



For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Alan Casso 617-972-8300 ext. 22; acasso@revels.org (JPEGs available)

**Revels goes Victorian for the 44th annual production of *The Christmas Revels*,
December 12-28 at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, MA**

Celebrate the season with family and friends at this joyous theatrical solstice celebration filled with music, dance, comedy and carols, this year from Victorian London.

Every year, *The Christmas Revels* journeys to a different time and place to explore a culture through its music and holiday rituals. This year, please join us as we sally forth (or sally back, as it were) to Victorian London, and more specifically, the "Crystal Palace," the remarkable glass building erected for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Inside you'll find a colorful cast of characters, including a harried producer, cheeky street performers, and even composer Sir Arthur Sullivan, all caught up in a scheme to produce a whirlwind Christmas performance fit for a Prince. And so our story begins...

An 80-member ensemble is ready to entertain you with high art and low in what is arguably Cambridge's most beautiful theater. According to Revels' longtime music director, George Emlen:

Revels has always mixed high and low art in its performances – it's one of our secret ingredients – and this year we have done it in spades. From magnificent anthems by Handel, Mendelssohn and Sullivan to playfully irresistible music hall ditties, we have covered the waterfront. In between these two extremes are unpretentious carols from rural churches and pubs, sentimental parlour songs, children's songs and games, country dance tunes, a bit of Gilbert and Sullivan, and carols and rounds for the audience. We really have something for everybody in this year's show including a hilarious Cinderella "Panto" and a terrific storyline.

Of course, this year's holiday show also includes many Revels touchstones audiences have grown to love over the years including Susan Cooper's classic poem, *The Shortest Day*, the *Sussex Mummers Carol*, sung with the audience at the end of every *Christmas Revels*, and, our signature piece, the joyous and participatory *Lord of the Dance*, which is guaranteed to have you dancing in the aisles!

If you've never seen a Christmas Revels you're missing a lot. Artistic director Patrick Swanson explains:

At the very least you get your money's worth in entertainment - a large chorus of singers of all ages, a polished brass sextet, a parlor orchestra, colorful costumes, a striking set, brilliant lights, even snow falling within the venerable timbers of Sanders Theatre; but for many, going to Revels is simply the most satisfying way of celebrating at this special time of year. For some individuals it is the one time and place that they will join in singing with a thousand other people of all ages and persuasions. For others it is a haven for the whole family where they can laugh out the stresses of commercial Christmas. This year's flavor is Victorian, with soaring anthems, earthy music hall sing-alongs, thundering carols and a galloping plot that mixes the provincial and the gentry. Why not give it a go?

Why not indeed!

Entertainers/Performers include musician and song leader David Coffin, The Royal Albert Chorus, The Cheapside Children, Mark Jaster and Sabrina Mandell of Happenstance Theater, actors Billy Meleady, Sara deLima, Marge Dunn, David Gullette, and Walter Locke, the Pinewoods Morris Men, and Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble. Our design team includes Jeremy Barnett, set design; Heidi A. Hermiller, costume design; Jeff Adelberg, lighting design; William Winn, sound design. Gillian Stewart is choreographer. **Patrick Swanson is stage director. George Emlen is music director.**

TICKET PRICES:

Preview Performance Friday, Dec. 12 @ 7:30pm - Special Pricing: All tickets \$34 or less!

Value Pricing (4 shows only): Dec. 13 @ 7:30; Dec. 14 @ 5:30; Dec. 18 @ 7:30; and Dec. 19 @ 7:30pm
Adults \$52, \$42 and \$25 (partial view); Children 11 and under: \$38, \$30 and \$13 (partial view)

Standard Pricing (all other performances): Adults: 60, \$46 and \$27 (partial view); Children 11 and under: \$42, \$32 and \$15 (partial view)

2014 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE *denotes ASL Interpreted performance

Day	Date	Time
Friday	December 12*	7:30 pm
Saturday	December 13	3:00 pm
Saturday	December 13	7:30 pm
Sunday	December 14*	1:00 pm
Sunday	December 14*	5:30 pm
Thursday	December 18	7:30 pm
Friday	December 19	7:30 pm
Saturday	December 20	3:00 pm
Saturday	December 20	7:30 pm
Sunday	December 21	1:00 pm
Sunday	December 21	5:30 pm
Monday	December 22	1:00 pm
Friday	December 26	3:00 pm
Friday	December 26	7:30 pm
Saturday	December 27	3:00 pm
Saturday	December 27	7:30 pm
Sunday	December 28	1:00 pm

TICKETS:

STARTING Oct. 20: ORDER TICKETS ONLINE through a link at www.revels.org or

BY PHONE at 617-496-2222 (Tue-Sun 12-6pm)

GROUP SALES: Groups of 15 or more call Alan at 617-972-8300 ext. 22 or email acasso@revels.org

Sanders Theatre is located in Memorial Hall, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge and is handicap accessible. Nearest T: Harvard Square on the Red Line

Special note: Revels patrons receive FREE PARKING at the nearby Broadway Garage (Entrance on Felton Street). Just say "I'm going to the Revels!"

Before you go: Enjoy the music in advance! Sample and purchase Revels' new CD, "From Parlour to Palace: Victorian Music from The Christmas Revels" at the Revels Online Store at <http://www.revels.org/store/> or on iTunes and other digital sources beginning October 14th.

Thanks to our Sponsors: WBZ NewsRadio 1030, Boston Metro, WBZ-TV & TV38, WBUR-FM, Titan360, Boston.com, Google, Boston Parents' Paper, Grand Circle Travel, Cambridge Trust Company, Eaton Vance Investment Managers, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information on *The Christmas Revels* call 617-972-8300 or visit www.revels.org

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Thank you!

Alan Casso

Marketing & Public Relations

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