MCPL Kicks off Holiday Programs and Live Performances

Gerald Dickens and David zum Brunnen Return for Renditions of ‘A Christmas Carol’

Greater Kansas City, MO – The great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens is returning to Mid-Continent Public Library for a special engagement! A professional actor in England, the energetic Gerald Dickens leaps, laughs, and sob as he portrays the voices of *A Christmas Carol* in five free performances November 19 – 21.

Dickens’ striking resemblance to his great-great-grandfather and his dramatic rendition of *A Christmas Carol* bring the classic to life. His performances will be held at the following times and locations and will be followed by refreshments:

- North Independence Branch – Sunday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m.
- Parkville Branch – Monday, November 20, at 2:00 p.m.
- Woodneath Library Center – Monday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m.
- Blue Springs North Branch – Tuesday, November 21, at 10:00 a.m.
- Raytown Branch – Tuesday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m.

On November 27 and 28, David zum Brunnen will offer a similarly captivating performance as he gives his portrayal of the 17 unique characters in *A Christmas Carol* and Charles Dickens himself during the very special night in 1843 when he created the timeless classic.

Zum Brunnen is best known for his work acting for public television, including *The Night Before Christmas Carol*. His performance has earned high praise from many, including the Dickens family. His performances will be held at:

- Midwest Genealogy Center – November 27, 2:00 p.m.
- Woodneath Library Center – November 27, 7:00 p.m.
- Lee’s Summit Branch – November 28, 2:00 p.m.
- North Independence Branch – November 28, 7:00 p.m.
“We are excited to continue to offer our Dickens storytelling tradition at the Library,” said Dylan Little, MCPL Community Programming Manager. “Every year, we hear from folks who say that these performances are right up there with turkey and stuffing in terms of holiday traditions. Gerald and David are supremely gifted at captivating audiences, and we hope everyone in the community gets a chance to grab a seat.”

MCPL will offer more than 30 unique holiday programs at 29 of its 31 branches this season, including:

- Storytimes with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Holiday music and performances (such as Simple Strings Dulcimers Christmas Concert, The Dickens Carolers, and A Christmas Carol-LIVE!, a performance by Hampstead Stage)
- Holiday crafts and entertaining (Including Easy-to-Make Holiday Drinks and Beaded Christmas Tree)
- Storytelling about winter holidays including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Dongzhi, and Christmas

All program seating is limited, and registration is required. For more information about any of the Library’s holiday programs, or to register for one of the events, visit mymcpl.org/holidays.

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Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and four Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a [2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner](https://www.mcpl.org/holidays). Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.