

# WINTER'S RETURN

## December 18, 2022 – Live Stream!

**Twelvetide** (The Wren) 1st verse Traditional - England

One year, in the van on our way to the first concert of the Season, William suggested it would be fun if we start and finish the concert with a single verse of this old Twelfth Night song. So we did. This is how traditions begin.

*Joy, health, love and peace be all here in this place. By your leave we will sing concerning our king.*

1. **I Saw Three Ships** Traditional - England

**Un Flambeau Jeanette Isabella** 17th c France

**The Scotsman Over the Border** Traditional - Ireland / Scotland

Of course this is a sea song!! Yo ho ho ho and all that.

*I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day, on Christmas day*

*I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas day in the morning.*

2. **Tordion** 15th c. French dance tune

**Winter Wie Ist Nu Dein Kraft** (Winter, how now is your strength?) Neidhart von Reuental (1190-1237 Bavaria)

3. **Ma'oz Tzur** (Rock of Ages) Traditional – words from the 13th c; tune unknown

**Candle Blessings** Traditional chanukiah (menorah) lighting song – melody by Samuel & Israel Goldfarb (early 20th c)

The medieval roots of Ma'oz Tzur may show in its smiteful lyrics, but the candle blessings balance that with quiet thankfulness. Samuel Goldfarb, born in Poland, lived most of his life in Seattle.

*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam...*

*... asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

*... she'asa nisim la'avoteinu ba'yamim ha'heim ba'zman ha'ze.*

*... shehecheyanu vekiymanu vehigi'anu lazman hazeh.*

*(Blessed are you lord our god, king of the universe...*

*...Who has sanctified us with your commandments and bade us light the chanukiah.*

*...Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.*

*...Who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.)*

4. **The North Wind Doth Blow** Traditional nursery rhyme set to music by Jim Spencer (Wisconsin)

**Christmas Eve** Tommy Coen (Ireland)

*Cold and raw the North Winds blow, bleak in the morning early*

*All the hills will be covered in snow and the Winter's now come fairly*

5. **Halsway Carol** tune: "Halsway Schottische" by Nigel Eaton / lyrics: Iain Frisk (both of England)

*A winter day, the summer grass turned hay*

*Frost in the field till the dawn of May*

*A summer's light never shone as great or as bright*

*So dance in the shadows of a winter's night.*

6. **Elf und Zwölf** Traditional - England

These tunes were numbered 11 and 12 in the *Terpsichore*, a collection of dance music compiled by German composer Michael Praetorius in the early 17th century.

7. **Noël est Arrivée** (Christmas is Here) Traditional – France

**Danse de l'Ours** (Dance of the Bear) Traditional – Flanders

*La jambe me fait mal, Boutte selle, boutte selle* (My leg hurts, get the saddle, get the saddle)

*La jambe me fait mal, Boutte selle à mon cheval* (My leg hurts, get the saddle on my horse)

8. **Welcome In Another Year** Zoë Mulford (USA)

**Xiù jīn biǎn** (Embroidered Golden Plaque) Jian Zhong Wang (1933-2016 China)

Tania learned this tune decades ago from urhu player Warren Chang, director of Seattle Chinese Orchestra.

Zoë Mulford's song draws on a variety of new year's customs including those of China, Iran, and the Celtic pagan tradition.

*Build up the bonfires - now the seasons turn. Welcome in another year and let the old one burn.*

*Build up the bonfires - light the candles bright. All the hungry spirits will be coming by tonight.*

**INTERMISSION**

9. **Christmas in the Drake** by David Pablo Cohn (Port Townsend, Washington)

Pablo spent a Christmas on the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer, crossing one of the roughest bodies of water on the planet – the Drake Passage – between Argentina and Antarctica.

*For it's warm below and quite a show, spending Christmas in the Drake.*

10. **Moita Fiesta, Villancico para la Navidad** (Big Party, A Carol for Christmas) Jose Pacheco (1784-1865, Galicia)

With thanks to Anchorage flute player Elsa Aegerter, who thought we might like this tune. She was right!

11. **Mirie It Is** 12th c England

**The Landlord's Scourge** Steve Tyler (England)

**Rics Hom** Peire Cardenal (1180 - 1278 France)

12. **How Blest Are Shepherds** Henry Purcell (1659-1695 England)

**Winter** lyrics: Wm Shakespeare (from "Love's Labour's Lost") tune: "Packington's Pound" 16th c England

*...then nightly sings the staring owl:*

*"Tu-whit tu-who," a merry note, while greasy Joan doth keel the pot.*

13. **The Season of Holly & Ivy** Traditional - England

*The season of holly and ivy is here, the season of mirth and of glee.*

*The year has come round to the hour when all men of goodwill can agree.*

*Hail to the hour when all men agree*

14. **S'vivon** (Dreidel) Traditional – Israel

**A Nakht in Gan Eyden** (A Night in the Garden of Eden) Harry Kandel, (1885 -1943 USA)

*S'vivon, sov, sov, sov. Chanukah hu chag tov.*

*Chanukah hu chag tov. S'vivon, sov, sov, sov.*

*(Dreidel spin, spin, spin. Chanukah is a great holiday)*

15. **I am Christmas** Bill Meek / John Connolly (England)

*I am warmth and I am light and I am kith and kin  
A candle in your longest night - I am Christmas, let me in  
I am Christmas, let me in.*

16. **Solstice Waltz** Shonti Elder (Alaska)

**Drive the Cold Winter Away - New Year's Eve** 17th c England

Solstice Waltz is a recent composition by our friend Shonti Elder, in Anchorage. We follow it with a song and a tune that are both found in Playford's book of English Country Dance, published in the mid 17th century. The song was lacking a chorus so we added one:

*In praise of good pastime, raise up a glass to drive the cold Winter away.*

**Twelvetide** (The Wren) last verse Traditional - England

*Now Christmas shall pass; Twelvetide is the last, and we bid you adieu - great joy to the new!*

**Thank you for joining us here today.**

**We hope our music will bring a bit of extra warmth and brightness to these darkest days and help you to celebrate the turning of the year in whatever manner you most enjoy.**

**We wish you the very best holiday cheer that the season can bring.**

**Mike, Tania, William & Felicia**

*Winter's Return* is a collaboration between four world touring musicians.

William Pint, Felicia Dale, Tania Opland and Mike Freeman perform songs of the season on hurdy-gurdy, octave mandolin, hammered dulcimer, violin, guitar, cittern and percussion.

[From our web page at www.wintersreturn.com](http://www.wintersreturn.com) you can find links to our two duos, our recordings and our performances.