

The Washington Revels

PRESENTS

# THE CHRISTMAS REVELS®

IN CELEBRATION OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE,  
A MIDWINTER'S TALE OF

## THE KING AND THE FOOL

WITH

*Piffaro, the Renaissance Band*

*The Stonecastle Carolers*

*The Welspent Youth*

*The Sprytlie Children*

*The Lord of Misrule*

*The Royall Noyse Brass*

*The Foggy Bottom Morris Men*

*Matthew Nielson* AS THE KING

AND

*Mark Jaster* AS THE FOOL

*Roberta Gasbarre* ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*Elizabeth Fulford Miller* MUSIC DIRECTOR

*Jason Morris* PRODUCTION MANAGER

*John Clewett* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

LISNER AUDITORIUM

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
21ST AND H STREETS NW, WASHINGTON, DC  
DECEMBER 3-5 AND 10-12, 2004

# THE CHRISTMAS REVELS®



For a twenty-second year, The Christmas Revels brings to Washington the ancient and joyous celebration of the year's rebirth at 'the shortest day' – the winter solstice.

We find ourselves in the Great Hall of a medieval castle, awaiting the arrival of King and court, and the commencement of the royal midwinter festivities. Our companion in waiting is the Fool.

The King embodies temporal power, and his kingdom relies upon him for its sense of security. The Fool is much closer to the earth, more attuned to the natural order. Together, they reflect the tension between human power and the forces of nature. It is only when these forces are in balance that peace and harmony can prevail.

When danger is at hand, the power of the Fool comes into play. It calls to us from one chaotic age to another, beware! We are entering into the time of the Feast of Fools, when nothing is sacred, and every convention will be tested.

— DECEMBER 2004



## PART ONE

### Setting the Stage

BAILIFF, Lock Handley

FOOL, Mark Jaster

### 1. Brass Prelude

Dating from 1325, this *estampie* comes from a fragmentary manuscript known as the *Robertsbridge Codex*, which preserves the earliest known keyboard music. Brass arrangement by Charlie Pilzer.

The Royall Noyse Brass

### 2. Deo Gracia Anglia – 'The Agincourt Carol'

This anonymous carol, written in 1415, recounts the remarkable victory of Henry V at the battle of Agincourt. We sing it here to welcome our King. The Latin refrain can be translated as Give thanks unto God, O England, for victory.

Greg & Christopher B. Lewis, Constance Ridgway & Jim Lazar,  
Gary Colonna & William Wurzel, Zoe Handerson & Douglas Baumgardt, SINGERS  
The Stonecastle Carolers  
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band

### 3. In Dulci Jubilo

*In Dulci Jubilo* is one of the oldest and most famous of 'macaronic' songs, which combine Latin and a vernacular language such as English or German. The melody dates from 14<sup>th</sup>-century Germany, and the words are attributed to the German mystic Heinrich Suso (ca. 1295-1366), who is said to have had a vision in which angels sang these words as he joined them in a dance of worship. The brass arrangement is by Charlie Pilzer, and the English paraphrase and handbell parts are by Elizabeth F. Miller.

Greg Lewis, LEADER

Leah de La Beaujardiere, Andrea Blackford, Gillian Hollar & Constance Ridgway, HANDBELLS  
The Royall Noyse Brass

### ALL SING:





#### 4. Border Morris Dance

A raucous style of morris dance from the Welsh border country to rout evil spirits and bring in luck for the new year. The dancers, often miners, would wear masks or blacken their faces with coal dust for anonymity. This particular dance, *Hunt the Squirrel*, is derived from the morris traditions of Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

*The Foggy Bottom Morris Men*  
*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

#### 5. The King's Dance

*Step Stately* is a courtly English country dance from John Playford's collection, *The English Dancing Master*, ed. 1650. The tune to which it is danced is called *Jack Pudding*.

*Matthew Nielson & Elisabeth Myers, Susan & Greg Lewis,*  
*Sara Moses & Christopher B. Lewis, DANCERS*  
*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

#### 6. A Courtly Interlude

A three-part chanson by Italian composer Antonello de Caserta (late 14<sup>th</sup> c.), *Beauté parfaite* sets a poem by the famous French poet and composer Guillaume de Machaut. Reflecting the *ars subtilior* (more subtle art) style of the late 14th century, each part moves in its own independent and complex rhythm, yet the overall effect is of a flowing and elegant unity.

*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

#### 7. Personent Hodie

This jubilant Latin Christmas carol rejoices in the birth of the baby, the wise men following the star, and the angels singing 'Glory to God in the Highest.' The tune first appeared in the *Moosburg Gradual* of 1360, although with different words. The present setting, arranged by English composer John Rutter, is based on the text and tune as they appeared in *Piae Cantiones*, a Scandanavian song-book published in 1582.

*The Stonecastle Carolers*  
*Douglas Baumgardt, Monica Hosky, Gillian Hollar, Michael Matheson & Julianne Harden, HANDBELLS*  
*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*  
*The Royall Noyse Brass*

#### 8. Somerset Wassail

The word 'wassail' comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase *wæs hal* – an everyday greeting that can be translated as 'be healthy.' The phrase was eventually contracted into one word, and came to refer to the act of toasting someone's health. Wassailers would travel from house to house, singing, with a 'wassail cup' which their hosts were expected to fill. Cecil Sharp collected this folksong in the early 1900s from the Drayton wassailers in Somerset. The brass arrangement is by Brian Holmes.

**RIDDLER:** *William Wurzel*  
*The Stonecastle Carolers*  
*The Royall Noyse Brass*

#### 9. Children's Songs

##### Villagers All!

Words from the carol sung to Mole and Rat by the field mice in *The Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame.

##### Miri it is

One of the earliest surviving English secular songs with music, dating from 1220. Sung in early English, it can be loosely translated as *Summer while it lasts is merry with the song of birds. But now the blast of the wind and foul weather is coming. Ei, Ei! How long is the night! And I with so much wrong, sorrow and mourn and fast.*

##### There Was a Pig Went Out to Dig

An old agrarian mummers' carol from Bedfordshire, linking the Christmas season with the cycle of planting and harvesting.

*The Sprytlie Children, WITH Julianne Harden*  
*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

#### 10. The Lord of Misrule

As in Medieval times during the Feast of Fools, a Lord of Misrule is chosen from the populace to preside in topsy-turvy fashion over the celebration.

**COURT INTERPRETER:** *James Lazar*

##### O Tocius Asie

This medieval song dates from the *Crusade* of 1248, but its music represents a style current some fifty years earlier.

*Douglas Baumgardt, Jackie Berry, Andrea Blackford, Greg Lewis, Diane Kresh,*  
*Nancy Lynn, Mike Matheson, Mari Parker & Donna Simonton, SINGERS*  
*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

##### Make We Merry Both More and Less

This anonymous text, from a medieval manuscript found at Balliol College, Oxford, is said to be connected with festivities associated with the Lord of Misrule. The tune, a late 13<sup>th</sup>-century *Nota* or untitled dance, is found in the same manuscript as the well-known round *Sumer is icumen in*.

*The Stonecastle Carolers*  
*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

#### 11. Ding Dong Merrily on High

The music for this popular Christmas carol first appeared in the *Orchesographie*, a 16<sup>th</sup>-century book of dances written by Johan Tabourot (1519-93). This *Branle l'Officiel* was to be danced by 'lackeys and serving wenches and sometimes by young men and maids of gentle birth masquerading as peasants and shepherds.' The English lyric was written in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by George Ratcliffe Woodward. The verse two harmony, verse three descant and handbell parts are by Elizabeth F. Miller.

*Greg Lewis, LEADER*  
*Gillian Hollar & Diane Kresh, HANDBELLS*  
*The Stonecastle Carolers*  
*The Royall Noyse Brass*

## ALL SING:



1. Ding dong! mer - ri - ly on high in heav'n the bells are ring - ing:  
3. Pray you du - ti - ful - ly prime your mat - in chime, ye ring - ers;

Ding dong! ve - ri - ly the sky is riv'n with an - gel sing - ing:  
May you beau - ti - ful - ly rime your eve - time song, ye sing - ers.

Glo - - - - -

## 12. The Contest

In many cultures, the testing of the king in combat is a necessary ritual to preserve the power and spirit of the office. One version of this incantation, published in an early Mother Goose collection, has been connected to the tragic Battle of Culloden in 1746, in which Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Highland clansmen were defeated by British troops.

*The Sprytlie Children*

## 13. Te Deum Laudamus

An anonymous 13<sup>th</sup>-century English hymn, offered here as a prayer for the King's success. The text is credited to Nicetas, Bishop of Remesiana (ca. 335-414), in what is now Serbia.

*The Stonecastle Carolers Men*

*Piffaro, The Renaissance Band*

## 14. The Battle

A Shadow Knight comes from the natural world to bring forth winter's deepest darkness. As the contestants meet, we hear the keening of human voices and of nature. The chant is *O virga ac diadema* by Hildegard von Bingen; the soundscape design is by Matthew Nielson.

*Claudia Dulmage, Ryan Greene-Roesel, Zoe Handerson, Diane Kresh,*

*Nancy Lynn, Sara Moses, Celia Murphy & Donna Simonton, SINGERS*

## 15. Fortz Chausa Es

This *planh*, or elegy, written in Provençal by troubadour Gaucelm Faidit (fl. 1170-1205), laments the death of Richard Lion-Heart, who died in 1199 from an infected arrow wound received in battle against the rebelling Limousins.

*Elisabeth Myers, SINGER*

*Grant Herreid, LUTE*

*Katy Warren, DANCER*

## 16. Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter's contemporary lyrics to the Shaker song *Simple Gifts* were choreographed for the first staged Christmas Revels in 1971 by Carol Langstaff with Shag Graetz and Jonathan Morse,

using figures from the English morris dance tradition. Morris dances brought fertility and luck to the fields and villages in which they were performed.

*Greg Lewis, SINGER*

*Christopher B. Lewis, Andrew Marcus & Phinney McIntire, DANCERS (ALTERNATING)*

*The Royall Noyse Brass*

## ALL SING REFRAIN:

'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



## PART TWO

## Instrumental Prelude

A setting by Heinrich Finck (1444-1527) of the ancient German song *Greiner Zanner*.

*The Royall Noyse Brass*

## 17. O Rubor Sanguinis

Written by Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179), this homage to St. Ursula of Cologne evokes the image of red blood flowing between Heaven and Earth: *O redness of blood, who have flowed down from that height which divinity touched: you are the flower that the winter of the serpent's breath never withered.* The influential German abbess also wrote major works on theology and natural history as well as poetry and plays, and was an advisor to bishops, popes and kings.

*Julianne Harden, Mallary Forbes & Ryan Greene-Roesel, SINGERS*

*Andrea Blackford, Zoe Handerson, Helen Fields & Elisabeth Myers, HANDBELLS*

## 18. Abbots Bromley Horn Dance

The ancient ceremony of 'deer running,' once a mid-winter ritual dance of the hunt, is still danced every year in the English village of Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire, 'bringing in the luck.' The first written account of the horn dance dates from 1226 at the Barthelmy Fair, but carbon dating indicates that the reindeer antlers still used today at Abbots Bromley date to 900 A.D., about the time of the Danish invasion. The dance's supernumerary characters – the Fool, Hobby Horse, Man-Woman and Boy Archer – link it with the mumming tradition of Old Christmas.

*The Foggy Bottom Morris Men, WITH Joan Kimball, RECORDER*

## 19. Man mei longe him lives wene

An anonymous English minstrel song from the 13<sup>th</sup> century: *Man may expect long life, yet often, for him, there waits a trick. Fair weather often turns to rain, and sunshine is wondrously made. Therefore, man, bethink thyself – all thy green youth shall fade. Well-a-day! Neither King nor Queen shall escape the drinking of death's draught. Man, ere thou fallest off thy bench, quench thy sin.*

*Grant Herreid, SINGER*



## 20. Danse Macabre

A variant on the medieval dance of death, which underscores the cycle of life, death and rebirth. Interpreted by Mark Jaster from original choreography by Geoff Hoyle.

Mark Jaster

Piffaro, The Renaissance Band

## 21. Change Ring

The tradition of ringing church bells to call and gather the community goes well back into the Middle Ages. The later innovation of mounting each bell on a full wheel allowed greater precision in ringing, which led to the development of intricate patterns of *change ringing*. Change ringing is also done on handbells, and is done now to bring in the year.

Douglas Baumgardt, Zoe Handerson, Julianne Harden & Gillian Hollar, **HANDBELLS**

## 22. Sun Turning

This traditional English street chant evokes the cycle of the seasons, *from Yule to Yule!*

The Sprytly Children

## 23. Resonet in Laudibus

First appearing in the *Moosburg Gradual* of 1360, this popular German Christmas carol is associated with the medieval custom of cradle-rocking, where a cradle was placed before the altar and rocked to the singing of *Wiegenlied* (cradle-songs) at Christmas services. In the later Middle Ages, *Resonet in Laudibus* was also associated with dancing – large cradles depicting the town of Bethlehem were erected in churches, and young boys would leap around them, singing and clapping their hands.

The Stonecastle Carolers

Piffaro, The Renaissance Band

## 24. Please to See the King

A traditional carol from Pembrokeshire, South Wales, commemorating the ritual hunting of the wren on St. Stephen's Day, December 26. Its opening words, 'Joy, Health, Love and Peace,' have become a favorite Revels expression of good wishes. We sing it now as our King emerges, evoking the Green Man, an icon of the return of Spring.

The Sprytly Children

The Stonecastle Carolers

## 25. Alle Psallite

An anonymous 13<sup>th</sup> century *conductus* from the *Montpellier Codex*, used here as a coronation hymn.

Claudia Dulmage, Helen Fields & Sara Moses, **HANDBELLS**

The Stonecastle Carolers

Piffaro, The Renaissance Band

## 26. Salutation

From a letter written by Italian monk Fra Giovanni to a friend on Christmas Eve, 1513.

Matthew Nielson, King

## 27. Round for Peace: Dona Nobis Pacem

The Latin words mean 'give us peace.'

Greg Lewis, **LEADER**

### ALL SING:



## 28. The Twelve Days of Christmas

A traditional English 'forfeit' carol (those who sang at the wrong time were expected to forfeit a candy, or a kiss, to their neighbor), arranged for brass and tympani by Kenneth Pulig for Revels in 1979.

Greg Lewis, **LEADER**

The Royall Noyse Brass

### ALL SING:

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree.  
Two turtledoves,  
Three French hens,  
Four calling birds,  
Five gold 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,



## 29. Saint George and the Dragon

A compilation by Revels founder John Langstaff of several medieval mummers' plays celebrating fertility, death, and rebirth. The sword dance and ritual execution survive from a time when the death of the hero, also known as the 'Sun King,' was considered necessary to assure fertility and the return of light and warmth. The sword dance performed by the Foggy Bottom Morris Men is from the 'Ampleforth' play of the North Riding, Yorkshire.

**ROOM:** Monica Hosky, **FATHER CHRISTMAS:** Dick Kovar, **JOHNNY JACK:** Gillian Hollar,

**THE DRAGON:** Colin Sandel, **ST. GEORGE:** Christopher B. Lewis, **THE DOCTOR:** Terry Winslow

### 30. *In dulci jubilo*

This setting of *In dulci jubilo*, by Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654), is a jubilant double-choir motet in the Venetian style, with a musically athletic *obligato* part for two descant trumpets. Please join in singing the final 'Alpha es et O!'

Greg Lewis, **LEADER**  
The Stonecastle Carolers  
The Sprytlic Children  
Piffaro, The Renaissance Band  
The Royall Noyse Brass



### 31. *The Shortest Day*

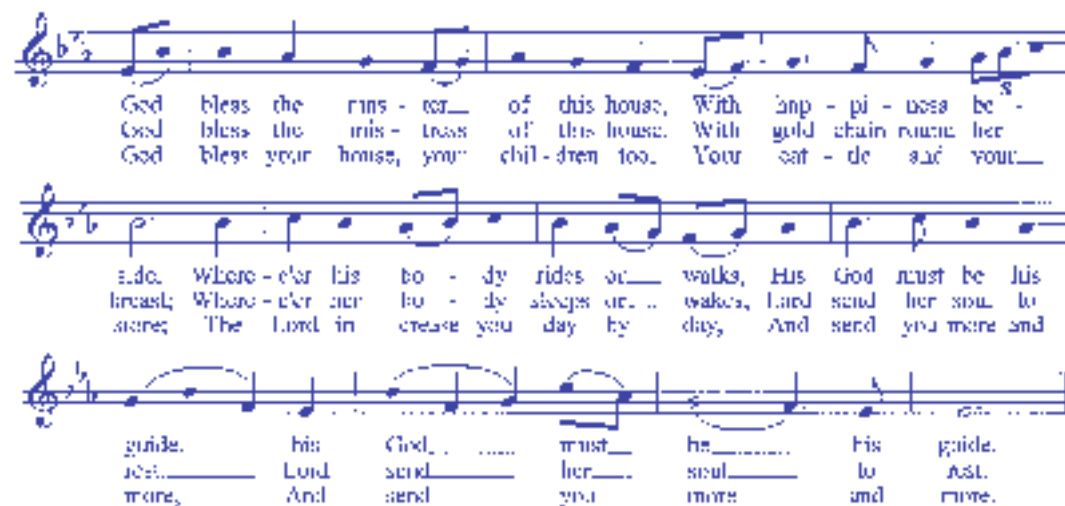
Written by Susan Cooper in 1977, this poem has become an annual tradition in all Christmas Revels performances throughout the country.

### 32. *The Sussex Mummers' Carol*

This carol was traditionally sung at the end of the mummers' play in Horsham, Sussex, and has become the parting song in each of the eleven American communities where The Christmas Revels is performed. Brass transcription by Brian Holmes; descant and final verse harmonization by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

The Royal Noyse Brass

#### ALL SING:



The Washington Revels gratefully acknowledges the support of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**The Washington Revels** CELEBRATING TRADITION THROUGH MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA  
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## PERFORMERS

#### The Leading Players:

Mark Jaster, FOOL  
Matthew Nielson, KING

#### The Royall Noyse Brass:

Robert Posten, DIRECTOR,  
BASS TROMBONE  
Robert Birch, TRUMPET  
David Cran, TRUMPET  
Dave Scianella, TROMBONE  
Sharon Tiebert, FRENCH HORN  
Don Spinelli, TIMPANI

#### Piffaro, The Renaissance Band:

Joan Kimball &  
Robert Wiemken, DIRECTORS  
Grant Herreid, LUTE, GUITAR,  
SHAWM, RECORDER  
Joan Kimball, SHAWM,  
RECORDER, BAGPIPE,  
CORNEMEUSE  
Christa Patton, SHAWM, HARP,  
BAGPIPE, RECORDER  
Robert Wiemken, SHAWM,  
DULCIAN, RECORDER,  
CORNEMEUSE, PERCUSSION  
Tom Zajac, SACKBUT, RECORDER,  
BAGPIPE, PIPE & TABOR

#### The Stonecastle Carolers:

Douglas Baumgardt \*  
Jacqueline R. Berry  
Andrea Jones Blackford \*  
Jill C. Braibanti  
Leah de La Beaujardiere \*  
Gary Colonna  
Claudia Hastings Dulmage \*  
Helen Fields \*  
Barbara Gesumaria  
Ryan Greene-Roesel  
Zoe Handerson \*  
Lock Handley  
Julianne J. Harden \*  
James Harkless  
Gillian Hollar \*  
Monica Hosky \*  
Richard Kovar  
Diane Nester Kresh \*  
Jim Lazar  
Michael Lewallen  
Christopher B. Lewis  
Greg Lewis  
Susan Hall Lewis  
Nancy Lynn  
Michael Matheson \*  
Sara W. Moses \*  
Celia Murphy  
Elisabeth R. Myers \*

Matthew Nielson  
Mari Parker  
Michael Platt  
John Pomeranz  
Constance Ridgway \*  
Colin Sandel  
Donna K. Simonton  
Rolf Taffs  
Diane Behrens Winslow  
Terry Winslow  
William Wurzel  
\* THE HIGHTOWER BELLS

#### The Welspent Youth:

Keegan Cassidy  
Jessye DePrest  
Mallory Forbes  
Trevor Lewis  
Jasmine Mahboob  
Sarah McClung  
Gordon Moore  
Glen North  
Elizabeth Parisi  
Charlie Sullivan  
Jocelyn Turner  
Katy Warren

#### The Sprytlic Children:

Ella Barnes  
Ella Caplin

John L. C. Carter-Hirt  
Emma Hardin  
Blair James  
Rebecca Marie McClung  
Amy Catharine Miller  
Allie Names  
Jason Noone  
Robin Pollak  
Jamie Sandel  
Vidya L. Srinivasan  
Simon S. Voorhees  
Maddy S. G. Weko

#### The Foggy Bottom Morris Men:

Nathaniel Brown  
Pete Brown  
Brad Graham  
Andrew Marcus  
Scott Marcus  
Jud McIntire, FOREMAN  
Phinney McIntire  
Colin Sandel  
Art Shaw  
Cyd Shelby, MUSICIAN  
Joe Shelby  
Rodger Sunderland  
Gus Voorhees  
Jim Voorhees  
Simon Voorhees

## Washington Regional Transplant Consortium Salutes



### The Washington Revels' 22<sup>nd</sup> Season!

"Dance, then, wherever you may be..."

During this time of thanksgiving and gift giving, when families come together to celebrate seasonal traditions, take a moment to think of those who are waiting for a second chance at life. Organ and tissue donors save or improve the lives of hundreds of Americans each day. Almost 2,400 people in the Washington, D.C. area are waiting for a donation, and many will die before receiving this incredible gift. You can help.

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I want you to know how much I appreciated your Ode to my life at my retirement party. Thank you for sharing your talent!

Former US Senator Chuck Robb, McLean, Virginia

What a novel approach you took for our sister's baby shower—writing a poem from the baby's point of view. It brought tears of joy to our eyes. We cannot express how truly great you are.

MK Prout, H Lang, and J Economou, Boca Raton, Florida

Your poem for our granddaughter's Bat Mizvah was simply brilliant! I was delighted to present it, and everyone says it captures her to a T. How do you do it, PrimeTimeRhymes?

R Wine, Washington, DC

The poem you wrote for my friend's milestone Birthday was truly amazing. It was the highlight of our celebration—and now it's framed on her wall as a lasting gift.

MM Stewart, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Having you write my best man's toast for my brother's wedding was a smart decision. Your Ode so eloquently—and humorously—captured the many nuances of the groom and bride. You gave me the words I couldn't find, and your creativity was truly the crown jewel of a sparkling day.

B Murphy, Alexandria, Virginia

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Vanessa Robin

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Louise Dunlop

Joicey Granados

Rosanne O. Gochman

Helen Labadie

Patricia Matheson

Janice McKenney

Deanna North

Candace Olsson

Cindy Speas

Suzie Ward

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Martha Behr

Peter Behr

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congratulates the Potomac School  
as it celebrates its Centennial!**



*In this Centennial year of the Potomac School of McLean, VA, The Washington Revels honors and celebrates the historic connections between the Revels and Potomac. Those connections began with the introduction and incubation of Christmas Revels traditions in the school by Revels founder Jack Langstaff as a Potomac music teacher from 1955 until 1967. They continued with key contributions by members of the Potomac community to the founding of The Washington Revels and to its first productions. And they extend on through today and into the future!*