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Contact: Madison Morgan
Public Relations Manager
1 Tram Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 969-4385
Email: mmorgan@pstramway.com

**“AMERICAN IDOL” WINNER ABI CARTER NAMED
PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY 2024 TREE LIGHTER
KESQ’s Patrick Evans to Emcee Ceremony**

PALM SPRINGS, CA (November 6, 2024) **Abi Carter**, Season 22 “**American Idol**” winner and **Coachella Valley native**, will serve as the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway’s 2024 celebrity tree lighter** at the annual **Tree Lighting Ceremony** on **Sunday, December 8, 2024**. **KESQ Meteorologist** and “**Eye on the Desert**” **Host Patrick Evans** will again emcee this year’s event at the Tramway’s Mountain Station. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with the **Palm Springs High School Choir and String Quartet** performing holiday favorites. Immediately following, Carter lights the Tram’s landmark **45-foot tree comprised of over 4,000 LED lights**, which can be seen throughout the Coachella Valley.

Carter stole the hearts of “American Idol” viewers during her audition, singing her rendition of Billie Eilish’s “What Was I Made For?” which earned her a Platinum Ticket. The judges, Blake Shelton, Lionel Richie, and Katy Perry, boasted about her performance, agreeing she could be the next winner of the show. During her “Hometown Hero Visit,” Carter visited places that meant the most to her, one of those being the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. During her visit, Carter expressed how she visited the Tramway as a child, and it always held a special place in her heart.

Carter became the first recipient of the Platinum Ticket to win the competition and the eighth female winner overall, along with stand-out artists like Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, and Jordin Sparks. Since returning home to the Coachella Valley after her win, Carter sang the “Star-Spangled Banner” and dropped the first puck at a Coachella Valley Firebirds game at Acrisure Arena; she sang the national anthem at the 2024 United States Olympic trials for gymnastics; and held her first full concert, “No Amount of Dark,” at Acrisure Arena. Carter will also be performing at Stagecoach in Indio in 2025.

The tree lighting ceremony is open to the public and is included with regular Tram admission.

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About Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway is the world’s largest rotating tram car. Opened in 1963, the Tram’s 80-passenger cars travel along the breathtaking cliffs of Chino Canyon from the Valley Station (elevation 2,643 ft.) to the Mountain Station (elevation 8,516 ft.) in approximately 10 minutes. For more information, please call 888.515.TRAM or 760.325.1391, or visit www.pstramway.com. Also, download the free app now available in the App Store/Google Play.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For additional information, high-resolution Tramway images or HD B-roll, please contact Madison Morgan at (760) 969-4385, email mmorgan@pstramway.com or visit www.pstramway.com/media.