

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christmas Revels 2016
Celebrates Music, Dance and Comedy of Renaissance Venice
December 16th-21st

Portland, Oregon, November 15, 2016 – Portland Revels will celebrate its 22nd Christmas Revels with a comedic story of a bored Doge of Venice who runs away from home.

The music, dance and comedy of the Italian Renaissance come alive in this year's Christmas Revels: *Commedia Italiana*. Our weary hero, tired of listening to the complaints and appeals of his supplicants, leaves leadership behind in favor of comedy. He joins a roving troupe of clowns – really, Commedia Dell'Arte actors – and zaniness ensues.

The show features six local talented physical comedians as the commedia actors, as well as our company of adult and child chorus members, dancers, our own Christmas Revels band and featuring the Portland Brass Quintet. There will be sword dances, clowns, traditional and new music, and as always we'll ask our audience to join in the song and dance to help us welcome the winter solstice.

In addition, we've commissioned local artists to create one of the largest dragons we've ever made – this nine-foot-tall beauty will grace the stage in the second half of the show.

The script was adapted and the show directed by Revels Artistic Director Bruce A Hostetler, and music direction is by Robert Lockwood, with associate music director Betsy Branch leading the Christmas Revels Band. This year's featured performers include local actors Shuhe Hawkins and Michael O'Neill, and musicians Hideki Yamaya and Laura Kuhlman.

"The music for our Commedia Italiana includes selections both secular and sacred from an era often referred to as the golden age of choral music," says Music Director Robert Lockwood.

"With the added goofiness of some crazy funny clowns from the founding era of today's best comedy," adds Hostetler.

Christmas Revels is a seasonal production that features traditional dances, music and songs in celebration of the winter solstice. Familiar highlights of the Portland Revels' annual event include the mummer's play, Abbots Bromley horn dance, the Lord of the Dance, and, as always, an invitation to the audience to join in the singing. At the Revels, the audience doesn't come to see a show – they are part of the show.

Performances take place this year at St. Mary's Academy in downtown Portland. Information on parking and local amenities can be found on the Portland Revels website at portlandrevels.org

Performances run December 16-21, 2016.

Performances & Tickets:

The Christmas Revels
Thurs.-Tues., December 16-21, 2016
St. Mary's Academy
1615 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR
Tickets \$10-\$41

Details and tickets at portlandrevels.org

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About Portland Revels

Portland Revels was founded in December of 1994 under the leadership of Richard Lewis, when an audience of 200 attended the "Rose City Revels," a sampling of songs and dances from the original Cambridge Christmas Revels, performed at Mago Hunt Theatre at University of Portland. The following year, the first fully-staged Christmas Revels drew 1,500 to five performances at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. Since then, Portland Revels has grown to include year-round programming reaching a diverse audience, and in 2015 the Christmas Revels was performed 8 times to patrons in excess of 5,000.

Portland Revels is committed to creating community through shared experiences of celebrating the seasons through cultural arts programs. Today, Portland Revels presents a number of richly historical and cultural public performances and events throughout the year, including the Christmas Revels, pub sings, a women's vocal ensemble (ViVoce), and family-friendly special events. Revels' Preview show ticket giveaway program provides opportunities to lesser-served communities to experience the arts.

Portland Revels
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