

SANTA BARBARA
REVELS[®]
presents



The Christmas Revels[®]
A Venetian Celebration of the Winter Solstice

December 21st & 22nd, 2019
Lobero Theatre, Santa Barbara

From the Artistic Director

Welcome to Venice! Not the sinking city of today, but Venice in its Renaissance heyday, a magical city built on one hundred small islands, packed with innumerable narrow, mazelike alleys and small squares, situated on a tidal lagoon, looking out to the Adriatic Sea. In the early 1600's, Venice was the dominant trading power in the Mediterranean, the western terminus of the Silk Road. Business transactions took place in the buzzing piazzas populated by Venetians from all walks of life; high art and folk art blended in an exciting and amusing mélange.

We have set our narrative in 1620, when the Republic of Venice was settling into serenity. Spain was perceived as a threat and a rival, but no military peril ever materialized. At this particular time of year, folks are gathering for the "Feast of the Seven Fishes," a present-day Italian-American tradition that takes place on Christmas Eve and is here imagined to have its beginnings in the Venice of that era. For our scenario, we further conjure up the "Festival of Fishes," a celebration of music and dance that anticipates the feasting. Groups of performers have gathered in this crossroads of the world to compete for inclusion in the Festival program.

We meet *Il Doge*, the chief magistrate and elected ruler for life of the Republic. A thoughtful leader attuned to *vox populi*, he feels burdened by the many demands and decisions of his office, and he decides to take a brief hiatus. His associate, *Il Magistrato*, takes over, revealing his ambitions to assume complete power and to impose his personal tastes on the Festival's participants, specifically in order to exclude from the program that lowest class of citizenry... *comedians*.

And we meet those actors, an itinerant *commedia dell'arte* troupe, who are part of an artistic tradition of players who rove from town to town in the country-side using stereotypical characters (*Pantalone* and *Arlecchino*, for example) to make social commentary, entertain, and get people laughing together. They are hoping to revive their fortunes with an appearance at the Festival, but they are thwarted at every turn by *Il Magistrato*.

We invite you to immerse yourself in this experience, to embrace the nonsense, to enjoy and participate in the singing, to dance with us, laugh together, and emerge as a community, just like the community created by this disparate cast of characters. On this Winter Solstice, let us all join together in celebration and merriment. For this is what Revels is all about.

Join us and be joyous!

**Susan Keller, Artistic Director
Santa Barbara Revels**



The Program

Part I

1. Overture: Canzona Per Sonare no. 2

Composed by Giovanni Gabrieli (1554?-1612) and published in 1608, the *Canzoni per Sonare* (“Songs to Play”) is an anthology of works, one of the earliest meant to be played by instruments, rather than sung. Gabrieli was the organist at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, and his music served as a bridge between Renaissance and Baroque styles.

The San Marco Sackbuts

2. La Me Nóna Lé Vecchierélla

A Trentino folk song, the playful lyrics can be translated as “My granny is a little old lady. She sends me to the fountain to get water for supper. She says goodbye.”

The Children's Christmas Chorus

3. Capona/Canario

The composer of this work, Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger (1580-1651), was of Italian and Austrian heritage, and was a prolific composer of pieces for the lute and theorbo.

The Campanile Coterie

4. Quanno Nascette Ninno

Composed by Sant'Alfonso Maria De Liguori (1696-1787), the Christmas mass in the Campania region often starts with a group of zampogna and ciaramella players entering the church playing this carol while dressed as shepherds. Arranged by Cambridge Revels Music Director Megan Henderson.

The Revels Company

The Campanile Coterie

5. O Sanctissima

This traditional Sicilian prayer for protection is also known as “The Sicilian Mariner's Hymn.” The English text is by Cambridge Revels Artistic Director Patrick Swanson, and this transcription for sackbut quartet is based on a brass arrangement by Cambridge Revels Music Director Megan Henderson.

The Revels Company

The San Marco Sackbuts

Please join us in singing the second verse!

Sing this blessed day! Sing this holy day!

Sing the joy of creation. Wonder at this tiny king,

Earth's hopes awaking.

Hallelujah, glory hallelujah!

6. Damigella Tutta Bella

This secular madrigal, composed by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) in 1607, paints a vivid picture: “Beautiful damsel, pour that sweet wine, make fall the dew distilled from the rubies.”

Monteverdi was an Italian composer of both secular and sacred music, a pioneer in the development of opera, and another important figure in the transition from Renaissance to Baroque music in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

Josh Jenkins Erin McKibben
The Campanile Coterie

7. Dormi, Dormi, Bel Bambin

This is a well-known traditional Italian Christmas carol, and it is often sung as a lullaby. This rendition is arranged by Revels North Artistic Director Nils Fredland. The translation is, “Sleep, O beautiful child. King divine, King, divine.”

The Children's Christmas Chorus
The Yuletide Youth
The Campanile Coterie

8. Ríu Ríu Chíu

A well-known Catalan carol by composer Mateo Flecha (1481-1553), this song features the nonsense syllables *ríu ríu chíu*, which may represent the song of a nightingale, or predatory kingfisher. Flecha is best known for his musical *insalata* (salads): works for four or five voices written in multiple languages to entertain palace courtiers.

Diva Johnson Khanh Nguyen
The Solstice Singers
The Yuletide Youth
The Campanile Coterie

9. Ballo dei Tre Gobbi

Translated as “The Dance of the Hunchbacks,” the Ballo dei Gobbi was commonly performed by three older men with attention-attracting personalities, at public dances in the square and at rural get-togethers. It was frequently seen at *Carnevale*, when the dancers were allowed to play pranks and make offending gestures. It was also danced at private parties, where the gestures were always discrete and controlled to accommodate the family atmosphere. Our version includes women dancing with men, honoring the rough playfulness of the tradition while making it work for the Revels stage.

The Tre Gobbi Dancers
The Campanile Coterie

10. La Scaleta

The lyrics from this folk song from the province of Treviso translate to: “I built a staircase to arrive at your balcony, but the staircase is too short because it doesn't reach. Lean out your little hand, because I can't reach the balcony. I built a little house for three to stay in; first my father, and then my mother, and then my love in my arms.”

Così Arthurs Shemsu James-Lefevre Isael Negrete
Michelle Plascencia Angelina Sanchez
The Yuletide Youth

11. Il Mio Capello ha Tre Punte

The tune to this song is from an old Neapolitan canzonetta called “O cara mamma mia.” It has become popular worldwide as a children's song, using the words, “My hat, it has three corners.”

The Children's Christmas Chorus

12. La Vida de Culin

Numerous versions of this Italian song have been found in manuscripts dating from the late 15th century to early 16th. It is a *frottola*: an accompanied polyphonic song with fairly straightforward lyrics. The English translation was done by Carol Anne Perry Lagemann.

Erik Bell Erin McKibben
Meredith McMinn Eric Weitzel
The Campanile Coterie

13. Bizzarria d'Amore

Dancing masters were in high demand during the European Renaissance of the 15th through early 17th centuries, as dance was a very important aspect of court life, being one of the essential graces required of every courtier. One of the early 17th century Italian dancing masters whose works still survive is Cesare Negri, from whose collection this comes. His publications give elaborate and detailed description of dance steps, as well as choreographed dances (the ancestors of ballet), and music to accompany the dances.

The Court Dancers
The Campanile Coterie

14. Sempre Mi Ride Sta

Composed by Adrian Willaert (1490-1562), who journeyed from his native Netherlands to Venice to become Maestro di Cappella at St. Mark's, this secular tune features the chorus singing: "This lady always makes fun of me when we pass in the street...Ha Ha HA!" Willaert brought Northern polyphonic styles to Italy, which proved to be foundational to the developing Venetian style.

The Solstice Singers
The Yuletide Youth

15. *Capricciate e Contrappunto Bestiale Alla Mente*

This piece, by Adriano Bancheri (1568-1634), is characteristic of the witty comedic works that were in great demand from the ordinary folk. Bancheri was a Benedictine monk, and was a true Renaissance man: his interests spanned music theory, literature, linguistics, and architecture, and he composed both sacred hymns and madrigal comedies.

The Solstice Singers

16. *Ave Maria*

The Franco-Flemish composer of this *Ave Maria*, Jacob Arcadelt (1507-1568), moved to Florence from his native Belgium to study with Philippe Verdelot, a master of the Renaissance madrigal form. He was one of the most famous early composers of madrigals. Centuries later, his admirer, the musicologist Alfred Einstein wrote, “Here is attained the ideal of what the time expected of the *dolcezza* (sweetness) and the *suavita* (suaveness) of music.”

Women of the Solstice Singers

Girls of the Yuletide Youth

17. *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 – link it with the mumming traditions of Old Christmas.

Robert Winokur ~ Tin Whistle

The Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers

18. The Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter's modern lyrics to the Shaker song "Simple Gifts," are here translated into a dance using a compilation of English Morris dance steps from various Cotswold village traditions. Choreography by Carol Langstaff, Martin Graetz, and Jonathan Morse. Please join us in dancing through the aisles and onto the Lobero Promenade.

Josh Jenkins
Sofia Rakowski Sara Weitzel
The Revels Company
The San Marco Sackbuts

Join us in singing!

"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.

Intervallo (15 minutes)

Part II

19. Entr' Acte: Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno

Another favorite from Jacob Arcadelt, this four-part madrigal's original lyrics are known for their clever use of death as a double-entendre. This arrangement by Matthew Wood for trombones is a direct and effective transcription.

The San Marco Sackbuts

20. Ho Perso La Cavalina

This is childrens' choosing-game song from Vicenza. Its lyrics translate as, "I have lost the little foal! What color clothes did it have? It had red clothes. What color hair did it have? It had blond hair. What color eyes did it have? It had blue eyes. What color shoes did it have? It had brown shoes. What was its name? It's name was Bob. I have found my little foal!" "Bob," while not the traditional name of the foal, was the children's choice.

The Yuletide Youth

The Children's Christmas Chorus

The Campanile Coterie

21. La Bella Franceschina

The children sing: "There's pretty Franceschina that wanted a husband, and her father at the window hears what she says. 'Be silent, Franceschina,' says the father, 'I will give you a husband!'"

The Yuletide Youth

The Children's Christmas Chorus

The Campanile Coterie

22. Come Let Us Sing and Revel

The composer of this piece, Giovanni Gastoldi (1554-1609) is best known for his two collections of balletti, short five-voice vocal dances characterizing various types of lovers. We sing the original composition, with English text by Elizabeth Miller.

The Solstice Singers

The Yuletide Youth

23. Dona Nobis Pacem

A round for peace.

Erin McKibben ~ Song Leader

The Revels Company

Join us in Singing!

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.

24. Il Coprifuoco

In this Italian curfew song, the chorus sings: "Cover the fire. Good night to all!"

Erin McKibben ~ *Song Leader*
The Revels Company

Join us in Singing!

1. "Din, don, din," suo - na, suo - na la cam - pa - na, suo - na,
 2. suo - na la cam - pa - na. Buo - na not - te!
 3. suo - na la cam - pa - na. Buo - na not - te!
 4. suo - na la cam - pa - na. Buo - na not - te!

25. Ad Una Fesca Riva

Composed by Luca Marenzio (1556-1599), this madrigal is a good example of the type of secular song that was popular across Europe in the late Renaissance. Marenzio held posts in Rome, Florence, and Warsaw over the course of his career.

**Richard Beatty Erik Bell Alice Gleghorn Jeffrey Long
Erin McKibben Isael Negrete Michele Neilson
Michelle Plascencia William Schleifer**

26. U Leva, Leva

An Alan Lomax Calabrian field recording was the source for this traditional tuna fishing song: “Heave, heave! Raise the net...”

Robert Demetriou Brett Larsen
The Solstice Singers
The Yuletide Youth

Join us in Singing!

U leva leva leva!

27. La Chiara Stella

A folk song associated with the *novena*, a tradition in Italian villages where musicians travel from house to house the nine days before Christmas to sing about the nativity story and receive gifts. The chorus sings, “And we have arrived, to sing the clear star and bring the novena, because the Redeptor is born.”

Erik Bell Erin McKibben Meredith McMinn
The Revels Company

28. The Mummers' Play

Written by Cambridge Revels Artistic Director Patrick Swanson, with *commedia dell'arte* characters in a traditional English Mummers' play structure, the script was revised by Revels North.

**Matthew Tavianini ~ *Pantalone* Tyler X Koontz ~ *Arlecchino*
Felicia Hall ~ *Columbina* Annabell Walker ~ *Isabella*
Stan Hoffman ~ *Il Dottore***

29. Agnus Dei

“O Lamb of God...” Palestrina is one of the most beloved, prolific, and innovative composers of the Renaissance. Primarily a composer of sacred choral works, his contrapuntal vocal style is considered the standard model for the polyphonic composition in the late Renaissance and beyond.

The Solstice Singers

30. The Shortest Day

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

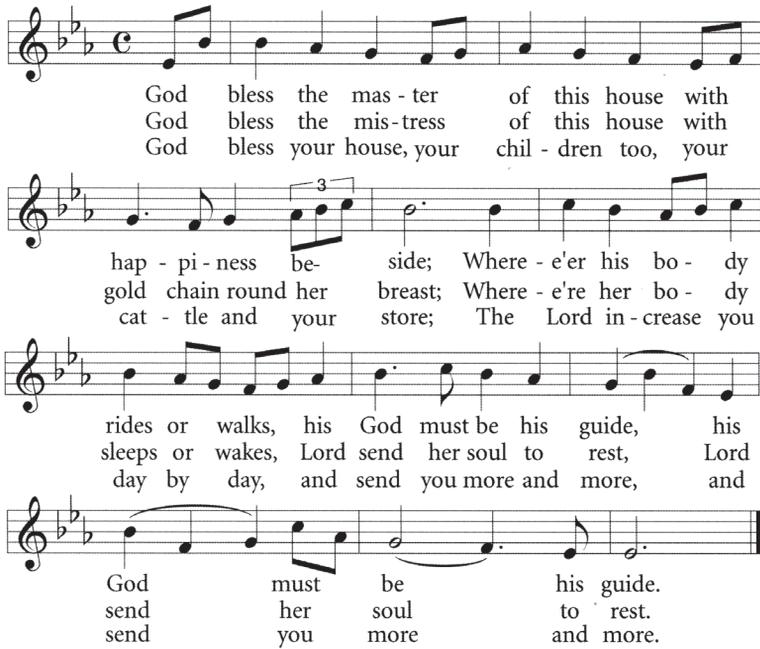
Susan Keller ~ *Founder, Santa Barbara Revels*

31. Sussex Mummers' Carol

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

***The Revels Company*
*The San Marco Sackbuts***

Join us in Singing!



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.

Welcome Yule!

Performers

THE PLAYERS

STAN HOFFMAN ~ *IL DOGE*

BILL EGAN ~ *IL MAGISTRATO*

MATTHEW TAVIANINI ~ *MARCO*

TYLER X KOONTZ ~ *CINO*

FELICIA HALL ~ *SABRINA*

ANNABELL WALKER ~ *NONI*

FRANK J. ARTUSIO ~ *ALFONSO*

CAMILLE TRACY ~ *CHILD*

MERCKX DASCOMB ~ *GUARD 1*

MATTHEW SHAPERO ~ *GUARD 2*

KRISTINE MARIE HAUGH ~ *PRISONER*

THE SOLSTICE SINGERS

Eva Anda

Frank J. Artusio

Steve Baker

Richard Beatty

Erik Bell

Robert Demetriou

Risa Erskine

Alice Gleghorn

Kristine Marie Haugh

Diva Johnson

Brett Larsen

Juliette Lefevre

Jeffrey Long

Gilbert Luna

Erin McKibben

Meredith McMinn

Treasa McGettigan

Michele Neilson

Huyen Nguyen

Khanh Nguyen

William Schleifer

Amber Dawn Stickerod

Eric Weitzel

Heather Weitzel

Noah Weitzel

Sara Weitzel

THE YULETIDE YOUTH

Cosi Arthurs

Eduardo Flores

Isabelle Garin

Shemsu James-Lefevre

Isael Negrete

Maxine Nocker

Michelle Plascencia

Sofia Rakowski

Angelina Sanchez

Camille Tracy

Matthew Weitzel

Kate Wenzel

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Elizabeth Avila

Emmalie Avila

Kate Crowder

Emma Gibou

Annie Jordan

Ava Jordan

Antonio Luna

Ella McGowan

Maya Morrill

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Erin McKibben* ~ *Flute/Recorder*
Kristine Pacheco-Bernt ~ *Violin*
Jeannot Maha'a ~ *Viola da gamba*
Josh Jenkins ~ *Mandolin*
Tim MacDonald ~ *Percussion*

THE SAN MARCO SACKBUTS

Eric Heidner* ~ *Tenor*
Paul Gaddis ~ *Tenor*
Lee Oppert ~ *Tenor*
Stephen Hughes ~ *Bass*
Tim MacDonald ~ *Timpani*

THE COURT DANCERS

Eva Anda
Merckx Dascomb
Gary Shapiro
Amber Dawn Stickerod
Eric Weitzel
Heather Weitzel
Noah Weitzel
Sara Weitzel

ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCERS

Richard Julian Eric Weitzel
Fred Perner* Noah Weitzel
Gary Shapiro George Williams
Kristine Haugh ~ *The Fool*
Shemsu James Lefevre ~ *The Boy Archer*
Treaasa McGettigan ~ *The Hobby Horse*
William Schleifer ~ *The Man/Woman*

THE TRE COBBI DANCERS

Richard Beatty
Tyler X Koontz
Treaasa McGettigan
Michele Neilson
Amber Dawn Stickerod
Matthew Tavianini

*Designates Group Leader

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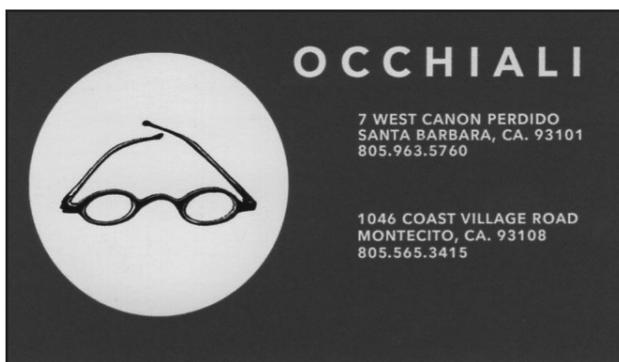
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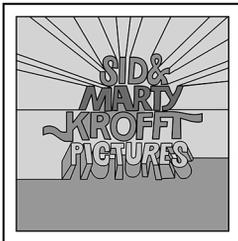
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**Congratulations to all those who
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Barbara County Arts Commission.

Gratitudes

Thank you for joining us for *The Christmas Revels* this year, as we enjoy “A Venetian Celebration of the Winter Solstice.” As we end our season and prepare for the next, we'd like to try to thank all those in the Revels community that help to give *Santa Barbara Revels* its strength: the performers, the production team, the volunteers, the financial supporters, our board of directors, and of course, the audience.

Special thanks must be extended to our new board members: Krystal Freedom, Alice Gleghorn, and Gary Goldberg. We also must thank the friends of the show whose help with the business of rehearsal and performance has been indispensable: we express our gratitude to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara (and Rev. Julia Hamilton), who have sponsored our Children's Chorus, and whose premises serve as our weekly rehearsal space; and to the First Presbyterian Church (made possible through the generosity of Helen Pasley and Gene Lerner) and to Girls Inc., where we hold our staged rehearsals. Thanks much to the Lobero and its staff – we love to be here. And thank you to the volunteers who give so generously of their time, particularly Fred Perner.

We are delighted to have you join us for this year's *Christmas Revels*, and hope you enjoy the show. We also hope to see you at *Santa Barbara Revels'* other programs we host over the course of the year, such as our Pub and Harbor Sings, May Day Celebration, and Equinox Concert.

Happy Holidays to you and your family from all of us at *Santa Barbara Revels*.

**Nicholas Jurkowski, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Revels**





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MISSION STATEMENT

Santa Barbara Revels engages today's audiences in theatrical and musical experiences that bring the world's cultural traditions and celebrations to life and to lives.

VALUES

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