lillian Gomes

Assistant to the Production Manager:

Linda Martin
Assistant Children's Stage Manager:
Lauren Curtis, Isabel Salgado,
Emi Van Dussen



Crew Members: Theo Bester, Ben
Horsburgh, John Recroft, Hamish
Swanson

Costume Production: Costume Works

Costume Manager: Lynn Jeffery

Wardrobe Manager: Susan Hunziker

Scenic Charge Artist: Gina Smothers

Carpenter: Louis Schoenthal

ASL Interpreter: Joan Wattman

Dance Captains: Karen Edwards,
Tom Roby

Raffle Manager: Leah Hoover

Revels Volunteer Manager: Jeanne Kelly

Revels Records Sales Coordinators:
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Design: Carol Lasky, Cahoots Design

Illustrator: Ilona Partenan

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Elena Davis

Val Gomes

Ian Horsburgh

Sophie O'Keefe

Sharada Sundaram-Senders

Mia Snorek-Yates

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Daniels, Amy Davis, Lance Davis,
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Goldsmith, Soren Goldsmith, Carol
Anne Grotrian, David Grotrian, Peter
Hamlin, Arthur Hardigg, Ruth
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Huddlston, Susan Hunziker, Ryan
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Martin-Joy, Susan Maycock,



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Pope, Kerry Read, Allen Reedy, Aliénor
Rice, Anne-Christine Rice, Susie Rioff,
Connie Roberts, Erika Roderick,
Michelle Roderick, Molly Roderick,
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Phyllis Stefanov-Wagner, Emma
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Vail, Bradley Van Dussen, Monika Van
Dussen, Dawn Van Patten, Katie
Vogele-Bongiovanni, David Walsh,
Belinda Watt, Tom Yelton, Sally
Zimmerman and all the volunteers
who make *The Christmas Revels*
happen!



In Memoriam:

A REVELS SALUTE TO NANCY HANSSEN



We recently lost our dear friend Nancy Hanssen. Nancy was one of the co-founders of our original volunteer steering committee and was the backstage volunteer manager for *The Christmas Revels* for years. Even after she stepped down from the role, she continued to be an active volunteer—overseeing security backstage, building props, working at our mailing parties and helping whenever we needed her. What's more, Nancy performed in many of our Spring and Summer Revels as a morris dancer with Rose Galliard.

Nancy, we miss you.

The Christmas Revels raffle fundraiser

Win our grand prize:

Highlights of Scandinavia: Sweden, Norway & Denmark

Courtesy of our benefactor partner:



GRAND PRIZE: Travel from Nordic cities to otherworldly fjords on this Scandinavian tour for two. Experience the charms of three captivating cities—Stockholm, Bergen, and Copenhagen—all with an expert Tour Director to guide you through Scandinavia's best sites. This ten-day vacation includes 8 nights in handpicked hotels, breakfast daily, private motor coach transportation, your choice of tour dates, and more.*

HOW TO ENTER: Fill out the enclosed ticket stub with your full name and email address. Return the stub with your payment to one of Revels' Red Apron Volunteers or to a staff member at the table in the lobby. Each raffle ticket is \$10, and you can enter as many times as you wish! All proceeds benefit Revels, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Drawing will be held January 8, 2019 and the winner will be notified via email. The retail value of the prize package is estimated at \$5,800.

*Prize includes the base tour valued at \$5,800 for two travelers with a double-occupancy room, not including flights. Insurance, extensions, and optional excursions are not included, but available for purchase. Tour must depart before December 31, 2019. Must reserve by March 31, 2019. Employees of EF Education First International Ltd. and its subsidiaries, EF Go Ahead Tours, and Revels, Inc. are not eligible to win. To view complete Terms & Conditions, visit goaheadtours.com/terms. The tour operator for your trip is EF Education First International Ltd. CST 2060043-20.

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Featured Artists



PATRICK SWANSON *Artistic Director* began his career in London as an actor at the Arts Theatre in the West End. Following a European tour with the La MaMa Plexus Troupe in 1969, he moved to New York and received his world theater education as a resident actor at La MaMa E.T.C. His numerous directing projects include opera, ensemble, music-theater and circus. He was a founding stage director of Circus Flora. Paddy taught acting and improvisation at the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (L.A.M.D.A.), the London Drama Centre and New York University. He served as artistic director of the Castle Hill Festival at Castle Hill in Ipswich, MA, directing and co-producing opera and theater works, including the premieres of Julie Taymor's *Liberty's Taken* and Peter Sellars' production of *Così fan Tutte*. Locally he has directed for the Spoleto Festival USA; Gloucester Stage, the Alley Theatre Houston, Charles Playhouse, as well as numerous productions in the UK and Europe. His Actor's Shakespeare Project production of Shakespeare's *King Lear* with Alvin Epstein was nominated for three 2006 Elliot Norton Awards and subsequently transferred to Off-Broadway. Paddy's most recent acting role was as Father Jack in Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* at Gloucester Stage. He currently researches, writes and directs all Cambridge Revels scripts and serves as consultant to the other eight Revels production companies performing in the US.



MEGAN HENDERSON *Music Director* has lived in the Boston area since coming to the Walnut Hill School in 1976 from Altoona, PA. She graduated from the New England Conservatory with a degree in Piano Performance and is an active collaborative pianist and piano teacher. As a pianist, Megan has appeared on the Winsor Music Chamber Series and Music on Norway Pond. She has sung with the Early Music ensemble, Schola Contorum of Boston since its founding in 1982 and has appeared on many recordings with the Boston Camerata as a singer and keyboard player. Megan's passion for shape note and world folk music was ignited in her first session as co-leader with Village Harmony Summer Camp over 25 years ago. She recently toured the UK and Europe as a singer with Northern Harmony, a semi-professional ensemble made up of Village Harmony alumni/ae and leaders. She first performed with Revels as a pianist in the production of Noye's *Fludde* and was the pianist in the 2014 Victorian *Christmas Revels* production. She is currently the organist and choir director at Payson Park Church in Belmont.



DAVID COFFIN *Songleader & Musician* has performed every year with *Christmas Revels* since 1980. Widely known for his rich baritone voice, David performs on an impressive array of musical instruments, including concertinas, recorders, penny-whistles, bombards, gemshorns, cornamuse, shawm, rauschpfeife—or, as he explains, “generally anything that requires a lot of hot air.” At the heart of David's work is his extensive collection of songs from the maritime tradition. During the school year, David performs his highly acclaimed School Enrichment Programs throughout New England as Revels Artist-in-Residence. In the summer months, he can be found on a boat taking over 8,000 underserved children to George's and Spectacle Islands in Boston Harbor. He is also the Director of Narration for Boston Harbor Cruises. davidcoffin.com



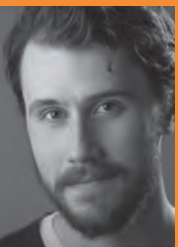
SUNNIVA BRYNNEL *Musician & Vocalist* is a Swedish accordionist, singer and composer of folk music and jazz. She comes from a lineage of seven generations of female musicians and her mother, a Swedish folk singer, is one of her major influences. Sunniva studied Irish Gaelic singing and music at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama in Dublin and jazz performance at Birka FHSK outside Östersund, Sweden. Living in the snowy midlands by beautiful Lake Storsjön was an opportunity to immerse herself in Swedish folk music from County Jämtland. She received a BA with First Class Honours from England's Leeds College of Music and a Swedish music teaching degree from Gothenburg University. Sunniva was awarded the Albin Hagström Minnesfonds Scholarship for accordionists (Royal Academy in Stockholm) in 2017. She is currently based in Boston, having received her Master's of Music in Contemporary Improvisation from NEC. Her current projects include the Swedish/American band Night Tree (nighttreemusic.com) and her international quartet Sunniva Brynnel Group, which will release an all-originals album in February, 2019. sunnivabrynnel.com



COREY DIMARIO *Musician* is a prominent double-bass accompanist on the acoustic music scene who performs at major festivals and concert venues across North America, Europe and Australia. His diverse musical palette and energetic approach adds rock-solid, low-end accompaniment and driving rhythm to any musical situation. A founding member of the string-band sensation Crooked Still and the old-time, Scandinavian-style Brittany Haas/Dan Trueman Band, Corey has performed extensively with New England fiddler and singer Lissa Schneckenburger. Recently, he has appeared in the house band for Bela Fleck's New York Banjo Summit alongside banjoists Tony Trischka, Bill Keith, Pete Wernick, Eric Weissberg, Richie Stearns, Noam Pikely and the renowned Bela Fleck. A freelance musician in Brattleboro, VT, Corey received his undergraduate degree in Jazz Performance from NEC. He previously studied at the Eastman School of Music.



LYDIA IEVINS *Musician* plays nyckelharpa and five-string fiddle for Scandinavian and English Country dancing. Her absolute favorite thing about playing in either genre is the boundless opportunity to create rich harmonic lines. An avid dancer herself, she infuses her playing with rhythmic clarity and sensitive phrasing to produce irresistible dance music. Many of her recent projects—performing, teaching, recording—are collaborations with fiddle partner Andrea Larson, with whom she shared an intensive year abroad (2012–13) studying Swedish folk music at the Eric Sahlström Institute. Together they have developed Träd Weekend, a popular intensive workshop for Scandi-interested dance musicians. Lydia's recordings include *Fika* (2013) and *Trip to Tobo* (2012 EP) with Andrea Larson and *Northlands* (2010) with Bruce Sagan. Lydia earned a bronze Zorn medal in Sweden for her fiddling in the Uppland tradition; in 2017 the Lydia&Andrea duo was awarded a bronze medal for ensemble playing at Samspelshelgen in Sundsvall. She's excited about her brand new duo album with Helsinki-based pianist and composer Juha Kujanpää. lydia-andrea.com lydiamusic.org



CHRIS KANDRA *Actor* is thrilled to make his *Christmas Revels* debut. He has been seen in *Othello* and *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Classic Repertory Company, 2017-18 tour), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Gloucester Stage Company), *As You Like It* (Brown Box Theatre Project, 2018 tour) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Firehouse Theater Company). Chris hopes everyone enjoys the show and the wonderful chance to enjoy theatre and family this holiday season.



LORETTA KELLEY *Musician* has been performing on, teaching and writing about the Hardanger fiddle (hardingfele) for more than 30 years. She has appeared on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* and *American Radio Company*, as well as National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and *Performance Today*. Her 2006 recording with Andrea Hoag and Charlie Pilzer, *Hambo In the Snow: A Nordic Winter Celebration*, was nominated for a GRAMMY Award in the Best Traditional World Music Album category. Loretta is currently the president of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America.



ANDREA LARSON *Musician* fell in love with Swedish traditional music and dance on a magical bicycle tour of Scandinavia in 1994. Since then, this unique and enchanting genre has been the core of many of Andrea's artistic projects. Ask her about her favorites: the *slängpolskaprojekt* (what could be better than a dance that doesn't require knowing which foot you're on?) and her Practice Project (it really can be fun!). In 2012, she moved to Sweden for a year with music partner Lydia Ievins, where they discovered many wonderful traditions and produced *Trip to Tobo. Fika*, recorded the following year, is an aural homage to their experiences at the Eric Sahlström Institute in Tobo, Sweden. Together, Andrea and Lydia have shared their music for voice, fiddles and *nyckelharpa* along the Eastern Seaboard and the Midwestern US. Andrea is delighted to return to the Christmas Revels stage for her fourth production since her 2003 fiddling debut in the Scottish show for the Papa Stour sword dance. She lives in Richmond, VA with her husband, step-daughter and Welsh terrier, Jimmy.



NONI LEWIS *Actor* is a Welsh actress and voiceover artist based in Boston. Having spent many years as a stage and screen performer in the UK, she has recently escaped her confined-space voice acting home studio to appear in *Molly Sweeney*, *All In The Timing*, *God of Carnage* and *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*. Noni is beyond delighted to appear once again in the wonderful *Christmas Revels*! Previous credits include *Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit* (Aardman Animations/Dreamworks), poetry readings, plays and audiobooks for BBC Radio 4, *Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night* (Orange Tree Theatre, London) and *Odysseus's Journey* (Bristol Old Vic). Noni can be heard on radio and television commercials across the UK and internationally on websites, apps, computer games, audio trails, animations, in museums and even lifts (...or elevators). welshvoiceover.co.uk



SARAH MORRISETTE *Actor* is a Boston-based actor and educator who grew up on the Revels stage. Sarah earned her BFA in Acting from Ithaca College, where she began to explore her passion for using the arts to educate, build community and inspire social change. A 2015 intern at the *Centro de Teatro do Oprimido* (Center for Theatre of the Oppressed) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she immersed herself in the methodology of Augusto Boal. As a facilitator of Theatre of the Oppressed, Sarah has led workshops in Mozambique, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Chile and throughout the Northeastern US. Favorite theatre credits include: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Othello* (New Repertory Theatre/CRC), *Doubt* (Newton Nomadic Theatre), *As You Like It* (Ithaca Shakespeare Company) and *My Children! My Africa!* (Ithaca College). Sarah is the resident theatre teaching artist at Hyde Square Task Force, a community development organization in Jamaica Plain. She is also the Education Associate at New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, managing their educational touring company, Classic Repertory Company.



MERJA SORIA *Musician* performs the traditional music of her Finnish heritage. She combines the ancient *kantele* with the poignant sound of her voice to sing the haunting songs of Suomi (Finland). Merja's 2001 recording *Arctic Silence* is a selection of ancient Finnish folk songs, one of which was featured in the National Geographic Television's *Beyond the Movie: Lord of the Rings*. The inaugural artist in Finlandia Foundation's Performer of the Year touring program, she has been featured in *Who's Who in America* in 2003 and 2006. Merja has performed at the Los Angeles Music Center, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Toronto Centre for the Arts, the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College and many music festivals across the US and Europe. She received a Master's Degree in Music at Sibelius Academy in Finland and has taught Finnish music at San Diego State University and University of San Diego.



JEREMY BARNETT *Set Designer* is a Detroit-based scenic designer and professor of theatre at Oakland University in Southeast Michigan. Boston credits include work for Opera Boston, Boston Midsummer Opera, The Opera Institute at Boston University, Mssng Lnks Inc., Gloucester Stage Company and Stoneham Theatre Company. Jeremy has assisted designers on productions at The Lyric Opera of Chicago, The New York Philharmonic, The Pasadena Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, Philadelphia Theatre Company and Huntington Theatre Company. He holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University and a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and he has studied fine art in Ukraine, Italy and Zimbabwe. Jeremy co-founded Amarant Design Collective, an installation art organization that produces site-specific work in repurposed spaces in and around Detroit.



MATT WINBERG *Actor* is delighted to be making his *Christmas Revels* debut. Since relocating to Boston from his hometown of Ithaca, NY in 2016, he has appeared in *Doubt*, *All in the Timing*, and *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (Newton Nomadic Theater Company). Other credits include: *Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, and *Knight of the Burning Pestle* (Ithaca Shakespeare Company); *Sight Unseen* (Readers' Theatre of Ithaca); *Good and The Bourgeois Gentleman* (Cornell University Schwartz Center) and *A Christmas Carol* and *1776* (New Mercury Theatre of New York). He has also appeared in numerous corporate films and improvisational HR training workshops with Cornell Interactive Theatre Ensemble.

Matt received his acting training at various studios in New York and Chicago and as a member of Icarus Theatre Ensemble in Ithaca. He also has a background in video production with a focus on short-form documentary and educational films.



HEIDI HERMILLER *Costume Designer* has designed *Christmas Revels* costumes for 25 years. She loves the challenges, research, insanity, and outright joy of designing costumes for Artistic Director Paddy Swanson, which often include pirates, dragons, trolls, killer fish, tiny ballerinas, incredible singers, beautiful dancers...anywhere, anyone, or anything to bring The Revels magic to life! In addition to her work with Revels, Heidi designs Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals, which will include real women in the cast for the first time next year. She would like to thank her husband John for his love, patience and understanding when asked to please take the cow out of the dryer. Heidi created the costumes for the 2018 Revels Summer Theater Workshop's immigration show written and produced by Lynda Johnson. As usual, she is the tall one at the back of the room.



JEFF ADELBERG *Lighting Design* has designed over 250 productions, including nine *Christmas Revels* here at Sanders Theatre. Recent work: *Trouble in Tahiti* and *Arias and Barcarolles* (Boston Lyric Opera); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (IRNE Award), *Hand to God* (Speakeasy Stage Co.); *Man of La Mancha* (New Repertory Theatre); *Edward II* (Elliot Norton Award), *God's Ear*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Actors' Shakespeare Project); *Being Earnest*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *She Loves Me* (Stoneham Theatre); *Frankenstein*, *Constellations* (Underground Railway Theatre); *Macbeth*, *Death and the Maiden* and *Julius Caesar* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.); *Finish Line* (Boston Theatre Co.); *Rhinoceros* (Playwrights' Theatre); *Gloria*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (The Gamm Theatre); *Beckett Women: Ceremonies of Departure* (Poets' Theatre at Farkas Hall and MAC Belfast). Jeff attended the University of Connecticut and teaches at Boston College, MIT, and Brandeis University. jeffadelberg.com



ARI HERZIG *Projection Designer* has designed projections/video for ArtsEmerson (Kiss, Mala, Sugar), Speakeasy Stage Company (The Bridges of Madison County, Tribes), Lyric Stage Company (Fast Company, Dear Elizabeth, Chinglish), New Repertory Theatre (The Snow Queen), Poets' Theatre (Albatross), Huntington Theatre Company (Ryan Landry's M) and Revels, Inc. (Christmas Revels 2016). Recipient of an IRNE Award for Projection Design for a Small Stage in 2016 for Albatross at the New Repertory Theatre, Ari works as the Lighting and Projection Supervisor for the Office of the Arts at Emerson College. Ari graduated from Emerson College with a BFA in Theatre Design/Technology. ariherzig.com



ILONA PARTANEN *Illustrator* enjoys creating organic shapes, vibrant color combinations and pattern surfaces that enliven books, magazine articles, textiles, wallpapers, posters and vinyl covers. Based in Helsinki, Finland, she is a graduate of Aalto University School of Art, Design & Architecture and Lahti Institute of Design, as well as a member of the street art collectives Multicoloured Dreams and G-rex. Many of her paintings weave different stories together, some layers more visible than others. The leaping stag Ilona created with Cahoots Design for Revels is inspired by old, imaginative folklore stories, mystical dreams and surrounding nature. @kedaali ilonaillustrations.com



ANNAMARIE PLUHAR *Choreographer* first saw the Norwegian folk dance *Telespringar* at an International Dance Camp in 1991 and immediately fell in love with it. A student of Karin Brennesvik (a dancer in many Revels performances), Annamarie has traveled frequently to Norway for local competitions, once winning first prize. She was president of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America from 2002-2007. In the rest of life, she is president and founder of Sharing Housing, Inc. and the author of *Sharing Housing, A Guidebook for Finding and Keeping Good Housemates*. A noted coach on the use of digital devices (*Patient, Sympathetic Coaching*), Annamarie lives in Dummerston, VT, with one two-legged and two four-legged housemates.



CATHIE SPRINGER *Choreographer* has been Artistic Director of the Bosilek Bulgarian Folk Dance Ensemble in New York City since 1981. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the School for Teachers of Amateur Folk Dance Ensembles in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Cathie first met the gorgeous dances of Telemark in 1986 and has attended dance and music workshops in the US and Norway ever since. She is Chair and Dance Class Coordinator of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America's annual music and dance workshop and editor of the HFAA's quarterly journal, *Sound Post*. In life before retirement, Cathie was an Executive Assistant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette investment bank in New York. She is currently a gardener for clients along the East Coast. Cathie has danced in the *Christmas Revels* in New York, Washington, DC and Hanover, NH. She is honored to once again follow in the footsteps of her dear mentor Karin Brennesvik in this year's show.



BILL WINN *Sound Engineer* has toured all over the world working with many of music's top acts such as Whitney Houston, Herbie Hancock and Joni Mitchell. He has designed and implemented sound for the *DC Jazz Festival*, 2004–2014; *Barbara Streisand Live at Shrine Auditorium*, 2000 DNC and *Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition*, 1987 to the present. His television-broadcast sound and mixing work has included the 2017 Emmy Award-nominated *Front Row Boston* (WGBH featuring Sean Lennon and Les Claypool), *The United Nation's International Jazz Day at the White House* (ABC, 2016) and *White House Tribute to Thelonious Monk* (2008). Bill has been working with Revels since the 1995. He met Revels founder Jack Langstaff and former music director George Emlen while working on several Revels recordings with John Newton of Soundmirror. In 1999 Revels sound designer Berred Ouellette passed on the task of creating the Revels sound to Bill, who has been sitting at the board in orchestra row V every December since.

TAK! Thanks so much to Sunniva Brynnel, Loretta Kelley, Lydia Ievins, Andrea Larson, Robert Lockwood, Allen LeVines, Elizabeth Fulford and Kirsten Wiberg for wonderful repertoire guidance. Ken Mattsson, Cecilia Franzen, Birte Jackson, Stine O'Brien, Kjersti Rosen, Jared Bibler and Stefán Sigurjónsson, many thanks to you for your patient diction coachings. Thanks to Sherry Merrick for the use of her *kantele*, Nils Fredland, thank you for recommending this band of instrumental masters (and mistresses) and to Revels North for the loan of your puppet. Robert Lockwood and Linn Andrea Fulsguth, thank you kindly for your beautiful arrangements. Thanks to our dear friends Susie Rioff, Louise Pascale, Shippen Page and Anne St. Goar, and to Rachel Solem and the Irving House for providing housing for our performers. Thanks to Sherry Merrick for her invaluable assistance in numerous aspects of the Nordic *Christmas Revels* production. Thanks to the Boston Chapter of the Swedish Women's Educational Association International, Inc. for their sponsorship of *The Christmas Revels* Children's Edition Program Book this year, to Finlandia Foundation National for its support of our Finnish tradition-bearer, Merja Soria, and to Cahoots Design for working their design magic with both program books. Thanks to the Honorary Consuls of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, the people of the Scandinavian Cultural Center in West Newton, MA and the people of the Finnish Center of Saima Park for your generosity throughout this project. Thanks to Cameron Porter and Ben Soule for your help in the warehouse. Thanks to Nilah MacDonald and Clark Topper who annually find and package just the right Revels ornament.



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A TIP OF THE HORN TO TWO RETIRING TRUMPETERS

KEN PULLIG, a founding member of the Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble, has stepped down from his post of First Trumpet after 47 years. A wonderful player and colleague, Ken has also been a fantastic arranger for the Revels stage.

GREG HOPKINS has also been a wildly colorful trumpet player in the CSBE for decades. His brass arrangement of *Right Place, Wrong Time* in the 2016 Acadian/Cajun *Christmas Revels* will go down in history.

George Emlen, former Revels music director, lauds these two icons: "I was always amazed that these consummate jazz musicians could turn on their straight classical chops for Revels. It's true that sometimes the ornaments sounded more like Berklee than Buxtehude, but they always strove for that clean, bright but warm, satisfying trumpet sound, such an essential ingredient in the Revels secret sauce."

Thanks so much for your decades of fine work (and play), Ken and Greg!



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Mission

Revels engages today's audiences in theatrical and musical experiences that bring the world's cultural traditions and celebrations to life.

The Christmas Revels is also presented in Tacoma, WA; Portland, OR; Oakland and Santa Barbara, CA; Boulder, CO; Houston, TX; Hanover, NH; and Washington, DC.

Revels was founded in Cambridge, MA in 1971 and established as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization in 1974. *The Christmas Revels* program ©2017 Revels, Inc., "Christmas Revels," "Sea Revels," "Midsummer Revels," and "Revels" are ® service marks of Revels, Inc., Watertown, MA. All rights reserved.

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More information:
Revels.org/Audition



FINLAND FINDS ITS NATIONAL IDENTITY IN FOLKLORE

A NOTE ON THE

Kalevala

Until the appearance of the *Kalevala*, Finland had a major identity problem.

Dominated by Sweden for 600 years and ceded to Russia in 1808, it had a language whose use was limited to peasants and an obscure folklore tradition. Between 1828 and 1844, the doctor-folklorist Elias Lönnrot made 12 research trips through Finland and the Karelian Autonomous Soviet Republic, collecting oral folksongs and stories from villages that he could often visit only on foot or on skis. Generations of “runo-singers” had passed down a mass of mythic material, centered around three major Finnish heroes: the sage and singer Väinämöinen, the adventurer Lemminkäinen and the smith Ilmarinen. Lönnrot wove all this into a long narrative poem that he published as the *Kalevala*.

Generations of “runo-singers” had passed down a mass of mythic material, centered around three major Finnish heroes: the sage and singer Väinämöinen, the adventurer Lemminkäinen and the smith Ilmarinen.

The *Kalevala* has had a huge influence on the development of the Finns’ sense of national individuality and pride in their own language and has led to a sort of golden age of myth-inspired work by major poets, artists, sculptors, not to mention the tone-poems of the composer Jean Sibelius. It has been fully translated into 35 languages, and partially into 100. Our very free Revels adaptation of extracts from the poem is based on the 1907 translation by the Englishman William Forsell Kirby and the much more engaging 1988 translation by Eino Friberg, who was born in Finland in 1901 and educated at Perkins School for the Blind, Boston University and Harvard.

Susan Cooper

Image: Akseli Gallen-Kallela, “Kalevala, Rune I,” 1920.





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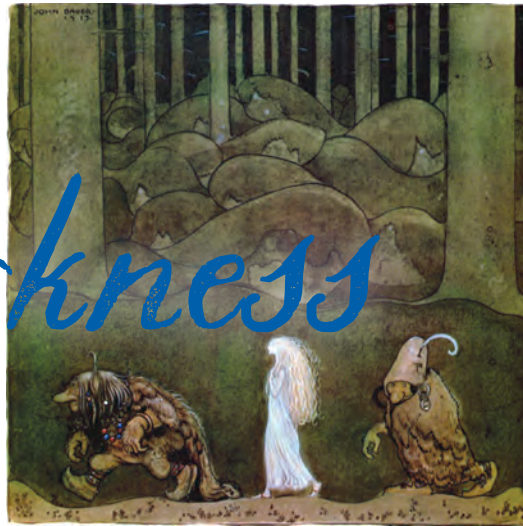
THE WARMTH OF

Darkness

Imagine living in a place where the sun fails to peek above the horizon for three of the coldest months of the year. Such is the case for the hardy souls who live in the northernmost parts of Scandinavia. Further south in Reykjavík, there are about four hours of light each day—plenty of sun for an invigorating dip in the plentiful geothermal waters of Iceland! Here in Cambridge, we love the extra hour of sleep when we turn the clocks back in November, but comfort comes at a price and the groaning begins when darkness comes an hour earlier.

Last summer, I took a solo trip to Iceland and wondered if loneliness would set in at any point. The sun dipped below the horizon around 12:30 am, but it never really got dark outside and I remained surprisingly content with the company of birds chirping around the clock. Later in the summer, I spent time in Downeast Maine and found that the longing for company came with the fading of the light. This was a surprising revelation and got me thinking about the varied human responses to living in a darkened world.

In the Nordic countries, some surely suffer from the perennial lack of winter light. However, the extreme conditions of the Nordic seasons have also forged incredible human resourcefulness and creativity. This is evident in the centuries of music, dance, myth, poetry, epic storytelling and ritual produced by the resilient Norsesanders. Clearly, there is also an increased sensitivity to, and respect for, the natural world. Goddesses, gods, an immense mythical tree, dragons, seers, sorcerers, shamans, elves, powerful witches, rune stones, and harp-playing men with supernatural powers are woven into the fabric of the ancient Nordic cultures. The



hidden people, or *huldufólk*, of Iceland have even made headlines in national newspapers and radio stations! It's been reported that inexplicable malfunctions in drilling gear have caused various construction projects to grind to a halt. It was suggested that these sites may have been inhabited by the hidden folk and that they were displeased with the intrusion. Mechanical problems mysteriously ceased when these projects were relocated. Make of this what you will!

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One unique benefit of these arctic winters is the magic of the Northern Lights. Some asked if I'd seen them last summer in Iceland. Well, sadly I did not! It's easy to forget that an ebony sky is necessary for such a magnificent phenomenon to occur. When the winter solstice arrives, the return of the light is especially cherished in the northern latitudes. In Sweden, the darkness is illuminated by a child wearing a candlelit crown to honor St. Lucia and the beginning of Yuletide. Festive fires and ceremonial Yule logs are ignited. Days of feasting celebrate the slow but sure return of the light.

Many people are imaginatively making the most of the diminished winter light in the vicinity of the pristine Arctic Circle. Giant mirrors, light boxes and even light cafes are spreading their way across the Nordic countries. Ice and snow hotels are stunning in their otherworldly light and intricate designs. Imagine snuggling into your ice bed under a pile of reindeer pelts as you see your breath crystallizing before your eyes!

The cold and dark of winter can be an especially warm time for all of us as we fill our homes with candlelight, stoke the hearth fires and gather with friends and family. We break out the snowshoes, skis and snowboards and enjoy the sparkling light that graces the snow. The stars and planets are gorgeous in the night sky, even in the city. The tempo of the rushing world slows down and we often surrender to putting on a few extra pounds. *Kosor koselig, hygge, notalegt, kodikas, mysig*...these are the words for "cozy" in the countries we will visit tonight. May this cozy warmth find its way from us to you and yours this season!

Megan Henderson

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Saturday, March 2 at 7:30pm

Appalachian music comes alive with the talented banjo player, fiddler and vocalist Jake Blount. Joined by virtuosic violinist Libby Weitnauer, Jake will hold you spellbound with material as accessible and affecting as an old song.

MAEVE GILCHRIST

Saturday, April 27 at 7:30pm

Making her triumphant return to Revels FRINGE is harpist Maeve Gilchrist! She performed with us at our first FRINGE event with Galician piper Carlos Núñez. Rooted in the traditions of her native Scotland, Maeve has taken the music of the traditional lever harp to the outer limits. This FRINGE Concert is one of the first performances of her new solo show. Don't miss it!



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WHAT ARE THOSE WONDERFUL SOUNDS?



MEET THE

Northlands

INSTRUMENTS



The First Kantele

In Finland they say that the first *kantele* was made from the bones of a fish, and the strings—from the hair of young maidens. And when the first *kantele* was played for the first time, the sound was so beautiful that all living things started to cry, and their tears rolled into the ocean, and when they touched the water of the sea, they turned into beautiful blue pearls.

~ Merja Soria



The *nyckelharpa* is the national instrument of Sweden and was first depicted in a carving over a church doorway from around 1350. It has 16 strings: 3 melody strings and 1 drone string that are played with a bow, and 12 sympathetic (resonance) strings, altogether encompassing a 3-octave range. My *nyckelharpa* has 37 wooden keys (*nyckel* means "key"), each one playing a single note on a single string. There are about 10,000 *nyckelharpa* players in Sweden today and maybe around 200 in the US, according to the American Nyckelharpa Association. My *nyckelharpa* was made in 2007 by Harry Hedbom in Karlholmsbruk, Uppland, Sweden. ~ Lydia Ievins

The *Hardanger fiddle* (or *hardingfele*) is unique to southern and western Norway. In addition to its ordinary complement of four upper strings, the Hardanger fiddle has four or five sympathetic strings that run beneath the fingerboard to increase its sonority. The upper strings are usually tuned in intervals different from those of the violin. There are some 20 different tunings, each based on the key and the mood of the piece. The instrument itself is richly ornamented with rose painting and inlay, and the scroll is usually cut in the shape of a lion's head. The oldest surviving instrument was the work of Olav Jaastad (c. 1650), from the Hardanger district of Norway. ~ Toby Weinberg



Image: Karl Anders Ekman, "Väinämöinen Stringing his Kantele," 1855.

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Dear Friends (*Kære venner*),

It is with great joy and some surprise that I welcome you to this year's celebration of the shortest day and the season that surrounds it! Born in Denmark and coming to my first Revels in Cambridge as an audience member in 2004, I never imagined a community like this one. And in these last years, **I have deeply felt the affirming powers of the friendships and the village that we create here, together.**

I am thrilled that you are here this year joining with this audience and with our crew and cast of tradition-bearers, professionals and volunteers. We all come bringing our contributions and, with some expert guidance, create an entity that is greater than the sum of its parts. Thank you for being a key element in this magic!

This year at Revels we have directed our attention to strengthening our existing relationships, infrastructure and commitment to our mission of engaging audiences in bringing tradition to life. We have forged new relationships and tried new things. **Thank you for coming with us and supporting us as we stretch our boundaries.**

Speaking of support, we are fortunate to have financial support in the form of a donor matching challenge from **The Clark Charitable Trust**; it doubles the impact of new donations as well as increased renewal donations to Revels up to \$10,000! Please help us make the most of this generous gift and ensure the continued existence of this wonderful event and community by making a donation.

This last year has been a moving one for me at Revels. I have come back to the songs and traditions of my mother's family and my childhood and watched my 86-year-old mother volunteer for Revels for the first time, coaching the children's chorus as they learned the impossible Danish language. I thank you all for another wonderful year!

Mange tak...and welcome Jul!

Stine O'Brien

Stine O'Brien
Chair, Board of Directors

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In Memoriam: DAVID GAY



We pay tribute to our good friend and colleague David Gay, who passed away last year. David was the inspiring, mischievous and much beloved music director of Revels North (based in White River Junction, VT) for many years. He taught and led his musicians with humor, trust, respect and love. David's generous heart, spirit and quirky wit brought so much to this world. His close

friends are quick to say that he was deeply connected to the mystical beings, cycles and realms that often elude us mere mortals. How fitting, then, that David had a bumper sticker on his car that read: "Meddle not in the affairs of dragons, for you are crispy and taste good with ketchup."

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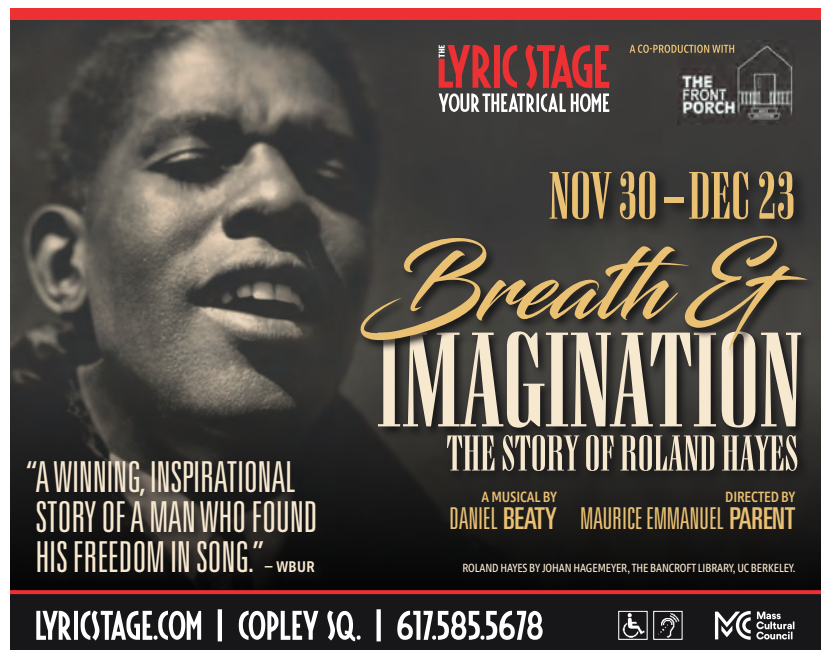
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2018
2019

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**Han Tol, recorder &
Boreas Quartett Bremen**

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2019 | 7:30PM

**Jordi Savall, director &
Le Concert des Nations**

Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, Cambridge

FRIDAY | MARCH 15, 2019 | 8PM

Benjamin Alard, harpsichord & organ

First Lutheran Church, Boston

SATURDAY | APRIL 6, 2019 | 8PM

BEMF Orchestra

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational

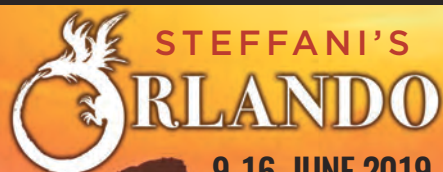
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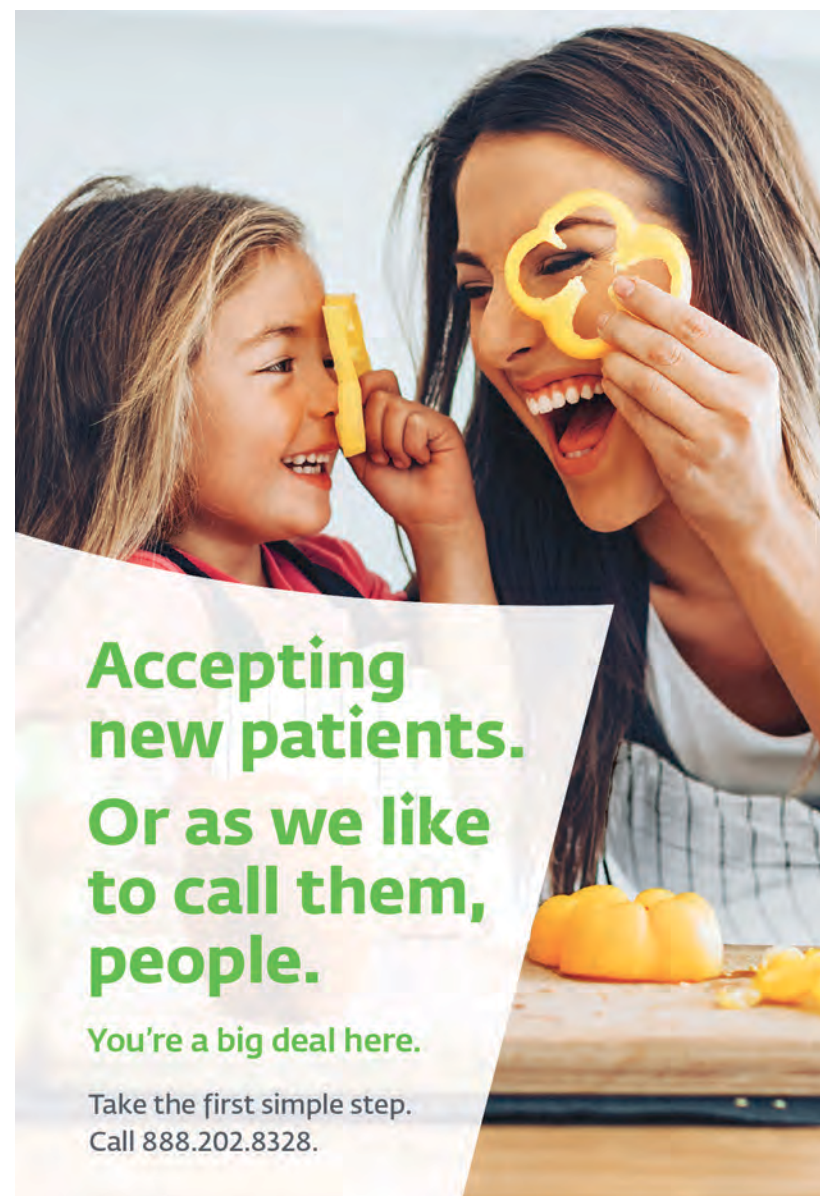


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Emilie D. Steele
December 23 at 5:30 pm

Stine and Chris O'Brien
December 26 at 3:00 pm

Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Greer
December 26 at 7:30 pm

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December 27 at 3:00 pm

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CHRISTMAS REVELS AUDITIONS

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SPRING PUB SING

Location & Date TBA

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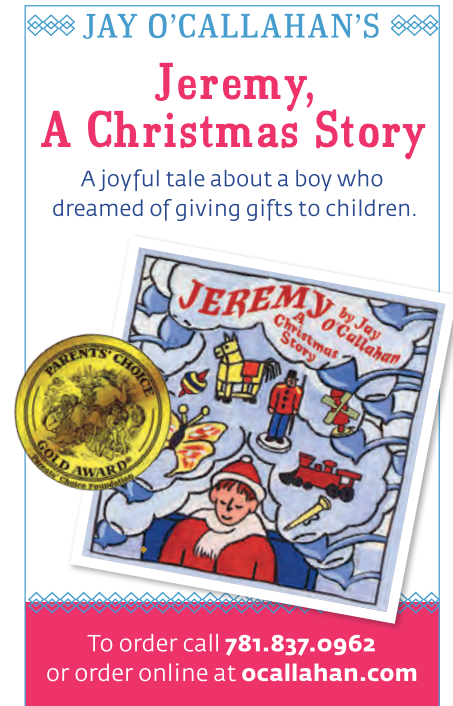


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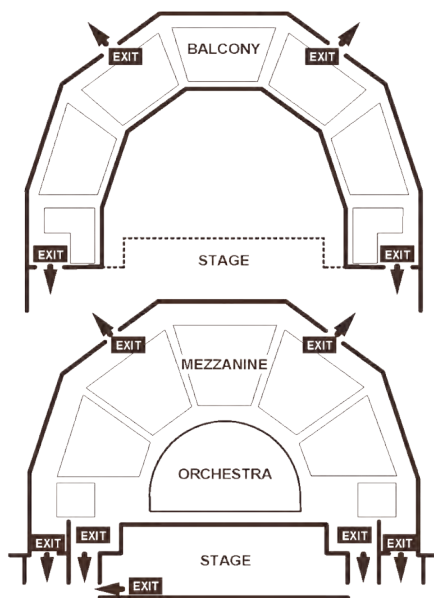
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