



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**41ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES & TRADITIONS, DEC. 5 – 14, 2014**  
**PRESENTED BY THE WOMEN’S COMMITTEE OF THE**  
**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART**

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art presents the 41st Annual Festival of Trees & Traditions. As one of the museum’s largest fundraisers, Festival attracts over 11,000 visitors from throughout the state and beyond. During this 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 profits directly fund the museum’s special exhibitions, educational programs and operating expenses.

Festival of Trees & Traditions opens at First Thursday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m., and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 14 (closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8 and 9).

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 along with the balloon artist, Bella the Clown. Docent-guided tours will be offered daily.

On Thursday, Dec. 4, the museum celebrates 41 years of Festival with First Thursday, “Night of Illumination,” hosted by Honorary Chair Kara Sundlun of WFSB 3 Connecticut. The evening will feature music by DJ Jon Eastman and the Connecticut Yuletide Carolers, cocktails and food provided by Onyx Moonshine, Olde Burnside Brewing, NoRA Cupcake Co., Infinity Music Hall & Bistro and Bear’s Smokehouse BBQ. This is the first opportunity for the public to purchase a tree or wreath.

Other programs taking place during Festival include:

- Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus, “Winter Wonderland: Men in Tights,” Dec. 5 & 6

- CONNetic Dance, “The Nutcracker Suite & Spicy,” Dec. 12-14
- Second Saturdays for Families, “Festive Days,” Dec. 13

For more information about Festival and ticketed events, visit [thewadsworth.org/festivaloftrees](http://thewadsworth.org/festivaloftrees).

As a museum fundraiser a \$3 surcharge is added to all admissions during Festival of Trees & Traditions.

### **About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest 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 museum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Since 2010 the museum has been undergoing a major, \$33 million renovation, slated to be complete 2015. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat and Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; First Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Phone: (860) 278-2670; website: <http://thewadsworth.org>.

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