

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2018

HEARTHSTONE ANNOUNCES DATES AND ARTISTS FOR VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS SEASON

Hearthstone Historic House Museum has announced the artists that will perform Friday Evenings during their Victorian Christmas season. Daytime Christmas tours run Thursdays through Sundays starting Friday, November 23 and ending Sunday, January 13th. However, for even more holiday spirit, guests can attend special evening tours that add traditional live music, viewing the house lit by Christmas lights and our original 1882 electroliers, plus a holiday gingerbread display (along with gingerbread treats for the children). Evening tours are from 6:00-8:00 pm on Fridays starting on November 30th and running through December 28, with the following musical lineup:

Friday November 30th- Easterners (Appleton East vocal group)

Friday, December 7th- Valley Flute Ensemble and Laurel Marchinowski (hammer dulcimer with accompanying violin)

Friday, December 14th- Lorna Stevens (vocalist)

Friday December 21st- Heidi Scott (pianist)

Friday December 28th- Hearthstone Holiday Horns

This tradition that has been popular for many years in the Fox Valley, with elaborate decorations planned around the prestigious decor of the museum. Volunteers Ann Sager, Kris Sager, and Kris Bryan head the overall project, planning the room decorations, establishing decorating schedules, directing the other volunteers, constructing exhibits, and creating light displays.

"We fit a special niche for those that really want to either re-affirm or jump-start their own special feelings for the holidays," says George Schroeder, Executive Director at Hearthstone. "It seems that people are busier than ever, and the next thing you know Christmas is here and gone. Victorian Christmas gives them the opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of shopping and enjoy that special holiday feeling as they tour the superbly restored Victorian splendor at Hearthstone during the Christmas season. Guests can go back in time with decorated Christmas trees and other special decorations that evoke the spirit of the first Christmases at Hearthstone in each room."

Area businesses sponsor the Friday evening events, providing volunteer assistance and financial support. Fox Communities Credit Union, Urban Evolutions, Diane Schuettelpelz, Avenue Art and others are sponsors of this year's event. All of the proceeds benefit Hearthstone and are adding to a general fund for operating expenses, expenses for the decorations, and other special projects.

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(PHOTOS AVAILABLE)

ABOUT HEARTHSTONE:

Friends of Hearthstone, Inc. is a non-profit, privately funded organization with the mission of preserving Hearthstone Historic House Museum and the contents within for the promotion of its unique place in history, architecture, innovation, and culture in the Fox Cities area to its members and all those in the State of Wisconsin.

Hearthstone Historic House Museum is a large, beautifully restored Queen Anne Victorian Style home built in 1882 by Henry J. Rogers, Superintendent of the Appleton Paper and Pulp Mill. On September 30, 1882, Hearthstone was the first house in the world to be lit by an Edison central hydroelectric power station. The house retains many unique, genuine features, including the original Thomas Edison electroliers and light switches. Appleton was one of the first three cities in the world to be lit by an Edison central power station, the other two being New York and London. This was all due to Mr. Rogers, who decided to invest in Edison's power station in order to light two paper mills and his home. Since it became a museum in 1987, Hearthstone's focus is to preserve the house and its artifacts to re-create a historical experience based on its Thomas A. Edison heritage for the cultural enjoyment and educational benefit of the public through its many exhibits and educational programs.