

PRESS RELEASE

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Public Artist Karl Unnasch Creates Musical Holiday 'Tree' in Metro D.C. Community

SILVER SPRING, MD. – December 15, 2014



Tree Lighting Celebration



Silver Symphony and its control panel for "playing" the tree

This year's holiday 'tree' in the Metro D.C. community of Silver Spring, Md. is awash with sound, motion and light. Studded with trumpets and trombones, cellos and guitars, triangles and cymbals and wind-chimes and bells, *Silver Symphony* is a tribute to the importance of music in our everyday lives.

The installation jingles on the whims of the wind, but passers-by can actually also 'play the tree'. A musical control panel in the form of an oversized gift box has large toy-like buttons for activating the various elements. By holding these down, cymbals are struck, chimes are tinkled, bells are jingled and strings are strummed.

The tree is also a call to a cause: In keeping with last year's tradition, a specific charity is the focus. This year, [Hungry for Music](#) will be receiving and redistributing new and gently used instruments donated by the public into the nearby donation box through the MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DONATION DRIVE organized by [Downtown Silver Spring](#). *Hungry for Music* also will be refurbishing any usable instruments from the tree upon dismantling. Details can be found on the Downtown Silver Spring website, [here](#).

Area school choirs and bands have also been invited to perform on the adjacent Downtown Silver Spring Stage throughout the Holiday Season.

Silver Symphony is the brainchild of Midwestern artist [Karl Unnasch](#), executed in collaboration with [ENJOINERY](#). Unnasch's holiday tree for the same venue last year was featured on NBC's *TODAY* show and *Voice of America* international broadcast news. This year's story has already received the attention of the Washington Post Blog and NBC Washington, and has made the news as far as San Diego.

More images, videos and details for *Silver Symphony* can be found on its Project Page at:

<http://www.karlunnasch.com/project-pages/2014.11-silver-symphony-musical-holiday-tree-in-silver-spring-maryland.htm>.



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About the Artist:

Karl Unnasch's work has been exhibited as far as Europe and acclaimed in publications including *The New York Times* and *Art in London Magazine*. His work has been included in the *Public Art Network Year in Review* database by *Americans for the Arts* in Washington, D.C., and he has been counted among the Artists of the Year by the Minneapolis *CityPages* Magazine. While continuing to exhibit, Unnasch today focuses primarily on public and architectural art, most typically incorporating stained glass and sculpture in his work. Over the last half a decade, he has installed notable works at prominent locations including educational facilities, medical wings, banks, theater lobbies and public gathering spaces. For more information, visit www.karlunnasch.com.

Contact:

Karl Unnasch, Artist
31314 Hwy. 30
Chatfield, MN 55923
507-272-0452
karl@karlunnasch.com
www.karlunnasch.com

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