Sounds of the Season

November 23, 2021–January 2, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH–WEST

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park
CHRISTMAS TREES & HOLIDAY TRADITIONS DISPLAYS

01 Italy Display
02 Netherlands Tree
03 Ukraine Tree
04 USA Tree
05 Russia Display
06 Lithuania Tree
07 Hanukkah Display
08 Kwanzaa Display
09 Ghana Display
10 Belize Tree
11 Wreath Display
12 Eid al-Fitr Display
13 Hungary Tree
14 France Display
15 Austria Tree
16 Victorian Tree
17 Railway Garden
18 Switzerland Tree
19 Slovak Republic Tree
20 Japan Display
21 Philippines Display
22 Moravian Star Display
23 India Display
24 Poinsettia Display
25 Finland Tree
26 Iceland Tree
27 American Indian Tree
28 Middle East Tree
29 England Tree
30 Ireland Tree
31 Spain Tree
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38 Korea Display
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42 Australia Tree
43 China Display
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Sounds of the Season Features
Welcome to the University of Michigan Health–West Christmas & Holiday Traditions exhibition.

Celebrate the Sounds of the Season! Experience how music and sounds are cross-cultural and interconnected, throughout a wide variety of holidays and cultural celebrations. Explore the displays featured below and many more that honor global music and sounds. View the film joy in the Hoffman Family Auditorium, to learn about traditions celebrated here in West Michigan. Delight in the miniature Grand Rapids landmarks in our Railway Garden, made from natural materials.
Austria

Vienna, Austria, is celebrated for its classical music. Home to the Habsburgs, the royal family of Austria and patrons of the arts and music, composers were drawn here in the 18th and 19th centuries. Austria is the birthplace of many famous composers, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert and Johann Strauss II.

The well-known Christmas carol “Silent Night” was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 in Oberndorf, Austria. The Silent Night Memorial Chapel now stands in its place. A reproduction of this little white chapel can be found on this tree.
Look outside to view the birds at the feeders. Their chirping and singing lends bright musical energy to a spare winter scene. Throughout the world, birds are symbolic animals often representing peace or travel—themes common at Christmastime. In some cultures, birds feature prominently in holiday celebrations and traditions.
Chinese New Year is the most important holiday in China. The celebration centers on families traveling home and spending time together. Chinese New Year festivities take place over several weeks. The celebration begins with the dragon dance and concludes with the lantern festival parade.

For thousands of years, the commanding sound of the gong has been heard at celebrations in China. Gongs are used in religious ceremonies, festivals, marriages, and other holidays and special occasions.
The Koran is the book of divine guidance and direction for Muslims. “Al-Koran” means “the recitation.” Both the book and the recitation must be handled with great respect.

A compass is used to face east for each of the five daily prayers, known as salah. East is the direction of Mecca, the holy meeting site of the Islamic religion. Prayer beads, known in Arabic as subha, are used to count the repetitions of prayers or chants. One chant that might be recited is “Subhan Allah,” which means “Glory to God.”
As in many other holiday traditions, Kwanzaa celebrations often include music. Several songs written for the holiday are educational, teaching lessons about the meaning of Kwanzaa as they are sung. Traditional African music is also popular, often including instruments like drums and the thumb piano displayed here, played by holding the wooden soundboard in the hands and plucking the tuned metal tines with the thumbs.
In many cultures, the holidays bring people together in distinct and memorable ways that are difficult to capture in a display. This award-winning film highlights several locally celebrated traditions from centuries ago, still vital today. This film is playing continuously in the Hoffman Family Auditorium.
Chugga-chugga choo-choo! It’s a sound of the season at Meijer Gardens! The Railway Garden creates a winter wonderland as trains weave their way around holiday-themed horticulture and miniature landmarks, made by hand from natural materials. Trains can be symbols of travel, connection and even the passage of time. A train can be a way to visit loved ones or to experience faraway places and cultures. In this garden, our train travels over models of landmarks from Grand Rapids and its Sister Cities around the world.
EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

SANTA VISITS
Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory | 5-8 pm
Tuesdays | NOV 23, 30 & DEC 7, 14, 21

THE ORIGINAL DICKENS CAROLERS
BISSELL & Gunberg Corridors | 6-8 pm
Tuesdays | NOV 23, 30 & DEC 7, 14, 21

LIVE MUSIC BY SAMUEL NALANGIRA
Welcome Center | 5-7 pm
Tuesdays | NOV 23, 30 & DEC 7, 14, 21

ROOFTOP REINDEER
Michigan’s Farm Garden | 1-4 pm
Saturdays | NOV 27 & DEC 4, 11, 18

For a full list of events, please visit: MeijerGardens.org/christmas
AUSTRALIA TREE
Cate Jansma & Sid Jansma, Jr.

BIRDS DISPLAY
BHS Insurance

BRAZIL TREE
Sharon Van Dellen

DENMARK TREE
Wolverine Worldwide Foundation

FINLAND TREE
Peter C. & Emajean Cook Foundation

GERMANY TREE
Lena Meijer

GHANA DISPLAY
i understand

HUNGARY TREE
Cascade Engineering

IRELAND TREE
Bill & Marilyn Crawford

ITALY DISPLAY
Alex & Hanna Tuzzolino

JAPAN DISPLAY
Daniel & Pamella DeVos Foundation

KOREA DISPLAY
Alex & Hanna Tuzzolino

KWANZAA DISPLAY
Steelcase, Inc.

LITHUANIA TREE
Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

MEXICO TREE
UFP Industries Foundation

NETHERLANDS TREE
J.C. & Tammy Huizenga

POLAND TREE
Lacks Enterprises, Inc

POINSETTIAS
Masterpiece Flower Company, LLC

UKRAINE TREE
Doug Meijer

USA TREE
RDV Corporation
RAILWAY GARDEN TITLE SPONSOR

Warner Norcross + Judd

RAILWAY GARDEN LEAD SPONSORS

CHOMEIJI TEMPLE, JAPAN
Mike & Sue Jandernoa

CHOO CHOO GRILL
Hank & Liesel Meijer

City and County Plaza
Insignia Homes

FALLASBURG COVERED BRIDGE
Sharon Van Dellen

GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATRE
Lena Meijer

GRAND RAPIDS FISH LADDER
Grand Valley State University

LIT ARCH BRIDGE
Pioneer Construction

PANTLIND HOTEL
Peter C. & Emajean Cook Foundation

PENINSULAR CLUB
RDV Corporation

RYERSON LIBRARY
Chris & Deanna Eckert

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PLANTING BEDS
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