



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MORSE MUSEUM MARKS 35th YEAR
OF CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK ON DEC. 5**

Note to editors: A high-resolution image of the Anna Innes memorial window, one of nine Tiffany leaded-glass windows installed at Christmas in the Park, is available for download at <http://goo.gl/LJNwAf>. For more images, please e-mail pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org.

WINTER PARK, FL—On Thursday, Dec. 5, the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art presents its free annual Christmas in the Park event for the 35th year in downtown Winter Park.

The almost two-hour program begins at 6:15 p.m. when the signal will be given to turn on the window lights.

At the first Christmas in the Park in 1979, the museum installed four Tiffany windows from its collection and assembled four local church choirs for an a cappella concert of holiday favorites. An estimated six hundred people attended.

Thirty-five years later, several thousand people—many packing chairs, blankets and picnics—are expected to enjoy this unique one-night celebration of art and music. The museum will turn Central Park in downtown Winter Park into a gallery without walls and

a roof of tree canopy and stars with an outdoor exhibition that has since 2006 included nine illuminated Tiffany windows. This year the esteemed 160-voice Bach Festival Society Choir, accompanied by piano, drums and a 12-member brass ensemble, will give its 28th concert for the event.

“Thirty-five years ago, Hugh and Jeannette McKean conceived of this magical experience for our community, and today it remains not only magical but cherished by all who know it,” says Morse Museum Director Laurence J. Ruggiero. “Although the attendance has grown and the event has a bit more polish and precision, Christmas in the Park has retained a warm character that continues to create great joy.”

The McKeans, who together built the Morse Museum’s collection, began Christmas in the Park to share a part of their rare Tiffany collection with the public in an informal setting. Hugh McKean, director of the museum from its founding in 1942 until his death in 1995, especially liked the idea of getting art out into public places.

“[Louis Comfort Tiffany] probably would have been pleased with Christmas in the Park,” McKean once said. “His life was one long effort to put more art within reach of more people.”

Eight of the windows featured at Christmas in the Park are memorials with religious themes designed by Tiffany and installed in the chapel at the Association for the Relief of Respectable Aged Indigent Females (1814–1974) in New York City. Tiffany Studios’ *Christmas Eve* window, c. 1902, will also be on view at the event and in the Morse Museum following Christmas in the Park. The window—in which a figure resembling Father Christmas holds the Christ child—was designed by Thomas Nast Jr., son of the famous political cartoonist, for his sister’s home in New Rochelle, New York.

The Morse Museum, 445 N. Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida, is home to the world’s most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933). The Morse is owned and operated by the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation and receives

additional support from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. It receives no public funds. For more information, please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

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