



Les Temps des Fetes



French Canadian Solstice Celebration

December 21 - 7 pm

December 22 - 7 pm

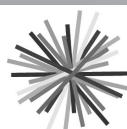
December 23 - 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm

The Dairy Arts Center 2590 Walnut, Boulder, Colorado



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COMMISSION

Welcome Yule!

Every season of Revels is an opportunity for us to spend a few months immersed in unfamiliar music. Whether it be Scandinavian, Irish, or this year-- Québécois, the stories and music of our subjects always offer some insight into our shared humanity. In this year's show "La Guignolée" is about a begging tradition similar to English wassailing. When I hear about groups of my acquaintances meeting up to go caroling, a bit tipsy, I smile because even though the songs are different, the activity has roots in these traditions. We are so fortunate to be able to share this spirit with you year after year.

On the business side, we would love your help. In the coming years I want to grow this organization so that we can develop an apprentice program for teens and young artists in the community. Our first apprentice, Juliana, is on stage tonight. She spent time this season assisting our Lead Costumer, Andrea. I ask your help in growing our non-profit and in the formation of this apprentice program. You can help by joining our cast and crew, by getting the word out about what we do, and by donating to our non-profit. You'll find a QR code in your program if you wish to do this tonight. Merci beaucoup.



Chad Boltz - Artistic Director
chadboltzpro@protonmail.com

Note from Rocky Mountain Revels Board of Directors

Year after year, our Mummers' Play pokes fun at a broad group of iconic characters and authority figures. This year we have the bumbling "Dudley Do-Wrong" from the Royal Canadian Mounties, and a chanteuse loosely modeled on a famous Canadian vocalist. Recently, we learned of Celine Dion's health challenges, and we wish to assure everyone that our Mummers intend no disrespect to Ms. Dion and offer her our best wishes for future good health.

Costumers' Notes by Andrea Loughry

Voyageurs: a Colorado Connection

"I could carry, paddle, walk and sing with any man I ever saw. I have been twenty-four years a canoe man, and forty-one years in service; no portage was ever too long for me, fifty songs could I sing. I have saved the lives of ten voyageurs, have had twelve wives and six running dogs. I spent all of my money in pleasure. Were I young again, I would spend my life the same way over. There is no life so happy as a voyageur's life,"

Un-named, retired voyageur, 1810

The fur trade in and around Montreal area thrived in the 18th and 19th centuries, reaching its height around 1810 and ending in the 1870's when rail lines made the canoe obsolete. French Canadian men were sought out as the hardiest and best workers and hired by both the Northwest Company (Canadian) and the Hudson's Bay Company (English) to transport furs obtained in the back country from the First Nations people to centers in the Great Lakes region. Working as a voyageur was often seen as a temporary means of earning additional income to support families and expand farms. Birchbark canoes were up to 36 feet long and 6 feet wide. The eight-to-twelveman crews were in and out of the water all day long, pulling up to shore to portage around dangerous rapids. Clothing had to be practical and dry quickly; cotton, linen, and wool were preferred over animal skins and furs. When signing on with a trading company, the men would be issued clothing as part of their pay. Rather than traditional European trousers, voyageurs adopted the breechclout and leggings of the Native People. Woolen leggings could easily be removed before entering the water and were gartered at the knee to keep them secure. A sash at the waist of the standard-issue long white shirt provided a utility belt from which to hang tools or pouches. Thick leather moccasins served as boat shoes. Toques, red knitted caps, were all-weather and ubiquitous. In winter, a capote—hooded coat made from a wool blanket—was essential for warmth. Three of our voyageurs are kitted out with this gear. One of our voyageurs wears leather and fur. He represents the *coureurs des bois*, freelance woodsmen who trapped and traded without a company license. Pasquinel, a French-speaking character in James Michener's 1974 novel, *Centennial*, is loosely based on the real-life French fur trader, Jacques La Ramee, and is an accurate portrayal of a *coureurs des bois* who operated in Colorado.

The Program – Part I

Overture Brass Quintet

The Flagstaff Brass Quintet

The Huron Carol (or ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime)

Canadian Christmas hymn and Canada’s oldest Christmas song. It was written around 1643 by Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Canada. The original Huron title is Jesous Ahathonhia (Jesus, he is born). The melody is based on a traditional French folk song, Une Jeune Pucelle (A Young Maid).

Act I

Scene opens with Storyteller and Child setting scene with the village of Trois Rivières (Three Rivers)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Chorus & audience

Les Anges Dans Nos Compagnes/Angels We Have Heard on High* is believed to have originated in 18th century France. The earliest known printed version was in an 1842 French song book. James Chadwick, a Roman Catholic bishop, first translated the song into English in 1860.

*Please join us for verses 2 and 3 to be sung in English, located on page 10.

La Guignolee

Children

La Guignolée is basically a begging song. Starting during the time of the Druids in Europe, La Guignolée was one of their rites at the beginning of the new year. The custom, similar to English Wassailing, became one of the highlights of the end of year social season known Le Temps de Fêtes. Young men disguised themselves as beggars and would go around the village, enter houses, dance to receive refreshments and symbolically say goodbye to the old year.

La Bastringue

Chorus Dancers

La Bastringue is usually danced as the fifth or sixth part of a long Québec quadrille. The tune is a popular party song that tells a story of a young Mademoiselle who is asked to dance the “Bastringue” by a much older Monsieur, who then finds that he is not quite up to the task.

Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser!

Chorus & soloists: Amy Sanders, Kathleen Schelle, Loren Uecker

Thought to have been sung by voyageurs and dating back to at least 1865, this folk song from Québec is also a children’s game song. “Moine” means “monk” but is also a spinning top.

D’où viens-tu, bergère?

Children

(Where are you coming from, shepherdess?) is a traditional French carol. Mary Magdalene comes from visiting the manger of Jesus and tells the shepherds and angels of his birth. The carol is a popular choice for francophone choirs, especially in Canada.

Story – The Devil and the Werewolves

Children’s chorus & Storyteller

This is a common theme in folktales where work is miraculously accomplished by supernatural forces but leads to the downfall of the individual who bargains away his/her soul.

À la Claire Fontaine

Chorus & Soloist Kathleen Schelle

If Québec had an anthem, it could be this song. It dates back to at least the 18th century and was un hymne national of New France. In this ballad, a young man strolls by a clear fountain. The water is so beautiful that he goes i to bathe. As he is drying himself under an oak tree, he asks a nightingale to sing to cheer him up. The young man lost his lady love because he refused to give her a bouquet of roses.

Rinçons Nous

Chorus

Un chanson à boire (a drinking song)

V’là l’bon vent

Chorus & Soloist Darren Kelly

A classic Acadian folk song. Once popular among eastern Canadian hunters and trappers, it tells the troubling tale of a prince and the sad demise of a duck (canard)

The Voyage – poem

Speaker Loren Uecker

Lord of the Dance

Chad Boltz (solo), August Plummer & Juliana Ianetta

Set to the tune of a Shaker melody (Simple Gifts). As noted in “The Christmas Revels Songbook” compiled by Nancy and Jack Langstaff, this song echoes the imagery of the medieval carol “Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day” whose final line read “that man may come unto the general dance.” In both, the energy of dance symbolizes a life-giving force. It is a traditional part of every Revels performance across the country Audience join 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.**

Act II

Scene — deep in the Northwoods just before New Year's Eve.

La Chasse-galerie also known as "The Bewitched Canoe" or "The Flying Canoe" is a popular French-Canadian tale of lumberjacks from camps working around the river of Gatineau who make a deal with the devil, a variant of the Wild Hunt. Its best-known version was written by Honoré Beaugrand (1848–1906). It was published in The Century Magazine in August 1892. (Wikipedia)

C'est la belle Française

Chorus

This song originated in France and was sung in Canada as early as 1650 by the French soldiers who fought the Iroquois. It describes a soldier's farewell to his fiancée.

Envoyons de l'avant (Let's go forward)

Chorus men

This is a song about loggers (chantiers) canoeing back to Canada. They are looking forward to having a good drink and seeing their sweethearts when they return home.

Quand je suis sur mon tonneau

Chorus & Solo August Plummer

(When I'm near my cask)— another folk/drinking song from Québec. The most important French needed to understand this song is that "Glou glou" means "glug glug". De rien!

Chevaliers de la table ronde *Chorus with Alastair Norcross & Chad Boltz*

This is a popular drinking song sung in Acadia, Belgium, France, New England, Québec, Switzerland and other Francophone countries. Present in peddling booklets from the 18th century, the theme of the Knights of the Round Table is a synonym for friends of wine. À ta santé!

Il était un' bergère (There was a little maiden)

Adults and Children

A popular French song dating back to the 16th century. A shepherdess made some cheese. Her kitten put his chin in the cheese, so she killed him. Adults, have some fun and look this song up. This is not the end of the story nor is it the only version.

The Mummers Play

A traditional part of every Revels. Our Mummers take a comedic poke at iconic Canadian figures in addition to the usual characters of Room and Father Christmas (Pere Noel). Instead of a dragon, we feature a werewolf in keeping with Quebecois folklore.

Allons, Bergers, Partons Tous (Shepherds, Let's All Go!)

Chorus

A Christmas carol based on the tune Quand la mer Rouge apparut and found in Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern by Sandys William in 1833.

Dona Nobis Pacem

Chorus and Audience

A round for Peace.

I. Dona, Nobis, pacem pacem, Dona Nobis Pacem

II. Dona Nobis Pacem, Dona, Nobis, Pacem

III. Dona Nobis Pacem, Dona Nobis Pacem

Reel Beatrice

Dancers August Plummer & Bridget Kraus (aerialist)

Transcending the Quebecois regional genre, this reel is now popular with American contra-dance musicians and Irish session players. It is in the style of the 19th century bal musette, characteristically in three parts—two in minor keys with a contrasting trio section in the major.

The First Noel

Chorus and Audience in English

Believed to date from the 13th or 14th century, a time in which medieval civilization in Europe was springing to life. As “Noël” is French for Christmas, it is presumed to be a tune of French origin. It was published as The First Nowell in 1823 as an attempt to revive the singing of Christmas carols in England.

The Shortest Day – Poem by Susan Cooper

Alastair Norcross

Written in 1974 for John Langstaff’s Christmas Revels, where it is performed annually across the country.

Sussex Mummers’ Carol

Collected by Lucy Broadwood in the late nineteenth century, this traditional carol was sung by the mummers, or “tipteers” as part of the folk play in Horsham, Sussex. Chorus and Audience This closes every Christmas/Midwinter Revels as a New Year’s Blessing.

Rocky Mountain Revels Players

Storyteller – Alastair Norcross

Priest – Jayson Gaddis

Gaston – Darren Kelly

Albert – Lucian Gaddis

Phillippe – August Plummer

Ti-Jean – Paul Kapustka

Francoise – Celine Dauverd

Catherine – Kathleen Schelle

Madeline – Sarah Gibson

Devil – Bridget Kraus

Flirtatious women – Amy Sanders,

Loren Uecker, Kathleen Schelle

Elderly women with chickens –

Miriam Paisner, Jeanne Phipps

(alternate performances)

Spirit of Adventure Presenter –

Loren Uecker

Chorus

Chad Boltz
Celine Dauverd
Jayson Gaddis
Paul Kapustka
Darren Kelly
Bridget Kraus
Andrea Loughry
Alastair Norcross
Diana Norcross
Miriam Paisner
Mary Ann Tomasko Perry
Jeanne Phipps
August Plummer
Amy Sanders
Kathleen Schelle
Loren Uecker

Children & Teens Chorus and Cast

Child hearing story – Emory Dayley
Dubroise – Giustina Ianetta
Alphonse – Lucian Gaddis
Devil – Rita Dayley
Werewolf – Oria Uecker
Priest – Juliana Ianetta

Mummers

Salon (Room) – Amy Sanders
Villager – Andrea Loughry
Pere Noel – Paul Kapustka
Dudley Do-Wrong – Darren Kelly
Horse Assistant – Miriam Paisner
Loup Garou (Werewolf) – August Plummer
Celine Dijon – Kathleen Schelle
Doctor – Alastair Norcross

Dancers - La Bastringue

Celine Dauverd
Jayson Gaddis
Darren Kelly
Bridget Kraus
Miriam Paisner
Jeanne Phipps
August Plummer
Loren Uecker

Musicians

Accordion – Margie Aman
Guitar – Charles Branch
Percussion – Garrett Aman
Keyboard – Chad Boltz
Flagstaff Brass Quintet
Director – John Hyde
Trumpet – Rich Gabriel
Trumpet – Leonard Fahrni
Horn – Prem Subramanian
Trombone – Mike Obert
Tuba – John Hyde
Brass Quintet Arrangements/Transcriptions:
John Hyde

Artistic Staff

Artistic and Music Director – Chad Boltz
Drama Director and Script Adaptation –
Alastair Norcross
Costumes – Andrea Loughry, *Lead*
Assistants – Sharon Amirfathi,
Judy Craigo-Robb, Juliana Ianetta,
Joe Loughry, Diana Norcross, Amy
Sanders
Props – Sharon Amirfathi, Dianna Orf

DIGITAL PROJECTIONS BY

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Production Team

Lighting – Craig Bushman

Sound – Angie Dickenson Mickle

Set – Dianna Orf

Canoe Construction – August Plummer,

Painting Assist Paul Kapustka

Production Manager – Dianna Orf

Web Design & Ad Graphics – Richard Orf

Volunteers

Karim Amirfathi

Sharon Amirfathi

Lucas Dayley

Karen Gruber

Joe Loughry

Miranda Loughry

Jetha Marek

Richard Orf

Ted Orf

Melissa Penn

John Perry

Denise Smith

Jay Uecker

Steve Weinstein

Donors

Reveler (\$1 - \$99)

Cara McAllister

Mary Ann Tomasko Perry

Brian Talbot

Julie Haggerty

Christopher Merrill

Denise Smith

Robert Zimmer

Chorister (\$100 - \$249)

Mr. and Mrs. John Etzkorn

Karen Harris

Richard Romeo

Songleader (\$250 - \$499)

Chad Boltz

Cathy Knepper

Amy Alter Pandya

Poet (\$500 – \$999)

Darren Kelly

Alastair and Diana Norcross

Richard Orf (In kind graphic design)

Lord of the Dance (\$1000 & over)

Boulder Arts Commission

Scientific and Cultural Facilities District

(Boulder County)

Andrea and Joe Loughry

Dianna and Ted Orf



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Rocky Mountain Revels

Board of Directors & Officers

Dianna Orf, President
Andrea Loughry, Secretary

Valerie Wedel, Vice President
Ted Orf, Treasurer (non-board)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Nancy Smith, Founder & Artistic Director Frequent Flyers®
Aerial Dance for her assistance.

Rocky Mountain Revels thanks the Nomad Playhouse for allowing the canoe
to be built in their space.

Thanks to Miriam Paisner for providing space for extra rehearsals.

Lyrics

Angels we have heard on High (verses 2 and 3)

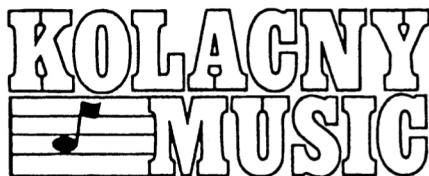
Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

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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 a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Then 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 continued both day and night
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Sussex Mummers Carol

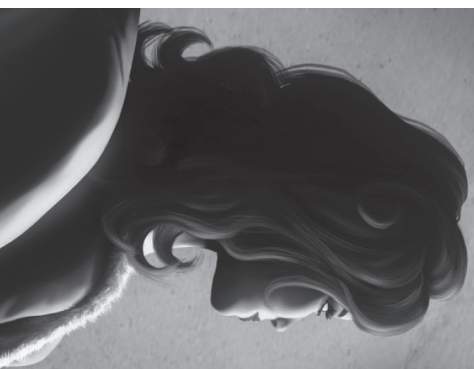
God bless the master of this house
With happiness beside;
Where e'er his body rides or walks,
His God must be his guide

God bless the mistress of this house
With gold chain round her breast;
Where e'er her body sleeps or wakes,
Lord send her soul to rest,
Lord send her soul to rest.

God bless your house, your children too,
Your cattle and your store;
The Lord increase you day by day,
And give you more and more.
And give you more and more.

May your Spirits be Bright

Gift Cards and Beer of the Month Club Memberships make great stocking stuffers!



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