

 NATIONAL CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTING *2023*



THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 30, 2023

THE WHITE HOUSE
AND PRESIDENT'S PARK,
WASHINGTON, D.C.





HOLIDAY

JOY AND LIGHT

CBS Invites you to watch
The National Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, December 15 at 8|7c



 **CBS**



Welcome to The White House and President's Park

The National Park Service and National Park Foundation are excited to have you join us tonight on the Ellipse at The White House and President's Park, a national park that shares both the story of the White House and the history of the United States.

As you enjoy tonight's festivities, remember your national parks are wonderful places to visit with family and friends during the holiday season and year-round.



**To plan your next national park visit, go to
nps.gov/planyourvisit**

Program

LIGHTING OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Dr. Jill Biden

GREETINGS

The Honorable Deb Haaland

Secretary of the Interior

Charles F. Sams III

Director, National Park Service

Will Shafroth

President and CEO, National Park Foundation

Jerome Fouché

*Park Ranger, The White House and President's Park,
National Park Service*

HOST

Mickey Guyton

GUEST PERFORMERS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Darren Criss

Maddie & Tae

Mickey Guyton

St. Vincent

Samara Joy

Joe Walsh

Ledisi

Dionne Warwick

HOLIDAY MUSIC

U.S. Coast Guard's Guardians Big Band



PRE-SHOW ENTERTAINMENT

Annie Yu, WUSA9

Wisdom Martin, WUSA9

Co-hosts

Monamma AL-Ghuiyy

*Park Ranger, The White House and President's Park,
National Park Service*

U.S. Army Field Band

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

Baltimore Mennonite Chorus

Baltimore, Maryland

Clear Harmonies Carolers

Silver Spring, Maryland

Culpeper County High School A Cappella Choir

Culpeper, Virginia

Full Measure A Cappella

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Paul Belanger / Magical Toy Soldier

Gaithersburg, Maryland

Washington Commanders Brass Quintet

Landover, Maryland

Santa and Mrs. Claus

The North Pole

✦ Tonight's Performers



MICKEY GUYTON: Mickey Guyton is a 4-time GRAMMY Award-nominee and 2022 TIME Breakthrough Artist of the Year. She made GRAMMY Award history as the first Black artist to earn a nomination for Best Country Album and the first-ever Black female solo artist to earn a nomination in the country category.

The title track from Guyton's debut album "Remember Her Name" was named one 2020's Top 10 all-genre songs by NPR, Billboard, and the Associated Press. Guyton's other singles include "I Still Pray," "How You Love Someone," "Somethin' Bout You," and "Nothing Compares to You," featuring Kane Brown. Her other work includes co-hosting the 56th Academy Country Music Awards (CBS) and acting as Scout for "My Kind of Country" (Apple TV+). Guyton and her music have been featured in Billboard, The New Yorker, The New York Times, and Rolling Stone.



DARREN CRISS: Darren Criss is an award-winning actor, singer, songwriter, and producer. His acting credits include "A Very Potter Musical" (YouTube), "GLEE" (FOX), and "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" (FX). Criss has received Emmy, Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Critics' Choice Awards.

In 2019 Criss created, starred in, and provided original songs for "Royalties," and provided music and lyrics for the opening number of the 2022 Tony Awards Ceremony. In 2021, he released a solo EP "Masquerade" and a Christmas album, "A Very Darren Crissmas."

Criss' Broadway credits include "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (2015), "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" (2012), and "American Buffalo" (2022). He is currently on a worldwide tour and kicked off his holiday tour in November.



SAMARA JOY: 23-year-old Samara Joy is a GRAMMY Award-winning jazz artist whose chart-topping album "Linger Awhile" earned her Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best New Artist in 2023. Joy treasures her musical lineage, which stretches back to her grandparents who both performed with Philadelphia gospel group the Savettes. On "Linger Awhile," Joy is accompanied by jazz artists including guitarist Pasquale Grasso, drummer Kenny Washington, bassist David Wong, and pianist Ben Paterson.

In 2023 Joy is releasing her first collection of holiday music on the EP "A Joyful Holiday." The track list includes previously released singles "O Holy Night," performed with multiple generations of her family, in addition to a new recording of Stevie Wonder's "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Me" and a both a live and studio version of "The Christmas Song."



LEDISI: Ledisi is an arts advocate, singer/songwriter, producer, author, playwright, and CEO of Listen Back Entertainment/BMG who has headlined 4 sold-out national tours. Her distinguished music career includes recent highlights such as "Ledisi Sings Nina," "The Wildcard," and "Ledisi Live at The Troubadour." She has won 3 Soul Train Music Awards, and a 2021 GRAMMY Award for her single "Anything for You."

Ledisi's theater credits include "Caroline, or Change" (Broadway), "Witness Uganda" (Off-Broadway), and "The Life" (New York City Center). Her one-woman show, "The Legend of Little Girl Blue" premiered in 2019. Her film and TV credits include "Leatherheads," "Selma," "The Tale of Four," "Spinning Gold," "American Soul" (BET), "POSE" (FX), and "Twice Bitten" (BET Plus).



MADDIE & TAE: Award-winning duo Maddie & Tae first broke out in 2013 with their Platinum-selling smash "Girl in a Country Song," taking country radio by storm. Their debut album "The Way It Feels" included the three-time Platinum-certified, No. 1 hit "Die from a Broken Heart." Maddie Font and Taylor Kerr co-wrote each track on their latest project "Through the Madness, Vol. 1" and "Vol. 2." Their latest single, "Heart They Didn't Break," is out now.

Maddie & Tae won a 2022 CMT Music Award for their "Woman You Got" video and were recently nominated for Vocal Duo of the Year at the 57th CMA Awards. They've also earned trophies from the Radio Disney Music Awards and CMA Awards, along with multiple ACM, Billboard, and CMT Music Award nominations. Their All Song No Static Tour sold out major markets coast-to-coast in 2022 and 2023.



ST. VINCENT: Annie Clark made her recorded debut as St. Vincent with "Marry Me" (2007). Her subsequent albums include "Actor" (2009), "Strange Mercy" (2011), and "St. Vincent," winner of the 2014 GRAMMY Award for Best Alternative Album. She has also collaborated with David Byrne on "Love This Giant" (2012), and performed at Nirvana's 2014 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

St. Vincent's "MASSEDUCTION" (2017) and "Daddy's Home" (2021) won her 3 more GRAMMY Awards. Her 2021-22 Down and Out Downtown Band Tour featured headline appearances at the Hollywood Bowl and Radio City Music Hall, as well as a run as special guest of the North American leg of Roxy Music's 50th Anniversary Tour. She also unveiled a new model of her Ernie Ball signature guitar, as well as co-wrote and starred in the film "The Nowhere Inn" (IFC).

✦ Tonight's Performers



JOE WALSH: Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and Kennedy Center Honoree Joe Walsh is a multi-GRAMMY Award-winning singer, songwriter, and producer who has been working for over 5 decades. His musical journey began in 1969 with James Gang and the trio Barnstorm before he launched his 12-album solo career. In 1975 Walsh was recruited into the Eagles, the highest selling American band in history.

With honorary doctorates from Kent State University and the Berklee College of Music, Walsh is a member of the President's Committee on Arts & Humanities. His celebrated charitable works include support of music education, recovery from addiction, and women's health and safety. The annual music festival VetsAid, founded by Walsh, raises funds for veterans and their families – he has disbursed \$3 million in grants to veteran's services groups nationwide.



DIONNE WARWICK: 6-time GRAMMY Award-winner Dionne Warwick ranks among the biggest U.S. hitmakers between 1955-1999. One of Billboard Hot 100's "Greatest Artists of All Time," she's sold more than 100 million records worldwide and has been inducted into the Hollywood, GRAMMY, R&B Music, and Apollo Theatre Walks of Fame. 3 of her songs have been inducted into the GRAMMY Hall of Fame and in 2019 she won the GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award.

Warwick's latest gospel album features "Peace Like a River," a duet with Dolly Parton. She is a co-executive producer for "Hits! The Musical" and a former Goodwill Ambassador for the UN's Food & Agriculture Organization. "Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over" is currently streaming on HBO Max. She has been dubbed the "Queen of Twitter" for her comments on social media and she continues to tour nationwide.



THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S GUARDIANS BIG BAND:

The United States Coast Guard's Guardians Big Band is a sixteen-piece jazz orchestra that brings the infectious joy and spirit of America's original art form through sounds of swing, jazz, improvised solos, and classics from the Great American Songbook. Stationed at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, the members are drawn from the larger 55-piece Coast Guard Band. The Guardians feature prominently in the Coast Guard Band's performance calendar, playing for public audiences, official military functions, and Coast Guard morale events, and the ensemble has presented concerts with guest performing artists such as Lou Marini and Doc Severinsen.

Commander Adam R. Williamson*Director***CWO3 Jeffrey A. Spenner***Assistant Director***MUC Sean M. Nelson***Music Director / Arranger*

MU1 Tyler Wilkins

Saxophone

MU1 Joshua Thomas

Saxophone

MUC Cedric Mayfield

Saxophone

MUC Joseph D'Aleo

Saxophone

MUC Jeffrey Emerich

Saxophone

MUC Sean Nelson

Trombone

MU1 Connor Rowe

Trombone

MU1 Karna Millen

Trombone

MUC Wesley Mayhew

Trombone

MU1 Renee McGee

Trumpet

MU1 Joel Baroody

Trumpet

MU1 Longino Villarreal

Trumpet

MU1 Luke Wingfield

Trumpet

MU1 Yeisson Villamar

Piano

MU1 Mark McCormick

Bass

MUC Nathan Lassell

Drums

MUC Christopher Smith

Percussion



★ The National Christmas Tree

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge walked from the White House to the Ellipse for the very first National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. Decades later, this American holiday tradition continues to bring citizens together to share in a message of hope and peace.



1923

On Christmas Eve, President Calvin Coolidge, with music by the Marine Band, lights the first National Christmas Tree, a 48-foot-tall balsam fir from his home state of Vermont, on the Ellipse.



1934

Two Fraser firs are planted near the Andrew Jackson statue in Lafayette Park, with the hope they would be used as future National Christmas Trees.



1941

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (right) joins President Franklin Roosevelt for the lighting ceremony, just days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II.



1954

Organizers introduce a three-week Christmas "Pageant of Peace" and a "Pathway of Peace," which features small, decorated trees to represent each of the states, territories, and the District of Columbia.



1963

The lighting ceremony is postponed while the nation mourns the death of President John F. Kennedy. General Electric (GE) designs the lighting and decorations for the National Christmas Tree.



2002

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, light the tree with the help of Washington, DC-area schoolchildren Samara Banks and Benjamin Schneiller.



2007

LED lighting is included on the National Christmas Tree for the first time. The majority of the display uses LEDs and is nearly 50 percent more energy efficient.



2015

To kick off the National Park Service Centennial celebration in 2016, the decorations feature sparkling gold ribbon and silvery white stars and lights.



2020

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no live audience for the ceremony. Instead, a virtual celebration brings the holiday spirit to homes across the country.



2023

The U.S.D.A. Forest Service provides a 40-foot Norway spruce from Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia to serve as the National Christmas Tree.



Learn more about the history of the National Christmas Tree at thenationaltree.org.

✦ A Classic, Colorful Christmas

The National Christmas Tree shares holiday spirit and is the centerpiece of a cherished national tradition. This year's design includes numerous strands of multi-colored opaque lights in red, green, blue, white, and yellow with two varying sizes of 2D silver holographic snowflakes interspersed throughout. The snowflakes add a pleasant daytime interest while picking up the colorful reflections of the lights at night. A warm white tape light star tops off the tree while several colorful gift boxes surround it.

For 61 years the GE Lighting business has been proud to design and provide lighting for the National Christmas Tree. For the first 58 years as part of General Electric, and the last four years as part of Savant Systems, Inc. GE Lighting, a Savant company is again honored to design and decorate this year's tree in partnership with the National Park Foundation.

Using the latest in holiday lighting products, this is the 15th consecutive year that GE LED lights, many of them ENERGY STAR® certified, which use about 80 % less energy, have been used to light the National Christmas Tree.



The National Christmas Tree and 58 smaller trees are free to visit and open to the public **December 2, 2023**, through **January 1, 2024**.

Hours:

10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
10 a.m. – 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Lights turn on near sunset each evening.

Learn more about the history of this American tradition and see lighting designs from past years at thenationaltree.org

State and Territory Ornaments

More than 2,600 students from each state, territory, the District of Columbia, and Bureau of Indian Education and Department of Defense Education Activity schools, demonstrate their talent and creativity by designing ornaments to represent their home. Enjoy a stroll through our great and diverse country showcased in the America Celebrates display. Special thanks to the U.S. Department of Education for connecting students from around the world with the celebration!

ALABAMA	Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Eastern High School
ALASKA	IDEA Homeschool	FLORIDA	Tohopekaliga High School
AMERICAN SAMOA	Lupelele Elementary School	GEORGIA	Heritage High School
ARIZONA	Nogales High School	GUAM	Academy of Our Lady of Guam
ARKANSAS	Little Rock West H.S. of Innovation	HAWAII	James Campbell High School
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION	Pine Springs Day School, <i>Arizona</i> Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School, <i>South Dakota</i> Lac Court Orielles Ojibwe School, <i>Wisconsin</i>	IDAHO	Idaho Arts Charter School
CALIFORNIA	Nueva Vista Language Academy	ILLINOIS	Betty Shabazz International Charter School
COLORADO	Merino Schools	INDIANA	Brown County High School
CONNECTICUT	Andover Elementary School	IOWA	Eagle Grove Elementary School
DELAWARE	Laurel Middle School	KANSAS	Leawood Middle School
DEPT. OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	Brussels Elementary/H.S., <i>Belgium</i> Bechtel Elementary, <i>Japan</i> Fort Campbell High School, <i>Kentucky</i>	KENTUCKY	Dishman-McGinnis Elementary School
		LOUISIANA	Harry Hurst Middle School
		MAINE	Bangor High School
		MARYLAND	Manchester Valley High School
		MASSACHUSETTS	All Saints Academy

MICHIGAN	Hanover-Horton Elementary School	OKLAHOMA	Jenks Middle School
MINNESOTA	Clover Ridge Elementary School	OREGON	Oregon School for the Deaf
MISSISSIPPI	Ida B. Wells Academic & Performing Arts Complex	PENNSYLVANIA	Kutztown Area High School
MISSOURI	Nixa Public School	PUERTO RICO	Escuela Dr. Francisco Hernández y Gaetán
MONTANA	Arlee High School	RHODE ISLAND	Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School
NEBRASKA	Bennington South Middle School	SOUTH CAROLINA	Saluda High School
NEVADA	Garside Junior High School	SOUTH DAKOTA	Tri-Valley High School
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Arts Academy of New Hampshire	TENNESSEE	West Middle School
NEW JERSEY	Delaware Township School	TEXAS	Caldwell High School
NEW MEXICO	New Mexico School for the Arts	U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	St. Croix Education Complex High School
NEW YORK	Marlboro High School	UTAH	Union High School
NORTH CAROLINA	Greene Central High School	VERMONT	Colchester High School
NORTH DAKOTA	Kindred Public School District	VIRGINIA	Appomattox Regional Governor's School
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System	WASHINGTON	Tukes Valley Middle School
OHIO	Shawnee Local Schools	WEST VIRGINIA	Robert L. Bland Middle School
		WISCONSIN	Highland Community Schools
		WYOMING	Beitel Elementary School

In Appreciation

The National Park Service and National Park Foundation present the 2023 National Christmas Tree Lighting with generous support from:



NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE 2023

U.S.D.A Forest Service
Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia

AMERICA CELEBRATES TREES

Cartner Christmas Tree Farm,
Merlyn Farms, Mountain Top Fraser Fir

WITH THANKS

Thank you to the hundreds of staff and volunteers who help make tonight's event possible and to the thousands who contribute their time and talents year-round to national parks across the country.

Special thanks to the staff of the White House Visitor's Office for their collaboration on this event.

THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SHOW IS A PRODUCTION OF WHITE ROSE WAY ENTERTAINMENT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Kristi Foley
Leon Knoles

DIRECTOR

Leon Knoles

PRODUCER

Renato Basile

MUSIC PRODUCER

Nathan East

TALENT PRODUCER

Lindsay Saunders Carl

STAGING SUPERVISOR

Thom Peachee

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

John Zuiker

22 Degrees

All Access

Anna's Worldwide

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Charm City

Cue Tech

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Maryland Sound

Mountain Productions

MVP Picture Works

Pete's Big TV's

Posh & Luxe

Saunders Electric

RaJshawn Songi Scott

Sound Design

Sunbelt

United Metro Golf Cart

Elizabeth Yoder

Visit thenationaltree.org for a full list of production crew and vendors.



CAPTURE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C.
wishes you a merry and bright holiday season.

Light up the holidays with beloved traditions
and festivities all month long.

Learn more at bit.ly/WillardHolidays2023



NATIONAL CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTING 2023

The National Park Foundation and
The Coca-Cola Company invite
you to visit six on-site displays of
our country's national parks for a
fun photo opportunity!

COMPLIMENTARY DASANI® WATER IS
AVAILABLE UPON EXITING THE EVENT

THE *Coca-Cola* COMPANY

PLEASE RECYCLE

The Gift of Parks

National parks are places of awe and wonder. With extraordinary landscapes, wildlife, and stories that bring us together—they are a cherished gift to us all. As the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation works to safeguard these treasured places for today, and always.



Join us at nationalparks.org

Rocky Mountain National Park

Gov. St. Clair / iStock

Thank you for joining us for this special holiday tradition!



Learn about the National Christmas Tree Lighting, this year's talented performers, student ornaments from across the country, and so much more at thenationaltree.org.

