

SANTA BARBARA  
**REVELS**  
presents



**The Christmas Revels**<sup>®</sup>  
A Winter Solstice Celebration

# *The Celestial Fools*

A Magical Winter's Tale

December 20 & 21, 2025

Lobero Theatre

## FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This year's joyous show is one we have wanted to present for many years. Our founding Stage Director, Maggie Mixsell, has come back for this solstice fable of a traveling troupe of players—Sun, Moon, and Stars—visiting a mythical village somewhere in Europe. The story is one of enlightenment—fitting for this seasonal tale—of the meeting of the arts, culture, and philosophy of the blossoming Eastern world with the rural folk world of early Renaissance life. Our fictional village features hard-working rustics living close to the earth. They are putting up stores on the eve of the winter solstice and preparing for their yuletide celebration.

Music Director Dauri Kennedy has incorporated songs, both folkloric and refined, from many countries and across time—all to create a musical landscape richly imagined and diverse. Traditional Dance Director, Helen Pasley, has shaped dances from traditional steps in new ways. Our fine instrumentalists – string, wind, brass, and percussion, many of whom have played in multiple years of *The Christmas Revels* – have created a festival of reveling, and the full company of adults and children, actors, singers and dancers, are having a grand time exploring this world of music and dance.

The Celestial Fools enter into the seasonal village festival with vibrant color, music, and story, bringing a glimpse of life and a worldview unimaginable by these simple folks. They are iconic wise fools. They use their entertainments to open hearts and minds to a new perspective and, on a mystical quest, to restore the light of a New Year. We knew that we could not present this tale without finding a Sun, Moon, and Stars that authentically represent the arts and wisdom of the East. We are honored to have three master artists to do that. To these Revels, Tom Hinshaw, Ivy Vahanian, and Matthew Tavianini each provide the years of performance experience and the talent that bring people together through culture and community building. With them as our guides, we will find the light of the season in our hearts and homes; we will discover the power of the gathered community to “drive the dark away.”

We are happy you could join us for today's solstice journey!

*Susan Keller*

Founder & Artistic Director  
Santa Barbara Revels

# THE PROGRAM

## Part I

### 1. OVERTURE ~ *Canzona per sonare duodecimi toni, numero 10*

Composed by Giovanni Gabrieli, a groundbreaking instrumental piece from his 1597 *Sacrae Symphoniae*. Famous for its early use of *cori spezzati* (separated choirs) in St. Mark's Basilica, creating spatial "surround sound" with two brass choirs answering each other, marking a key step toward the Baroque style and early brass music.

*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*

### 2. CALL TO CELEBRATION

### 3. NOEL NOUVELET

Traditional French carol dating to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, about the birth of Jesus. The song's title means "New Christmas" or "New Year," reflecting its dual themes of celebrating both the New Year and the Nativity.

*THE REVELS COMPANY*

*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

### 4. LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES

The original French Christmas carol that inspired the popular English hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High," telling the story of angels announcing Jesus' birth to shepherds, with its famous "*Gloria in excelsis Deo*."

#### **ALL SING!**

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

[Refrain]

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

4. See him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
[Refrain]

*THE REVELS COMPANY*

*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*

*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## 5. CHILDREN'S SET

### *Apple Wassail*

A true *carole*, which involves singing while dancing in a ring, in this case round the apple tree. This ritual, often performed by firelight, ensured good growth and a full harvest. Amidst the singing and dancing bits of lambs wool were dipped in cider and hung on branches; cider was poured on the ground to nourish the roots.

### *THE YULETIDE YOUTH*

### *There was a Pig Went Out to Dig*

This traditional English folk song dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is part of the rich oral storytelling tradition of rural Britain. Like many cumulative songs of the period, it was passed down through families and communities rather than written by a single composer.

### *THE YULETIDE YOUTH*

## 6. HOLLY AND THE IVY

Robert Schumann's "*Sylvesterlied*" (New Year's Song) comes from his piano collection *Jugendalbum* (Album for the Young). The melody has been paired with a slightly modified version of the ancient English carol text.

### *WOMEN OF THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*

### *STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## 7. STEP STATELY DANCE

A traditional English country dance that first appeared in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Like many dances of the period, it blends graceful movement with intricate figures, reflecting the social elegance of court and manor dancing in Restoration-era England. Performed in longways sets, the dance would have been enjoyed at gatherings among both the gentry and aspiring middle classes, who viewed country dances as a refined yet sociable pastime.

### *STEP STATELY DANCERS*

### *STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## 8. CORNISH WASSAIL

A traditional English folk carol, part of the broader wassailing custom of visiting homes during Christmas/New Year to wish good fortune in exchange for drinks (ale/cider) and treats, with lyrics varying but focusing on blessings for the household, crops, and livestock, originating from the

Old Germanic “*Ves Heill*” (be healthy) and still performed in Cornwall, especially around Truro.

*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

**9. DIALOGUE/ACTION**

TOM HINSHAW ~ *SUNFOOL*  
MATTHEW TAVIANINI ~ *MOONFOOL*  
IVY VAHANIAN ~ *STARFOOL*

**10. *Ríu, Ríu Chíu* / VILLAGE DANCE**

This classic Spanish *villancico* (Christmas carol) from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, known for its catchy, bird-song-mimicking refrain (“*riu riu chiu*”) and lyrics about the Virgin Mary’s Immaculate Conception and Jesus’s birth, often attributed to Mateo Flecha the Elder—its famous refrain possibly imitating the call of a nightingale or the protective cry of a shepherd.

*SOLOISTS*  
EM MINTZ    AINSLEY BRADSHAW    ROSIE JURKOWSKA  
SHAINA PEREZ    LIU-YEN KRAMER    SHANEL RAMIREZ

*THE REVELS COMPANY*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

**11. HOUSE PROBLEMS**

Based on a popular Jewish folktale, known as “It Could Always Be Worse” or “The Crowded Farmhouse,” this humorous parable about perspective, teaches that one’s problems seem smaller by comparing them to even worse situations

TOM HINSHAW ~ *SUNFOOL*  
MATTHEW TAVIANINI ~ *MOONFOOL*  
IVY VAHANIAN ~ *STARFOOL*  
MICHELE HARRIS-PADRÓN ~ *SCRIBE*  
FRANK ARTUSIO ~ *FAMILY MAN*

**12. THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Victorian folk song collector and hymn writer Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) published a version of this traditional English forfeit carol in *Northumbrian Minstrelsy*. This lively rendition needs audience help!

*SONG LEADERS*  
SARAH GORMAN    OLIVIA BAJOR  
*THE REVELS COMPANY*  
*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## ***ALL SING!***

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS, MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME  
A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE.

...TWO TURTLE DOVES.

...THREE FRENCH HENS.

...FOUR CALLING BIRDS.

...FIVE GOLDEN RINGS.

...SIX GEESE A-LAYING.

...SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING.

...EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING.

...NINE LADIES DANCING.

...TEN LORDS A-LEAPING.

...ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING.

...TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING.

### **13. THE LORD OF MISRULE**

The title “Lord of Misrule” was given to the low-born person who was selected to preside over medieval England’s most raucous feast day, the Feast of Fools. Like its Roman antecedent, *Saturnalia*, this celebration took place in late December and created a topsy-turvy world in which normal social roles were reversed, with masters waiting on their servants.

**MEREDITH MCMINN ~ *SPEAKER***

### **14. THE BOAR’S HEAD CAROL**

This feasting carol has been sung at Queen’s College, Oxford since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as that culinary triumph – the boar’s head – is brought with great ceremony into the dining hall.

***SOLOIST***

ERIK BELL

***BOAR’S HEAD HERALDS:***

DAVID MASON

FRED PERNER

KEVIN McDONALD

GEORGE WILLIAMS

***THE REVELS COMPANY***

***LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE***

***STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN***

### **15. DIALOGUE/ACTION**

TOM HINSHAW ~ ***SUNFOOL***

MATTHEW TAVIANINI ~ ***MOONFOOL***

IVY VAHANIAN ~ ***STARFOOL***

## 16. WINDHAM

A well-known American hymn tune by the New England composer Daniel Read (late 18<sup>th</sup> century). Used here to accompany Death's theft of the light, leaving only winter's darkness.

MALACHI COTTRELL ~ *DEATH*  
*DEATH POSSE*  
*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*  
*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## 17. THE LORD OF THE DANCE

Sydney Carter's modern lyrics to the Shaker song "Simple Gifts," here translated into a dance using a compilation of English Morris dance steps from various Cotswold village traditions. Original choreography by Carol Langstaff, Martin Graetz, and Jonathan Morse. Reconfigured for Santa Barbara Revels by Gene Lerner and Fred Perner. Please join us in dancing through the aisles and onto the Lobero Promenade.

*SOLOIST*  
MICHAEL D'EMIDIO  
*REVELS MORRIS DANCERS:*  
JESSIE DOVE RACHEL McDONALD GRACE WENZEL  
*THE REVELS COMPANY*  
*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## *ALL DANCE AND SING!*

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.

## INTERMISSION

*(There will be a 15 minute Intermission during which Revels Music Director, Dauri Kennedy, will lead a song-teaching moment.)*

## Part II

### 18. TEACHING MOMENT

#### 19. *ENTR' ACTE / O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM*

*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*

### 20. ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE

Derived from an ancient ritual dance for good luck in hunting the stag and still danced every year in the Staffordshire village of Abbots Bromley in England. Its traditional supernumerary characters – the Fool, the Hobby Horse, the Man/Woman, and the Boy Archer – link it with the mumming tradition of Old Christmas. It is danced to a tune popularly known as *The Wheelwright Robinson Tune*.

#### *THE MORRIS MEN:*

JESSIE DOVE	FRED PERNER
DAVID MASON	JACOB MINTZ
KEVIN McDONALD	GEORGE WILLIAMS

#### *THE SUPERNUMERARIES:*

KRISTINE HAUGH ~ THE FOOL  
RACHEL McDONALD ~ THE HOBBY HORSE  
ERIC NICKLASSON ~ THE MAN/WOMAN  
ALEXANDRE NICKLASSON ~ THE BOY ARCHER  
ROBERT WINOKUR ~ TIN WHISTLE

### 21. ACTION AND DANCE

MATTHEW TAVIANINI ~ *MOONFOOL*

### 22. TRAVELERS' PRAYER

A haunting, pagan-infused folk song of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with words and music by the English musician John Renbourn. It invokes the new moon for protection, blending Christian and older animistic traditions, based on Gaelic prayers from the *Carmina Gadelica* and echoing Celtic folklore about moon worship for guidance and well-being on journeys

*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*

### 23. RUNE OF ST. PATRICK

Incantational verse attributed to Saint Patrick (c.373-461).

TOM HINSHAW ~ *SUNFOOL*

#### **24. ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE**

An old Irish melody arranged for Revels by Jerome Epstein in 1992. Based on an ancient Irish prayer traditionally attributed to St. Patrick, used as a powerful hymn invoking God's presence and strength against evils, asking for divine armor for body and soul.

*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*  
*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*

#### **25. ALL OUT OF DARKNESS WE HAVE LIGHT / VILLAGE DANCE**

A traditional English carol celebrating the joyful news of Christ's birth, the Incarnation, and freedom from sin, with lyrics attributed to 17<sup>th</sup>-century Irish Bishop Luke Wadding. It is a festive, call-and-response carol, focusing on God's grace and humanity's redemption.

*MALACHI COTTRELL - SOLOIST*  
*ALL OUT OF DARKNESS DANCERS*  
*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*  
*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

#### **26. GABRIEL'S MESSAGE**

"*Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen*" (meaning "A young maiden there was") is a traditional Basque Christmas carol about the Annunciation, famously known in English as "Gabriel's Message," celebrating Mary's role as the Mother of God.

*SOLOISTS*  
*PAULA LOPEZ OCHOA   SHAINA PEREZ*  
*MADDIE O'NEILL - MARY*  
*ALEXANDRE NICKLASSON - JOSEPH*  
*THE YULETIDE YOUTH*  
*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

#### **27. BABYLON IS FALLEN**

A powerful, historical hymn based on the biblical Book of Revelation, symbolizing the downfall of oppressive systems, empires, or corrupt worldly power, with themes of divine judgment and liberation.

*THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

## 28. *GAUDETE*

Published in 1582 in *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of Finnish/Swedish sacred songs. The Latin text is a typical medieval song of praise (“*Gaudete*” means “Rejoice!”) that follows the standard pattern for the time: a uniform series of four-line stanzas, each preceded by a two-line refrain (in the early English carol this was known as the *burden*). Arranged by Craig Kingsbury.

### *SOLOISTS*

ERIK BELL    MALACHI COTTRELL

### *THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*

## 29. *MUMMERS’ PLAY*

A traditional form of folk drama once performed in villages across the British Isles, especially around Christmas and Twelfth Night, offering a colorful glimpse into the community rituals and festive spirit of wintertime in the British tradition. The sword dance and ritual execution survive from a time when the death of the hero of “Year King” was considered necessary to ensure fertility. Hilt-and-Point sword dances were a common midwinter sight throughout the northeast of England for hundreds of years. The sword dancers of the Yorkshire Dales inspired our Santa Barbara sword dance. A highlight of the dance is the forming of the “lock” when the swords are all interwoven and raised high above the heads of the dancers for everyone to see. This “lock” epitomizes the skill of the dancers and can symbolize the cutting down of the old so the new can spring to life. Watch for it!

TOM HINSHAW - *SUNFOOL*

MATTHEW TAVIANINI - *MOONFOOL*

IVY VAHANIAN - *STARFOOL*

### *THE PACIFIC SWORD COMPANY*

## 30. *ARO QUE NOSTRE SEIGNE ES NAT*

Translated into English as “Now That Our Lord Is Born.” A traditional Provençal carol that captures the original meaning of the word *carole*.

### *THE YULETIDE YOUTH*

### *WOMEN OF THE SOLSTICE SINGERS*

### 31. DONA NOBIS PACEM

*Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant us peace) is a phrase found in the *Agnus Dei* section of the Roman Catholic Mass.

DAURI KENNEDY ~ SONG LEADER  
*THE REVELS COMPANY*

**ALL SING!**

1. Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem,  
2. Do - na no - bis pa - cem,  
3. Do - na no - bis - pa - cem,  
Do - na - no - bis pa - cem.  
do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
do - na no - bis pa - cem.

### 32. TALLIS CANNON

Composed by the English Renaissance master Thomas Tallis (c.1505–1585). First published in 1567, the tune was written as a simple, elegant canon (or musical round), inviting singers to enter one after another so that the melody overlaps in gentle harmony

*THE REVELS COMPANY*

### 33. THE SHORTEST DAY

Written for Revels by award-winning author Susan Cooper in 1977, this has become a traditional part of all performances of *The Christmas Revels* throughout the country.

SUSAN KELLER ~ SPEAKER

# WELCOME YULE!

### 34. SUSSEX MUMMERS' CAROL

This is an English carol traditionally sung as an ending to a folk play in Horsham, Sussex. In each of the nine cities where Revels annually is produced, this carol is sung with the audience at the conclusion of each performance. The brass arrangement is by Brian Holmes, with descant and final verse harmonization by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

*THE REVELS COMPANY*  
*LIGHT BEARERS BRASS ENSEMBLE*  
*STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN*

***ALL SING!***

## *Sussex Mummers' Carol*

God bless the mas-ter of this house with  
God bless the mis-tress of this house with  
God bless your house, your chil-dren too, your  
hap-pi-ness be-side; Where-e'er his bo-dy  
gold chain round her breast; Where-e're her bo-dy  
cat-tle and your store; The Lord in-crease you  
rides or walks, his God must be his guide, his  
sleeps or wakes, Lord send her soul to rest, Lord  
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

Tom Hinshaw as Sun  
Matthew Tavianini as Moon  
Ivy Vahanian as Star

## THE SOLSTICE SINGERS

### Sopranos

Olivia Bajor  
Terri Cruz  
Amanda Devlin  
Alice Gleghorn  
Kristine Haugh  
Diva Johnson  
Dauri Kennedy  
Liu-Yen Kramer  
Meredith McMinn  
Paula Lopez Ochoa  
Shanel Ramirez  
Suzanne Rorick

### Altos

Teresa Colunga  
Soleil Corral  
Risa Erskine  
Sarah Gorman  
Susan Keller  
Kelly Lautz  
Michele Lee  
Em Mintz  
Shaina Perez  
Camila Santana Gonzalez

### Tenors

Frank Artusio  
Erik Bell  
Genny Guillermo  
Malachi Cottrell  
Michele Harris-Padrón

### Baritones

Joseph Colunga  
Michael D'Emidio  
Jim Jaimes  
Guy Kraines

Jacob Mintz  
Eric Nicklasson

## THE YULETIDE YOUTH

Ainsley Bradshaw  
Suzette Clay  
Theo Henning  
Rosie Jurkowska  
Kenzie Macias  
Levi Mintz  
Alexandre Nicklasson  
Maddie O'Neill  
Amelia Withers  
Piper Wood

## THE PACIFIC SWORD COMPANY

Gene Lerner - *Foreman*  
Fred Perner - *Captain*  
Jessie Dove  
David Mason  
Kevin McDonald  
Rachel McDonald  
Grace Wenzel  
George Williams  
Robert Winokur - *Tin Whistle*

## STRINGS OF THE NEW DAWN

Junia Work - *Violin 1*  
Lauren Combs - *Violin 2*  
Jeannot Maha'a - *Cello*  
Benjamin Buttner - *Guitar*  
Erin McKibben - *Flute / Recorder*

**LIGHT BEARERS****BRASS ENSEMBLE**

James Watson ~ *Trumpet 1*  
Scott Lillard ~ *Trumpet 2*  
Johann Trujillo ~ *French Horn*  
Lisa Price ~ *Trombone*  
Michael Evans ~ *Tuba*  
Thomas Håkanson ~ *Timpani*

**STEP STATELY DANCERS**

Olivia Bajor  
Jessie Dove  
Susan Keller  
David Mason  
Kevin McDonald  
Rachel McDonald  
George Williams  
Fred Perner

**ALL OUT OF DARKNESS****DANCERS**

Olivia Bajor  
Malachi Cottrell  
Terri Cruz

Amanda Devlin  
Jessie Dove  
Sarah Gorman  
Susan Keller  
David Mason  
Kevin McDonald  
Rachel McDonald  
Em Mintz  
Jacob Mintz  
Shaina Perez  
Fred Perner  
George Williams

**DEATH POSSE**

Olivia Bajor  
Sarah Gorman  
Kelly Lautz  
Em Mintz  
Shaina Perez

# PRODUCTION STAFF

FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ~ Susan Keller  
PRODUCER ~ Daniel J Herrera  
STAGE DIRECTOR ~ Maggie Mixsell  
MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ Dauri Kennedy  
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ Erik Bell  
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER ~ Sandarbh Tripathi  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ~ Todd Jared  
COSTUME DESIGN ~ Jane Hatfield  
PROPERTIES ~ Diane Arnold  
TRADITIONAL DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ~  
Helen Pasley, Gene Lerner & Fred Perner  
SET DESIGN ~ Susan Keller  
LIGHTING DESIGN ~ Maggie Mixsell, Brad Spaulding  
LIGHTING DIRECTOR ~ Brad Spaulding  
AUDIO ENGINEER ~ Jaren Coler  
WARDROBE DEPARTMENT HEAD ~ Rosel Weedn  
DECK STAGEHANDS ~ Phil Ranucci & Michael Scrogin  
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DRAMATURG ~ Anna Jensen  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER ~ Westley Sartain  
CHILD WRANGLER ~ Timmy Braun  
SET CONSTRUCTION ~ Sandarbh Tripathi  
SET PAINTING ~ Alexandra Grabow  
MERCHANDISE SALES ~ Myron Shapero  
FACILITIES COORDINATOR ~ Helen Pasley  
PHOTOGRAPHY ~ Heidi Bergseteren/*Montecito Photo Design*  
SOUND RECORDING ~ Barbara Hirsch/*Opus 1*  
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*In memory of Patsy Bolt*  
Sally & Richard Arnold  
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*In honor of Susan Keller  
on her birthday*  
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Emily Logan  
Paul Lopez  
Julie Lopp  
*In honor of  
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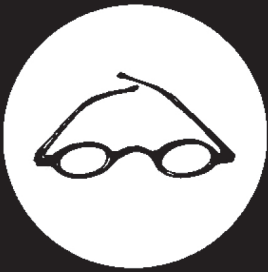
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## GRATITUDES

Once again, we want to acknowledge the many people who help us do the seemingly impossible every year: present a show with too little rehearsal, a very small budget, and a huge cast, in a very limited time. Somehow, we manage it; we look back and cannot help but think, “How did we ever do that?” We are proud of what we accomplish and grateful for the generous and talented people who make this possible, from our loyal donors to our resourceful staff to our hardworking Board of Directors to our community at large. On behalf of *Santa Barbara Revels*, we thank you and want you to know that we are most appreciative of all your contributions and your partnership.

I must add a personal note to my annual “gratitudes.” As I have indicated, I have been trying for some time to reduce my workload and obligations on the behalf of this wonderful company. After 18 years, this Founder needs to pass the baton! With Daniel Herrera taking over most of my producing duties and Suzanne Rorick organizing our office, that result seems ever more possible. Also, there are many others who have made my life and my work much easier these many years.

I begin with the amazing artistic staff with whom I have collaborated, our incredible series of music directors: from Nathan Kreitzer, at the very start, to dear, departed Ken Ryals, to multi-talented Adam Phillips, to the greatly generous and accommodating Erin McKibben, and now the versatile Dauri Kennedy. I have so enjoyed creative problem-solving while working with these talented musicians. I also have been blessed with compatible and cooperative stage directors (when I wasn’t directing myself!), beginning with beloved Maggie Mixsell – who benefits us with her return this year – and with wonderful Matt Taviani. Additionally, Santa Barbara Revels simply could not exist without the essential contributions of our dance directors, who provide traditional choreography and the participation of the Pacific Sword Company; they were loyal stalwarts from day one: Helen Pasley (now President of our Board of Directors) and her husband Gene Lerner, and their partner Fred Perner. I value and treasure them.

Most importantly, I want to acknowledge and express deep gratitude for the support, participation, and tolerance (for spending too much of my time and too many late nights on Revels) of my husband, Myron Shapero. His friends and grateful patients have been an essential source of financial support for our organization. He has served as ticket-taker, merchandise sales-person, Board President, and all-around cheerleader for my efforts. I truthfully say that I could not have done this without his undying support. I love and thank him with my whole heart.

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Santa Barbara Revels engages today's audiences and celebrates seasonal change by creating experiences that involve theater, music, and dance, bringing the world's customs and traditions to life and to lives. We embrace the art of participation, foster cultural exploration, create connections within the community, and fulfill the need for human celebration.