



THE CHRISTMAS REVELS

IN CELEBRATION OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE

*A Masque of Traditional and Ritual
Dances, Processionals, Carols, and Drama*

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY CAROL LANGSTAFF
WITH

*The Roxbury-Commonwealth Dance Group
The Coventry Carolers • The Cambridge Morris Men
The Cambridge Mummers' Troupe • The Children's Souling Society
The Canterbury Brass • The Great Highland Pipe
The Ladies' Country Dancers • The Maxwell Band*

Sanders Theatre

*Saturday, December 18 at 8:00 pm
Sunday, December 19 at 2:30 pm*

THE CHRISTMAS REVELS

Long before there was a Christmas, man celebrated at this time of year upon noticing the return of the sun to higher elevations in the sky. Pagan rituals sprang up around this event, later to become tangled with Christian lore, which called for a celebration at a nearly identical date. Folk dances, songs, and plays often blended and blurred the pagan and Christian traditions. The result was a unique type of expression that was both wild and holy.

The Christmas Revels appeared in its first form at Town Hall in New York City in 1956 as a result of the efforts of John Langstaff. He had spent years performing various pieces that make up this genre, with his family, with school groups, and at informal gatherings, and decided to put it together into a theater presentation. With the aid of May Gadd of The Country Dance Society of America, Mr. Langstaff put on further variations on this theme, the last a one hour televised special for NBC in 1968.

Mr. Langstaff's daughter, Carol, appeared with him in all of the previous productions of this piece, and tonight takes up the tradition of preserving these folk heritages. It is her hope that they can be preserved here for some Christmases to come.

These have helped bring us our pleasure and our pastime:

Mrs. Gardner Cox
The Country Dance Society
The Institute of Contemporary Art
Mr. John Lewis
Mr. Kenneth Miller
Summerthing

Baldwin Electronic Harpsichord lent by Caleb Warner
Handbells lent by Mrs. William Shurcliff
Apples donated by John Ashworth and Maria

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director & Producer: **Carol Langstaff**
Assistant Director: **John Langstaff**
Assistant Producer: **Lybess Sweezy**
Choreography: **Louise Bruyn**
Musical Director: **Richard van Kleeck**
Additional Music by: **David Maxwell**
Lighting: **Lenore Gessner, Grace Bradford**
Sound: **David Gessner, John E. Langstaff**
Costumes: **Kitty Wise**
Props: **Raine Miller**
Make-Up: **Greg Prestipino**
Publicity: **Robert Smith**
Photographs: **Bob Hower**
Graphics: **Fenton Hollander**

Stage crew:
Frank Cantor
Tom Lamb
Adam Pool
Piet Vermeer

Rehearsal staff:
Charlene Fagelman
Hope Gillerman

OVERTURE

Coel Baeg

Coel Mhor

(15th Century)

A galley rowing song associated with the Lords of the Western Isles

JOSEPH BOSSOM ON THE GREAT HIGHLAND PIPE

THE FIRST PART

1

Horn Call

To Summon the Morris Dancers.

RICHARD VAN KLEECK

2

Balance the Straw

A Morris Dance performed to wake the frozen earth for Spring.

THE CAMBRIDGE MORRIS MEN

3

Deck the Halls

ALL SING

4

The Holly and the Ivy

JOHN LANGSTAFF

ALL SING THE CHORUS

5

The Choise; The New Yere's Gift

Anthony Holborne

THE CANTERBURY BRASS

6

The Boar's Head

The boar was sacred to Celts and Norsemen and celebrated in processions of the day. The tradition is still carried on today at Queen's College, Oxford. In fact, rumor has it that a young scholar out walking one evening was met in the street by a wild boar. Armed only with a copy of Aristotle, the resourceful student killed the boar by shoving a book into the animal's mouth and later carried its severed head into the dining room of Queen's College, whereupon a great feast was held.

JONATHAN MORSE WITH

THE COVENTRY CAROLERS MEN'S CHORUS

7

Christ Church Bells

THE COVENTRY CAROLERS

THE CAMBRIDGE MORRIS MEN

THE LADIES' COUNTRY DANCERS

8
Silent Night

ALL SING

9
Children Go Where I Send Thee

THE ROXBURY-COMMONWEALTH DANCE GROUP
THE MAXWELL BAND

10
Children's Waits:
Ye Villagers All

from *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Here We Come A-Wassailing
There Was a Pig Went Out to Dig

A mummers' carol based on the belief that at midnight on Christmas Eve, farm animals arise and take on the characteristics of humans.

THE CHILDREN'S SOULING SOCIETY

11
Shalom Chaverim

ALL SING

12
Dona Nobis Pacem

ALL SING

13
Lord of the Dance

Sidney Carter's modern lyrics to the Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts" is here translated into dance using a compilation of traditional Morris steps.

JOHN LANGSTAFF
SHAG GRAETZ
JONATHAN MORSE
CHOR: CAROL LANGSTAFF

INTERMISSION

THE SECOND PART

14
Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance

An early pagan dance re-enacting the hunt, later tolerated by some Christian orders because of its popular appeal.

THE CAMBRIDGE MORRIS MEN WITH
STEVE SEIDEL: *fool*
ROBERT SMITH: *man-woman*
BILL MORSE: *hobby hoss*
ALEXIS PITTMAN: *boy hunter*

15

Christ Child's Lullaby

A Hebridean folk song with dulcimer accompaniment.

CAROL LANGSTAFF

16

The First Noel

ALL SING

17

The Twelve Days of Christmas

THE ROXBURY-COMMONWEALTH DANCE GROUP

18

Canzon per Sonare No. 2

Giovanni Gabrieli

THE CANTERBURY BRASS

19

The Wren

An Irish carol traditionally performed the day after Christmas, St. Stephen's Day, by young boys who enact the hunting and killing of the wren. According to popular folk tales, the wren betrayed St. Stephen in hiding and exposed him to his enemies.

THE CHILDREN'S SOULING SOCIETY

20

The Apple Tree Wassail

THE COVENTRY CAROLERS

21

St. George and the Dragon

A compilation from several medieval mummer's plays, adapted from traditional sources by John Langstaff, celebrating rites of fertility, death, and rebirth. True to medieval custom, the cast excludes women.

THE CAMBRIDGE MUMMERS' TROUPE

22

The Sussex Mummers' Carol

THE CAMBRIDGE MUMMERS' TROUPE

POSTLUDE

JOSEPH BOSSOM ON THE GREAT HIGHLAND PIPE

DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly.
Fa la la etc.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Don we now our gay apparel
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol

See the blazing yule before us.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Follow me in merry measure
While I tell of Yuletide treasure.

Fast away the old year passes;
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses.
Sing we joyous all together
Heedless of the wind and weather.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY (*chorus*)

Oh the rising of the sun
The running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing in the choir.

SILENT NIGHT

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.

Silent night, Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

LORD OF THE DANCE (*chorus*)

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.

THE FIRST NOEL

The first noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields where they lay.
In fields where they lay
Keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continues both day and night
Noel, Noel, etc.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, etc.

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. *to 2.*

do - na no - bis pa - - - cem. *to 3.*

do - na no - bis pa - - - cem. *to 1.*

Shalom, Chaverim

1. Sha - lom, cha - ve - rim, sha - lom, cha - ve - rim, sha - lom, sha - lom; 2. I' - hit - ra - ot, I' - hit - ra - ot, sha - lom, sha - lom. 3. 4.

The Sussex Mummers' Carol

1. God bless the Mas - ter of this house with hap - pi - ness be - side; Where -
2. God bless the Mis - tress of this house with gold chain round her breast; Where -
3. God bless your house, your chil - dren too, your cat - tle and your store; The

e'er his bo - dy rides or walks, his God must be his guide, — his
e'er her bo - dy sleeps or wakes, Lord, send her soul to rest, — Lord
Lord in - crease you 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.

THE PLAYERS

THE CANTERBURY BRASS

Members of the Historical Brass Ensemble
Richard van Kleeck: french horn, alto sackbut
Ray Cutler: trombone, tenor sackbut
Ray Mace: trumpet, piccolo trumpet, cornetto
Richard Cook: trumpet
with
Lisle Kulbach: recorder, fiddle
Eric Nordell: tympani

THE CAMBRIDGE MORRIS MEN

Shag Graetz, Captain
Jonathan Bosworth
George Fogg
Howard Lasnick
Jonathan Morse
Sam Ruben
Richard van Kleeck

THE COVENTRY CAROLERS

John Langstaff
Jonathan Morse
David Blake
Peter de Marneffe
Elizabeth Dunker
Shag Graetz
Deborah Greenhill
Becky Hoff
Anne Kaplan
Carol Langstaff
Nancy Michaels
Devina Snyder
Megan Solomon
John Stockwell

THE LADIES COUNTRY DANCERS

Diané Cataldo
Edie Chase
Helene Cornelius
Lyn Cornelius
Lisle Kulbach
Elna Rapp

THE ROXBURY-COMMONWEALTH DANCE GROUP

Children Go Where I Send Thee
John Bumpus
James Darby
Carl Cooper
Ricky Rosenthal
Beano Shelton
Danny Simon
David Stroud
Quincy Williams
Twelve Days of Christmas
Ellen Gillerman
Hope Gillerman
Wilma O'Loughin
Carol Rosenberg
Sandy Whaley
chor: Louise Bruyn

THE MAXWELL BAND

David Maxwell: keys
Nick Tawa: fiddle
Carol Langstaff: dulcimer
Jabez McClelland: bass
Albert Whittaker: voice

THE CHILDREN'S SOULING SOCIETY

Children's Waits
Paul Klemperer: Clarinet
Marion Austin
Rebecca Brackett
Katharine Bull
Diane Chomsky
Daphne de Marneffe
Peter de Marneffe
Robert Forbes
Cindy Goff
Michele Gonsolves
Julie Held
Sarah Kahn
Hester Kaplan
Cindy Klim
Laural Loomis
Vivianne Loomis
Sarah Mendelsohn
Maggie McClellan
Ronee McLaughlin
Scott Payette
George Perkins
Erika Peterson
Kathrine Read
Elizabeth Schein
Caroline Selfridge
Tim Somerset
John Stockwell
David Stone
Gay von Henneberg
A Pig Went Out To Dig
Andrea Hillman: pig
Antea von Henneberg: pig
Eve Bowles: cow
Becky Webb: cow
Meghan Burnett: sparrow
Becky Cluster: sparrow
Robin Walther: crow
Liza Pirie: sheep
Twinkle Burke: drake
Polly Rowe: minnow

THE CAMBRIDGE MUMMERS' TROUPE

in order of appearance
Steve Seidel: Room
Jonathan Morse: Father Christmas
Neil Armstrong: Johnny Jack
John Langstaff: Fool
Robert Smith: Old Bet
Paul Gill: Giant
Bill Morse: Hobby Hoss
Peter Fischer: Dragon
David Blake: St. George
James Metz: Doctor
Fenton Hollander: John Finney
Potter Stockwell, Keith Dunn: Horse
with
The Cambridge Morris Men: Sword Dancers