

Media Contact:

Jeff Reiter
Cantigny Park
630.260.8218
jreiter@cantigny.org

OLD-TIME RADIO PLAY ADAPTS “THE WIZARD OF OZ”

Two performances in May are free to the public at Cantigny Park’s bandshell

Wheaton, Ill., April 18, 2022 – The Robert R. McCormick House at Cantigny Park presents a live recreation of “Chicago’s Theatre of the Air” with a unique adaptation of Frank L. Baum’s classic, “The Wizard of Oz.”

The free performance will take place at the park’s bandshell on Saturday, May 7, and Sunday, May 8. Both shows begin at 11 am. Parking is \$5 per car.

In 1925, Colonel Robert R. McCormick, Cantigny’s benefactor, invested in the new world of radio and founded WGN. The station’s call letters stood for World’s Greatest Newspaper, reflecting the Colonel’s primary media property, the *Chicago Tribune*. In 1940, WGN debuted Chicago’s Theatre of the Air, billed as “radio’s greatest hour of music and drama.”

All are invited to travel back in time for a one-hour “Wizard of Oz” adaptation that follows Dotty, a plucky Chicago journalist, after a freak tornado blows Aunt Em’s Boarding House for Girls to the wonderful Land of Oz. The characters, while familiar, have a new 1920s twist that will have you laughing and smiling all the way down the Yellow Brick Road.

Five actors will perform: Joe Ascenzo, John Bihun, Nicole Borowski, Will Buhlig, and Jameyrae Swetman. Buhlig is director of operations for the Museums at Cantigny Park.

The Cantigny bandshell features open seating on the lawn. Chairs and blankets are recommended, and picnics are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the show will be held in the Visitors Center Theater, where seats are on a first come, first served basis.

Cantigny Park is open daily from 7 am to sunset. Visitor information and a calendar of events are online at Cantigny.org.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation, is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), long-time editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is home to the McCormick House, First Division Museum, display gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails, and a Visitors Center with a gift shop, theater, and café. More information, including hours, directions, and upcoming events, is online at Cantigny.org. Adjacent to the park, Cantigny Golf features a 27-hole championship golf course, full-service clubhouse, Cantigny Golf Academy, and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. For more information, visit CantignyGolf.com.