



NEWS RELEASE

Welcome to *A Storybook Christmas* at Deck the Hall

New animated reindeer and bakeshop window will delight all

September 27, 2016 – Akron, Ohio – Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens presents its annual celebration of the winter holidays, **DECK THE HALL**, from 5-8pm on November 25-27, and December 1-4, December 8-23, and December 26-30, 2016. Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path, in Akron Ohio.

Eight hundred thousand (800,000) lights illuminate the historic estate. The Manor House is decorated to reflect the theme of *A Storybook Christmas*, and every evening of **DECK THE HALL** also includes a Christmas tree lighting in the Courtyard at 5:30pm with Santa. New at **Deck the Hall** is an animated bakeshop window in the Courtyard outside Molly's Shop — complementing the window depicting downtown Akron at dusk during the holidays, circa 1920. Also new is a life-sized animatronic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, in the reindeer barn holding court in Santa's new meet-and-greet experience area near the animated windows.

"Last year's animated holiday window of vintage Akron was so popular that we are creating a custom-designed display featuring four bakers in perpetual motion, mixing and baking cookies and cakes," says Linda Conrad, President & Executive Director. "Another new feature in the Courtyard is Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. This life-size animatronic joins Santa, greeting children and guests of all ages."

A Storybook Christmas in the Manor House brings to life Christmas stories in more than 20 rooms in the historic mansion. Favorites like *Frosty the Snowman* and *Elf on a Shelf* will be featured, as well as other wonderful stories, including *The Mitten* and *A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree*. "We chose some Christmas storybooks that are less familiar, but very inspiring and that guests will enjoy," notes Kim Sorboro, Collections Manager at Stan Hywet.

In the Music Room, choirs and musicians from throughout Northeast Ohio provide a musical backdrop as guests tour the historic Manor House. *See list of participants, last page.*

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The large oaks from the Carriage House to the Manor House will be filled with oversized stars and snowflakes. Guests may stroll down the Birch Tree Allée through hoops wrapped in white lights. The Grape Arbor will be lit with clusters of “grape lights,” and the popular miniature village is on display in the Lagoon area, viewable from the Tea Houses. In the Corbin Conservatory, the tropical *Garden Under Glass*, will have subtle up-lighting with LED “candles” in the flower beds. Nearby, a tall poinsettia “tree” provides a perfect backdrop for family photos.

DAZZLE, the outdoor light show spectacular animated to music, has been updated with three popular Christmas songs: *We Need a Little Christmas*, *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town* and *Frosty The Snowman*. The centerpiece of Dazzle is a 25-foot Christmas tree, lit with a full spectrum of color, a layer of lighted ornaments, and an overlay of sparkle lights. Surrounding the tree are dozens of flowers, butterflies, bees and globes also shimmering with lights. Apple trees in the garden, wrapped in lights, add more sparkle to the display. Nearby Dazzle is **Gingerbread Land**, Playgarden transformed into a fanciful place of oversized candy canes, gingerbread and holiday lights. A warming fire, freshly baked gingerbread cookies, savory snacks and holiday shopping at Molly’s are also part of this wonderful Christmastime tradition.

The Gingerbread Bakeshop in the Courtyard sells Stan Hywet’s famous hot gingerbread cookies, as well as cocoa and cider; and the Salty Reindeer features savory snacks; including freshly baked Bavarian pretzels, popcorn, beer, wine and soft drinks. Molly’s Shop is fully stocked for holiday shopping and the café is a place to enjoy more substantial fare and holiday treats.

TICKETS AND NEW INCENTIVE PRICING

Tickets to **DECK THE HALL** may be purchased in advance at stanhywet.org or 330-315-3287, or upon arrival. Tickets include a self-guided tour of the Manor House and grounds, including DAZZLE and Gingerbread Land. In an effort to spread out the crowds, a new ticket pricing structure is being implemented with incentive pricing for Sunday through Thursday evenings.

On Fridays and Saturdays of Deck the Hall, adult tickets are \$22 and youth (6-17) are \$9. Value-pricing is available for Deck the Hall nights, Sunday – Thursday: tickets are \$18 adults and \$7, youth (6-17). On all nights, children 5 and under are free and college students with valid ID qualify for the youth price. Stan Hywet member discounts available. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more that purchase tickets in advance. More information is available at stanhywet.org

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Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
Deck the Hall 2016
Manor House Music Room Entertainment*



November 25	Kimberly States / Cathy Fafrak	Piano
November 26	Suite Elegance	Instrumental Quartet
November 27	Jane Delcamp / Lori Nelson	Flute/piano
December 1	The King's Strings	Harps
December 2	dismantleRepair	Christian Rock
December 3	dismantleRepair	Christian Rock
December 4	722	Choir
December 8	Suite Elegance	Instrumental Quartet
December 9	KSU Men's Octet	Chorus
December 10	KSU Women's choir	Chorus
December 11	Western Reserve Academy String quartet	String Quartet
December 12	Shani Diggs	Piano
December 13	Denny Franz	Choir
December 14	Barbara Shearer	Aeolian organ
December 15	Carole Sayre	Piano
December 16	Sperry Creek	Orchestra
December 17	Nancy Seiberling Smith	Soloist
December 18	Sonner Nouveaux	Orchestra/chorus
December 19	Western Star Flute Choir	Flutes
December 20	Joyful Bronze	Hand Bell Quintet
December 21	Graham Hicks	Piano
December 22	Robin Bennett Costanzo	Soloist
December 23	All Thumbs Bassoons	Bassoons
December 26	Steve Ostrow	Harp
December 27	Jason Fawks	Piano
December 28	Arnett Quartet	Jazz
December 29	Mary Ann Roth	
December 30	Linda Florjancic / Nancy Gray	Viola/Piano

*As of 10/27/2016