

National Gallery of Art News Release



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CONTACT: Deborah Ziska
Keira Ellis
(202) 842-6353

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D.C. - The National Gallery of Art will herald the holiday season with a variety of activities open to the public. December festivities begin with an invitation for visitors to join local choral groups and musicians in singing holiday carols. Caroling will take place on two consecutive weekends, December 14-15, and 21-22 in the West Building rotunda at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day. The rotunda will be decorated with poinsettias and Christmas trees.

Two Sunday concerts will feature The Maryland Camerata, conducted by Samuel Gordon on December 15, and The Washington Men's Camerata conducted by Thomas Beveridge on December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Each program will include new Christmas music as well as familiar favorites. Free concert passes are distributed beginning at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the concert in the West Building. For more information about the holiday caroling and the annual Christmas concerts, call (202) 842-6941.

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Special refreshments, including mulled cider, cocoa, and cookies will be available for purchase in the Terrace and Garden Cafés, and the Cascade Espresso Bar during the weekends of December 14-15 and 21-22.

Beginning December 14, two self-guided Holiday Tours, one for children and one for adults, will be available. The self-guides combine commentary on selected paintings and sculpture whose themes relate to the religious and cultural events of the season with a walking map that locates the works of art discussed. The Holiday Tours may be obtained at the West Building main entrance Art Information Desk near the Mall on Madison Drive.

The Gallery's holiday shop, located on the ground floor of the West Building, is stocked with a variety of seasonal cards, calendars, and books. The holiday shop and other Gallery stores are open during regular Gallery hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Circa 1492, which includes, among other holiday-related objects, Michelangelo's Madonna of the Stairs, remains open without charge through January 12. Special evening hours, with holiday dining by candlelight and with music, extend to 8:00 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights until the close of the exhibition.

All activities at the National Gallery are free of charge. For more information call (202) 842-6690 or 6691.