

By SABRINA GARRETT

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The holiday season just wouldn't be the same without the lush, green beauty of a Christmas tree adorning your living room. On Tuesday, Nov. 27, thirteen ornate trees will light up Cumberland University's Baird Chapel – one of which could be yours - for a price.

The community is invited to the third annual Trees of the Hall fundraiser, which benefits Cumberland's School of Music and the Arts. At the event, trees are donated and decorated by various individuals, businesses and organizations to be sold to the highest bidder during a live auction.

Camille Burdine with the Cumberland University Alumni House said that tree decorators include: The Art Mill, Pat Bryant & Friends, Cumberland University, The Jewelers of Lebanon, Pryor Dentistry, The Lebanon Junior Women's Club, McClain Christian Academy, Melissa Tuggle, Regina Moss and Michelle Dickson, Michael's Cover-Up, Nave Dentistry, Town Planner and the White Room. "We have probably more individuals than we have ever had. We have a lot of repeat tree decorators. The LJWC has done a tree for us every year," Burdine said of the event, chaired by Kim Parks.

"I love Christmastime and the music and the fellowship. I think that Christmas is just such a special time and for Friends of Music and the Arts – this is our signature event that we hope brings the community together to kick off the holidays," she added. The event will also feature a silent auction where guests can bid on an assortment of wreaths and topiaries designed by Kathy Adams, SS Graham, Denise Thorne of Town & Country Garden Club, Susan Kirshner, Custom Wreath Designs, Music City Shakers Body by Vi, Daughters of the American Revolution, Gardens on Main, Reed's Wreaths and Denise and Gary Thorne. There will be a sneak peek offer open to seniors on Monday, Nov. 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Jewelers of Lebanon owner Shawn Smith kept mum about his top secret tree design, but promised it will be "the most talked about tree at the event. I am not telling anybody what it is, but it is going to turn everybody's heads – guaranteed."

Trees set to deck the Hall at Baird Chapel

Monday, November 26, 2012

Smith wanted to design a tree again this year, despite an unfortunate incident that occurred prior to last year's Trees of the Hall. Smith had designed a tree decorated with 75 pieces of LUXE fashion line jewelry – only to have it stolen. "It is always good to give back to the community," he said. "We have a good time doing it."

Funds raised will go towards the purchase three upright pianos and one baby grand piano for the Arts Academy. "We have had a very generous donor, Everett Dye, who has agreed to match the funds raised, not just from Trees of the Hall, but from our ongoing campaign. This will finish out our campaign," Burdine said.

No admission will be charged for Trees of the Hall, which begins with tree viewing and a silent auction at 6 p.m. Entertainment and the live auction, will follow at 7 o'clock. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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