



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

October 13, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MORSE ANNOUNCES 32nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
CELEBRATION AND CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE**

Note to editors: Attached is a high-resolution image of the Christmas Eve window, a leaded-glass window designed by Thomas Nast Jr. (1840–1902) and produced by Tiffany Studios.

WINTER PARK, FL — Celebrate the holiday season with art, music and friends at the The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art's 32nd annual Christmas in the Park event on Thursday, Dec. 2, in Central Park.

Nine illuminated Tiffany windows from the Morse Museum's collection will cast a cozy glow as the 150-voice Bach Festival Choir, one of America's premier oratorio ensembles, performs a free outdoor concert of seasonal favorites. The almost two-hour program begins at 6:15 p.m. when the signal will be given to turn on the window lights. The rain date will be the following night, Dec. 3, at the same time.

Hugh and Jeannette McKean, who together built the Morse Museum's collection, began Christmas in the Park in 1979 to share a part of their rare Tiffany collection with the public in an informal setting. The event quickly became a community favorite. Hugh McKean especially liked the idea of getting art out into public places.

“By placing Tiffany windows among live oaks and tall pines and inviting all the community to walk among them, we hope to make this a night many will remember with happiness,” McKean said in 1989.

On Friday, Dec. 24, the Morse will continue the seasonal celebration with its traditional Christmas Eve Open House. Admission to the museum will be free from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., with live music by Beautiful Music Flute Trio from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Eight of the windows featured at Christmas in the Park are memorials with religious themes designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and installed in the chapel at the Association for the Relief of Respectable Aged Indigent Females 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 Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, 445 N. Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida, is home to the world’s most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany. 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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