

Rocky Mountain Revels presents



# *Tower of London*

A Christmas & Midwinter Musical Celebration

December 21 - 23, 2023

Gordon Gamm Theatre | Dairy Arts Center



[www.rockymountainrevels.org](http://www.rockymountainrevels.org)

# Welcome Dule!

Year after year, Rocky Mountain Revels is a source of wonder to me. Every cast member, musician, board member and technical team member has a busy life away from Revels. Many of us drive an hour or more to be together. Illness, family, work, and travel force us to miss rehearsals. And still we make this show happen. Our amazing costumer, Andrea Loughry and her team spent countless hours repurposing and altering existing costumes and creating new ones for this show.

None of this would be possible without the tireless effort of Dianna Orf. I would list all the roles she takes on every season but they would not fit in this program. However, we need to expand the pool of willing workers to spread these duties around, so I am looking for a few great humans who enjoy Revels and who would be able to help grow our company, both artistically and logistically. Board members, fundraisers, social media junkies and arts aficionados...whatever your talent may be, you have a role to play with us.

Contact me and let's keep the light coming back next year.

**Chad Boltz - Artistic and Music Director**  
**[boltzttp@hotmail.com](mailto:boltzttp@hotmail.com)**

We are delighted to return to the Dairy Center for our seventh production in this venue. This year, Rocky Mountain Revels travels across the pond to the Tower of London, and back in time to the 17th Century (and briefly forwards from there to the 19th Century). Our show is an adaptation of a Houston Revels show, which was itself an adaptation of a Portland Revels show. We have freely adapted and augmented, to suit the tastes (we hope) of our Colorado audience, and the particular strengths of our talented performers. Our mummies play introduces four new characters who exemplify the spirit of Britain (and London in particular), but also retains some Boulder-based humor. We hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we enjoy bringing it to you!

**Alastair Norcross - Drama Director and Script Writer**

## **Rocky Mountain Revels Board of Directors**

Dianna Orf, President

Valerie Wedel, Vice President

Andrea Loughry, Secretary

Bridget Kraus

Kathleen Schelle



# Introducing the Tower of London - Andrea Loughry

When a foreign king conquers a new land, he needs a castle to quarter his army, produce munitions, and intimidate the locals. Thus, William the Conqueror built the iconic White Tower smack in the middle of London shortly after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. Medieval kings reinforced the complex with not one, but two curtain walls with guard towers, and of course, a moat.

Beefeaters got their start as the king's personal bodyguard. More properly known as Yeoman Warders, their elaborate red Tudor uniforms have changed little since they were first stationed at the Tower in 1485. One of the Warders has the special job of Raven Master. It is said both the Tower and the kingdom will fall if the ravens ever leave.

The Tower historically was the holding place for political prisoners. Depending on social status, they could occupy rooms that were quite comfortable - if they could afford to pay for them - while awaiting their fate. Famous prisoners include William Wallace (Braveheart), Sir Walter Raleigh, Elizabeth I, and Guy Fawkes. The last prisoner was Rudolf Hess, a leading member of the Nazi Party, who was at the Tower from 1941 until his trial in 1946.

Over the years, the Tower has been home to the Royal Mint, royal residences, and even a menagerie, but it was most infamously used for executions. Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's second wife, is said to stalk the Tower Green where she was beheaded for treason and witchcraft. Two small ghosts are thought to be the "the princes in the Tower"—deposed child king Edward V and his younger brother, who disappeared without a trace. Most terrifying is a huge ghost bear that tries to frighten visitors to death.

Today, the Tower continues its work, guarding the crown jewels, providing a home to the Yeoman Warders, and welcoming over three million visitors a year!

## Acknowledgements

Rocky Mountain Revels would like to extend our gratitude to Stef Conner, the Time Ensemble and the Leith Hill Timeline Choir for gifting their arrangement of Nay, Ivy, Nay to our production. This version of "The Contest of the Holly and the Ivy" is a rare find. Please check them out on YouTube under "Time Ensemble."

Darren Kelly and CU Boulder Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon  
fraternity for the loan of Armor

Houston Revels for allowing us to adapt their script

The Pine Street Church for extra rehearsal space

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church for extra rehearsal space

Thank you to our Advertisers, who helped make the program possible

## The Program ~ Act I

*Scene I - A custodian is on duty, cleaning the hall and musing about the people who have inhabited the Tower. As he works, he becomes aware that he is not alone in the Hall as spirits of former inhabitants enter preparing for their holiday celebration.*

**With her head tucked underneath her arm** *August Plummer*  
**O Come, O Come Emmanuel** *Chorus*  
**Overture** *Brass Quintet*

*Scene II - American family is touring the Tower with very reluctant teens in tow. The teens express boredom wishing to be ANYWHERE ELSE. Their wish is granted, and they are transported back 400 years. Tower inhabitants are visited by friends and families who are allowed to visit them to celebrate the Christmas holiday.*

**Nay, Ivy, Nay - Arr. Stef Connor** *Chorus*  
Traditional English. An earlier variant on The Holly & the Ivy

**Christmas is Coming (round)** *Chorus and Audience*

**Deck the Hall** *Children's chorus*  
Originally comes from a Welsh folk song called Nos Galan, which meant "New Year's Eve" in 18th century Welsh.

**Boar's Head Carol** *Chorus*  
15th century English carol

**Dance**  
The Fool is trying to escape the clutches of the Yeoman by intermingling with a large group of dancers

**Shakespeare Sonnet 138** *James Biard and Diana Norcross*

**Pastime with Good Company** *Chorus*  
"The King's Ballad" written by Henry VIII when he was quite young. The song became popular in the Renaissance.

**Dame Get Up and Bake Your Pies** *Children*  
English Nursery Rhyme

**Lord/Lady of Misrule** *Brass interlude*  
Tradition originating from The Feast of Fools (late Medieval and Early Tudor periods in England). A lucky person was chosen to manage Christmas festivities at court and in noble houses through the Christmas season.

## **A Ghost Story for Christmas (teenage retelling of A Christmas Carol)**

**Grimstock** - Old-style Dance

### **Hey Ho, Nobody Home (round)**

17th century by Thomas Ravenscroft

*Chorus and Audience*

**Hey ho, nobody home, meat nor drink nor money have I none,  
yet I will be merry, very merry, Hey ho (repeat)**

### **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

An early carol found in an anonymous manuscript, dating from the 1650s

*Chorus and Audience*

### **To Shorten Winter's Sadness Madrigal - Thomas Welkes**

*Chorus*

### **Lord of the Dance**

Set to the tune of a Shaker melody, Simple Gifts, it is a part of every Revels performance across the country. Audience joins on refrain

*Chad Boltz (solo), August Plummer & Elizabeth Burge*

**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**

### **Abbots Bromley Horn Dance**

This ritual dance is performed in the village of Abbots Bromley, England as it has been for centuries. There are ten people in the dance: six dancers bearing the horns, Maid Marian, the Hobby-horse, the boy with a bow and arrow, and the Fool. Its origin is thought to have been associated with hunting.

*Cast Members*

### **The Holly and the Ivy**

Familiar version of English carol.

*Children*

### **Dona Nobis Pacem - a round for peace**

*Chorus with audience*

### **Noel Nouvelet - French carol**

*Chorus, children & soprano Michelle Diggs*

### **Masters in this Hall/Interlude/I Saw Three Ships**

*Children, Chorus & brass*

## Mummers' Play

*Ritual Sword dancers and Cast*

Folk plays were performed in England and Ireland by amateur actors, frequently lampooning self-important individuals, and involving a hero or champion who dies and is reborn (in Revels symbolizing the death of the Old Year and rebirth of the New Year with Spring). Our Mummers' Play takes on British pop culture with Father Christmas meeting King Charles, Sweeney Todd and accomplice Mrs. Lovett, and the Spice Girls.

## To Drive the Cold Winter Away

*Amy Sanders, Lauren Freels, Bridget Kraus*

English carol circa 1625.

## Gloucestershire Wassail

*Men's chorus*

Traditional English drinking song dating to at least 18th century.

## The Shortest Day

*Alastair and Diana Norcross*

Susan Cooper poem celebrating the Winter Solstice

## Sussex Mummers Carol

*Chorus and Audience*

Collected by Lucy Broadwood in the late nineteenth century, this carol was sung by the mummers, or "tipsters" as part of the folk play in Horsham, Sussex. This closes every Christmas/Midwinter Revels as a New Year's Blessing

## Performers

**Yeoman:** James Boyd

**Mother:** Amy Sanders (Thursday and Saturday afternoon)

**Mother:** Janice Michon (Friday and Saturday evening)

**Father:** Darren Kelly

**Noah:** Lucian Gaddis

**Rachel:** Julianna Ianetta

**Morley:** Alastair Norcross

**Wizard Earl:** James Biard

**Lady Earl:** Diana Norcross

## A Ghost Story for Christmas (teenage retelling of A Christmas Carol)

**Ebenezer Scrooge:** Alastair Norcross

**Ghost of Christmas Past:** Emery Daley

**Ghost of Christmas Present:** Giustina Iannetta

**Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come:** Lucy Thompson and Oriah Uecker;

**Ghosts 1, 2, 3, 4:** Rita Daley, Anna Thompson, Nixxi Aleman. Peter Freels

**Cratchit Family:** Rita Daley, Anna Thompson, Peter Freels

**Young Ebenezer:** August Plummer; Belle: Lilla Molnar

**Gravediggers:** Sharon Amirfathi, Nixxi Aleman

## Mummers' Play

**Room:** Sharon Amirfathi

**Father Christmas:** Jim Boyd;

**King Charles III:** Alastair Norcross

**Sweeney Todd:** Amy Sanders (Janice Michon understudy)

**Mrs. Lovett:** Darren Kelly

**Five Spice:** Kathleen Schelle

6 **Doctor:** Sarah Gibson

## Chorus and Cast

### Noel Nouvelet Soloist

Michelle Diggs, Soprano  
Nixxi Aleman  
Sharon Amirfathi  
James Biard  
Chad Boltz  
James Boyd  
Elizabeth Burge  
Amy Chan  
Emery Daley  
Rita Daley  
Lauren Freels  
Peter Freels  
Lucian Gaddis  
Sarah Gibson  
Giustina Iannetta  
Juliana Iannetta

Paul Kapustka  
Darren Kelly  
Andrea Loughry  
Janice Michon  
Lilla Molnar  
Alastair Norcross  
Diana Norcross  
Dianna Orf  
Mary Ann Tomasko Perry  
August Plummer  
Amy Sanders  
Kathleen Schelle  
Anna Thompson  
Lucy Thompson  
Oria Uecker  
Valerie Wedel

## Directors

### Artistic and Music Director

Chad Boltz

### Drama Director and Script Writer

Alastair Norcross

### Dance Captain/Choreographer

August Plummer

## Flagstaff Brass Quintet

**Trumpet:** Rich Gabriel (Dec. 21 & 22)

**Trumpet:** Jason U'ren (Dec. 23)

**Trumpet:** Leonard Fahrni

**Horn:** Prem Subramanian

**Trombone:** Mike Obert

**Tuba:** John Hyde

**Brass Quintet Arrangements/**

**Transcriptions:** John Hyde

## Instrumentalists

**Violin:** McKenzie Fetters

**Guitar:** Charles (Tony) Branch

**Percussion:** Garrett Aman

**Harp:** Valerie Wedel

**Keyboard:** Chad Boltz

## Production Teams

### Costumes

Andrea Loughry, *Head Costumer*

Juliana Iannetta, *Costume Apprentice*

Sharon Amirfathi

Joe Loughry

Diana Norcross

August Plummer

Kathleen Schelle

Valerie Wedel

### Props

Sharon Amirfathi, *Coordinator*

James Biard

August Plummer

Peter Freels

Dianna Orf

Darren Kelly

### Set Design

Chad Boltz

Darren Kelly

Dianna Orf

August Plummer

**Lighting** – Sam Botnick

**Sound** – Miles Fee

**Production Manager** - Dianna Orf

**Volunteers (non-cast members)**

Kathleen Schelle, *Coordinator*

Valerie Wedel, *Coordinator*

Karim Amirfathi

Norah Buckley

Joe Loughry

Jetha Marek

Richard Orf

Ted Orf (Treasurer)

Miriam Paiser

John Perry

Jay Uecker

Loren Uecker

Steve Weinstein

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Megan Ivory

Julie Haggerty

**Songleader (\$250 - \$499)**

Cathy Knepper

Amy Alter Pandya

**Poet (\$500 - \$999)**

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Andrea and Joe Loughry (in-kind)

Christine Martin and family

Alastair and Diana Norcross

Dianna and Ted Orf

Richard Orf (in-kind)

Forrest and Isla Schelle

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