



**Media Only:** Amanda Young, (860) 838-4082, amanda.young@wadsworthatheneum.org  
Taryn Bunger, (860) 838-4081, taryn.bunger@wadsworthatheneum.org

**Media Preview:** Dec. 1, 4 – 5 p.m.

## **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art to Present 43rd Annual Festival of Trees & Traditions**

Hartford, Conn. (Nov. 18, 2016) – The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art will present the 43rd Annual Festival of Trees & Traditions Dec. 2 – 11, 2016. One of the museum’s largest fundraisers, Festival of Trees & Traditions attracts over 11,000 visitors from throughout the state and beyond. During the eight-day event, holiday trees and wreaths decorated by area artists, organizations and individuals are displayed throughout the museum’s galleries. All items are for sale and proceeds directly fund the museum’s special exhibitions, educational programs and operating expenses. Festival of Trees & Traditions is presented by the Women’s Committee of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Festival of Trees & Traditions kicks off with Night of Illumination—a festive after-hours event Thursday, Dec. 1, from 5 – 8 p.m. Night of Illumination is the first chance to purchase trees and wreaths, and also features seasonal cocktails, savory treats, sweets by NoRA Cupcake Company and music by DJ Jon Eastman. At 8 p.m. a screening of “Love Actually,” starring Hugh Grant, Colin Firth and Keira Knightly, will be offered. Tickets for Night of Illumination are available at the door and cost \$8. A special rate of \$3 is offered to museum members, Hartford residents, college students with ID and youth under 18 years of age.

During Festival of Trees & Traditions the museum will open at 10 a.m. daily (except Monday, Dec. 5, and Tuesday, Dec. 6, when the museum is closed). Throughout the week there will be live music in Avery Court and in Aetna Theater performed by over 30 local choirs, bands and orchestras. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will make a return appearance and docent-guided tours will be offered daily.

Admission to Festival of Trees & Traditions is as follows: \$18 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$8 Students; \$3 museum members, Hartford residents and youth under 18 years of age. Admission during the museum’s daily “happy hour” from 4 – 5 p.m. will cost \$3 for all visitors. Visit [thewadsworth.org/festivaloftrees](http://thewadsworth.org/festivaloftrees) for more information.

Below is a detailed schedule of entertainment included in the price of admission to Festival of Trees & Traditions:

### **Friday, Dec. 2**

10:30 a.m. First String from Sedgwick Middle School  
11:30 a.m. Wethersfield High School Choraliers  
12:30 p.m. Travelers Chorale  
1:30 p.m. Harmonia Mundi

### **Saturday, Dec. 3**

10:30 a.m. Ariel Flutes  
11:30 a.m. First Church Women's Praise Choir  
12:30 p.m. Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS)  
1:30 p.m. Elizabeth Lyra Ross  
2:30 p.m. The Solid Oak Big Band

**Sunday, Dec. 4**

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Santa & Mrs. Claus  
 11:30 a.m. Trinity College Trinitones  
 12:30 p.m. Sound of New England Chorus  
 1:30 p.m. Windsor High School Honors Chorale  
 1:50 p.m. Windsor High School Teens of Praise Gospel Choir  
 2:30 p.m. Dick Santi Orchestra

**Wednesday, Dec. 7**

10:30 a.m. Central Singers  
 11:30 a.m. Middlewoods Senior Bell Choir  
 12:30 p.m. Rocky Hill High School Chamber Choir  
 1:30 p.m. Bacon Academy Women's Choir  
 2:30 p.m. Connecticut Women's Chorale

**Thursday, Dec. 8**

10:30 a.m. Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy Chorus  
 11:30 a.m. ELAMS Honor Choir  
 12:30 p.m. Newington High School Chamber Choir  
 1:30 p.m. Westminster School Chamber Choir

**Friday, Dec. 9**

10:30 a.m. Metacomet Elementary School Choir  
 11:30 a.m. Illing Middle School Singers  
 12:30 p.m. Hall High School Concert Choir  
 1:30 p.m. Farmington High School Madrigal Singers  
 2:30 p.m. Stafford High School Madrigal Singers

**Saturday, Dec. 10**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Second Saturdays for Families: Light Up the World (free admission)  
 10 a.m. Stefanie Wheeler  
 1:30 p.m. Granby Memorial Chamber Singers  
 2 – 5 p.m. Santa & Mrs. Claus  
 2:30 p.m. The Glastonbury Ukulele Band

**Sunday, Dec. 11**

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Santa & Mrs. Claus  
 11:30 a.m. Ballet Theatre Company  
 12:30 p.m. Footlights Performing Arts & Education  
 1:30 p.m. Mighty Chamber Players Junior  
 2:30 p.m. Mighty Chamber Players  
 2:30 p.m. The Kol Shireinu Choir of the Emanuel Synagogue - West Hartford

Two related performances will be held in conjunction with Festival of Trees & Traditions, but require separate ticket purchases. Tickets to these events do not include admission to Festival of Trees & Traditions.

**Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m.****Hartford Gay Men's Chorus: A Wish Come True**

For information and tickets, visit [hartfordgaymenschorus.com](http://hartfordgaymenschorus.com)

**Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday Dec. 10, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.****CONNetic Dance: The Nutcracker Suite & Spicy**

For information and tickets, visit [conneticdance.com](http://conneticdance.com)

**About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest continuously operating public art museum in the United States. The museum's nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The Wadsworth Atheneum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Hours: Wednesday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 15; discounts for members, students and seniors. Free for Hartford residents with ID. Free “happy hour” admission for all visitors 4 – 5 p.m. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: [thewadsworth.org](http://thewadsworth.org).

# # #