

Release Date: November 5, 2003

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART CELEBRATES THE 2003 HOLIDAY SEASON



National Gallery of Art West Building Rotunda decorated for the holidays
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Washington, DC -- Throughout December, the National Gallery of Art will celebrate the 2003 holiday season with free programs that include caroling, concerts, gallery talks, and a special lecture, while a selection of holiday treats from around the world will be served in the East Building's Espresso and Gelato Bar and the Sculpture Garden's Pavilion Café. Decking the West Building's grand Rotunda and Garden Courts will be an array of traditional holiday plants and greenery, from amaryllises and poinsettias to fir trees decorated with sparkling white lights. Seasonal items and art-related gifts for sale are already on display in the Gallery Shops.

Gallery Talks and Lectures

The Christmas Story in Art, a 50-minute talk led by Gallery lecturers Philip Leonard and J. Russell Sale, will present paintings in the collection with holiday themes. Meet in the West Building Rotunda on December 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31 at 1:00 p.m.

A slide lecture *A Painting for the Medici? The Gallery's "Adoration of the Magi" Tondo*, will take place on Sunday, December 21, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the East Building Auditorium.

Holiday Caroling

Visitors are invited to sing along with guest ensembles in the West Building Rotunda at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. on December 13, 14, 20, and 21, and at 12 noon on December 19.

December 13

First Mount Zion Baptist Church Massed Choir

Dumfries, Virginia

Sylstea C. Sledge, *minister of music*

December 14

The Xaverian High School Chorus

Brooklyn, New York

Joseph Loposky, *director*, Joseph Appel, *pianist*

December 19

The Potomac School Madrigal Singers

McLean, Virginia

Jerry Rich, *director*

December 20

Bolling Air Force Base Gospel Choir

Washington, DC

December 21

The Alexandria Choral Society Children's Choir

Alexandria, Virginia

Kevin Carr, *director*

Concerts

Concerts take place on Sunday evenings in the West Building, West Garden Court, and are free to the public. Performances are from 7:00 to approximately 8:30 p.m.

Audiences are admitted on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 6:00 p.m. The Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, entrance to the West Building remains open until 7:00 p.m. (no one is admitted after the doors close), and the Garden Café is open until 6:30 p.m.

December 21

Traditional Christmas Concert

National Men's Chorus

Thomas Beveridge, *conductor*

January 4

Gala Viennese New Year Concert

National Gallery Orchestra

Peter Wilson, *guest conductor*

Gallery Shops and Restaurants

The Gallery Shops, voted by *The Washington Post* readers as the "best museum shop in Washington, DC", offer a delightful array of distinctive art-related gifts. The West Building Shop specializes in jewelry, scarves, ties, illustrated books, greeting cards, note card sets, wrapping paper, calendars—including the popular National Gallery of Art engagement and Advent calendars-- and new ornament designs inspired by works of art. The Concourse Bookstore offers an extensive selection of books on art, architecture, and photography, and the Children's Shop carries a unique assortment of gifts designed to inspire creativity.

Special refreshments--mulled cider, cocoa, and holiday sweets with an international

flavor-- can be purchased in the Espresso and Gelato Bar in the East Building
concourse and in the Sculpture Garden Pavilion Café during the month of December.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

Press Office

National Gallery of Art

2000B South Club Drive

Landover, MD 20785

phone: (202) 842-6353 e-mail: pressinfo@nga.gov

Deborah Ziska

Chief of Press and Public Information

(202) 842-6353

ds-ziska@nga.gov