

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to our 16th annual Santa Barbara Revels celebration of the Winter Solstice, held for the 14th year at the beautiful, historic Lobero Theatre, which is celebrating 150 years of hosting performances like ours. The settings for our December productions have ranged greatly in time and place, always including seasonal elements that go far beyond Christmas; we have focused on the themes of lightness and dark, death and renewal, and we have included pagan elements and traditions from other faiths and various countries. However, our national Revels organization has come to realize that by titling our productions *The Christmas Revels*, this rather belies the range and diversity of material and the inclusive nature of what we present. Hence, we have chosen a new name for our production this year with *The Revels: A Winter Solstice Celebration*. We have retained the familiar ingredients of our past shows, but we now are emphasizing the solstice aspect of *The Revels* and are digging deeper to find the roots that tie our cultures together.

Our production this year is set on December 24,1924 on Ellis Island, the port of entry to the New World for many immigrants. FUN FACT: it has been estimated that close to 40 percent of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island. Clearly this is a very good starting place for discovering the ties that bind us to each other. In our setting, recent changes in immigration laws have slowed the entry process, and the resulting delays mean that a number of families from Ireland, Russia, and Germany must spend some extended time together. All the Irish and Old World Jewish families have experienced hardships that have motivated them to emigrate. However, they have many differences in their customs and beliefs. Through the curiosity of their young people and the insights of the Mexican doctor charged with their care, they learn about and come to acknowledge and accept these differences. Ultimately, they begin to experience each other's seasonal traditions together through music, song, and story, weaving Irish, Mexican, and Eastern European Jewish material together in a rich and joyous blend.

We have all been going through some hard times, involving social reckoning, pandemic, war, and conflict. This has taken a heavy toll on each of us. We invite you to join us at the darkest time of the year in some Revels alchemy. With music and song that leaps across borders and with stories animated by creative imagery, song and puppetry, you will be participants in the magic that transforms the darkest of times into something akin to joy. *Join us and be joyous!*

Susan Kollon

Artistic Director

THE PROGRAM Part I

1. Overture

Composed in 2022 by Elijah Botkin for Cambridge Revels. The Ellis Island Ensemble

2. The Famine Song

Written by A.P. Graves and published in 1897 in Graves' *Irish Folk Songs*, this lament references the hardships of the potato famines of the mid-1800s. LEESA BECK – *Nora*

Irish Families

3. Kaddish

The Kaddish is a traditional Jewish hymn praising God recited during most prayer services. Importantly, the Kaddish is traditionally not recited alone, but alongside other worshippers. This composition combines excerpts from Ravel's Kaddish, as well as a newly composed Oseh Shalom chorus by Elijah Botkin.

German/Russian Families The Ellis Island Ensemble

4. Children's Skipping Songs There's a Big Ship Sailing

Cambridge artistic director Paddy Swanson remembers singing this as a child in Manchester, England. As ships glided along the Manchester Ship Canal they gave the illusion of sailing down the "alleys" behind the row houses at the Salford docks.

Dowdeldy Dow

An example of "mouth music" used when an instrument is not readily available to accompany a dance, or as here, a skipping game.

Mary the Money

A nonsense song learned from Liam Clancy from Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. It is the first part of the tune "St. Patrick's Day."

> The Yuletide Youth Isabelle Marchand – *Bridget* David Beck – *Isaac* The Ellis Island Ensemble

5. Angels We Have Heard on High

This Christmas carol is sung to the traditional hymn tune "Gloria," which comes from a traditional French song of unknown origin titled "*Les Anges dans nos campagnes*." The English lyrics were paraphrased by James Chadwick in the mid 1800s. We invite you to join us on the 2nd verse! Arranged by Elijah Botkin.

> Bill Egan – *Liam* Irish Quartet The Solstice Singers The Yuletide Youth The Ellis Island Ensemble

ALL SING:



6. It Could Always Be Worse

A Yiddish Folktale.

Meredith McMinn – Bubbe James McCarthy – Rabbi Robert Demetriou – Man

7. Oyfn Pripetshik

Oyfn Pripetshik describes a rabbi teaching his students the Hebrew alphabet, or "aleph-bet." Written by Mark Markovich Warshawsky, arranged by Elijah Botkin and George Emlen.

> Meredith McMinn – *Bubbe* German/Russian Families Anna Mooy – *Violin*

8. Chanuke, Oy Chanuke

This playful children's tune speaks of various Chanukah celebrations including playing with dreidels (a 4-sided spinning top), eating latkes, lighting candles, and joining together to make music.

Meredith McMinn – Bubbe Anna Mooy – Anna David Beck – Isaac The Yuletide Youth

9. Hob Ich Mir A Kleynem Michalke

In this Yiddish game song, the children all play parts in an orchestra, mimicking the sounds made by flutes, trumpets, trombones, and other instruments.

David Beck – *Isaac* The Yuletide Youth

10. Christmas in the Trenches

Written in 1984, this John McCutcheon ballad tells the story of what occurred at Christmas on the front lines of WW1 from the perspective of a fictional soldier. In 1914, Pope Benedict XV's request for a Christmas truce was summarily rejected. Nevertheless, soldiers from both sides held an informal cease-fire and sang carols and exchanged gifts. There was even an impromptu soccer game played in no-man's land. Arranged by Elijah Botkin.

BILL EGAN – *Liam*

11. O Tannenbaum

Though this traditional tune from 16th-century Silesia was originally unrelated to Christmas, it became closely associated with Christmas after German composer Ernst Anschütz wrote two additional verses in 1824. This song is an ode to a fir tree, which over the course of the 19th century became a Christmas custom, and so the song took on new meaning.

GRACE WENZEL – German Soldier German/Russian Families The Ellis Island Ensemble

12. Stille Nacht/Silent Night

First performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 in Oberndorf, this is one of the most well-known Christmas carols today. It has been translated into over 100 different languages! Written by Franz Gruber.

Grace Wenzel – *German Soldier* Bill Egan – *Liam* German Quartet #1 The Solstice Singers The Ellis Island Ensemble

13. *The Bugle Hornpipe/The Soldier's Jig/The Boys of Molia* Written by Keith Murphy

Frank Artusio – *Soloist* Men of The Solstice Singers The Ellis Island Ensemble

14. It's a Long Way to Tipperary

Originally written as an Irish worker's lament in London, it has since become a popular song for soldiers to march to. Made popular in 1914 by Irish tenor John McCormack, it has been featured in many stage shows and movies. Written by Jack Judge and Harry Williams.

> Soldier Trio The Solstice Singers The Ellis Island Ensemble

ALL SING:

It's a long way to Tipperary It's a long way to go. It's a long way to Tipperary To the sweetest girl I know! Goodbye Piccadilly Farewell Leicester Square! It's a long long way to Tipperary But my heart's right there.

15. Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen

This traditional Christmas carol of German origin literally means "A rose has sprung up," though it is most commonly translated into English as "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming." The arrangement by Hugo Distler is an excerpt from his extended work *Die Weihnachtsgeschichte* ("The Christmas Story").

Erik Bell – *Soloist* German Quartet #2

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The Solstice Singers The Ellis Island Ensemble

16. The Wild Rover

This is a very popular folk song from the British Isles, though the exact origin is disputed. The song retells the story of the prodigal son, who sings of how his days of traveling are behind him, and how he hopes to return home and settle down.

Bill Egan – *Liam* Soldier Trio Michele Neilson – *Soloist* The Solstice Singers

ALL SING: Refrain

And it's no, nay, never No, nay never no more Will I play the wild rover No never no more

17. La Bamba

LUIS MORENO – *Doctor* The Solstice Singers

18. Lord of the Dance/Hava Nagila

Sydney Carter ruefully acknowledged that in writing a poem that puts the narrative of Christ's death and resurrection in parallel with the narrative of the Hindu deity Shiva (The Lord of the Dance) he would get into trouble with both Christians and Hindi. He illuminates the concept of life-force that underpins and animates so many cultures and religions. This more secular variation is by Patrick Swanson. We invite you to join us in the dance through the aisles and out onto the Lobero Promenade.

> Bill Egan – *Soloist* Paula Lopez – *Soloist* The Solstice Singers The Yuletide Youth The Ellis Island Ensemble

ALL SING AND DANCE:

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 (15 minutes) Part II

19. Abbots Bromley Horn Dance

This ancient ritual dance for good luck in hunting the stag is still danced every year in the village of Abbots Bromley in England. Its supernumerary characters — the folk-fool, the man-woman, the hobby horse and the boy archer — tie it to the mumming traditions of Christmas.

The Abbots Bromley Dancers Robert Winokur – *Tin Whistle*

20. Las Posadas

A visiting ritual from Mexico usually featuring children who travel from house to house reenacting the search for lodging by Joseph and Mary so that she can give birth to the baby Jesus. Finally, an innkeeper recognizes them and welcomes them in. 19th Century anon. Arranged by Juan Pedro Gaffney R.

> Luis Moreno – *Doctor* The Yuletide Youth The Solstice Singers

21. Sands of Mexico

This song tells the story of Saint Patrick's Battalion, or the *San Patricios*, and their eventual desertion from the United States Army. Primarily consisting of Irish-Catholic immigrants, the battalion was sent to Churubusco to fight in the Mexican-American war. While the immigrant battalion was there, the Mexican government printed propaganda to entice immigrant-soldiers away from the American Army. Mistreated and reviled by their American superiors, the Irish immigrants obliged, leaving the US army to join the Mexicans in the fight. Written by Ry Cooder and the Chieftains and arranged by Elijah Botkin.

Luis Moreno – *Doctor* Treasa McGettigan – *Soloist* Gillian Conway – *Soloist*

22. El Caballo

This song is an ode of gratitude from Mexico to the *San Patricios*. It says "*Mil gracias por el servicio … ya son héroes mexicanos*" meaning, "Many thanks for your service, you are already heroes of Mexico. Written by Ry Cooder and the Chieftains and arranged by Elijah Botkin.

Luis Moreno – *Doctor* Michele Harris-Padrón – *Nurse* The Ellis Island Ensemble

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23. Canción Mixteca

A Mexican folk song by José López Alavez describing his feelings of longing for home that might have resonated with the Irish conscripts. Arranged by Elijah Botkin.

> Chorus Dancers The Solstice Singers The Ellis Island Ensemble

24. March to Battle

The battle cry of the *San Patricio* Brigade. To this day they are celebrated as martyrs in Mexico on Saint Patrick's Day (March 17th). Written by Ry Cooder and the Chieftains.

Luis Moreno – *Doctor* Sarah Gorman – *Soloist* The Solstice Singers

25. Ojitos Negros

This little piece depicts a fond memory of a loved one. Their "little black eyes, where did they go?" *"Ay, ojitos negros, dueños de mi corazón."* Oh, little black eyes, dreams of my heart. Written by Ry Cooder and the Chieftains ft. *Los Cenzontles* and arranged by Elijah Botkin.

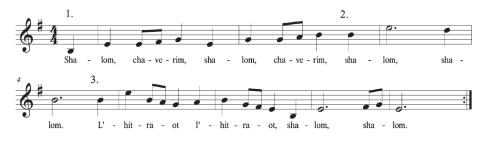
Women of the Solstice Singers

26. Shalom Chaverim

A traditional Jewish peace round. The words mean, simply, "Peace and farewell my friends 'til we meet again."

The Solstice Singers The Yuletide Youth

ALL SING:

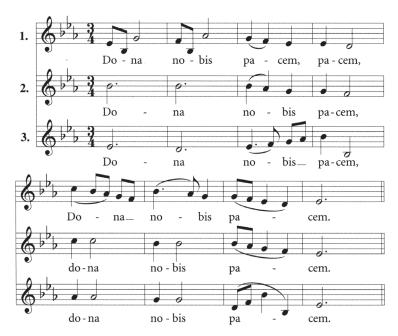


27. Dona Nobis Pacem

A round for peace. "Grant us peace" is a phrase found in the *Agnus Dei* section of the Roman Catholic Mass.

The Solstice Singers The Yuletide Youth

ALL SING!



Dona Nobis Pacem

28. Daley's Polka/My Mother's Little Pet

Lively set dances designed for cottage-sized spaces. An evening of song, dance, and story could thus accommodate a small crowd. Arranged by Robert Winokur. IRISH REVELS DANCERS

29. De Zeyde Mit Der Bobe/Odessa Bulgarish

Traditional *klezmer* pieces. The term *klezmer* is a Yiddish name that can either be applied to the type of music or the musician playing the music. It is derived from two Jewish words: *kle* (vessel or instrument) and *zemer* (song), literally meaning "instrument or vessel of song." *Klezmer* was first used to describe the traditional instrumental music of Yiddish speaking Jews in Eastern Europe. Arranged by Robert Winokur.

JEWISH REVELS DANCERS

30. El Relàmpago

"Darkness and light Strike with love and power before dawn appears." Literally meaning "the lightning", this song describes the electricity between two lovers intent on hiding their true passions from each other. Written by Ry Cooder and the Chieftains, ft. Lila Down. Arranged by Elijah Botkin.

> Luis Moreno – *Doctor* The Solstice Singers Baile de California

31. Straw Mummers Play

Disguise is a common feature in traditional mummers plays best exemplified by the Straw Boys of Armagh who wove straw into costumes and masks to make themselves completely anonymous. The central task of the Winter mummers is to act out the death of the old year and the birth of the new. This abbreviated version by Paddy Swanson follows the sword dancing tradition in which characters routinely enter and exit the dance.

James McCarthy – *Old Man Winter* Olivia Avent, Gillian Conway & Sarah Gorman – *Rooms* The Pacific Sword Company

32. The Shortest Day

A poem written by Susan Cooper for an early Victorian Revels and repeated every year in our nine Revels Cities.

SUSAN KELLER – Founder, Santa Barbara Revels

33. Sussex Mummers' Carol

As part of the echoes referenced in Susan Cooper's poem, the words of this carol come from the past, but in this new configuration we transport the ancient blessing to this present time, this house, and all of you within it, and together with those ancient Sussex Mummers, we wish you good luck and prosperity for the new year.

> The Solstice Singers The Yuletide Youth The Ellis Island Ensemble

ALL SING:



Welcome Yule!



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This project is funded in part by the **Community Events & Festivals Grant Program** using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission.

> Visit santabarbararevels.org for upcoming 2024 events

THE PLAYERS

PAULA LOPEZ, Spirit of Place BILL EGAN, Liam ~ Luis Moreno, Doctor Isabelle Marchand, Bridget ~ David Beck, Isaac Meredith McMinn, Bubbe ~ Leesa Beck, Nora JAMES McCarthy, Rabbi & Old Man Winter ~ Michele Harris-Padrón, Nurse Grace Wenzel, German Soldier

THE SOLSTICE SINGERS

Frank Artusio Olivia Avent Mica Basilici David Beck Leesa Beck Erik Bell Joseph Colunga Teresa Colunga Gillian Conway Terri Cruz Robert Demetriou Richard Les Dugan Bill Egan Risa Erskine Alice Gleghorn Sarah Gorman Michele Harris-Padrón Susan Keller Paula Lopez Antonio T. Luna Gilbert Luna Isabelle Marchand James McCarthy Treasa McGettigan Meredith McMinn Anna Mooy* Luis Moreno Michele Neilson Huyen Nguyen* Shaina Perez* Suzanne Rorick Grace Wenzel (*Puppeteers)

THE YULETIDE YOUTH

Madden Avent Sibyl Cabeen Chance Challen Eden Cobell Marin Cobell Kayla Enrigue Amelia Gorman Teague Learmonth Westley Sartain

PACIFIC SWORD COMPANY

Gene Lerner *~ Foreman* Fred Perner *~ Squire* David Mason Anna Mooy Helen Pasley Grace Wentzel David Williams George Williams Susan McNeill *~ Drum* Robert Winokur *~ Tin Whistle*

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THE ELLIS ISLAND ENSEMBLE

Chad Cullins - Clarinet Thomas Håkanson - Percussion Joshua Jenkins - Guitar Alondra Macario - Violin Jeannot Maha'a - Double Bass James Watson - Trumpet

IRISH QUARTET

Terri Cruz Bill Egan Sarah Gorman Suzanne Rorick

GERMAN QUARTET #1

Erik Bell Alice Gleghorn Shaina Perez Grace Wenzel

SOLDIER TRIO #1

Frank Artusio Robert Demetriou Richard Les Dugan

GERMAN QUARTET #2

Erik Bell Risa Erskine Huyen Nguyen Grace Wenzel

SOLDIER TRIO #2

Robert Demetriou Richard Les Dugan Bill Egan

LORD OF THE DANCE/HAVA NAGILA DANCERS

David Beck Gillian Conway Anna Mooy Huyen Nguyen Grace Wentzel Robert Winokur

CANCION MIXTECA DANCERS

Olivia Avent Gillian Conway Robert Demetriou Sarah Gorman Antonio T. Luna Gilbert Luna Treasa McGettigan Anna Mooy Huyen Nguyen Shaina Perez

THE ABBOTS BROMLEY DANCERS

Horn Dancers Antonio T. Luna Gilbert Luna David Mason Helen Pasley David Williams George Williams Supernumeraries: Robert Demetriou ~ Man-Woman Teague Learmonth ~ Boy Archer

James McCarthy ~ The Fool

Treasa McGettigan ~ Hobby Horse

IRISH DANCERS

Olivia Avent Leesa Beck Sarah Gorman David Mason Treasa McGettigan Susan McNeill Helen Pasley David Williams

JEWISH DANCERS

David Beck Gillian Conway Robert Demetriou Huyen Nguyen Antonio T. Luna Gilbert Luna Anna Mooy Michele Neilson Shaina Perez Grace Wenzel Robert Winokur David Williams

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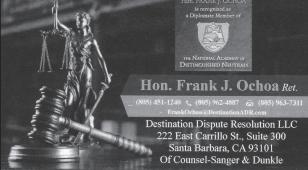
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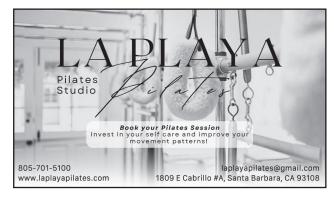
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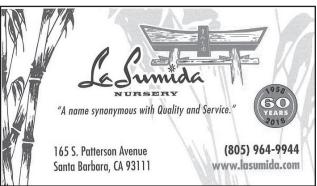
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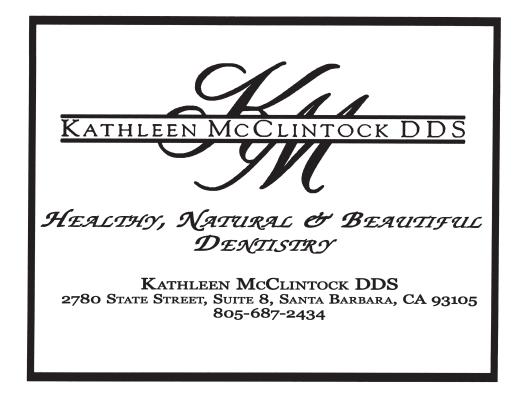
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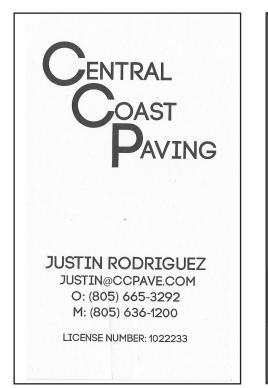
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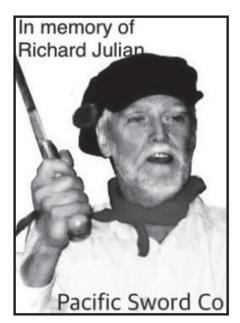


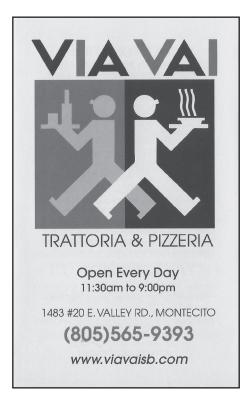
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Each year, we use this opportunity to thank the many people, entitles, and organizations – the "village" – it takes to make *Santa Barbara Revels* continue and grow. These contributors include our wonderfully loyal donors, the public and private foundations who support us, as well as the many, many volunteer hours donated by our participants, coaches, and teachers. We are enormously grateful for these gifts, and we are constantly aware that we could not perform and present productions to our audiences without what these generous givers provide to us.

This year, however, I want to acknowledge another gift we share as revelers, and that is the gift of *family* that Revels creates and in which all revelers take so much satisfaction and sustenance. Some of us experience this on a national level, with the relationships and friendships we have developed with our colleagues in the other eight Revels cities. However, all of us on stage and backstage experience family on a local level. There is something about singing together, about inhaling and exhaling in unison and then moving together in clusters on stage that creates an indelible bond. This special bond has sustained us through many ups and downs: the delightful and happy occasions of graduations, college acceptances, weddings, and babies (!), contrasted with the challenging times of illness and - especially this year - loss. Personally, I am still grieving the passing of our Revels Board President, tenor section mainstay, and Abbots Bromley Man/Woman extrordinare (with his chestlength white beard), my brother Steve Baker, who started singing with a heavenly choir just last year. This year has brought further loss: Richard Julian was a member of the Pacific Sword Company beginning with our very first Revels introductory presentation in 2007. Since then, he continued with the sword team, and appeared on stage whenever needed, as a dance partner, furniture mover, wreath-hanger, and generally good-natured factotum. He also was an excellent company photographer, until his untimely illness and forced retirement. We greatly mourn his loss, and we join with his wife Jana in remembering and holding him in our hearts. Another loss even more recent was Marty Krofft. Known as TV's "King of Saturday Mornings," he was a dear friend, a generous donor when he could be, and a great cheerleader for Revels. After seeing his first of many Winter Solstice shows, he pronounced us "as good as Broadway!" We treasured his contagious enthusiasm.

These men were irreplaceable members of our extended and extensive Revels family, and we will always remember them and cherish the time we shared with them. We are comforted by knowing that our Revels family will continue and grow, that we will support and embrace each other in good times and bad, and that the bond formed in a Revels company is nurturing, supportive, and unlike any other. We thank you all for witnessing the joy that we take so much pleasure in experiencing with our family groups on stage and for joining us in the joy that we pass along to you!



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Susan Keller

MISSION STATEMENT

Santa Barbara Revels engages today's audiences in events involving theater, music, and dance, bringing the world's cultural traditions and celebrations to life and to lives. We purposefully reduce barriers to entry for diverse communities by providing free and low-cost year-round activities that engage a varied and loyal following in Santa Barbara.

VALUES

We practice the art of participation. We foster cultural exploration. We create connections within our community. We fulfill the human need for celebration.