



Lloyd Lachow  
2017 Press Contact:  
llachow@gmail.com

For more information, contact the American Travelling Morris at <http://americantravellingmorris.org/>, or visit our website at [american.travelling.morris@gmail.com](mailto:american.travelling.morris@gmail.com).

In the old days, it was often said that the Morris brought great good luck and prosperity to the communities in which it was danced. We hope that we have brought this to your community.

We dance the Morris because we enjoy it, and we find that people enjoy watching it. The Morris shares strongly in the world of the village green, the marketplace and the pub: it is a welcome return to a forthright time of simplicity and sanity. We like to think that the dance echoes the turning of the seasons; that it celebrates the bitter-sweet cycle of life and love.

The American Travelling Morris was originally composed of dancers and musicians from Binghamton, NY and Boston, but over the years has grown to include performers from across the nation as well as one or two "odds and sods" from England. While many of these folks perform regularly with teams in their hometowns, they come together for one week each year to form the American Travelling Morris. Since 1976, the group has toured throughout New England, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania and California, with appearances at such settings as The Baseball Hall of Fame, Newport Folk Festival, Old Montreal, and the White House. In 2006 and 2013, the Tour returned to its English roots, performing in the Cotswolds and Yorkshire, UK.

### WHERE TO SEE THE DANCERS...

#### SUNDAY—WASHINGTON, DC:

- 11:45AM Columbus Circle
- 2:00PM Upper Senate Park
- 4:00PM Navy Memorial
- 6:30PM DuPont Circle

#### MONDAY—ANNAPOLIS, MD:

- 2:30PM Boatyard Bar and Grill
- 4:00PM Susan Campbell Park/City Dock
- 6:00PM Susan Campbell Park/City Dock

#### TUESDAY—BETHESDA, MD:

- 2:00PM Barnes & Noble (Bethesda Ave.)
- 4:00PM Bethesda Row
- 5:15PM Barnes & Noble (Bethesda Ave.)

#### THURSDAY—BALTIMORE, MD:

- 11:00AM Fell's Point (Thames at S. Broadway)
- 2:00PM Baltimore Inner Harbor Amphitheater
- 4:00PM Fell's Point (Thames at S. Ann St.)
- 5:00PM Fell's Point (S. Broadway & Lancaster)

#### FRIDAY—LEESBURG, VA:

- 10:45AM White's Ferry
- 2:00PM Market Station
- 6:30PM Sonabank (10 W. Market St.)
- 7:45PM Sonabank (10 W. Market St.)

#### SATURDAY—Frederick, MD:

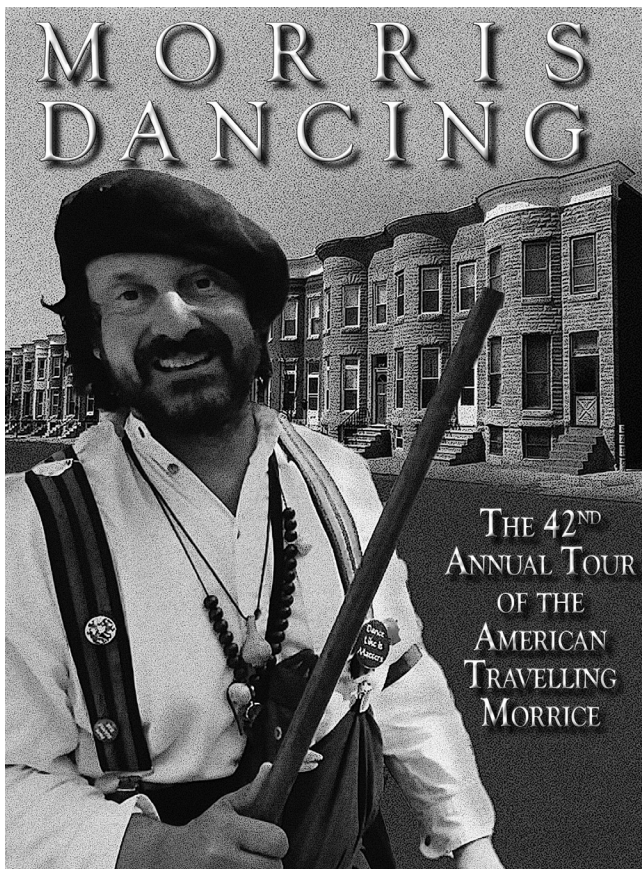
- 2:00PM 30 N. Market St.
- 4:30PM 30 N. Market St.
- 6:00PM Creekside

Happily, in 1899, a chance meeting between a musicologist and a Morris dancer resulted in a rebirth of interest in the dance. On Boxing Day (December 26), of that year, the Headington Quarry Morris dancers, accompanied by the concertina-player, William Kimber, performed at a cottage near the city of Oxford. Cecil Sharp, a classical musician and composer, was present and he was so taken with the music and dance that he invited Kimber back the next day to notate the tunes. This began a collaboration that resulted in a tremendous rebirth of interest in the Morris. Sharp and others traveled throughout England to collect the old music and dances from talented men like Kimber. They published the notations and promulgated teaching the dances in schools. Today there is once again a proliferation of sides dancing in England and over 200 in the United States that have sprung up in the last 25 years.

The Industrial Revolution, however, brought social changes that eroded the basis of much of village folk life - young people left the farm towns to work in urban factories; railroads brought "progress" to the villages—and the "old-fashioned" Morris became irrelevant and unpopular.

The Morris flourished in the 17th and 18th Centuries, surviving flood, famine, war, plague and Oliver Cromwell. Hundreds of villages throughout England supported Morris teams or "sides," and the dancers often competed for prizes at country fairs.

Will Kemp, was a noted "Morris Dancer." The Morris dancing is an old English country tradition. Its origins are lost in the mists of forgotten time, but pictorial and written references date back to the 15th Century. In his day, Shakespeare cherished the Morris as an ancient custom and he made allusions to it in many of his plays. Indeed, one of his star actors, Will Kemp, was a noted "Morris Dancer."



JULY 30–AUGUST 5, 2017