



Emily
DICKINSON
Museum
THE HOMESTEAD &
THE EVERGREENS

NEWS RELEASE

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EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM LAUNCHES LANDSCAPE AUDIO TOUR

Richard Wilbur, Mary Jo Salter and Others Lend Voices to Share Poet's Landscape

AMHERST, Mass. – The Emily Dickinson Museum has recently added a new tour to its repertoire, supplementing its two popular interior tours of the Dickinson Homestead and The Evergreens with an outdoor audio tour of the property surrounding both homes called “Grounds of Memory.”

“We are very pleased to introduce a tour of the grounds that evokes the landscape of the Dickinson homes and the gardens the family loved,” said Jane Wald, executive director of the Emily Dickinson Museum. “Over a century has passed since Emily Dickinson tended the garden and drew inspiration from it, but the landscape is durable and retains the marks of intention, design and care that the Dickinsons imparted to it at the Homestead and The Evergreens.”

The tour was designed and written by landscape consultant Marta McDowell and is narrated by former Poet Laureate of the United States Richard Wilbur. Poet Mary Jo Salter is the voice of Emily Dickinson. Other voices on the tour include that of John Martin, professor emeritus of landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Walter Carroll, WFCR 88.5FM classical music host, Marta McDowell and Jane Wald.

The tour features 18 stops, including the lawn and flower garden of the Homestead, the site of Dickinson's conservatory, the path between the poet's home and the home of her brother Austin next door, and focal points at The Evergreens' more formal landscape, influenced by the designs of Frederick Law Olmstead.

Interspersed between the narratives is a selection of Dickinson poems inspired by her landscape. Participants can choose to listen to the narrative track or a separate track of 18 Dickinson poems read by Richard Wilbur and Mary Jo Salter. The full audio tour takes about an hour to complete.

“Our new tour helps to convey the importance of nature and home in Emily Dickinson's world and fits well with our long-term plan to restore the grounds to the landscape setting Dickinson herself would recognize,” said Wald.

The title of the tour, “Grounds of Memory” is taken from a Dickinson poem that begins:

Through those old Grounds of memory,
The sauntering alone
Is a divine intemperance
A prudent man would shun.

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The landscape tour is available to visitors during regular Museum hours. From May through October, the Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., with extended hours of 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. running June through August. In November and December, just prior to the close of the season, hours are reduced to Wednesdays and Saturdays only. A full schedule is available at www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org. "Grounds of Memory" is \$4 with the purchase of a regular interior tour of both homes and \$6 if purchased separately.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services, an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities, contributed to this project, along with WFCR 88.5FM Public Radio for Western New England.

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The Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead and The Evergreens is dedicated to educating diverse audiences about the poet's life, family, creative work, times, and enduring relevance, and to preserving and interpreting the Homestead and The Evergreens as historical resources for the benefit of scholars and the general public. The Museum is owned by the Trustees of Amherst College, and has its own Board of Governors, which is charged with responsibility for raising its operating and capital funds. The Emily Dickinson Museum is a member of Museums10, a partnership of ten museums in the Pioneer Valley. For more information on the Museum, visit www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org.