



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (3/9/16)

Revels Selects Megan Henderson to Succeed George Emlen as Music Director, effective July 1, 2016

Revels, Inc., the Watertown-based national non-profit performing arts company best known for its annual holiday production/celebration, *The Christmas Revels*, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Megan Henderson** as its new music director, effective July 1st. Henderson, a highly respected teacher, choral director, composer and performer, succeeds longtime music director **George Emlen** who is retiring June 30th after serving 32 years in that role.



“Knowing that Megan will be taking over my work at Revels is a huge comfort and joy to me,” Emlen notes. “She has all the right qualifications for the job – great choral conducting chops, a love for people of all ages and a passion for exploring music of all kinds. I am confident that Revels has made the right choice and that the future of Revels’ music programs and activities, which are so much at the heart of the Revels experience, is in the right hands.”

About Megan: Originally from Altoona, PA, Megan came to New England to attend the Walnut Hill School and went on from there to attend and graduate from the New England Conservatory with a degree in piano performance. Since that time, she has been active in the Boston area as a pianist, piano teacher, choral conductor, singer and composer. As a singer, she is a founding member of the **Schola Cantorum** of Boston and has done numerous recordings with the **Boston Camerata**. In addition to her extensive work as a collaborative pianist, she was the outreach coordinator for **Winsor Music** and performed several times on their chamber series. Megan was also the pianist for the Victorian *Christmas Revels* in 2014 in Cambridge, MA. She has been a co-leader with the **Village Harmony** Summer Camp on and off for the past 25 years and has worked with many wonderful World Music specialists there. In 2014, she toured Great Britain and Europe as a singer with **Northern Harmony**, a group specializing in world folk music. She is currently the organist and choir director at Payson Park Church in Belmont, MA.

Revels Artistic Director **Patrick “Paddy” Swanson** says, “Megan has a playful style of working that caught my attention. I usually begin the process of creating a show with not much more than a creative hunch. It is a long way from that fuzzy place to the sharp reality of the stage, and I was hoping for a new music director who would enjoy the process of collaborating and scheming that

goes into creating a Revels show. I think Megan fits that profile perfectly. I am looking forward to inviting her into our sandbox.”

And here’s a message from Megan: "It is an incredible honor to be asked to carry on the phenomenal work that John Langstaff and George Emlen have done over many decades. These are mighty big shoes to fill and I will bring all the best I have to offer. I am very excited to be able to work with Paddy Swanson, David Coffin and the entire Revels staff plus a wonderfully talented community of singers, dancers, artists and musicians."

Founded in 1971 by musician and educator **John Langstaff**, Revels offers year-round programming designed to engage audiences in theatrical and musical experiences that bring the world’s cultural traditions and celebrations to life. Revels production companies exist in nine cities across the country: Cambridge, MA (Revels, Inc.); Hanover, NH; Washington, DC; Portland, OR; Houston, TX; Tacoma, WA; Oakland, CA; Boulder, CO; and Santa Barbara, CA.

Upcoming events: **Revels Spring Gala at WGBH Studios** in Boston on April 30th honoring the remarkable 32-year career of Revels music director **George Emlen** and **Auditions** for the 2016 *Christmas Revels* on May 15 and 16 in Watertown.

Details on Megan’s appointment and all things Revels can be found at www.revels.org