



REVELS HOUSTON
presents
A VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS
CAROLING PARTY
In Celebration of
the Winter Solstice
Dec. 20, 2021 to Jan. 6, 2022

REVELS HOUSTON

A VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY

Program and Lyrics Sheets

(All songs are audience sing-alongs, unless designated otherwise)

Welcome

Paul Woldy, President, Revels Houston Board of Directors

- 1. Opening Music: I Saw Three Ships/The Helston Furry Dance** (Traditional English/Cornish)
The Merrie Bande of Players
- 2. Call to Celebration: Excerpt from the Poem, "Nativity"** (W. R. Rodgers – Irish, 1909-1969)
Beverly Ladnier, speaker
- 3. Here We Come A-Wassailing** (Traditional English) **(CHORUS ONLY)**
The Revels Houston Solstice Singers
The Merrie Bande of Players
- 4. Joy To The World** (Words: Isaac Watts – English, 1674-1748; Music: Unknown (pre-1833))
(ALL SING!)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world!
The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world
With truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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5. Peace Round (Words: Jean Ritchie – American, 1922-2015; Music: Traditional English)

(ALL SING!)

What a goodly thing
If the children of the world
Could dwell together
In peace.

6. O Little Town Of Bethlehem (Words: Phillips Brooks – American, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis Henry Redner – American, 1831-1908)

(ALL SING!)

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

7. Verses from the Poem, “A Christmas Carroll” (George Wither – English, 1588-1667)

Ella Forel, speaker

8. To Drive The Cold Winter Away (All Hayle To The Days) (Words & Music: John Playford’s *The English Dancing Master*, 1651) (CHORUS ONLY)

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9. Deck The Hall (English lyrics: Anonymous; Music: Traditional Welsh)

(ALL SING!)

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
'Tis the season to be jolly.
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Fast away the old year passes,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Sing we joyous all together,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

10. Shalom Chaverim (Round) (Traditional Jewish/Hebrew)

(ALL SING!)

Shalom, chaverim,	(Translation: Peace, friends;
Shalom, chaverim,	Peace, friends,
Shalom, shalom,	Peace, peace.
L'hitraot, l'hitraot,	Until we meet again, until we meet again,
Shalom, shalom.	Peace, peace.)

11. The Holly and the Ivy (Traditional English)

(ALL SING!)

The Holly and the Ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The Holly bears the crown.

REFRAIN:

**Oh, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,**

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The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The Holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our dear Saviour.

Refrain

The Holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

Refrain

12. Christmas Legend: The Yule Cat (Icelandic as retold by Sarah L. Crowder)

The Yule Cat of Icelandic legend has unique ideas about how people should observe the feast of Christmas ... and a unique punishment if they don't do what he expects of them.

(Sarah L. Crowder, Gary Schroller, players)

13. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Words: Charles Wesley – English, 1707-1788; Music: Felix

Mendelssohn – German, 1809-1847, adapted by William

Hayman Cummings – English, 1831-1915) ***(ALL SING!)***

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest Heaven adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.

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Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”

14. Little Jack Horner (Round) (Traditional English)

(ALL SING!)

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner,
Eating his Christmas pie.
He... stuck in his thumb
And pulled out a plum
And said, “Yum, yum, yum,
What a good boy,
What a good boy,
What a good boy am I!”

15. The First Nowell (Traditional English)

(ALL SING!)

The first Nowell the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

The lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

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16. **O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)** (Original Latin words and music: attr. John Francis Wade – English, 1711-1786; English translation: Frederick Oakeley – English, 1802-1889) **(ALL SING!)**

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels

REFRAIN

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All Glory in the highest!

Refrain

17. **Fra Giovanni's Christmas Salutation (1513)** (Italian)

Paul Woldy, speaker

18. **It Came Upon The Midnight Clear** (Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears – American, 1810-1876; Richard Storrs Willis – American, 1819-1900) **(ALL SING!)**

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious of song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats

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O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds,
The blessèd angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes 'round the Age of Gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

19. The Christ Child's Lullaby (Taladh Chriosta) (Traditional Scottish)

Sarah L. Crowder, soprano soloist
The Revels Houston Solstice Singers

20. Silent Night (Stille Nacht) (Original German words: Joseph Mohr – Austrian, 1792-1848; English translation: John Freeman Young – American, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Xaver Gruber – Austrian, 1787-1863) *(ALL SING!)*

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from Heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
"Alleluia" to our King;
Christ, the Savior is born,
Christ, the Savior is born.

21. Wassail Riddle from "The King and The Fool" (Patrick Swanson)

Gary Schroller, speaker

22. The Gloucestershire Wassail (Traditional English)

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23. **Miss Hoolihan's Christmas Cake** (Words and Music: C. Frank Horn – American, b.1851;
song published 1883)

Verses: Bob Stevenson, baritone soloist
(*ALL SING on REFRAINS!*)

REFRAIN

There was plums and prunes and cherries,
And citron and raisins and cinnamon, too;
There was nutmegs, cloves, and berries,
And the crust, it was nailed on with glue.
There was caraway seeds in abundance,
Sure, 'twould make for a fine stomach-ache
That would kill a man twice
After 'atin' a slice
Of Miss Hoolihan's Christmas cake.

24. **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen** (Traditional English)

(*ALL SING!*)

God rest you merry, gentlemen;
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Saviour,
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:

REFRAIN

**O, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O, tidings of comfort and joy.**

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.

Refrain

God bless the people of this place
And send them long to reign;
And many a merry Christmas
May live to see again,
Among our friends and kindred
That live both far and near.

Refrain

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25. **Angels We Have Heard On High** (*Les anges dans nos campagnes*) (Traditional French; English words: James Chadwick – English, 1813-1882) *(ALL SING!)*

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

26. **Poem, "Remember," from the Romany Christmas Revels** (Susan Cooper)

Celia Homer, speaker

27. **Away In A Manger** (Words: Anonymous; Music: James R. Murray – American, 1841/42-1905)
(ALL SING!)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the Baby awakes,
But Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

28. **The Cornish Wassail** (Traditional Cornish)

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The Merrie Bande of Players

29. Go Tell It On The Mountain (Traditional African American)

(ALL SING!)

REFRAIN

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Jesus' birth.

Refrain

And lo! When they had heard it,
They all bowed down and prayed;
Then travelled out together
To where the Babe was laid.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Babe was born,
And God sent down His angels
That blessèd Christmas morn.

Refrain (2x)

30. We Three Kings Of Orient Are (Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr. – American, 1820-1891)

(ALL SING!)

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

REFRAIN

**O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

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Refrain

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
“Alleluia, alleluia,”
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

31. **The Legend of La Befana** (Italian as retold by Sarah L. Crowder)

Every year, on the night of January the Fifth, the Eve of the Feast of the Three Kings, an old woman called La Befana visits the homes of all of the children of Italy, and leaves them candies, cookies and gifts. It is said that she is searching for the Christ Child.

Sarah L. Crowder, Narrator

Celia Homer, La Befana

Bob Stevenson, Traveler from The East #1

Ella Forel, Traveler from The East #2

Gary Schroller, Traveler from The East #3

32. **We Wish You A Merry Christmas** (Traditional English)

(ALL SING!)

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year!

Glad tidings we bring
To you and your kin.
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year!

Now bring us a figgy pudding,
Now bring us a figgy pudding,
Now bring us a figgy pudding,
And a cup of good cheer!

We won't go until we get some,
We won't go until we get some,
We won't go until we get some,
So bring it out here!

Glad tidings we bring
To you and your kin.
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year!

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,

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We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year!

33. **Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen)** (Traditional German; English translations of lyrics: Verses 1-2: Theodore Baker – American, 1851-1934, Verse 3: Harriet R. K. Spaeth – American, 1845-1925); Music arranged by Michael Praetorius – German, 1571-1621)
The Revels Houston Solstice Singers

34. **Dona Nobis Pacem (Give Us Peace) (Round)** (Traditional English) *(ALL SING!)*

35. **Poem, “The Shortest Day”** (Susan Cooper, 1977)
(Bob Stevenson, speaker)

Welcome Yule! *(ALL RESPOND)*

36. **The Sussex Mummers' Carol** (Traditional English) *(ALL SING!)*

God bless the Master of this house
With happiness beside;
Where-e'er his body rides or walks,
His God must be his guide,
His God must be his guide.

God bless the Mistress of this house
With gold chain round her breast;
Where-e'er her body sleeps or wakes,
Lord, send her soul to rest,
Lord, send her soul to rest.

God bless your house, your children, too,
Your cattle and your store.
The Lord increase you day by day
And send you more and more,
And send you more and more.

37. **Closing Music: “Deck The Hall”** (Traditional English and Welsh)
The Merrie Bande of Players

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Producer: Paul Woldy
Program Deviser/Compiler: Bob Stevenson
Script Writer: Sarah L. Crowder
Chorus Preparation: Bob Stevenson, Kris Woldy
Rehearsal Pianist: Kris Woldy

Host & Song-Leader: Bob Stevenson
Story-Telling Leader & Director: Sarah L. Crowder

The Revels Houston Solstice Singers: David Brewer
Ruth Cross
Sarah L. Crowder
Paul Downs
Ella Forel
Celia Homer
Beverly Ladnier
Gary Schroller
Bob Stevenson
Paul Woldy

The Merrie Bande of Players: Ruth Cross, recorder
Paul Downs, violin
Ella Forel, guitar
Celia Homer, baritone ukulele, Merlin M4, bodhran
Gary Schroller, pennywhistle, concertina, melodeon
Hsiao-Lan Wang, piano

Audio/Video Recording and Editing: Ray Orr

Publicity: Ella Forel
Alice Pillsbury
Emily Woodell
Leo Volk

Our deep and sincere thanks to **Mrs. Anne Burton**, who opened up her lovely home to us for Revels Houston's 2021 Virtual Christmas Caroling Party, and to her sister, **Karen Rucker**.

*God bless the people of this place
And send them long to reign,
And many a Merry Christmas
May live to see again,
Among our friends and kindred
That live both far and near,
O, tidings of comfort and joy!*

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