

The 37th Annual Production of

# THE Christmas Revels®

In Celebration  
Of the Winter Solstice

Patrick Swanson, Director  
George Emlen, Music Director  
Lynda Johnson, Co-Production Manager  
Virginia Morton, Co-Production Manager

December 14th – 30th, 2007  
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University

WITH

THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS

LIBANA

DAVID COFFIN

DEBRA WISE\*

PETRE PETROV

MLADOST FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

THE VILLAGE BAND

THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

THE KUKERI MUMMERS

PINEWOODS MORRIS MEN

THE LORD OF THE DANCE



\*by special arrangement with Underground Railway Theater

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Sanders Theatre Box Office

*"World Class! A wonder to behold...  
a globe-circling sound" -The Boston Globe*

# LIBANA



Illuminating the creativity, vision and spirit of  
the world's women through music and dance

## IN CONCERT!

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 8 PM**  
First Church Congregational  
Cambridge, MA

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 PM**  
Follen U.U. Church  
Lexington, MA

Libana CDs available  
in lobby at the Revels  
merchandise table

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[libanainc@aol.com](mailto:libanainc@aol.com) • 800-997-7757

## REVELS

*Building tradition through music, dance and drama*

Dear Friends,

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. After all, it isn't a show without an audience. As you settle into your seats, know that there are people in nine states across the country all coming to The Christmas Revels. In each of the 78 performances people will join you in singing "The Sussex Mummers Carol," dancing the "Lord of the Dance," watching the ancient mummers tradition, and hearing Susan Cooper's moving poem "The Shortest Day." The context for the shows will vary as our Revels companies explore Scandinavia, Appalachia, the Slavic countries, Ireland, Medieval, Elizabethan and 19th century England, but the intent remains the same. On this eve we set out to celebrate community both on the stage and in the audience, and to witness the celebration of traditional songs, customs, stories and rituals. Our cast and backstage crew of 80 bring this to you as a labor of love, trusting that you will reciprocate, and join us in bringing back the light of the new year.

If you don't have the colorful brochure of our season's activities, please pick one up at the sales table in the lobby. Our next big production will be SummersDay Revels (there is more about it in your program book) along Fort Point Channel in Boston. On the weekend of June 21-22 we will be joined by local performing groups from Boston's diverse communities to celebrate the longest day of the year. You won't want to miss it. Between then and now, we will host pub sings, salons, educational programs, tours by Revels Repertory Company, and more. So stay engaged. We hope you will come back to see what else Revels is doing.

Gayle Rich  
*Executive Director*

# Introduction

Welcome to the thirty-seventh annual production of The Christmas Revels in Sanders Theatre! This is a year for traveling, and we invite you to experience with us the songs, the dances and the Christmas and New Year customs of the Balkan region.

We fell in love with the sound of Balkan voices a long time ago, and have been waiting for the right moment to celebrate the solstice with old friends and world music specialists Libana. On the way to this production we have been meeting new friends and enthusiasts for Bulgarian dance, Serbian music, Slovenian folktales, Croatian ritual and generally all things Balkan. A whole vibrant local Balkan community exists should you be moved to explore these fascinating cultures further.

Embedded in the show there are touchstones that are the bed-rock of all our productions and around which this deep river of tradition flows. We hope that you will enjoy the voyage, and we promise to deliver you back again in enough time for you to join us in singing the “Sussex Mummers Carol” as snow falls in Sanders Theatre.

Welcome Yule!

## The Program: Part 1

### Overture

Composed by Tom Pixton, 2007.

THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

### Carols of the Season

DAVID COFFIN | DEBRA WISE | THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN |  
THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

### 1. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley; music by Felix Mendelssohn.

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nations rise,

Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th’angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Ris’n with healing in his wings,  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king.

*ALL SING!*

### 2. We Wish You a Merry Christmas

English folk song.

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy New Year!

Good tidings to you wherever you are,  
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

Now bring us some figgy pudding,  
Now bring us some figgy pudding,  
Now bring us some figgy pudding,  
And bring it right here!

We won’t go until we get some,  
We won’t go until we get some,  
We won’t go until we get some,  
So bring it right here!

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a happy New Year!

*ALL SING!*

### 3. In the Bleak Midwinter

Words by Christina Rossetti; music by Gustav Holst.

THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN

### 4. Balkan Carols

Christmas carols in the Balkans celebrate the story of the nativity.

**U sej vrijeme godišta** (Croatia)

**Roždestvo tvoje** (Serbia)

**Bog se rodi** (Bulgaria)

THE KOLEDARI WOMEN

### 5. Stani nine, gospodine

 (Bulgaria)

*Koleda* songs are sung by *koledari*—villagers processing from house to house bestowing blessings on each household: “Get up, master of the house! We are coming, the *koledari*, and bring blessings on your house!”

The *survakari* are animal-masked shaman-like figures who cleanse the household by clearing away evil spirits. They carry branches of cornel which puts out yellow flowers in December.

THE KOLEDARI MEN | THE KUKERI MUMMERS | THE SURVAKARI

### 6. Koledna blagoslovija

 (Bulgaria)

An itemized blessing for plentiful livestock and a bountiful harvest.

PETRE PETROV | PATRICK YACONO | DEBRA WISE

### 7. Dobar večer dobri ljudi

 (Croatia)

One of many well-wishing *koleda* songs that are found throughout the Balkans: “Good evening, good people, in the new year may you be happy and healthy.”

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS | THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN | THE VILLAGE BAND  
THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

*ALL SING! (see music on following page)*

### 8. Niška banja

 (Serbia)

A joyful homage to the town of Niš, celebrated for its hot springs.

Arrangement by Tom Pixton.

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS AND DANCERS | THE VILLAGE BAND  
THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

### Dobar večer dobri ljudi

 (Croatia)

2. Good eve - ning, all good peo - ple here, We—  
3. We wish you bles - sings on the vine, And—



wish you health and all good cheer. May the  
may you have the swee - test wine. With their



new— year bring good— health— for you And  
wreaths— of red and their boughs— of green, The



boun - ty from your har - vest too! And  
child - ren join this fes - tive scene! The



boun - ty from your har - vest too!  
child - ren join this fes - tive scene!

### 9. Domakine, sipi vino da piene

 (Bulgaria)

A *koleda* from Bansko, in the mountainous Pirin region: “Master of the house, pour wine for us to drink, because a baby boy is born!”

THE KOLEDARI MEN | THE VILLAGE BAND

### 10. Dumboko je

 (Croatia)

A song from the island of Krk in the northern Adriatic: “The sea here is very deep, but even deeper is my love for you.”

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### 11. Žamuči se Boža majka

 (Bulgaria)

This *koleda* song makes reference to *Jordanovden*, the day of the Christ Child’s baptism in the Jordan River. On this day young men toss wooden crosses into icy rivers, then dive in to retrieve them,



while their elders collect bottles of sanctified healing water on the river banks. “The Holy Mother labored from St. Ignatius’ Day until Christmas, giving birth to the young Son of God. God was born last night. 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.”

LIBANA | THE VILLAGE BAND

## 12. Hubava Milka (Bulgaria)

A *koleda* for the young, unmarried girl of the house from the Thrace region, arranged by Nikolai Kaufman. The news of Milka’s beauty spreads far and wide. Hearing of her fame and talents, a merchant from a distant land is determined to capture her heart. He sails his boat to her village and shows her his silks and golden thread, and Milka sails away to a new life.

LIBANA | DAVID COFFIN | THE KOLEDARI CHORUS

## 13. Children’s Songs, Games and Dances

### Dobri gosti, koledari (Bulgaria)

“As much health in this house as there is sand in the sea!”

### Savila se bela loza (Serbia)

### Marko skače (Slovenia)

A song and dance learned from Marianne Taylor that recalls the custom of marrying a bride from a distant village.

THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN

## 14. Strawberries in Winter

A retelling of a Slovenian folk tale, “The Twelve Months,” by Richard Lewis, edited by Patrick Swanson.

NARRATOR : DEBRA WISE

STEPMOTHER : ROWAN SWANSON

CHILDREN : JOE THIBAUT AND ANNALEIS THIBAUT

OR SPENCER GRISWOLD AND JULIA ATTWOOD-OTTENBERG

WINTER : DAVID WILSON

MARCH : SARAH HEBERT-JOHNSON

JUNE : JAMIE JAFFE

SEPTEMBER : ADRIAN NUSSDORFER

## 15. Nevijška koleda (Croatia)

A *koleda* from the island of Pašman, which evokes the mythological tree of life; arranged by Joško Caleta. “Three little birds flew out from a fine olive tree; the first carried grain and wheat to our fields, the

second carried grapevines and olives to our vineyards, and the third carried health and joy to our village. May we have a wonderful Christmas.”

DAVID COFFIN | THE KOLEDARI CHORUS

## 16. Dance Music from Bulgaria

**Pravo** from the Strandzha region, in southeastern Bulgaria, featuring the *kaval*, an end-blown flute.

**Rachenitsa**, featuring the *gadulka*, a bowed string instrument with resonant sympathetic strings.

**Rachenitsa** from the Thrace region, featuring the *gajda* (bagpipe).

THE VILLAGE BAND

## 17. Moj dilbere (Bosnia)

“My love, where are you going? Aren’t you visiting me tonight? Are you ill or in the arms of another? I’d rather hear you are ill.”

ALLISON COLEMAN, SOLO | THE KOLEDARI CHORUS | THE VILLAGE BAND

## 18. Trite pati and kopanitsa (Bulgaria)

Two traditional dances choreographed by Petre Petrov. The arrangement is by Yuri Yunakov, Patrick Yacono and Tom Pixton.

PETRE PETROV | MLADOST | THE VILLAGE BAND

THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

## 19. Advice from a Tree

A poem\* by Ilan Shamir, 1993.

DEBRA WISE

\*Used with permission and printed in full in Revels online program at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org)

## 20. Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter’s modern lyrics to the Shaker Song “Simple Gifts” are here translated into dance using a compilation of traditional morris steps by Carol Langstaff, Martin Graetz and Jonathan Morse.

DAVID COFFIN, SINGER | PINETREES MORRIS MEN

THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS | THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN

ALL SING AND 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

## The Program: Part 2

### 21. *Mari zamarknaja* (Bulgaria)

Five hundred *hajdouks* (revered historical Bulgarian freedom fighters) are overtaken by nightfall in the wintry forest, without fire or water.

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### 22. *Abbots Bromley Horn Dance*

An ancient ritual dance for good luck in hunting the stag, still danced every year in the village of Abbots Bromley in England. Its four supernumerary characters link it with the mumming traditions of Christmas.

PINEWOODS MORRIS MEN

MLADOST

MARTIN TULLOCH, MAN/WOMAN

DAVID TORREY, FOOL

ADRIAN NUSSDORFER, HOBBY HORSE

BEN LAZENBY OR LINNEA COFFIN, BOY ARCHER

DAVID COFFIN, RECORDER

### 23. *Što si goro, povjxnalā* (Bulgaria)

A traditional melody arranged by Philipe Koutev. “Forest, why have you withered and faded? Last night three chains of young slaves passed on — it is from grief the forest has faded.”

LIBANA | THE KOLEDARI WOMEN

### 24. *The Tree of Life*

A poem by Patrick Swanson, 2007.

DEBRA WISE

### 25. *Roždestvo tvoje* (Serbia)

A church hymn arranged by J. Kindl. “Thy nativity, O Sun of Justice, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world.” New Year bread rituals are shared by many Slavic cultures. In this Serbian tradition, the freshly baked loaf is cut into four pieces. Baked inside is a walnut that will bring good fortune to the lucky recipient.

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS

### 26. *Đotaneu* (Croatia)

The *sopila* is a double-reed instrument used to accompany polka-style dances in the Istria/Kvarner region in the northern Adriatic. *Sopile* are usually played in pairs, one large and one small.

PATRICK YACONO AND DAVID COFFIN, SOPILE

### 27. *Đila Neda* (Pirin, Bulgaria)

“Last night Neda drank some water and swallowed a poisonous snake that was hiding at the bottom of the jug!”

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### 28. *Momiče* (Pirin, Bulgaria)

A love song arranged by Kiril Stefanov. “Oh beautiful Momiče, how did you ever get so beautiful? Did a sculptor sculpt you? Did an artist paint you?” “Oh no, nothing like that. At the moment of my birth, my mother gazed at a white rose, and I have been as beautiful ever since!”

LIBANA

### 29. *Erghen deda* (Shope, Bulgaria)

Arranged by Petar Ljondev. “An old bachelor grandfather with a ruddy complexion and a fondness for *rakiya* puts on his hat at a jaunty angle, adjusts it from side to side and heads off to the village to dance with the young girls. He’s having a fine old time, but the girls drop out of the line of dancers one by one, leaving only the youngest one, Angelina.”

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### 30. *Crven fesić* (Bosnia)

A girl tells her mother about her boyfriend in a little red fez and “honeyed lips.” “If he would kiss me, I’d give him all my heart.”

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS | THE VILLAGE BAND

### 31. *Dance Music from the Balkans*

*Žensko čamče* (Macedonia)

*Sarajevka* (Bosnia), named for the capital city

*Ħukunješće kolo* (Serbia).

THE VILLAGE BAND

### 32. *Moja diridika* (Croatia)

A fun tongue-twister song: “My sweetheart is plowing with oxen; I am dancing and singing after him.”

THE KOLEDARI CHORUS AND DANCERS | THE VILLAGE BAND

### 33. More Songs, Dances and Games

**Oj Ivane Ivaniću** (Croatia/Slavonia)

“Hey, Ivan Ivanich, stop a little, let’s chat!”

**Baba mi pojde more na pazaro** (Bulgaria)

Granny and Grampa bring home various animals from the market.

**Šetnja** (Serbia)

“Come to our region, Mile, to see what paradise is like!”

THE SURVACHKA CHILDREN | THE KOLEDARI CHORUS | THE VILLAGE BAND

### 34. Songs and Rounds for All to Sing

**Gjura beli belo platno** (Bulgaria)

Gjura bleaches her white wedding cloth in the stream, but the muddy water sweeps it away.

**Stani nine, gospodine** (Bulgaria)

ALL SING! (see music on following page)

**Dona Nobis Pacem** (European)

A prayer for peace.

ALL SING! (see music on following page)

**35. Jovano, Jovanke** (Macedonia)

“Jovana, you sit by the River Vardar washing white cloth, but your mother won’t let you come to me, my soul, my heart.”

SUSAN ROBBINS | DAVID COFFIN | THE KOLEDARI CHORUS | THE VILLAGE BAND

### 36. Mummers Play

A presentation of traditional Balkan material in folk play form by Patrick Swanson. There are some familiar Revels figures here — *Dyado Koleda* (Grandfather Christmas), *Veles* (the Dragon), *Hitur Petur* (Clever Peter, a fast-talking trickster character like the Doctor), even Saint George, 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. The ensuing battle between *Veles* and *Perun* ends in a ritual slaying of the dragon, and out of this comes new life in the person of Saint George, the bringer of rain (*Perun*’s son miraculously transformed).

THE KUKERI MUMMERS | SURVAKARI

### Stani nine, gospodine (Bulgaria)



1. Sta - ni, — ni - ne, gos - po - di - ne, oj
2. Če - ti — i - dem, do - bri — gos - ti, oj
3. Do - bri — gos - ti, ko - le - da - ri, oj
4. Če - ti — no - sim, mno - go — da - ri, oj



ko - la - de, moj ko - la - de!

### Dona Nobis Pacem



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem,



Do - na no - bis pa - cem,



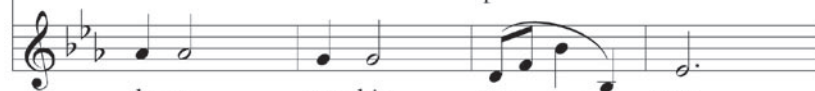
Do - na no - bis — pa - cem,



Do - na — no - bis pa - cem.



do - na no - bis pa - cem.



do - na no - bis pa - cem.

### 37. Shopsko (Bulgaria)

Choreographed by Petre Petrov with musical arrangement by Yuri Yunakov and Tom Pixton.

PETRE PETROV | MLADOST | THE VILLAGE BAND  
THE CAMBRIDGE SYMPHONIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

### 38. Mnogaja leta (Bulgaria/Eastern Europe)

A blessing ("forever and ever") sung throughout the Balkans for celebrations of every kind.

DAVID COFFIN | THE KOLEDARI CHORUS

### 39. The Shortest Day

This poem, written for Revels by Susan Cooper in 1977, has become a traditional part of The Christmas Revels performances throughout the country.

DAVID COFFIN

### 40. The Sussex Mummers' Carol

This traditional carol is sung as an ending to the folk play in Hortham, Sussex. In each of the nine American cities where Revels is produced annually, this carol is sung with the audience at the conclusion of each performance. The brass arrangement is by Brian Holmes, with descant and final verse harmonization by Ralph Vaughan 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 - e'er his bo - dy  
gold chain round her breast; Where - e're her bo - dy  
cat - tle and your store; The Lord in - crease you

rides or walks, his God must be his guide, his  
sleeps or wakes, Lord send her soul to rest, Lord  
day by day, and send you more and more, and

God must be his guide.  
send her soul to rest.  
send you more and more.

Welcome~Yule!

## THE PLAYERS

### The Survachka Children

Julia Atwood Ottenberg  
Linnea Coffin  
Nica Gottschlich Hawthorne  
Julia Griswold  
Spencer Griswold  
Jacob Kiely-Song  
Ben Lazenby  
Amanda Madigan  
Hannah Read  
Helena Siu-Zmuidzinas  
Annaleis Thibault  
Joe Thibault  
Tim Traversy  
Lexi Ugelow  
Susan Wilson  
Jonah Yanniss

### Mladost Folk Dance Ensemble

Andrea Taylor-Blenis, *director*  
Alexandra M. Blenis  
Nicholas Taylor Blenis  
Catherine Casiello  
Vanessa Conlon  
Jonah Goldstein  
Michaela Gonzales  
Sarah Hebert-Johnson  
Elliot Isen  
Elizabeth McCreless  
Christopher Murray  
Nathan Paine  
Erika Roderick  
Gemma Smith  
Deanna Snow  
Jeremy Van Cleave  
Sam Zegas

### The Kukeri Mummers

Sarah Hebert-Johnson, *Room*  
Dave Wilson,  
*Grandfather Christmas*  
Adrian Nussdorfer, *Perun*  
Debra Wise, *Veles*  
Rowan Swanson, *Tree of Life*  
Jamie Jaffe, *Cow*  
Marytha Paffrath, *Clever Peter*  
Susan Wilson or  
Jacob Kiely-Song, *Saint George*

### Survakari

Petre Petrov, leader  
Jessi Beaton-Hellman  
Cristina Corwin  
Sarah Hebert-Johnson  
Sarah Higginbotham  
Kim Keown  
Adrian Nussdorfer  
Erika Roderick  
Lillian Torrey

### Libana

Lisa Bosley  
Allison Coleman  
Marytha Paffrath  
Susan Robbins, *founder*  
*and artistic director*  
Linda Ugelow  
Cheryl Weber

### The Village Band

Lisa Bosley, *clarinet*  
David Coffin, *recorder,*  
*pennywhistle, sopila*  
Ralph Iverson, *prim,*  
*gudulka, tambura, violin*  
Jack McCreless, *prim*  
Marytha Paffrath, *dumbek,*  
*tapan, frame drum*  
Susan Robbins, *accordion,*  
*tambura*  
Jerry Starcevic, *bulgarija*  
Linda Ugelow, *double bass*  
Patrick Yacono, *gajda, kaval*  
*gadulka, clarinet, sopila*

### Pinewoods Morris Men

Kevin Adderer  
Frank Attanasio  
Jerry Callen  
Owen Callen  
Adam Cole-Mullen  
David Conant  
Bill Cronin  
David Fleischman-Rose  
Shag Graetz  
Peter Kruskal  
Joe Kynoch  
Eric McDonald  
Dave Overbeck  
Natty Smith

David Coffin, *songleader*  
Debra Wise, *narrator*  
Petre Petrov, *dancer*

### The Koledari Chorus

Mirena Bagur\*+  
Freedom Baird\*  
Gary Beckmann+  
Laura Brewer  
Cristina Corwin\*+  
Jane Culbert\*  
Deborah Dill\*  
Donald A. Duncan  
Aine Farrell  
Batsheva Fenster\*+  
Chuck Gordon  
Sarah Higginbotham+  
Mac Howland\*  
Jamie Jaffe  
Jared Kass\*+  
Lynn Kass\*+  
Kim Keown  
Livia Kingman  
Jim Lawton\*  
Jack McCreless  
Milva McDonald  
Jodi Mikalachki\*  
Janet Nelson\*+  
Haris Papamichael\*+  
Lori Renn Parker\*  
Chris Ripman  
Michelle Roderick\*+  
Evan Steitchik  
Jerry Starcevic  
Rowan Swanson  
Lillian Torrey+  
David Torrey+  
Marty Tulloch  
Ellen Wilson  
Debra Wise  
\*Niška Banja dancer  
+Moja Diridika dancer

### The Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble

Ken Pullig, *trumpet*  
Greg Hopkins, *trumpet*  
Richard Hudson, *horn*  
Philip Swanson, *trombone*  
Greg Fritze, *tuba*  
Sarah Tenney, *timpani*



### **Artistic Staff**

Stage Director : Patrick Swanson  
Music Director : George Emlen  
Directing Fellow : Chris Jorie  
Set Design : Jeremy Barnett  
Costume Design : Heidi Anne Hermiller  
Lighting Design : Len Schnabel  
Sound Design : William Winn  
Properties Design : Juliet Cocca  
Specialty Properties : Seth Bodie  
Make-up Design : Rachel Padula Shufelt  
Choreography : Petre Petrov and Michelle Roderick  
Children's Director and Assistant to the Music Director : Sarah Higginbotham  
Program and Flyer Design : Sue Ladr

### **Production Staff**

Co-Producer : Lynda Johnson  
Co-Producer : Virginia Morton  
Stage Manager : Elizabeth Locke  
Production Stage Manager : Marsha Smith  
Assistant Stage Manager : Gillian Stewart  
Technical Director : Andrew Hebert-Johnson  
Master Carpenter : Andrew Barnett  
Master Electrician and Light Board Operator : Alfredo Carballo  
Lighting Assistant : Michael Berger  
Costume Production : Costume Works  
Costume Manager : Lynne Jeffery  
Makeup assistant : Hannah Woodbury  
Wardrobe Supervisor : Seth Bodie  
Children's Manager : Lynda Johnson  
Children's Assistant : Jessi Beaton-Hellman  
Children's Dressing Room Coordinator : Emily Soule  
Scenic Painter : Sally Moore  
Carpenter : Ted Cocca  
Props Day Coordinators : Nancy Hanssen, Nilah MacDonald,  
Virginia Morton and Juliet Cocca  
Production Volunteer Coordinator : Nancy Hanssen  
Cast Party : Bruce Pratt and Chris Beasley  
Production Assistants : Nancy Hanssen and Jessi Beaton-Hellman  
ASL Interpreters : Joan Wattman, Katy Burns  
Revels Records Sales Coordinator : Jen Sur  
Photography : Roger Ide  
Videography : Michael Kolowich and DigiNovations  
Program Printing : Fleming Printers

## **Volunteers**

Sylvia Anderson, Tom Arena, Freedom Baird, Sue Barry, Chris Beasley, Gary Beckmann  
Michael Bergman, Barbara Bodell, Renni Boy, Louise Breyer, Sheldon Brown, Ruth Canonic,  
Maureen, Michael and Aidin Carey, Michelle Cheyne, Jan Childs, Chris Chin, Paula  
Clough, Ted Cocca, Harvey Cohen, Josh Conway, Madeleine DeCarlo, Sibella DeCarlo,

Beverly Dieter, Andrea Dodge, Despina Duane, Susan Elberger, Jean Farrington, Arthur  
Ferguson, Anna Gargas, Mary Gilbert, Luisa Granitto, Jim Greaney, Peter Hamlin, Robert  
Hart, Ruth Heespelink, Paul Hillson, Giles Holt, Lois Howry, Julia Huestis, Prudence  
Humphreys, Susan Hunziker, Susan Jaster, Bill Jones, Caroline Jones, Glen Ketterle, Lynne  
Kimball, Karen Kosko, Deborah Kruskal, Roy Kuphal, Lily Leahy, Nilah MacDonald, Susan  
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## **Thanks**

Many friends and passionate Balkanophiles helped us to create this production. Tatiana  
Sarbinska in particular was our invaluable musical consultant and vocal coach. Susan  
Robbins also was indispensable in creating Balkan “sound” and style in our chorus and  
Marytha Paffrath helped children and adults feel perfectly at home with uneven time  
signatures. Henry Goldberg, Ksenija Marinković and Martha Forsyth were also major  
cultural contributors and collaborators. Mirena Bagur and Jodi Mikalachki helped greatly  
with language and culture issues. Erica Zissman loaned us her sopile; Andrea Taylor-Blenis  
lent us her leadership of Mladost and expertise in folk dances; Marianne Taylor, Marcie  
Van Cleave and the Folk Arts Center of New England generously provided recordings and  
notation for dances and songs. Janet Nelson and Lynn Kass provided research material.  
Costumes from the Mandala collection were made available to us by Pierre Nezille.

This program can be found at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) in expanded form with complete song texts  
and translations and links to various websites providing more background on Balkan  
culture and traditions. Audio clips will also be added as they become available.

# The Tree of Life

*What kind of times are they, when  
A talk about trees is almost a crime  
Because it implies silence about so many horrors?*

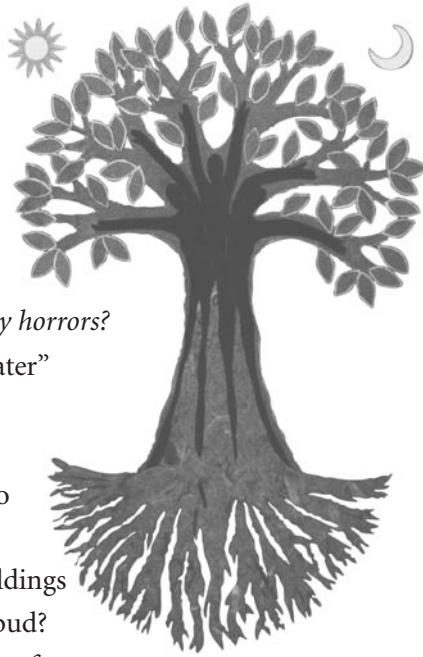
Bertholt Brecht, "To those born later"

Strange roses are blooming in Sarajevo  
Each mutely testifies a life curtailed  
Trees persevere among the ruined buildings  
How can a branch be so foolish as to bud?  
What kind of times are they, when talk of trees  
Is almost the equivalent of crime,  
Because it skirts the horror all around?

If it is true that a tree is life made simple,  
If it is true that roots spread wide as branches,  
If it is true that the crown of a tree touches heaven,  
If it is true that the root of a tree touches death,  
If it is true that a falling leaf has already been replaced,  
If it is true that the acorn dreams of the tree,  
If it is true that the tree dreams of the axe,  
If it is true that an acorn is just the tree's way back into the earth—  
One life for another,  
Then let's commit the crime and sit upon the ground  
And talk of trees.

*Patrick Swanson, 2007*

See "Sarajevo Roses" at [Google.com](http://Google.com)



# Babi, Divas, and Nightingales Women's Singing in the Balkans

BY SUSAN ROBBINS

When Libana started singing together in 1979, "world music" was not a household phrase! We began our journey into uncharted territory with the desire to explore music "by, for, and about women," motivated by the belief that women around the globe must have been contributing creatively to their community, expressing the story of their lives through song. Back then, I heard my first Balkan songs on a Pennywhistlers LP, and also happened upon a concert by the Boston group *Evo Nas*, with whom Libana later shared the stage in the 1983 Christmas Revels. But, it was my personal experience of the electrifying vibration created by singing close Bulgarian harmonies that secured Balkan vocal music at the core of Libana's repertoire for nearly 30 years. There is nothing like that sonic experience — as a singer or a listener!

As in many cultures, music and dance in the Balkans held a more cherished and daily role in traditional culture than in our contemporary, listener-oriented, North American reality. Historically, songs accompanied virtually every aspect of a primarily agricultural village existence. From my feminist viewpoint, however, it is both the bright and dark face of women's reality in Balkan traditional society that gave birth to so many amazing women's songs. Much of life was gender-segregated, and so the women sang together, working long, back-breaking days in the fields, making their way through endless daily chores, embroidering their beautiful cloth at a *sedenka* (work party), celebrating life cycles and seasonal rituals with song and dance, mourning their lost loved ones during years of war and occupation, giving collective, musical voice to their joy, sorrow, fear, frustration, humor, hope, and pride.

Children learned the village songs in the oral tradition; often a young girl would seek out another whose voice timbre matched hers well. They would sing together for as long as life circumstances allowed; arranged marriages were the historical norm in the Balkans, and many young girls left home, family, friends, and singing pals to go live in the new husband's village, becoming the low woman in his family's hierarchy. However, a young Balkan woman's vocal prowess was held in highest regard, and greatly contributed to her marriageable status; many songs compare the beautiful singing of a woman to that of a nightingale!

As deep and ancient as Balkan traditions are, culture is not a static phenomenon, and life has changed dramatically since these songs were a part of daily existence. There are still groups of elder women who sing (and perform!) their village's songs, preserving the thread to a more ancient time; in Bulgaria they are referred to as *babi*, or grandmothers. There are also many singers whose astonishing voices have carried them to international solo careers. Back in 1951, Philipe Koutev gathered the most talented women singers from each Bulgarian region and created exciting choral folk song arrangements. Decades later, their recordings (*Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*) topped world music charts across Europe and beyond, and the world fell in love with the unmistakable sound of Bulgarian women's choral singing.

On behalf of many singers without ancestral roots in the Balkans who are inexorably drawn to the intensity of this music, the women of Libana would like to express our deepest respect and gratitude to countless generations of Balkan women — be they *babi* or divas — who sang with strength and courage through centuries of war and peace, and who continue to sing with proud, passionate voices, inspiring each of us to sing like a nightingale.

*Susan Robbins is founder and artistic director of Libana, a women's world music ensemble that last performed with Revels in 1983. For more information visit [www.libana.com](http://www.libana.com).*

SHIPPEN PAGE & ANNE ST. GOAR



congratulate Revels and everyone  
associated with this year's  
Balkan production

## Christmas in the Balkans

BY RSENJA MARINKOVIĆ

The entire period from Advent through Epiphany is marked with a series of rituals culminating with Christmas, which is celebrated primarily with Catholic rites in the western Balkans and Eastern Orthodox rites in the eastern part of the Balkans. Holiday cheer permeates the entire season, hallmarked with recent imports such as Santa Claus, Christmas trees and related commercial trappings that unite us all in this global village. But just underneath the familiar glitz, an intriguingly complex and multi-layered wealth of traditions and rituals has been preserved from ancient times and recently revived in a Balkan village. Many of these customs are of pre-Christian origin and encompass fertility rites, cult of dead ancestors, divination and imitative magic. They have held special importance for the winter solstice, this auspicious, longest night of the year that was taken to mark a new year in many cultures. While Christianity offered hope through Jesus and salvation in heaven, it was the familiar, old customs, those based on the annual cycle of natural changes, that villagers continued observing to ensure a good harvest and prosperity for their family, to uphold and maintain old traditions and to pay homage to the spirits of their ancestors. Naturally, these rituals have changed and amalgamated over time, resulting in some regional specificity, but most have retained their essential characteristics throughout the Balkans, giving unique and rich attributes to this holiday like no other.

The bread ritual with one or more richly decorated bread loaves is a must on Christmas Eve. It is ornamented with images of birds, farm animals, bees, and grain; it symbolizes hope for a fertile and abundant new year. It is thought to have magical powers and is given to farm animals and sprinkled in the fields. Similarly, houses are decorated with green, decorated branches or hazelnut branches with as many catkins as possible, in the belief that they would bring about health and wealth. Decorations with freshly sprouted wheat are another example of the magic belief that the ritual of sowing, sprouting and growing wheat at this auspicious time may promote the renewal and rebirth of nature and abundance in the year to come. The custom of lightly hitting others with a decorated stick or a branch (*survakane, mladinci*) is meant to magically transfer this life force onto others.

Winter solstice is the time of the longest darkness and is seen as a magical junction, a new year, a turn of seasons, the night when the skies are open, allowing the spirits of dead ancestors to visit their earthly homes. They are welcomed with warmth, light, and offerings. A large log (*badnjak*, *badnik*, Yule log) is chosen at dawn and put into the fireplace at dusk. It is treated as a living being — it is given offerings of grain and wine and greeted with prayers. Its ashes are thought to have protective powers and are sprinkled in the fields or in the stables. Straw is spread on the ground and the family dines there, or, in more recent times, it is spread on the table and covered with a tablecloth; an extra place is set and a candle is lit to welcome those who are there but cannot be seen. In addition to roasts and feast foods, the dishes served that night include those that are otherwise served by the graveside such as beans, honey, nuts, and porridge (akin to figgy pudding), and also those that symbolize wishes for a sweet and abundant new year: apple slices are dipped in honey while the mixed-grain porridge may originate from Greek *panspermia*. Throughout the night fortunes are told, and future events such as the harvest, marriages, and deaths are divined.

The *koleda* ritual takes place on several occasions during the season as small processions visit the neighboring houses and other villages in a spirit of well-wishing and making amends. They sing songs bestowing best wishes to the household and are rewarded in return. We join them in wishing that “your stables be full of livestock, your barns full of grain, your cellars full of wine, but above all, may you and your family be merry, healthy, and happy!”

*Ksenija Marinković, Ph.D., grew up in Zagreb, Croatia, and joined a local folk-dance troupe at the age of thirteen. She came to the US to pursue graduate studies and is now a brain researcher at Harvard University, but she has always maintained a profound passion for the folk music and ethnology of the Balkans.*

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## Before a Common Soil

Ifeanyi Menkiti

*"This poem was originally performed at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge, MA during the 2002 production of the Spring Revels. It was then, for the first time, dedicated 'to Jack Langstaff, singer of songs.'"*

From *Before a Common Soil, Poems by Ifeanyi Menkiti*

Let this then be your understanding,  
 You sons and daughters of the ancient stars  
 That your home reaches beyond  
 The earth which is your home.

May you go forth across the land  
 And with the movement of flutes  
 Celebrate the blessings  
 Which the gods have given you.

May you catch the shifting of the light  
 At the tip of the flute's tongue;  
 And may you ask of the darkness  
 That it remain with you  
 Lest the light lose sight  
 Of whence it came.

Yes, I have heard song  
 The power of which was not of the world  
 Though the singer of it was in the world;

And I have called out to you,  
 Children of an undivided earth,  
 That you join your hands together  
 And be of one accord before a common soil—

Lest the rivers cease to water the land,  
 Lest the voices of the singers be forever stilled.

Yes, I have heard song  
 The power of which was not of the world  
 Though the singer of it was in the world.



Kick off the first day of summer in Boston with world music, dance, festival art and puppetry from Boston's neighborhoods

— FREE TO THE PUBLIC

## SummersDay Revels

June 21 & 22, 2008

5:00 pm - twilight

5:00 pm—the Noonday Sun and his hot entourage will process towards the Midnight Moon and her cool retinue to meet on the main stage where they will announce the first day of summer. The celestial duo will then embark on a barge to light the SummersDay beacon which begins an evening of magic and musical and visual delights. Decide whether you are feeling hot or cool and join the procession of your choice.

7:30 pm—SummersDay Revels production on the mainstage at the Boston Children's Museum

The setting is Boston's waterfront outside Boston Children's Museum and the Intercontinental Hotel along Fort Point Channel, where, on multiple stages, diverse local artists, dance companies and ensembles will mark the onset of summer with performances, workshops, and art that represent the cultural riches of Boston.

But that's not all! As the sun sets, these artists will converge on the main stage to join storyteller Jay O'Callahan, David Coffin, the Revels cast of adults and children and a host of instruments for a unique intercultural SummersDay Revels, a fully staged Revels performance.

Look for information on [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) in the months ahead.



## Spring Sing

March 19, 2008

7 - 9 pm, St. John's Church, Watertown



Join us to mark the spring equinox with singing!

Surrounded by early forsythia blossoms and hopeful sprigs of green, we celebrate the turning of the season by singing our way through *A Revels Garland of Song*. Music director George Emlen leads us into the warmer months with high-spirited song, joined by guest musicians David Coffin, Michael Punzak, Eric Levenson and others. The Spring Workshop for Children culminates at Spring Sing with a delightful mummers' play with song and dance. The evening concludes with an easy dance for all and delicious refreshments.

## RiverSing

September 21, 2008

5:00 - 7:30 pm

Weeks Footbridge

Cambridge and Allston



Revels marks the four "corners" of the year with four very different celebrations. The most recent addition to our annual cycle is **RiverSing**, an outdoor singing event at the autumnal equinox produced jointly by Revels and Charles River Conservancy, now in its fifth year. Enjoy the waning hours of summer as the sun sets and join the chorus to sing familiar songs, accompanied by a folk band and led by Revels music director George Emlen. Giant puppets, brass bands and guest musicians help usher in the fall. Join the procession of singers and puppets from Harvard Square to start the event, or enjoy a picnic on the river banks and wait for the fun to begin.



## Revels Touring Ensemble

# Revels Repertory Company

(formerly Circle of Song)

Kay Dunlap, director

## Bring Revels to your school or community!

This 40-member ensemble of adults and children travels throughout southern New England presenting original musical theater programs based on cultural, seasonal and historic themes. Ideal family entertainment, the programs are appropriate for adults and children age six and up.

photo: Roger Ide



### NOW BOOKING:

#### Harvest Home

Harvest songs and fall traditions, including the origins of Halloween and "trick or treat."

#### There's a Meeting Here Tonight!

The politically active Hutchinson Family Singers reunite with friends Frederick Douglass and P.T. Barnum for post-Civil War songs and stories.

#### A Celebration of the Sea

Songs and stories about New England fishermen, their families, and their lives at home and at sea.

#### \*An American Journey

Music, dance and stories abound in this program about immigrants from Ireland, Italy and Eastern Europe journeying by boat to America at the turn of the century.

\*performed March 2007 at Ellis Island in New York as part of its 100th anniversary celebration

Detailed descriptions of all Revels Repertory Company programs are available at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org)

For information on booking contact Kay Dunlap at [revelsrep@revels.org](mailto:revelsrep@revels.org)

# The Revels Salon Series

*Eclectic in content,  
Social in nature*

3rd Friday of the month  
7:30 – 9:30 pm

Join us at the historic Commander's Mansion in Watertown for three intimate evenings featuring some very special friends of Revels. Enjoy a reception with New England wines and beer and delicious cheeses then stay for a stimulating and fun interactive presentation.

January 18, 2008

**Hankus Netsky** : Musical legacy of the Jewish immigrants

February 15, 2008

**Ken Field** : Brass bands from Bourbon St. to Sesame St.

April 18, 2008

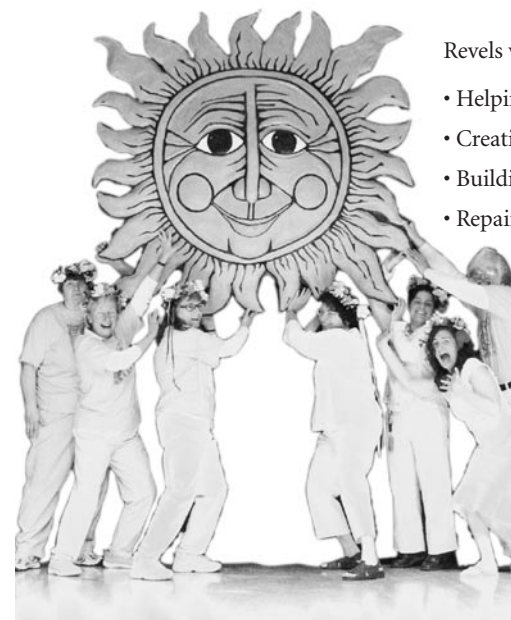
**Christopher Janney** : Integrating music and architecture

Read more about these Revels Salons and reserve your seats at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) or call Alan at 617-972-8300 ext.22



# Become a Volunteer

JOIN THE REVELS COMMUNITY AS A VOLUNTEER



Revels volunteers assist in many ways:

- Helping with mailings
- Creating props for our productions
- Building and painting sets
- Repairing/ironing costumes backstage
- Selling books and CDs at shows
- Using computer skills in the office
- Planning and support for special events
- Providing baked goods or snacks for events
- Helping at outdoor events such as **RiverSing** and **SummersDay Revels**

For more information, call Jeanne Kelly at (617) 972-8300 x30 or visit us at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org)



# Revels Education

Revels Education Programs celebrate with music, song, dance, games, and stories in after-school workshops, school residencies and school performances.

- Revels Residency
- Revels Rep School Performance
- Revels After-School Workshop

Learn more at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) or contact education director Sarah Higginbotham, 617-972-8300 x26.

## About a Revels Residency :

"I was thrilled to see such an event at our school. The music, dancing and multicultural aspects were phenomenal. Bravo!" —Parent

## About a Revels Rep School Performance :

"...engaging, authentic with respect to music and circumstance, and enriching" —Teacher

## About a Revels After-School Workshop :

"Outstanding!" —Parent

## Spring Workshop for Children

February 6 – March 19  
Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30

Children ages 7-12 are invited to a six-week after-school workshop to learn songs and a spring-themed mummies' play, which they will present at Revels Spring Sing on March 19, 2008.

Tuition is \$125. No audition is necessary, but space is limited.  
To register: 617-972-8300 x26 or email [shigginbotham@revels.org](mailto:shigginbotham@revels.org)

Praise for

## Revels After-School Workshops :

"This program was exceptional!"  
—Parent of a participant

"I want to go back another time!"  
—Child participant

"Thanks for a terrific experience for my son." —Parent of a participant

# Make a Difference Today!

## Make a donation to

### Revels Annual Fund

to support Revels' seasonal performances and programs

### Jackfish Education Fund

to support Revels in providing school and after-school programs that introduce children to the music, dance and drama traditions of the world's cultures.

### Langstaff Artistic Fund

to support new artistic projects

Give online at [www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) OR make out a check to Revels and mail to: Revels, 80 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472. For more information, call Olivia Woodford at 617-972-8300 x29



# Keep In Touch

Stay informed with Revels' twice-monthly emails and learn about these upcoming events :

SUMMERSDAY REVELS SALONS PUB SINGS AUDITIONS RIVERSING CD SALES  
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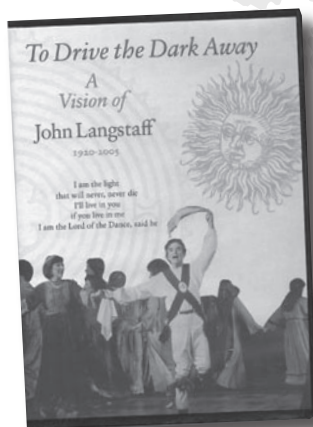
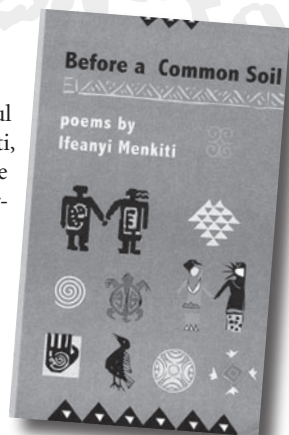
2 new items  
honoring  
Revels founder  
John Langstaff

### Before a Common Soil

Poems by Ifeanyi Menkiti

Dedicated to his friend John Langstaff, this powerful and evocative book of poems is the latest by Menkiti, professor of philosophy at Wellesley College and the new proprietor of Grolier Poetry Book Shop in Harvard Square. Proceeds from this book will benefit the Revels Artistic Fund.

*Yes, I have heard song  
The power of which was not of the world  
Though the singer of it was in the world.*



### To Drive the Dark Away A Vision of John Langstaff

A film by David Nath

The long awaited DVD release of David Nath's intimate portrait of Revels founder, John Langstaff. With interviews with Jack and those close to him, the film chronicles Langstaff's life and his 60+ year career in music, from boy soprano to concert artist, to noted educator to television host and recording star, and ultimately, the visionary who created The Christmas Revels.

Both items and more are available in the lobby.  
Sample and Purchase Your Music at The Revels Store

[www.revels.org](http://www.revels.org) (watch for our new look in 2008!)

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### Haydn: Lord Nelson Mass

Sat. November 3, 8PM, Emmanuel Church, Newbury Street, Boston

### A Boston Christmas

Sat. December 15, 8PM, Emmanuel Church, Newbury Street, Boston  
Sun. December 16, 3PM, Marsh Chapel, Boston University

### Martin & Messiaen

Sat. March 15, 8PM, First Church Congregational, Cambridge

### Mendelssohn: Elijah

Fri. May 30th, 8PM, Sanders Theatre, Harvard University  
Featuring Richard Zeller as Elijah

Full Details at [www.bbcoboston.org](http://www.bbcoboston.org) or by phone at 617.648.3885

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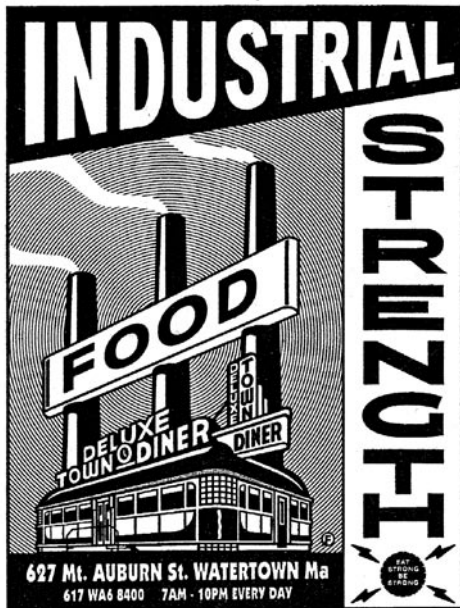
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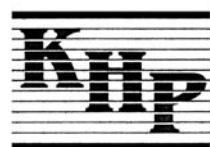


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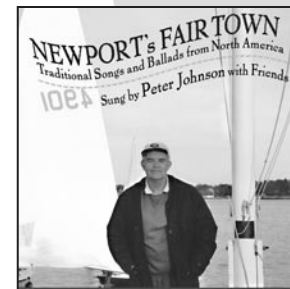
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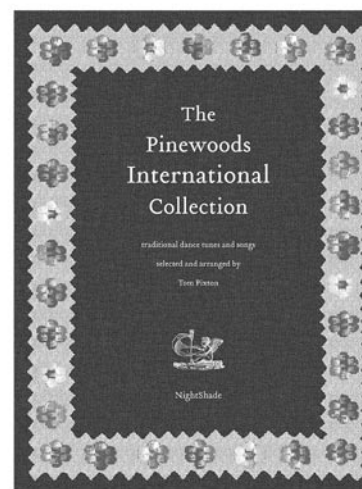
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## PATRON INFORMATION

Sanders Theatre in Memorial Hall is operated by the Office for the Arts at Harvard. All inquiries should be addressed to: Memorial Hall/Lowell Hall Complex  
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Phone: 617.496.4595 Fax: 617.495.2420

### Calendar of Events

Available at the Harvard Box Office web site: [www.boxoffice.harvard.edu](http://www.boxoffice.harvard.edu)

### Smoking

There is no smoking allowed in Memorial Hall.

### Restrooms/Public Telephones

Located on the Lower Level.

### Parking: THERE IS NO PARKING AT SANDERS THEATRE.

Free parking for Sanders Theatre events is available at the Broadway Garage, corner of Broadway and Felton Streets, from one hour pre-performance to one hour post-performance. For some student events, patrons will be asked to park at 38 Oxford Street.

### Lost and Found

Call 617.496.4595 or visit the Administrative Offices, Memorial Hall room 027. Memorial Hall and Harvard University are not responsible for lost or stolen property.

### Latecomers

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the management.

### Photography and Recording

Use of cameras and audio and video recording equipment is prohibited. Film and tape will be confiscated.

### Access for Patrons with Disabilities

Wheelchair accessible seating is available through the Harvard Box Office, telephone 617.496.2222 (TTY 617.495.1642), or in person. Sanders Theatre is equipped with Assistive Listening Devices, available at the Box Office one-half hour before performance time. For information about parking for disabled patrons, call Marie Trotter, *University Disability Coordinator*, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm at 617.495.1859 (TTY 617.495.4801). Please call at least two business days in advance.

### The Harvard Box Office

Ticketing for Sanders Theatre events and more. Phone: 617.496.2222 (TTY 617.495.1642)

Advance Sales: Holyoke Center Arcade, Harvard Square, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue

Open Tues.-Sun., 12 noon to 6 pm. Closed Mondays, some holidays, with limited summer hours.

Pre-Performance Sales: Sanders Theatre at Memorial Hall

Open performance days only, at 12 noon for matinees and 5 pm for evening performances.

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### Ushering

To inquire about ushering opportunities, contact the Production Office at 617.495.5595.

### Memorial Hall/Lowell Hall Complex Staff

Director: Eric C. Engel

Assistant Director: Raymond C. Traietti

Program Manager: Ruth A. Polleys

Staff Assistant: Jaclyn Campbell

Production Manager: Tina Bowen

Senior Production Associate: Jonathan Salz

Production Service Coordinator: Ilya Luvish

### Harvard Box Office Staff

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