

Sent by: Portland Revels
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PORTLAND REVELS



NEWS OF THE REALM

FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Friend,

Portland Revels celebrates the seasons... but, wow, can we be done with winter yet? It's hard to tell in this year's endless cold and wet that Spring, [earth's immeasurable surprise, \(Phillip Larkin, First Sight\)](#) is just around the corner. But it is, and we take joy from that.

We'll keep our hopes high for warmer weather as we sing and dance over the next few months. We're launching *Tradition Days* with the Argentine Tango, will be hosting more house parties, and are excited for our new spring tradition, *Flourish*.

Join us, and come on spring!



Introducing Tradition Days

Come Inside and Flourish with Portland Revels

**From the Desk of the Executive Director
Revels Recommends**

USEFUL LINKS

[Flourish Spring Fundraiser](#)



[Tradition Days](#)



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Introducing Tradition Days

Portland Revels is proud to introduce our newest program, Revels *Tradition Days*. Three times a year we'll bring you an afternoon and evening of music, dance, participatory art, community and culture. These events will include afternoon classes, a pot-luck dinner, and an evening of dancing or singing!

TRADITION
Days

Our first *Tradition Day* takes place in less than a month, on March 4th, from 3–9PM. Our cultural focus is on tango; both as a dance style and a South American cultural tradition. We're bringing Liz Hutchinson and Yelizaveta Nersesova of Dos Minas (www.dosminas.com) in to teach us how the music of tango has changed throughout history and across culture. And, of course, to teach us to DANCE!

We'll have other afternoon offerings if you don't feel like dancing all day. Betsy Branch, our associate music director, will be launching "Band of Fools", a chance for you to make music in a group with whatever instrument (and skill level) you'd like to bring. And Leela Grace, a nationally-known singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and percussive dancer who was a wonderful part of the 2012 Appalachian Revels, will be teaching by-ear harmony singing.

After dinner we'll be hosting an all-ages Milonga, or Argentinian social dance, complete with additional dance instruction. A safe, comfortable, Revels way to step out into tango.

Learn more or buy tickets at our website at <http://portlandrevels.org/tradition-days/>

Tradition Days

March 4th, 3–9pm

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church

1907 NE 45th Ave, Portland, OR 97213

3:00p – 4:15p – The Music of Tango w/ Dos Minas (presentation/class)

OR Band of Fools w/ Betsy Branch (community music making).

4:30p – 5:45p – Harmony by-ear w/ Leela Grace (community music making/class)

OR Beginning Tango Dance w/ Dos Minas (class)

5:45–7 – Potluck Supper!

7–9 PM – Milonga (Social Dance) with Dos Minas

Come Inside and Flourish with Portland Revels



We're excited to be bringing back our Inside Revels house parties this spring! These small gatherings are a great way for you to get to know Revels and the Revels team more intimately.

On March 5th we'll be hosting a conversation with our new Artistic

Director, Bruce Hostetler, about his work and vision for the future of our organization.

On March 26th Regina Pirruccello, our Children's Stage Director, will talk about how she brings out the inner singer and choreographer in each Children's Chorus member.

We'll have a third house party in April – date and topic TBD. If you want to hear about or from someone, let us know!

Most importantly, on May 6th we'll be hosting our second annual *Flourish Fundraising Breakfast*, and we'd love to have you join us. This short morning event is an inspirational (and delicious) way to support the Portland Revels. Learn more at <http://portlandrevels.org/flourish-spring-fundraiser/>

We're also looking for Flourish Volunteers to make our day successful! [Volunteer here](#) and keep Revels strong!

From the Desk of the Executive Director



January and February are somewhat quiet months for the Portland Revels, as they are for many of us in our own lives. We turn inward and homeward, waiting for the spring, which teases us with the occasional blue sky or tentatively warm day. We wait. We reflect. We refuel.

In the office we turn inward after our exuberant solstice celebration, taking stock of how our previous year turned out while looking forward to broadening and enriching our cultural work through new programs. We nourish our organization (through grant writing and planning our spring fundraiser). And, most excitingly, we finalize our decision about the theme for our next Christmas Revels... we'll be making an announcement in the next few weeks.

There are two things I really look forward to in Feb, both which involve reflection and growth. First, I truly enjoy reading through your survey comments about our Christmas Revels, learning what you liked and didn't like. Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond! You liked Commedia Italiana a lot, by the way! 88% of you gave it top marks (either a 4 or 5 on a five point scale), and your comments warmed my heart. Everyone loved our zany 12 Days of Christmas (we couldn't have done it without you), and many of you raved about our dragon, calling it "the best ever" and "sublime". Some other lovely comments were:

Beautiful music, great costumes, wonderful fun!

You are a Portland treasure.

Warm, wonderful sound and sights and filled with such cheer and well wishes!

I'm so glad I heard about it and can't wait to go to the next show. I am now a forever

patron!

Thank you to all of you for your lovely feedback every winter – it helps us grow, and truly, we couldn't do our show without you. You are the show!

The second thing I love in February is our artistic conference, when the leadership of all 9 National Revels companies meets to discuss our shows and our organizations. We cheat the season and go to Southern California for a few days (sadly, we're even expecting rain down there!). But we come home with fresh ideas, inspiration and the joy of community. Our new Tradition Days are built on Tradition Days from Revels North in New Hampshire, and our Flourish fundraiser was inspired by Tacoma Revels. And I'm proud to say our shows continue to be an inspiration to other companies around the country. We're so looking forward to the trip, (and to LAX's In and Out Burger).

Our music director is picking me up in 45 minutes to go to the airport – gotta run! Hope to see many of you at Tradition days.

Revels Recommends

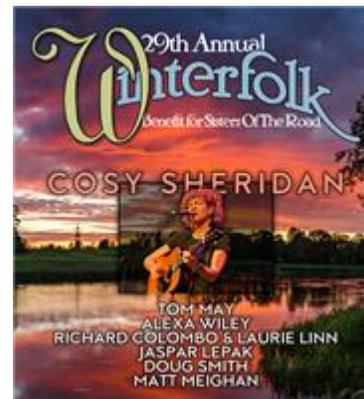
[29th Annual Winterfolk – Benefit for Sisters of the Road](#)

February 18th, 7 PM

Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta

A fantastic lineup of folk singer-songwriters join together to raise money for Sisters of the Road.

Performers include Cosy Sheridan, Tom May, Alexa Wiley, Richard Colombo and Laurie Linn, Jaspur Lepak, Doug Smith and Matt Meighan.



[Portland Black Film Festival](#)

Beginning on February 9th

Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd.

The Portland Black Film Festival aims to offer diverse perspectives and stories in an art form all too often dominated by white filmmakers.



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