



JOHN W. WEEKS FOOTBRIDGE
BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Autumnal Equinox 2007

Presented by the Charles River Conservancy and Revels

Whenever communities have gathered to mark the turning points of the year, song and dance have been central to the celebration. This river existed before the city, before the first settlers, indeed before humans of any kind. It became the reason that our cities and towns were founded here. What better place to celebrate than on the banks of the river that runs through it? With voices and light, RiverSing bridges the water as we cross over from summer into fall. It takes many voices to build a bridge, so lend yours to the growing chorus!

SING WITH US!

This Land Is Your Land

*This land is your land, this land is my land,
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.*

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley;
This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
And all around me a voice was sounding,
"This land was made for you and me."

When the sun came shining and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting,
"This land was made for you and me."

The Water Is Wide

The water is wide, I cannot cross o'er,
Neither have I wings to fly
Build me a boat that can carry two
And both shall row, my love and I.

A ship there is, and she sails the seas
She's loaded deep, as deep can be,
But not as deep as the love I'm in
I know not if I sink or swim.

I leaned my back against an oak,
Thinking it was a trusty tree,
But first it bent, and then it broke,
Just as my love proved false to me.

O love is handsome and love is kind,
Gay as a jewel when first it's new —
But love grows old and waxes cold
And fades away like the morning dew.

Michael, Row the Boat Ashore

Michael, row the boat shore, hallelujah! (2x)
Sister, help to trim the sail ...

River Jordan is chilly and cold ...
Chills the body but not the soul ...

Jordan's river is deep and wide ...
Milk and honey on the other side ...

Down in the River to Pray

*As I went down in the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.*

Oh, sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, [won't you] come on down?
Oh, sisters, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Oh, brothers, ... fathers, ... mothers, ... sinners, ...

Jamaica Farewell

Down the way where the nights are gay
And the sun shines gaily on the mountain top,
I took a trip on a sailing ship
And when I reached Jamaica I made a stop.

*But I'm sad to say I'm on my way,
Won't be back for many a day,
My heart is down, my head is turning around,
I had to leave a little girl in Kingston Town.*

Down at the market you can hear
Ladies cry out while on their heads they bear
Akee, rice, salt fish are nice,
And the rum is fine any time of year.

Sounds of laughter everywhere
And the dancing girls sway to and fro;
I must declare my heart is there
Though I've been from Maine to Mexico.

Rivers of Babylon

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down,
And there wept when we remember Zion. (2x)

There the wicked carry us away
captivity require of us a song;

How can we sing King Alfa's song in a strange land? (2x)

So let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight over I. (2x)

Guantanamera

Yo soy un hombre sincero de donde crece la palma, (2x)
Y antes de morirme quiero echar mis versos de alma.

Guantanamera, guajira, Guantanamera. (2x)

Mi verso es de un verde claro y de un carmin encendido, (2x)
Mi verso es un ciervo herido que busca en el monte amparo.

Con los pobres de la tierra quiero yo mis suerte echar, (2x)
El arroyo de la sierra me complace mas que el mar.

Red River Valley

From this valley they say you are going,
We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile,
For they say you are taking the sunshine
That has brightened our path for a while.

*Come and sit by my side if you love me,
Do not hasten to bid me adieu,
But remember the Red River Valley
And the cowboy who loved you so true.*

Won't you think of the valley you're leaving?
Oh how lonely, how sad it will be!
Oh, think of the fond heart you're breaking
And the grief you are causing to me.

As you go to your home by the ocean,
May you never forget those sweet hours
That we spent in the Red River Valley
And the love we exchanged 'mid the flowers.

Down by the Riverside

Gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside, (3x)
Gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside,
I'll study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more, (6x)

Gonna put on my long white robe,
... starry crown,
... golden shoes, ...

When the Saints Go Marching In

Oh when the saints go marching in, (2x)
Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

And when the sun refuse to shine ...

Oh when the trumpet sounds the call ...

Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie

*Bring me little water, Sylvie,
Bring me little water now;
Bring me little water, Sylvie,
Every little once in a while.*

Can't you hear me callin'?
Can't you hear me now?
I need a little bit of water
Every little once in a while.

Sylvie come a-runin', bucket in her hand,
"I will bring you water fast as I can."

I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away.
To the land on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have grown, ...
Like a bird that prison bars has flown, ...

Just a few more weary days and then ...
To a land where joys will never end, ...

*I'll fly away, O Lordy, I'll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by,
I'll fly away.*

Shenandoah

O Shenandoah, I long to see you,
Away, you rollin' river.
O Shenandoah, I long to see you.
Away, I'm bound away,
'Cross the wide Missouri.

O Shenandoah, I love your daughter, ...

O Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you, ...
O Shenandoah, I'll not deceive you, ...

For seven years, I've been a rover, ...
But I'll return to be your lover, ...

Somos el Barco

The stream sings it to the river,
the river sings it to the sea,
The sea sings it to the boat
that carries you and me.

*Somos el barco, somos el mar,
Yo navego en ti, tu navegas en mí;
We are the boat, we are the sea,
I sail in you, you sail in me.*

Now the boat we are sailing in
was build by many hands,

And the seas we are sailing on,
it touches many lands.

Oh, the voyage has been long and hard,
and yet we're sailing still,
With a song to help us pull together,
if we only will.

So with our hopes we raise the sails
to face the winds once more,
And with our hearts we chart the waters
never sailed before.

O Mary, Don't You Weep

If I could I surely would,
Stand on the rock where Moses stood,
Pharoah's army got drowned,
O Mary don't you weep.

*O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn, (2x)
Pharoah's army got drowned,
O Mary don't you weep.*

Moses stood on the red sea shore,
Smotin' the water with a two-by-four, ...

The Lord told Moses what to do,
To lead those Hebrew children through, ...

God told Noah to build him an ark,
Noah built the ark outa hick'ry bark, ...

God gave Noah the rainbow sign,
No more water but fire next time, ...

One of these days about twelve o'clock,
This old world's gonna reel and rock, ...

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

*Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me
home. (2x)*

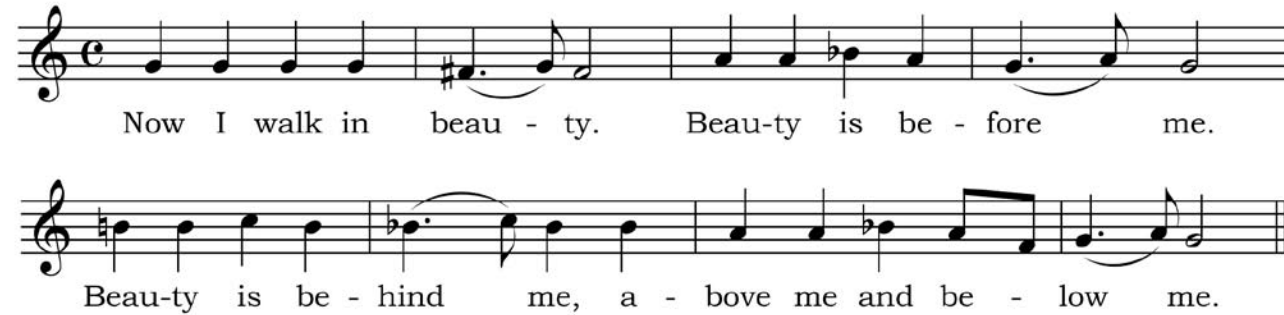
I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
Comin' for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me,

Comin' for to carry me home.

If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm comin' there, too,
Comin' for to carry me home.

River Hymn

George Emlen, composer. Words based on a Navajo prayer



Now I walk in beau - ty. Beau-ty is be - fore me.
Beau-ty is be - hind me, a - bove me and be - low me.

FEATURED CHORUSES

Mystic Chorale

Nick Page, *director*
www.mysticchorale.org

Sharing a New Song

Diane Winchester, *director*
www.sharinganewsong.org

Halalisa Singers

Mary Neumann, *director*
www.halalisa.org

Revels Repertory Company

Kay Dunlap, *director*
www.revels.org

Greater Boston Intergenerational Chorus

Joanne Hammil, *director*
www.joannehammil.com

GUEST ARTISTS

Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band

www.marycurtinproductions.com

Mystic Drummers

Stan Strickland, *saxophone*

Ken Field, *saxophone*

Chris O'Brien, *saxophone*

River String Band

Etienne Cremieux, *fiddle*
Eric McDonald, *guitar*
Eric Levenson, *double bass*
George Emlen, *keyboard*

Solo Vocalists

Nick Page
Jamie Jaffe
Cristina Corwin
Milton Wright
Louise Grasmere
Stan Strickland

PRODUCTION STAFF

George Emlen, *music director*
Patrick Swanson, *stage director*
Elizabeth Locke, *production manager*
Lynda Johnson, *stage manager*
Juliet Cocca,
Sarah Higginbotham,
and Andrew Hebert-Johnson,
assistant stage managers
Michael Harris, *technical director*
Dean Clegg and Joe Larson, Clegg Sound,
event sound
Chris Ripman, Ripman Lighting,
event lighting
Nancy Hanssen,
volunteer coordinator

PUPPETS

The West African river goddess puppet Oshun was designed and built by Andrew Periale, resident puppeteer at Underground Railway Theater.

The puppet Poseidon was designed and built by Sara Peattie of the Puppet Collaborative.

VOLUNTEERS

Jacqueline Barnard
Jim Borys
Martin Borys
Janet Childs
Harvey Cohen
Russell Cox
Donald Duncan
Jean Farrington
Arthur Ferguson
Sarah Hebert-Johnson
David Kimball
Nancy Knight
James Lawton
Diana Lees
Susan Maycock
Gael Motz
Rich Motz
Woody Neusdorfer
Shelley Stiles
Meryl Stowbridge
Brendan Tierney
Hannah Woodbury

RIVERSING SUPPORTERS

(as of September 12, 2007)

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WBUR-FM
Justin Knight Photography
Flagraphics, Inc. of Somerville

THANKS

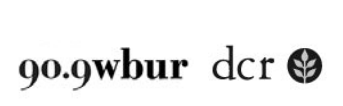
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We thank the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for their support during the permitting process and their continued partnership for bridge lighting maintenance.

We thank these Harvard Square eating establishments for offering RiverSing related discounts and tasty picnic meals: Boston Chowda, Grendel's Den, Harvest, Herrell's Ice Cream and Frozen Yogurt, The Hong Kong, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Upstairs on the Square, and Z Square. And special thanks to Izze Beverage Company for providing free natural fruit drinks.

We thank Tom McNickol and the Charles River Clean Up Boat folks for the use of their boat, and Jae Smith and the Watertown Public Schools for the use of their choral risers.

A special thank you to all of the volunteers from Revels and CRC for this event.





Charles River Conservancy (www.thecharles.org)

Founded in 2000, the Charles River Conservancy is a non-profit citizens' organization dedicated to the renewal and stewardship of the Charles River Parklands from the Boston Harbor to the Watertown Dam. The Conservancy aims at making the Parklands more attractive, active, and accessible for all. The Conservancy fulfills its mission through a range of educational programs and by working with volunteers who assist in the restoration, maintenance and beautification of the Charles River shoreline and parklands. Since inception, the Conservancy has recruited over 8,600 volunteers. The Conservancy is an acknowledged leader in forming effective partnerships with public agencies, private corporations and other nonprofits to research, plan, and implement the reclamation of areas along the Charles River that have been long neglected and fallen into disuse. Other CRC initiatives include improving 17 miles of riverfront pathways, facilitating public swimming in the river, and creating a world-class skateboard park next to the Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge on the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge.

The Conservancy has been permanently illuminating the historic bridges that span the Charles River since launching the first annual RiverSing - Bridging the Charles with Voice and Light celebration in 2004. The event draws attention to the bridges' architectural beauty and aims to build support to restore the bridges as part of the Parklands renewal effort. In 2004 the Conservancy permanently illuminated the Weeks Memorial Footbridge, followed by the Anderson Bridge in 2005 and the Western Avenue Bridge in 2006. This annual celebration brings thousands of participants together for a multi-generational and multi-cultural event created in partnership with Revels.

Renata von Tscharnher, *President*
Evan Moss, *Stewardship Program Manager*
Jennifer Chu, *Administration & Finance*
Ben Martens, *Swimmable Charles Coordinator*
Sunny Stich, *Development Coordinator*
Nicole Brown, *Special Projects Coordinator*
Doug Russell, *Skatepark Consultant*
Elissa Bolt, *Press Intern*

John Powell, *bridge illumination*, is an architect and light artist with Light Time and Space, Inc., and the creator of innovative light installations here and abroad. In Boston he has illuminated the Evelyn Moakley Bridge in Fort Point Channel.



Building tradition through music, dance and drama

Revels, Inc. (www.revels.org)

Revels is a non-profit performing arts organization that produces music theater celebrations of the changing seasons. Founded in Cambridge in 1971 by John Langstaff, Revels now has an ardent following of families and friends in 9 cities nationwide. Over a million and a half people have joined in the song and dance of Revels seasonal celebrations, which include the perennially popular Christmas Revels (18 performances at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge), Spring Sing, and two free outdoor large-scale events, RiverSing, on the Charles River at the autumnal equinox, and the newly minted SummersDay, a multicultural summer solstice celebration incorporating Summer Revels, held along Boston's waterfront at Fort Point Channel. Revels 40-member touring ensemble, Revels Repertory Company (formerly Circle of Song), is available for bookings at schools and community centers across southern New England. BackStage Revels is Revels' volunteer organization, boasting 250 members who regularly help with productions and special events. Revels also offers educational workshops for children in the spring and fall, and produces traditional and seasonal music CDs and songbooks, educational materials and a choral series. These publications are available online at the Revels Store at www.revels.org

Gayle Rich, *Executive Director*
Patrick Swanson, *Artistic Director*
George Emlen, *Music Director*
Chris Jorie, *Artistic Fellow*
Alan Casso, *Marketing Director*
Sue Ladr, *Art Director / Graphic Design*
Olivia Woodford, *Development Director*
Jennifer Sur, *Office Manager*
Jeanne Kelly, *Volunteer Manager*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Education Director*
Cristina Corwin, *Development Associate*
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