



National Christmas Tree Music Program

President's Park will be accepting applications beginning on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 until Friday, September 18, 2009.

Greetings! Thank you for your interest in the National Christmas Tree Music Program!



How To Apply

The dates of the 2009 National Christmas Tree Music Program have not been announced.

Performance requests will be accepted from Tuesday, September 1 until Friday, September 18, 2009.

Applications must be submitted or postmarked on or before Friday, September 18, 2009. Faxes or e-mails received by 12 midnight (EST) of the closing date will be considered for selection.



How To Be Selected

A committee will review all completed applications by three weeks after the deadline. The Music Program Coordinator will contact you to discuss your possible performance date.

Due to the popularity of the



Selected groups will be performing their holiday programs on stage for the National Christmas Tree Music Program. (Photo by Peter N. Moreno, 2001)

music program, each group will be limited to one performance. It's very important to prioritize the **three possible dates** you wish to perform. Your application will be placed in a "first-choice date" category along with other "first-choice date" applicants. One member of the committee will randomly pick three envelopes for the "first-choice date". If not selected, your application will be placed with "second-choice date" applicants and so on to the "third-choice date" group. If not selected at all, your

application will be placed on a waiting list in case a group decides not to perform. (One application per group)



For more information on the National Christmas Tree Music Program, please visit President's Park's website:

www.nps.gov/whho

Application

- Instructions
- Name of Performing Group for National Christmas Tree Music Program
- Where to mail your confirmation package
- How to contact you
- Select Three Performing Dates
- Equipment Requests
- Musicial Entertainment Policy
- Music Selections

President's Park
c/o National Christmas Tree
Music Program
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

Phone: 202-208-1631
Fax: 202-208-1643
Visit website:
www.nps.gov/whho

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **How to fax:** Print this application, fill it out and fax it to 202-208-1643
2. **How to e-mail:** Visit <http://www.nps.gov/whho>, to copy this application, press "Ctrl- A" to select, press "Ctrl-C" to copy, open Microsoft Word, press "Ctrl-V" to paste, and be sure to save the application. After the application is filled out and saved, go to your mailbox and send the application to Jennifer_Feeney@nps.gov as an attached file.

The information below will be printed in the program for the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree program. **Please OMIT long name of performing group.**

Name of Group

Location (City & State)

Director

Where should we mail your confirmation package once your group has been selected?

Name

Address

City State Zip

How can we contact you?

Phone #1 Phone #2

Email

Please type in performance date (i.e. Saturday, December 13) and check once for performance time. (Please pick three different dates)

1. 6 - 6:30 pm 7 - 7:30 pm 8 - 8:30 pm

2. 6 - 6:30 pm 7 - 7:30 pm 8 - 8:30 pm

3. 6 - 6:30 pm 7 - 7:30 pm 8 - 8:30 pm

Musical Entertainment Policy

The National Park Service's National Christmas Tree Music Program at President's Park is intended to provide musical entertainment for park visitors during December on the Ellipse, where in celebration of the holiday season, visitors can observe the National Christmas Tree, visit assorted yuletide displays, and attend musical presentations. Park visitors come from diverse backgrounds and nations, and

include individuals, families, and groups, with ages ranging from the very young to senior citizens. Consistent with the Constitution's Establishment Clause and its mandate of government neutrality, which has allowed the placement of holiday secular and religious displays, the National Christmas Tree Music Program's holiday musical entertainment may include both holiday secular and

religious music. To ensure that any proposed music selection is consistent with the Establishment Clause, and presented in a prudent and objective manner as a traditional part of the culture and heritage of this annual holiday event, it must be approved in advance by the National Park Service.

Please check this box that you have read the "**Musical Entertainment Policy**".

EQUIPMENT REQUESTS

Equipment is available on site. Please check it what you need.

Folding Chairs
(MAX. 40 chairs) How many?

Music Stands
(MAX. 30 stands) How many?

Choral Risers
(There are **five** choral risers set up permanently on stage.)

Electric Piano
(Full keyboard with 88 keys)

Sound System

CD Player Cassette Player

Microphone(s)
How many?

(PLEASE NOTE: A professional sound technician will be available on site every evening to assist your needs.

Also, the evening's **TOASTMASTER** will be announcing your group, so please bring a short introduction about your performers.)

Your "Holiday" Performance

Music selections/songs (Please limit your program to 30 minutes)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Band Choir Dance

No. of performers:

If other, please describe



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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c/o National Christmas Tree Music Program
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Story of the National Christmas Tree

(Excerpted from A Brief Story of the National Christmas Tree by C.L. Arbelbide)

In November 1923, First Lady Grace Coolidge gave permission for the District of Columbia Public Schools to erect a Christmas tree on the Ellipse south of the White House. The organizers named the tree the "National Christmas Tree."

That Christmas Eve, at 5 p.m., President Calvin Coolidge walked from the White House to the Ellipse and "pushed the button" to light the cut 48-foot Balsam fir, as 3,000 enthusiastic spectators looked on. The tree, donated by Middlebury College, was from the President's native state of Vermont.

From 1924 to 1953 live trees, in various locations around and on the White House grounds, were lit on Christmas Eve. In 1954 the ceremony

returned to the Ellipse and expanded its focus. Local civic and business groups created the "Christmas Pageant of Peace." Smaller live trees representing the 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia, formed a "Pathway of Peace." On December 17, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower lit the cut tree donated by the people of Michigan. Cut trees continued to be used until 1973.

Central to the season's celebration is the living National Christmas Tree, a Colorado blue spruce from York, Pennsylvania, planted on the Ellipse October 20, 1978. The tree stands as a daily reminder of the holiday spirit and of the tradition each succeeding President has participated in since 1923.