

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Christmas Revels 2015
celebrates 19th century Irish Music and Dance
*December 17th – 23rd***

Portland, Oregon, November 24, 2015 – Portland Revels will celebrate its 21st Christmas Revels with a story of 19th century Irish emigrants travelling to the new world.

The Christmas Revels: *Celtic Crossing* features traditional 19th century Irish music and dance, including Sean-nós (old style) Irish foot percussion and ceili dance, the Uillian pipes, penny whistle, guitar and violin, and familiar Irish melodies set for our 50 person adult and child chorus. The story follows a young couple who keep their spirits up through a long voyage with song, dance and storytelling. They have the help of a poet on board who reminds passengers to look back to Ireland with fondness, but to look forward to America with hope. The script was written by Producer/Stage Director Bruce Hostetler, and music direction is by Robert Lockwood, with associate music director Betsy Branch leading the Christmas Revels Band. This year's featured performers are Maldon Meehan as lead dancer and Kevin Carr as the Poet.

Christmas Revels Music Director Robert Lockwood says "this year's show includes music across a beautiful Irish spectrum. We include traditional songs, carols, ballads and instrumentals, many in new arrangements created for Revels. The music will be both new and familiar for those who love Irish music!"

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, the Sussex Mummer's Carol, the Lord of the Dance and, as always, an invitation to the audience to join in the music. 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 17 – 22, 2015.

Performances & Tickets:

The Christmas Revels
Thurs.-Tues., December 17-22, 2015
St. Mary's Academy
1615 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR
Tickets \$9-\$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 2014 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
portlandrevels.org/

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