



 NATIONAL CHRISTMAS  
TREE LIGHTING *2024*

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

DECEMBER 5, 2024

ENJOY THE COMFORTS OF THE  
**HOLIDAY**

JOIN US AND WATCH  
THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 8|7C!





# 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](https://nps.gov/planyourvisit)





# Program

## LIGHTING OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**

### 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*

**Dexter Armstrong**

*Park Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park,  
National Park Service*

### HOST

**Mickey Guyton**

### GUEST PERFORMERS

*(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)*

**Adam Blackstone**

**Mickey Guyton**

**Muni Long**

**Stephen Sanchez**

**James Taylor**

**The War And Treaty**

**Trisha Yearwood**

**Trombone Shorty**

### HOLIDAY MUSIC

**Airmen of Note**



## **PRE-SHOW ENTERTAINMENT**

**Annie Yu, WUSA9**

**Kaitlyn McGrath, WUSA9**

*Co-Hosts*

**Lucy Hurlbut**

*Outreach and Digital Communications Specialist,  
National Park Service*

**Max Impact**

## **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES**

**Baltimore Mennonite Chorus**

*Baltimore, Maryland*

**Clear Harmonies Carolers**

*Silver Spring, Maryland*

**Culpeper County High School**

**A Cappella Choir**

*Culpeper, Virginia*

**Layla Rochelle Bunch and  
Wallacetine Taliaferro-Curtis**

*Washington, D.C.*

**Washington Commanders Brass Quintet**

*Landover, Maryland*

**Santa and Mrs. Claus**

*The North Pole*

# ✦ Tonight's Performers



**ADAM BLACKSTONE:** Adam Blackstone is a multi-faceted musician, Emmy winning Music Director, and the CEO of BASSic Black Entertainment. He is the musical mastermind behind the live shows of top artists including Justin Timberlake, Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, and Maroon 5 and has shaped music's biggest shows including numerous Super Bowl Halftime shows, the Oscars, the Grammys, Fox's "The Masked Singer," and NBC's "The Voice" and "That's My Jam."

Blackstone's 2022 debut album, *LEGACY*, reached #1 on multiple charts. Since, Adam has received three additional Grammy nominations as an artist and a Tony nomination in 2024, as orchestrator for *Hell's Kitchen* on Broadway. Adam Blackstone's versatile sound is heard around the world but his faith and family keep him grounded, as he continues to create his own musical legacy.



**MICKEY GUYTON:** Mickey Guyton is a 4-time, Grammy-nominated artist and country music trailblazer. Mickey was recognized as TIME Magazine's Breakthrough Artist of the Year in 2022 and CMT's Breakout Artist of the Year in 2021. Mickey made history as the first Black artist to earn a GRAMMY nomination for Best Country Album, and first Black female solo artist to earn a nod in a country category with nominations for "Best Country Song" and "Best Country Solo Performance." Mickey has shined on the grandest global stages, delivering powerful renditions of the national anthem at Super Bowl LVI and the 2023 World Series. She has also performed on a wide array of shows, including the ESPYs, the CMA Awards, the ACM Awards, etc.

Mickey has just released a new album, *House On Fire*.



**MUNI LONG:** Muni Long has delivered multiple #1 hits, won a GRAMMY Award and gathered billions of streams. From behind-the-scenes as an in-demand songwriter, she stepped into the spotlight with breakout hit "Hrs & Hrs." It reached platinum status, scored a GRAMMY Award for "Best R&B Performance," and adorned her first full album, *Public Displays of Affection*. She garnered the Ashford & Simpson Songwriter's Award in addition to "Best New R&B Artist" at the 2023 iHeartRadio Awards.

In 2024, she leveled up with Platinum-selling "Made For Me," shaking up social media and toppling R&B Radio at #1. She continues to push herself harder on her 2024 second full-length offering, *Revenge* which went on to garner four GRAMMY Award nominations including R&B Album of the Year.



**STEPHEN SANCHEZ:** Singer-songwriter Stephen Sanchez has materialized at the forefront of popular culture with a sound that's as timeless as it is necessary for the times. At just 21-years-old, the singer, songwriter, and guitarist's breakout single "Until I Found You" went 4x Platinum, vaulted into the Top 25 of the Billboard Hot 100, and generated over 2 billion streams. Meanwhile, he also sold out his first-ever headline tour and earned acclaim from Rolling Stone, Billboard, Vogue, and more. He even duetted "Until I Found You" with Sir Elton John during his last show ever headlining Glastonbury. Last year, he spun a story unlike anything you've ever heard on his 2023 full-length debut, *Angel Face* [Mercury Records/Republic Records], which is now Certified Gold.



**JAMES TAYLOR:** Over the course of his celebrated career, James has sold over 100 million albums, won multiple GRAMMY Awards, and has been inducted into both the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the prestigious Songwriters Halls of Fame. He was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, the nation's highest civilian honor, and in 2016 he received the Kennedy Center Honors. In 2020 Taylor released *Break Shot*, a deeply personal and authentic audio-only memoir detailing his first 21 years. He also released *American Standard*, his 19th studio album, which earned Taylor the 2021 Grammy Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album and gave him the honor of being the first artist to have a Billboard Top 10 album in each of the past six decades.



**THE WAR AND TREATY:** Founded in 2014 by the husband-and-wife duo Michael Trotter Jr. and Tanya Trotter, The War And Treaty has emerged as one of the most electrifying new acts in American music. Recently earning their first ever GRAMMY nominations for Best New Artist and Best American Roots Song for "Blank Page," they also received this year their first ever Duo of the Year nomination from the Country Music Association, Vocal Duo nomination from the Academy of Country Music, plus recognition by the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Grand Ole Opry, and the Americana Music Association including earning AMA Duo/Group of the Year for the second straight year.

# ✦ Tonight's Performers



**TRISHA YEARWOOD:** With a career spanning three decades, Trisha Yearwood is a GRAMMY, CMA, and ACM Award-winning icon whose powerful voice has captivated millions. As a singer, actress, author, chef, and entrepreneur, she's achieved multi-platinum success while continuing to evolve. In 2019, Trisha released *Every Girl*, her first full-length country album in over a decade, featuring a re-recording of her hit "She's In Love With The Boy"—the most-listened-to country song by a female artist in Billboard's Country Airplay Chart history. Recently inducted into the Austin City Limits Hall of Fame, she also celebrated 25 years with the Grand Ole Opry and received the ACM Honors Icon and CMT June Carter Cash Humanitarian Awards. Beyond music, Trisha hosts *Trisha's Southern Kitchen*, has authored four New York Times bestsellers, and co-owns Nashville's largest honky-tonk.



**TROMBONE SHORTY:** Born Troy Andrews, Trombone Shorty got his start (and nickname) earlier than most: at four, he made his first appearance at Jazz Fest performing with Bo Diddley; at six, he was leading his own brass band; and by his teenage years, he was hired by Lenny Kravitz to join the band he assembled for his *Electric Church World Tour*. He's released five chart topping studio albums, toured with everyone from Jeff Beck to the Red Hot Chili Peppers; collaborated across genres with Pharrell, Bruno Mars, Mark Ronson, Foo Fighters, ZHU, Ringo Starr, and countless more; performed four times at the GRAMMY Awards, six times at the White House, on dozens of TV shows, launched the Trombone Shorty Foundation to support youth music education; and received the prestigious Caldecott Honor for his first children's book.





**AIRMEN OF NOTE:** The Airmen of Note is an 18-member jazz ensemble created in 1950 to continue the tradition of Major Glenn Miller's Army Air Forces dance band. Through the years, the Airmen of Note has presented its own brand of big band jazz to audiences across the United States, deployments around the world, and local performances in the Washington D.C. area.

As part of The U.S. Air Force Band, the Airmen of Note's mission is to HONOR those who have served, INSPIRE Americans to heightened patriotism and service and

CONNECT with the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force. The excellence demonstrated by the Airmen of Note directly reflects the professionalism displayed by all Airmen stationed worldwide, whose selfless service and sacrifices ensure the freedoms enjoyed by citizens of the United States of America.



**MAX IMPACT:** Max Impact is the official rock/pop music ensemble of the United States Air Force. Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., it is one of six musical ensembles that form The U.S. Air Force Band. Featuring six active-duty musicians, Max Impact presents high-intensity performances nationwide and abroad, supporting events at the White House, State Department, Department of Defense, and numerous other high-level military and civilian functions to advance international diplomacy with America's allies and strategic partners.

Their mission is to HONOR, INSPIRE, and CONNECT with the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States, demonstrating the excellence displayed by Airmen worldwide, whose sacrifices ensure the freedoms enjoyed by citizens of the United States of America.

# \* 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 us together to share in a message of hope and peace.

## 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.



## 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.



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.



## 1923



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

## 1941

# 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.

# 1983



Seven-year old Amy Bentham writes to the "Make a Wish" program saying, "The Christmas tree that lights up for our country must be seen all the way to heaven. I would wish so much to help the President turn on those Christmas lights." Amy joins President Reagan in lighting the tree.

A new National Christmas Tree is found in York, Pennsylvania at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Myers. President Jimmy Carter and his daughter Amy are the first to light this special tree.



# 1978



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

# 2002

# 2022



2022 marks the 100th lighting of the National Christmas Tree. The tree's design incorporated elements from tree designs of years past, including historical star tree toppers and star ornaments that embellished the base of the tree.

# 2015



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

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.



# 2007

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



# 2020

# ✦ Red, White & Green

The National Christmas Tree is a beloved tradition in the United States, shining brightly as a symbol of holiday spirit and national unity. This year, the tree dazzles with a stunning design featuring green lights adorned with twinkling red, white and green spheres. Surrounding the tree, oversized lighted metal ball ornaments in three sizes, along with sparkling starbursts and spheres, create a magical scene on the ground. Crowning this festive masterpiece is a lighted white star, casting a bright glow over the entire display. Fifty-eight smaller trees representing each U.S. state, territory, the District of Columbia and some Bureau of Indian Education and Department of Defense Activity schools, each decorated to complement the National Christmas Tree, are also carefully arranged on the grounds. It's a breathtaking sight that captures the essence of the holiday season!

For 62 years, the GE Lighting business has been proud to design and provide lighting for the National Christmas Tree. For the first 59 years as part of General Electric, and the last five 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 16th 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 surrounding trees are free to visit and open to the public from **December 7, 2024, through January 1, 2025.**

**Hours:**

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

Lights turn on near sunset each evening.

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*Learn more about the history of this American tradition and see lighting designs from past years at [thenationaltree.org](https://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 on these smaller trees surrounding the National Christmas Tree. Special thanks to the U.S. Department of Education for connecting students from around the world with the celebration!

**ALABAMA**.....Choctaw County Elementary

**ALASKA**.....Ayaprun Elitnaurvik  
Chinook Elementary

**AMERICAN SAMOA**.....Aua Elementary  
School - Home of Rainmaker

**ARIZONA**.....Chaparral Elementary School

**ARKANSAS**.....Pine Bluff High School

**BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION**.....  
Baca/Dlo' Ay Azhi Community School (NM)  
Little Wound School (SD)

**CALIFORNIA**.....Mendocino K-8 School

**COLORADO**.....Mountain Vista  
Community School

**CONNECTICUT**...McDonough Middle School

**DELAWARE**.....Newark High School

**DEPT. OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY**  
Guam High School  
West Point Middle School (NY)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**.....H.D. Woodson  
High School

**FLORIDA**.....Shady Hill Elementary

**GEORGIA**.....DeKalb Early  
College Academy

**GUAM**.....Upi Elementary School

**HAWAII**.....Governor Wallace Rider  
Farrington High School

**IDAHO**.....Malad High School

**ILLINOIS**.....Richland County Community  
Unit School District

**INDIANA**.....Madison Junior High School

**IOWA**.....Ruthven-Ayrshire  
Community School

**KANSAS**.....Onaga High School

**KENTUCKY**.....Kentucky School for the Blind  
Kentucky School for the Deaf

**LOUISIANA**.....Lafayette Middle School

**MAINE**.....East End Community School

**MARYLAND**.....Riverdale  
Elementary School

**MASSACHUSETTS**.....Trinity Catholic  
Academy

<b>MICHIGAN</b> .....	Schoolcraft Junior - Senior High School	<b>OREGON</b> .....	Donald E. Long School Program
<b>MINNESOTA</b> .....	St. Alphonsus Catholic School	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> .....	Austin Area School District
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b> .....	Pearl High School	<b>PUERTO RICO</b> .....	Escuela Dr. Hernández y Gaetán
<b>MISSOURI</b> .....	Scott City R-I, Scott City Elementary	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b> .....	Frank E. Thompson Middle School
<b>MONTANA</b> .....	Hyalite Elementary School	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b> .....	Dorman High School
<b>NEBRASKA</b> .....	Chadron Public Schools	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b> .....	Tripp-Delmont School District
<b>NEVADA</b> .....	Richard Rundle Elementary School	<b>TENNESSEE</b> .....	Brickey-McCloud Elementary
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> .....	Rundlett Middle School	<b>TEXAS</b> .....	Greenwood Intermediate School
<b>NEW JERSEY</b> .....	Sparta High School	<b>U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS</b> .....	St. Croix Educational Complex High School
<b>NEW MEXICO</b> .....	Vista Grande Elementary School	<b>UTAH</b> .....	The Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Discovery Charter School
<b>NEW YORK</b> .....	Questar III BOCES	<b>VERMONT</b> .....	Gertrude Chamberlin School
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> .....	West Buncombe Elementary School	<b>VIRGINIA</b> .....	Binford Middle School
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b> .....	Twin Buttes Elementary School	<b>WASHINGTON</b> .....	Harmony Elementary School
<b>NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b> .....	Marianas High School	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b> .....	Robert L. Bland Middle School
<b>OHIO</b> .....	Newton D. Baker School	<b>WISCONSIN</b> .....	Fort Atkinson High School
<b>OKLAHOMA</b> .....	Zarrow International School Tulsa Public Schools	<b>WYOMING</b> .....	Natrona County High School

# In Appreciation

The National Park Service and National Park Foundation present the 2024 National Christmas Tree Lighting with generous support from:



## NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE 2024

USDA Forest Service  
*Mount Rogers National Recreation Area,  
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Virginia*

## STATE AND TERRITORY TREES

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

## WITH THANKS

Thank you to the hundreds of staff, volunteers, and interns 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

Lindsay Saunders Carl

### MUSIC PRODUCER

Adam Blackstone

### ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Caroline Chon

### PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Paige Hadley

### STAGING SUPERVISOR

Thom Peachee

### PRODUCTION DESIGNER

John Zuiker

22 Degrees

All Access

Anna's Worldwide

Blanchard  
Communications

Boom Productions Inc

Clair Global

Charm City

Cue Tech

Effort LLC

Elizabeth Yoder

Event EQ

Global ImageWorks

Live Media Group

Maryland Sound

Mountain Productions

Pete's Big TVs

Posh & Luxe

RaJshawn Songi Scott

Saunders Electric

Songbird Audio Associates

Sound Design

StediNYC

Sugar Mountain Nursery

Sunbelt

Uniquely D.C.

United Metro Golf Cart

Visit [thenationaltree.org](http://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 the beloved traditions  
and festivities all month long

*Learn more at [bit.ly/WillardHolidays2024](https://bit.ly/WillardHolidays2024)*

# SHARE HOLIDAY MAGIC

## NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

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The Coca-Cola Company is a proud supporter of the National Park Foundation and the joy of holiday magic.



# We're dedicated to protecting every moment of wonder.

We are the National Park Foundation, and with your support, we're creating a future where every person gets their chance to make memories in America's most treasured spaces. Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

IMAGE BY ALEXANDRA COTOLUIS / SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks



Join us at [nationalparks.org](https://nationalparks.org)

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](http://thenationaltree.org).

