

November 3, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MORSE MUSEUM WILL COSPONSOR ANNUAL TIFFANY WINDOWS
HOLIDAY EVENT IN CENTRAL PARK WITH CITY OF WINTER PARK**

Note to editors: Attached is an image of the Bach Festival Choir, flanked by two Tiffany windows from the Morse Museum's collection, performing at a recent Christmas in the Park celebration in downtown Winter Park.

WINTER PARK, FL—The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art and the City of Winter Park will together sponsor the 36th annual Christmas in the Park to be held this year on Dec. 4 from 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Central Park.

A free outdoor event, Christmas in the Park draws more than 3,000 people—many packing chairs, blankets, and picnics—to experience the lighting of century-old Tiffany windows and a holiday concert by the renowned Bach Festival Choir.

“While City support has always been essential to the success of the event, the Morse welcomes the greater involvement and operational support that a full-fledged partnership with the City will bring,” said Harold Ward, chairman and president of the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation.

From fairly humble beginnings, Christmas in the Park has evolved to become a major public event on the first Thursday of December. The production involves the installation of nine 500-pound Tiffany windows from the Museum's collection as well as professional stage and window lighting, audio mixing, and sound amplification throughout the park for the Bach Festival concert.

The influx of several thousand people into the downtown area for the two-hour program has required that ever more attention be paid to traffic control and crowd safety, which the City is most qualified to address, Morse officials said.

For upcoming Christmas in the Park events, the Morse will continue to install the windows and present the Bach Festival Society Choir, Youth Choir, and Brass Ensemble in concert. The City will oversee logistical and operational arrangements for park use, security, crowd management, traffic control, and road closures.

“Christmas in the Park is a beloved holiday tradition in our city,” said Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle. “Because of the growing popularity the Museum’s event has experienced over the years, the city is thrilled to share the operational tasks in its 36th year, and we look forward to its continued success.”

The late Hugh and Jeannette McKean, who together built the Morse Museum’s collection, began Christmas in the Park in 1979 as a way to share a part of their rare Tiffany collection with the public in an informal setting.

“Thirty-six years ago, the McKeans conceived of this magical experience for our community, and today it remains not only magical but cherished by all who know it,” said 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 bring great joy. Our hope is that we can ensure this experience for many more years.”

The Morse Museum, 445 N. Park Ave., Winter Park, Fla., 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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