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KPFK Radio's Arts in Review Preps for Annual Holiday Special

Music News Desk Dec. 22, 2017

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KPFK Radio's Arts in Review, Los Angeles's longest-running radio showcase on live theater and cabaret, presents its annual Christmas Day Holiday Drama Special, aired in two parts (10 to 11am & 1pm to 2pm), highlighted by the radio dramatization premieres of *All is Calm*, *All is Bright* ("The Story of Silent Night") & *One Horse Open Sleigh* ("The Story of Jingle Bells"), performed by the Arts in Review (AIR) Repertory Players. This special broadcast will also offer the 14th annual concert presentation of Dylan

Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, featuring actor *Al Ali*, and an encore presentation of AIR Repertory's *The Christmas Eve Truce*. Hosted by entertainment journalist *Julio Martinez*, the program airs on KPFK 90.7FM, and streamed live worldwide on [kpfk.org](#).

All is Calm, All is Bright, written by *Julio Martinez*, directed by *Irene Arranga*, edited by *Jee Hyun Lee* of *Pacifica Archives*, chronicles Christmas Eve in the home of choirmaster *Franz Gruber*, and the events leading to the hastily composed Christmas Carol, *Silent Night*. The AIR Repertory Players include *Gigi Perreau*, *Richard Heft*, *Linnea Liu Dakin*, *Lauren Lewis*, *Michael Yapanian*, *Cullen Kirkland* and *Estela Velturo*.

One Horse Open Sleigh, written by *Julio Martinez*, directed by *Irene Arranga*, edited by *Federico Garcia* of *KPFK Radio*, follows the events in 19th century *Savannah, Georgia* that led to the creation of a simple tavern drinking song that become one of the this country's most iconic holiday melodies, *Jingle Bells*. The AIR Repertory Players include *Ed Krieger*, *Christiane Carman*, *Richard Heft*, *Lauren Lewis* and *Michael M. Johnson*. The music director is *David Moscoe*.

The great 20th century Welsh poet *Dylan Thomas* (1914-1953) wrote *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, a reminiscence of his youth growing up in the South Wales village of *Swansea*. He performed the piece on the radio in 1952, shortly before his death. The work was published posthumously in 1956. American actor *Al Ali*, who passed away on Dec 2, 2014, was a founding member of the prestigious *American Conservatory Theater (ACT)*. Mr. *Ali's* performance is underscored by *Koto Keys* (keyboardist *Marilyn Harris* and Japanese harp virtuoso *Mana Puri*).>

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