



# 2014

## Annual Report

wttw | wfmt  
A Year of Stories



Jackie Evancho performs at *Celebration 2014: Come & Play*





# Letter from The Chairman of The Board



Norman R. Bobins

## **Dear Donors and Members,**

As my term as Chairman of WWCI's Board of Trustees approaches its end in July, it is only natural to reflect on what has been a truly eventful six years for WTTW and WFMT.

My tenure has seen many changes and exciting technological advances, and many challenges as well. The country experienced what has been called America's worst recession since the Great Depression, and naturally, that presented some very daunting obstacles for our organization, and thousands of others, to overcome. Today we are stronger and more successful than ever, due not only to the hard work and steadfast commitment of everyone at WTTW and WFMT – especially our dedicated trustees – but also to the many generous corporations, foundations, and individuals who continue to believe in us and support our mission.

As I pass the gavel to my worthy successor, James W. Mabie, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you all for a wonderful ride as Chairman. I will continue to serve on the Board and remain dedicated to the mission of WWCI, and am optimistic about its future.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman Bobins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Norman R. Bobins**

Chairman of the Board

Window to the World Communications, Inc.





Scenes from *Central Standard: On Education*, WTTW's first digital series





# Letter from the President and CEO

## Dear Donors and Members,

As you will see, Fiscal 2014 has been a momentous year of milestones, advances in technology, new arrivals and programming initiatives, and continuing service to our community.



Dan Schmidt

WTTW and WFMT's ever-evolving digital platforms, community outreach initiatives, and screening and immersion events make it clear that we have evolved into so much more than television and radio. Because of the work and vision of so many people thinking outside the box, there are more ways to access WTTW and WFMT content than ever before – over-the-air, online, on demand, via apps on mobile devices, or over-the-top content streaming. You can truly watch and listen to whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you are, via whatever platform is most convenient for you – a technological achievement that was unimaginable to most of us only a decade ago.

## A Few Highlights

In April, WTTW celebrated the 30th anniversary of our flagship nightly newsmagazine *Chicago Tonight*. Those three decades represented roughly 7,800 continuous unique broadcasts, week in and week out, with the sole exception of national holidays. That it is still on the air, relevant as ever and going strong, is impressive, especially when you consider how many profound cultural changes have occurred since the program premiered in 1984, especially across the media landscape. *Chicago Tonight* was originally conceived as a way to provide in-depth analysis of the city's turbulent political scene – and it still does that, better than anyone else. But of course, its scope is much broader, presenting stories on the arts, science and technology, health, business, architecture, education, history, and more. The program's website includes exclusive reporting, extensive video, a comprehensive segment archive, blogs, and special features. *Chicago Tonight*, too, has become much more than a television series.

Also that month, WTTW broke new ground with a series that premiered not on television, but digitally online. *Central Standard: On Education*, a new dynamic short-form documentary web series WTTW produced with Scrappers Film Group and PBS Digital Studios, presented everyday experiences within Chicagoland's educational institutions, following a diverse group of five local eighth graders from all over the area as they and their families traveled along the stressful path of admission to Chicago's selective-enrollment high schools. The weekly series, and its content-packed website, served as invaluable resources for parents in the community navigating similar paths.



New Year's Eve 2013 saw the diamond anniversary of a WFMT treasure: *The Midnight Special*. For 60 years, audiences have been entertained for three hours every Saturday night by this program that presented "folk music with a sense of humor." Thousands of traditional and contemporary folk performers, avant-garde singer-songwriters, comedians, and satirists have appeared on this series over its long history. In a poignant coincidence, its creator, the multi-talented Mike Nichols, passed away this year. And what a legacy he left behind. *The Midnight Special* carries on with longtime host Rich Warren, and remains more vital – and funny – than ever.

We welcomed new faces and voices to both the television and radio sides. Catherine De Orio, chosen in an online search, made her *Check, Please!* hosting debut in October; that same month, *Chicago Tonight* welcomed a new correspondent: Brandis Friedman from WBBM Newsradio. On WFMT, Candice Agree and Suzanne Nance joined Lisa Flynn to mark the first time in the station's history that the staff roster boasted three full-time female program hosts.

WFMT also took a large step into the future when it appointed the 30-year-old host and creator of its weekly *Introductions* series, David Polk to the post of Music Director. David took the helm in January 2014, while Peter Van De Graaff assumed the position of Chief Announcer for the station.

From the creators of *Check, Please!* came *My Chicago* – a weekly "talk show on wheels" in which hosts Mark Bazer and Odette Yousef took turns chauffeuring a variety of fascinating guests around the city as they visited favorite haunts and shared personal stories about living in Chicago. And the anthology series *Local, USA* highlighted fascinating stories of diverse people, culled from public television stations and independent producers from across the country. This program, hosted by Evan Allen-Gessesse and Niccole Thurman, also aired nationally on WTTW WORLD.

WTTW's "tour guide" Geoffrey Baer took audiences on a wild ride via a new and different mode of transportation: his *Chicago Time Machine*. Geoffrey and his crew also took their cameras to Europe to profile this year's winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame: Italian architect Pier Carlo Bontempi, a man with *A Taste for the Past*.

WTTW continued to present its usual slate of popular signature series from PBS. Most notably, *Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey* again proved to be a ratings juggernaut, maintaining its status as the most-watched program in public television history. Our local programming initiatives for *Black History Month*, *Hispanic Heritage Month*, *LGBT Pride Month*, and others once again reinforced our mission to be of service to our diverse community, as did our variety of educational and outreach programs and special events throughout the area.

As we close out another busy and successful fiscal year, the words of *Downton Abbey*'s Dowager Countess (the formidable Dame Maggie Smith) come to mind: "You'll find there's never a dull moment in this house." Thank you for continuing to watch and listen, and for helping to make possible everything we do.

Sincerely,



**Dan Schmidt**

President and CEO

Window to the World Communications, Inc.



# Stay Connected

wttw

## Broadcast

**WTTW** is one of the Midwest's premier public media organizations, dedicated to bringing Chicago and the world together to explore the arts, sciences, humanities, and public affairs. WTTW is comprised of WTTW11, WTTW Prime, WTTW Create, WTTW WORLD, WTTW Vme, and wttw.com.

**WTTW11** reaches an audience of 1.8 million over a four-state area each week, making it one of the most-watched public television stations in America. WTTW11 can be viewed with a free TV, over-the-air antenna setup in high definition by tuning to channel 11-1. Cable and satellite viewers can locate WTTW11 in high definition on their on-screen menu. The full schedule is available online at [wttw.com/schedule](http://wttw.com/schedule).

**WTTW PRIME** is our "prime time all the time" channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-2 to find WTTW Prime. WTTW Prime is on Comcast digital cable channel 370 and on RCN channel 37. The full schedule is available online at [wttw.com/schedule](http://wttw.com/schedule).



*America's Test Kitchen*

wttw11

wttwPrime

wttw  
@create

wttw  
WORLD

vme  
un servicio de  
wttw11



*Agatha Christie's Poirot*

**WTTW CREATE** is our how-to and lifestyle programming channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-3. WTTW Create is on Comcast digital cable channel 369 and on RCN channel 38. WTTW Create programming airs from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. The full schedule is available online at [wttw.com/schedule](http://wttw.com/schedule).

**WTTW WORLD** features public television's signature documentary, science, and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-3. WTTW WORLD is on Comcast digital cable channel 369 and on RCN channel 38. WTTW WORLD airs from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am. The full schedule is available online at [wttw.com/schedule](http://wttw.com/schedule).

**WTTW Vme** is our Spanish language channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-4. WTTW Vme is on Comcast digital channels 368 and 629, Dish Network channels 846 and 9414, DirectTV channel 440, and RCN channel 39. The full schedule is available online at [wttw.com/schedule](http://wttw.com/schedule).





Website for *Central Standard: On Education*



## Digital

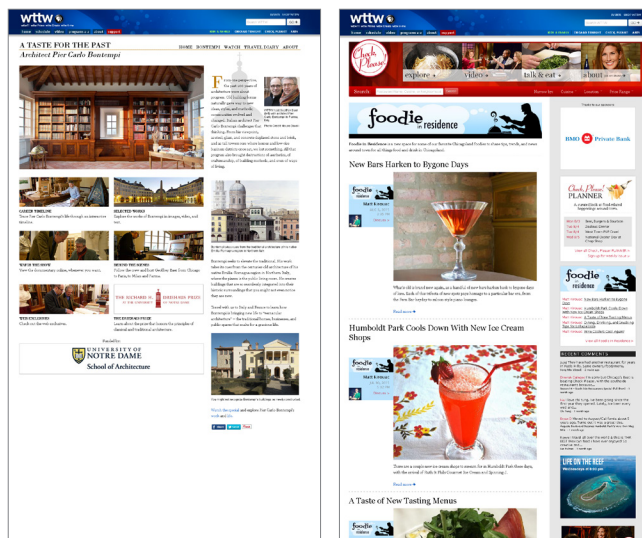
WTTW.com reaches beyond traditional television platforms with a mobile-optimized, user-focused, immersive, and interactive experience. With exclusive, original content spanning local, national, and international interests including arts and entertainment, news and public affairs, nature and science, technology, history, how-to, kids and more, wttw.com visitors can connect with others in the community and access a full library of local and national video content for kids and adults, interactive features, event and membership opportunities, and robust sites and blogs dedicated to WTTW and PBS series and specials.

This year WTTW launched a web original series *Central Standard: On Education*, which followed a diverse group of five Chicago 8th graders and their quest to make it into the region's top public high schools. The series's content-packed website went far beyond the series, providing informative infographics, insights into Chicago's public school system and selective enrollment, web-exclusives telling the stories of other students and their families, a place for audiences to share their own perspectives, and much more.

Special microsites were created for two Geoffrey Baer specials: *Chicago Time Machine* and *A Taste for the Past: Pier Carlo Bontempi*. The website for *Chicago Tonight* offered expanded political coverage in this presidential election year, web extras, special video coverage, live streaming, and more, and supplemental content about each segment. Those visiting the *Check, Please!* website found a wealth of resources, including the *Talk & Eat* blog, the lively *Foodie in Residence* blog, video, the *Check, Please!* Planner restaurant listings, and more to help foodies make the most of their Chicago dining experience.



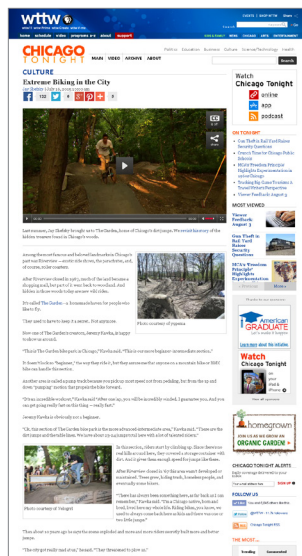
Chicago Time Machine website



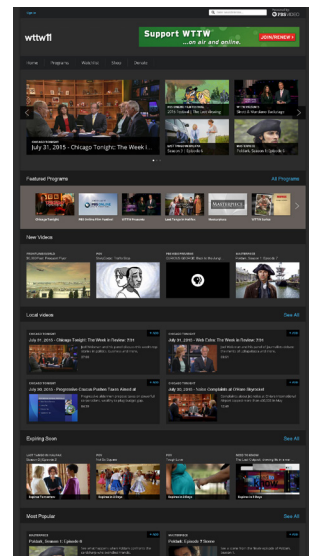
A Taste for the Past: Pier Carlo Bontempi website (left) and Foodie in Residence blog (right)



WTTW Homepage



Chicago Tonight Web Story



WTTW Video Portal



WTTW Video App (above) and BBC Video (right)



## On Demand

You can find WTTW on Demand on Comcast.

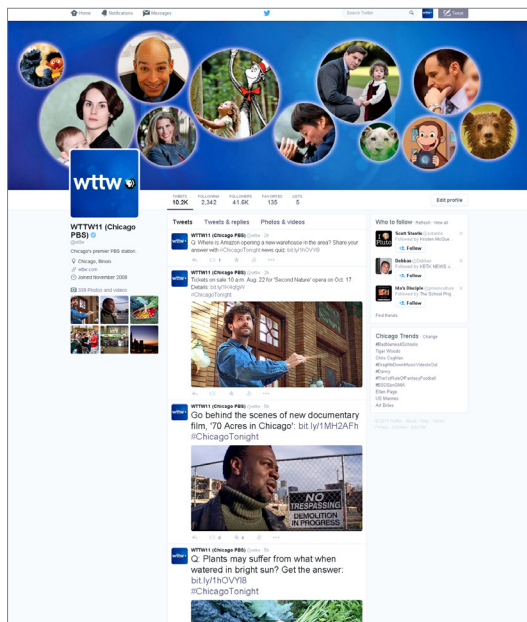
wttw

## APPS

**WTTW APPS** are another way to access and engage with WTTW content. In addition to watching WTTW and PBS programming via our mobile video portal at [video.wttw.com](http://video.wttw.com), viewers can also access local and national video content via the PBS mobile app. Visit [wttw.com/mobile](http://wttw.com/mobile) to learn more and to download our apps.

## Over-The-Top Content Streaming

**PBS AND WTTW** programming are available through a variety of over-the-top hardware, software, and video content solutions including Roku, Chromecast, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and more.



WTTW on Twitter



## Social Media

### WTTW Facebook

[facebook.com/wttw11](https://facebook.com/wttw11)

### Central Standard Facebook

[facebook.com/centralstandard312](https://facebook.com/centralstandard312)

### Check, Please! Facebook

[facebook.com/checkpleaseWTTW](https://facebook.com/checkpleaseWTTW)

### Chicago Tonight Facebook

[facebook.com/chicagotonight](https://facebook.com/chicagotonight)

### Geoffrey Baer Facebook

[facebook.com/geoffreybaerWTTW](https://facebook.com/geoffreybaerWTTW)

### Jay's Chicago Facebook

[facebook.com/jayschicagoWTTW](https://facebook.com/jayschicagoWTTW)

### My Chicago Facebook

[facebook.com/mychicagoWTTW](https://facebook.com/mychicagoWTTW)

### WTTW Twitter

[twitter.com/wttw](https://twitter.com/wttw)

### Central Standard Twitter

[twitter.com/centralstand](https://twitter.com/centralstand)

### Check, Please! Twitter

[twitter.com/checkpleaseDave](https://twitter.com/checkpleaseDave)

### My Chicago Twitter

[twitter.com/mychicagoWTTW](https://twitter.com/mychicagoWTTW)

### WTTW YouTube

[youtube.com/wttwchicago](https://youtube.com/wttwchicago)

### Central Standard YouTube

[youtube.com/user/centralstandardWTTW](https://youtube.com/user/centralstandardWTTW)

### WTTW Flickr

[flickr.com/photos/wttwchannel11](https://flickr.com/photos/wttwchannel11)

### WTTW Tumblr

[wttwchicago.tumblr.com](https://wttwchicago.tumblr.com)

### WTTW Pinterest

[pinterest.com/wttw](https://pinterest.com/wttw)



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THIS WEEK'S SHOW

A LITTLE TRAVELING MUSIC



Free Weekly Playlists

Curious what's playing on Exploring Music now? Sign up below to receive our **free** weekly playlists right in your inbox every Monday before the week begins. Learn what's coming up for Exploring Music before anyone else!

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Become a Subscriber

Subscribers receive unlimited access to hundreds of programs. Or sample several complete programs and listen to the introduction to any episode for free.

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What other EM members are saying:

**Dona Offensera** 22:47 Exploring

**Inga** 01:35 I always listen to the classical station here in Dallas and have not had the station on at this time until now what a delight to here things explained like you do. Thank you.

**Mindy Dallas** 04:43 Listening to the Maestros series, I thought that it might be interesting to pick a movement or two of some familiar

The Exploring Music streaming website is made possible by Mr. & Mrs. William Gardner Brown and Susan & Richard Kiphar.

“You have opened up the world of Classical Music to me, where previously it seemed too complicated.”

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## Social Media

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facebook.com/98.7wfmt

### WFMT Twitter

twitter.com/wfmtclassical

### WFMT Playlist Twitter

twitter.com/wfmtmusic

### WFMT YouTube

youtube.com/WFMTChicago

## Exploring Music Website

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what's playing now

Violin Concerto #1 in G, Op. 36

11:00 am

David Collins, violin

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

11:00 am

David Collins, violin

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra

“Carl’s Morning Quiz”

11:00 am

Carl Grapentine

Carl Grapentine

“Carl’s Morning Quiz”

11:00 am

Carl Grapentine

Carl Grapentine

“Carl’s Morning Quiz”

11:00 am

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“Carl’s Morning Quiz”

11:00 am

Carl Grapentine

Carl Grapentine

“Carl’s Morning Quiz”

11:00 am

Carl Grapentine

Carl Grapentine

## Mornings with Carl Grapentine on WFMT

98.7wfmt

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Today


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Verdi in Pictures

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 by Todd Mott

Giuseppe Verdi was born in the town of Roncole on October 10, 1813. His family owned some land and worked as taverners. He began studying music with his church organist at the age of seven. His lessons continued with an organist in Busseto until he traveled to Milan to enter the conservatory. Ironically, he was not admitted, though the school would later change its name to the Conservatorio di musica “Giuseppe Verdi” di Milano. Instead, young Verdi began lessons with Vincenzo Lavigna who composed, and had played in the orchestra at La Scala. Again, Verdi suffered rejection in 1835, this time for a position as “maestro di cappella” in Mantua. In 1836 he married and started a family. Tragically, his two young children died, one after the other, followed by the death of his wife. Verdi was terribly distraught and threw himself headlong into composing *Nabucco*.



“Viva Verdi”


Nabucco gave Italian separatists an anthem in “Va, pensiero,” which was based on the Babylonian Captivity in the Book of Psalms. In it, the Hebrews sing of their grief and yearning for their homeland.

“Viva Verdi” became the cheer of Italian patriots who were struggling to end foreign domination in Italy. “Viva Verdi” provided an acronym for the man who would become the first King of a unified Italy.


Victor Emmanuel, Re D’Italia.

Verdi became a beloved symbol for the

“Insignments,” or Italian unification.



Giuseppina Strepponi sang the role of Abigail in *Nabucco*. She starred in a number of Verdi’s early operas. She enrolled in the Italian bel canto roles. Donizetti wrote *Adelide* for her. She starred in a number of operas by Donizetti, Rossini and Bellini. She and Verdi were married in 1859, and shared a long life together.



## Verdi Month, WFMT.com Special Feature

## WFMT app

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Annual Report • 2014



# Stay Connected

The WFMT logo, consisting of the lowercase letters "wfmt" in a white, sans-serif font, is positioned in the top right corner of the page. It is set against a solid blue rectangular background.

## Broadcast

WFMT is Chicago's classical radio station, committed to providing the best and broadest selection of classical, fine arts, and folk music programming to a local audience via 98.7WFMT and wfmt.com, and to a global audience via the WFMT Radio Network and online at wfmt.com. A classical music force for more than 60 years, WFMT reaches a monthly audience of 350,000 locally as the station presents live concerts and performances, and special broadcasts and interviews with renowned artists from venues around the world.

The WFMT Radio Network creates and distributes radio programs on arts and culture to hundreds of radio stations throughout the world – including, most recently, China. Its arts partners include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Poetry Foundation, Salzburg Festival, Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Symphony, and more than two dozen others. The WFMT Radio Network also produces original programs such as *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*, *Fiesta!*, *Relevant Tones* and *The Midnight Special*, and oversees the creation of the Studs Terkel Radio Archive.

## Digital

WFMT.com is the only classical music streaming site based in Chicago, and offers diverse and immersive content on a mobile-optimized platform while serving as an anchor for the Chicago classical music community. Visitors can hear dozens of live performances each month, and access a vast library of exclusive, original content: live concerts across a wide spectrum of musical genres, classical music and cultural arts news, exclusive interviews, and more – all available on demand. Visitors can participate in discussions, learn about live events and travel opportunities, and immerse themselves in the WFMT blog,

podcasts, program information, and other content designed to enhance their enjoyment of what they are hearing on the broadcast.

Throughout the year, WFMT offered a wide and eclectic array of web-exclusive content that went far beyond the realm of traditional classical and fine arts fare, engaging audiences in new and entertaining ways. Among the many highlights were interviews with renowned violinist Gil Shaham, conductor Leonard Slatkin, and cellist Lynn Harrell; video of visiting soprano Marina Rebeka's quest to learn more about a legendary photo taken of her *La Traviata* forebearer Maria Callas backstage at Lyric Opera; memorial tributes to CSO oboist Ray Still and folk icon Pete Seeger; a feature on Parma, Italy produced in conjunction with WTTW's documentary *A Taste for the Past: Pier Carlo Bontempi*; Carl Grapentine's fanciful examination of music about toys, which included video of Laurel & Hardy in *Babes in Toyland*; the story of a violinist's relationship with his prized Stradivarius; behind-the-scenes Halloween images as "bodysnatchers" invaded the station; and interactive "Chime In" features, including a lively online exchange, inspired by a provocative *New York Times* essay, on whether the study of music is the key to success.

WFMT.com is also home to the successful *Exploring Music* subscription-based website, where fans of the weeknight series can gain access to more than 850 hours of programming produced by series host Bill McGlaughlin.

## APP

**THE WFMT APP** is the online equivalent of the WFMT on-air broadcast, and can be accessed anywhere, anytime. Visit wfmt.com/mobile to learn more, and to download the Apple and Android apps.



*Relevant Tones* host Seth Boustead broadcasting live on WFMT from the Thirsty Ear Festival





# July 2013

WTTW and WFMT commenced Fiscal 2014 with the organization's summer community engagement initiatives in full swing.

In accordance with our mission to extend our children's content beyond television and computer screens, the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van and the year-round WTTW Kids Readers Are Leaders Tour continued to bring its entertaining and educational programs to thousands of families and children throughout the area, encouraging school readiness, literacy, active lifestyles, and good nutrition. In both cases, generous sponsors – ALDI, Organic Valley, Traditional Medicinals, Sambazon, and many others – not only made these programs possible, but provided a variety of special learning materials and other resources, along with healthy food samplings. Many of these events were held at libraries, grocery stores, shopping malls, and areas around the city where educational outreach activities are often scarce.

In addition, WTTW's popular local restaurant review series *Check, Please!* was ably represented at the city's annual Taste of Chicago by its patented Pop-Up Restaurants – a diverse group of neighborhood restaurateurs chosen by the show to participate in the event on a rotating basis at a reduced cost.

Again this year, WFMT was proud to bring local and global audiences a variety of Chicago's best classical music performances through its live broadcasts of the Grant Park Music Festival from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, the Tuesday afternoon Rush Hour Concerts from St. James Cathedral, and the second annual Thirsty Ear Festival at City Winery, hosted by Seth Boustead of *Relevant Tones*.

Notable WTTW specials and series that month included the annual live Independence Day celebration *A Capitol Fourth*,



Patti LaBelle on *A Capitol Fourth*

*Great Performances: Dancing at Jacob's Pillow, Nazi Mega Weapons, Diamond Queen, Warriors, and Make Me. The Extraordinary Women* series profiled the legendary mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie.

On WFMT, audiences heard a new voice over the airwaves: newly minted Chicagoan Candice Agree, who had previously worked at Sirius Satellite, WQXR, and WETA, concurrent with her tenure as the voice of CBS *Sunday Morning* with Charles Osgood. Candice arrived during an eventful month during which WFMT began the six-part series *LA Opera on Air*, a new season of broadcasts featuring the Milwaukee Symphony led by Edo de Waart, and Rich Warren welcomed Red Tail Ring and Sultans of Swing as guests on his long-running series *Folkstage*.





**July** 2013



WFMT program host Candice Agree



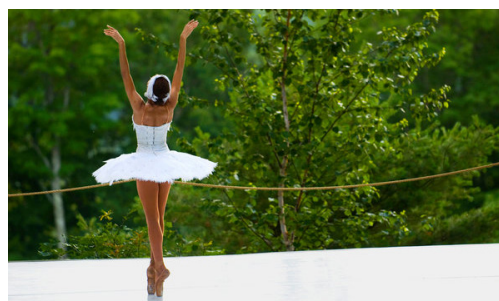
Milwaukee Symphony conductor Edo de Waart



Folk duo Red Tail Ring



A Boys & Girls Club event in WTTW's Grainger Studio



*Great Performances: Dancing at Jacob's Pillow*







# August 2013

As the summer progressed, WTTW continued to be out and about in the community, with the season culminating in the 10th annual WTTW Kids Fun and Run in Lincoln Park. This event, as always, attracted thousands of parents and children for an exciting and fun morning involving a 5k fun run and 3k family walk, interactions with popular WTTW Kids characters and other performers, and lots more.

WTTW programming highlights that month included historical documentaries commemorating the 50th anniversary of the iconic March on Washington and President Eisenhower's newly revealed role in the D-Day invasion; concerts featuring British singers Alfie Boe and Emeli Sandé and electrifying rock violinist David Garrett; *Messenger of the Truth*, a moving biography of the Polish martyr Father Jerzy Popieluszko; and *Great Performances* specials celebrating the impact of Jewish composers on the history of Broadway musicals and presenting the annual *Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert*.

Notable WFMT content that month included piano virtuoso Valentina Lisitsa performing Rachmaninoff live from the Grant



David Garrett: Music – Live in Concert



Wagner's *Die Walküre* from San Francisco Opera

Park Music Festival; a new season from San Francisco Opera, commencing with Wagner's *Die Walküre*; in-depth explorations of the work of American composers John Alden Carpenter and Jerome Moross; a new series of *Music from the Spoleto Festival*; a day devoted to Chicago classical artists; a live celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Steans Institute from the Ravinia Festival; the season finale of the weekly *Rush Hour Concert Series*; the announcement of the Elgin Symphony's new music director Andrew Grams; and the CSO debut of conductor Pablo Heras-Casado on the *Chicago Symphony Orchestra Broadcasts*.





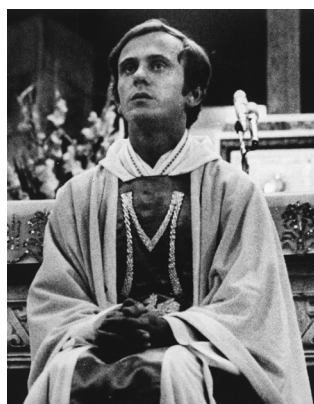
**August** 2013



*The March*



*Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert*



*Jerzy Popiełuszko: Messenger of the Truth*

**August** 2013



Pianist Valentina Lisitsa, Grant Park Music Festival on WFMT



Conductor Pablo Heras-Casado,  
WFMT's *Chicago Symphony*  
*Orchestra Broadcasts*



*Great Performances: Broadway Musicals – A Jewish Legacy*







# September 2013

True to our focus on education, once again as the school year began, WTTW invited a select group of local teachers and their families to Grainger Studio for the 29th annual *Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching*, taped for later broadcast – this year honoring 10 outstanding area educators focusing on fourth through eighth grades. Also on the education front, on September 27 WTTW devoted seven hours of daytime programming to *American Graduate Day*, part of the station's multi-faceted hands-on involvement in *American Graduate, Let's Make It Happen!*, the national public broadcasting initiative to encourage high schoolers to stay in school and get their diplomas.

As always, WTTW celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a wide variety of relevant arts and public affairs programming, including the new national documentary series *Latino Americans*, a three-part, six-hour sweeping history hosted by actor Benjamin Bratt. Other notable programs included four *VOCES on PBS*

films; a new special from Gloria Estefan, *The Standards*; and a *Latin America Travel Marathon* on WTTW Prime.

Other WTTW highlights that month included the premiere of *Last Tango in Halifax*, an acclaimed series from the U.K. starring Sir Derek Jacobi; the debut of *PBS NewsHour Weekend* and the return of *Masterpiece Mystery! Foyle's War* with Michael Kitchen. Alan Alda explored *Brains on Trial*; *Great Performances: The Hollow Crown* put the spotlight on Shakespeare's history plays; and *American Masters* profiled the legendary tennis star Billie Jean King.

In what has become a popular annual event, WTTW's nightly newsmagazine *Chicago Tonight* hosted a special meet-and-greet in Grainger Studio for their biggest fans, who enjoyed a buffet dinner while viewing a live taping of the program on a big screen. Afterward, the series' on-air correspondents met and mingled, led by host Phil Ponce.

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Students participating in WTTW's American Graduate community engagement events



## September 2013

On WFMT, the chameleonic Hershey Felder took on yet another stage persona: Dr. Charles Augustus Leale, who treated a fatally wounded President Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. Steve Robinson co-hosted the radio version of this, *Hershey Felder's American Story*. WFMT's Peter Van De Graaff and Lyric Opera's Roger Pines hosted the annual *Stars of Lyric Opera* broadcast live from Millennium Park. Audiences also enjoyed the *Carnegie Hall Live* season opener; two performances from San Francisco Opera; the pairing of two dynamos with the Los Angeles Philharmonic – music director Gustavo Dudamel and piano prodigy Lang Lang – and a true *Clash of the Titans*, *An Exploration of Verdi and Wagner*, to mark their bicentennials.



Pianist Lang Lang  
with the Los Angeles  
Philharmonic



**September** 2013

*The Hollow Crown*



*American Masters: Billie Jean King*



*Latino Americans*



WFMT program hosts Suzanne Nance,  
Lisa Flynn, and Candice Agree





# October 2013

October saw the long-awaited debut of new *Check, Please!* host Catherine De Orio, chosen after a highly visible online search earlier in the year. As season 13 commenced with much fanfare and Catherine's likeness graced the side of a building in downtown River North, she and her rotating panel of "regular person reviewers" weighed in a new group of eateries which included Estrella Negra, Benny's Chop House, Tin Fish, The Pump Room, Paprika, Kingsbury Street Café, and many more.

Two welcome new on-air personalities made their local debuts: WFMT afternoon drivetime host Suzanne Nance arrived from Maine Public Broadcasting Network, bringing the number of full-time female announcers on the station to three (along with Lisa Flynn and Candice Agree) for the first time in WFMT history; and Brandis Friedman joined the *Chicago Tonight* team as a correspondent, directly from WBBM Newsradio 780.

Community engagement events included *An Evening with David Pogue and Paula Apsell* to showcase the *NOVA: Making Stuff* series, and an African American History workshop for elementary school teachers.



*NOVA's David Pogue with a young fan at the Making Stuff event*



*Check, Please! host Catherine De Orio*

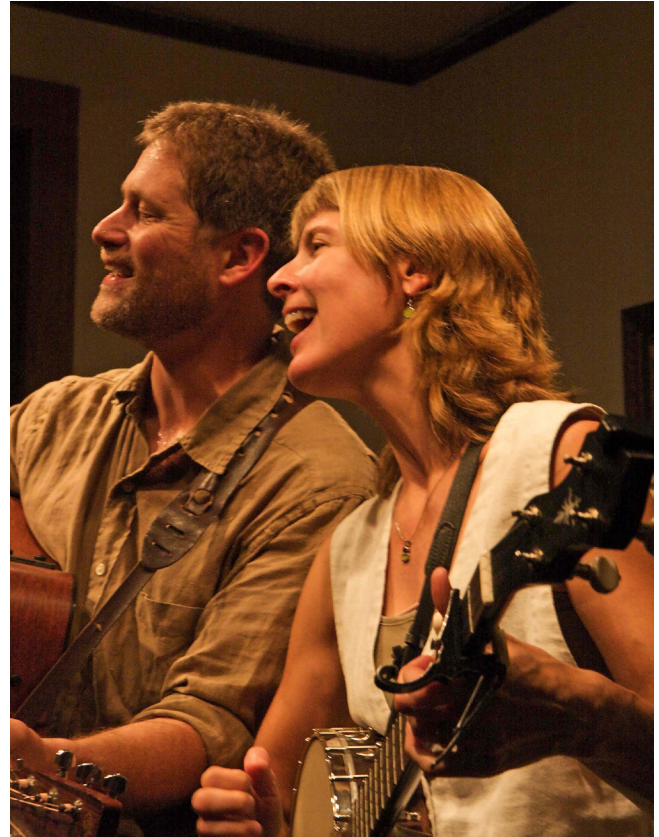
A new WTTW series premiered, which was later picked up nationally by the WORLD channel: *Local, USA*, hosted by Evan-Allen Gessesse and Niccole Thurman, showcasing the best short films from public television producers throughout the country. Other notable WTTW programs included the 40th anniversary celebration of *Great Performances*, hosted by Julie Andrews; the premieres of new series *Masterpiece Classic: The Paradise*; *African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*; *NOVA: Making Stuff*; *Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle*; a lively new children's series *Peg + Cat*; a new installment in Michael Apted's compelling *POV* series, *56 Up*; *Frontline's* searing exposé on the NFL's *Concussion Crisis*; and the two-part *Independent Lens* film *Los Graduados (The Graduates)*, which also included a free *Saturday Cinema* screening at the Chicago Cultural Center.

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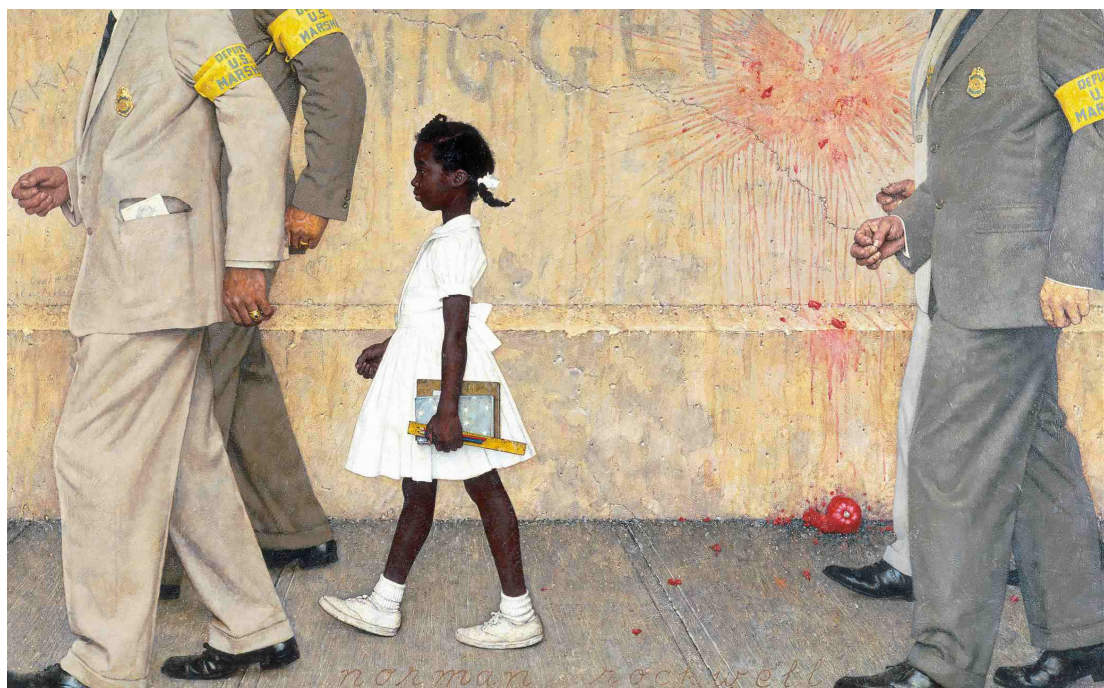
## October 2013

This month brought several special programs to WFMT as Giuseppe Verdi was celebrated throughout the month, most notably a new production of the composer's *Otello* from Lyric Opera, starring Johan Botha as Shakespeare's tragic Moor. On *Folkstage*, host Rich Warren welcomed Anna Dagmar, Dana & Susan Robinson, and Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen for live broadcasts from Levin Studio; a broadcast from the opening gala, led by Valery Gergiev of the new Mariinsky II Opera House in St. Petersburg, Russia; two different interpretations of the story of Mary Magdalene; a look at *Operatic Characters in Song* from the young performers of the Ryan Opera Center; and *Tito Gobbi, Master-Singer, A Centenary Celebration*.



Dana & Susan Robinson, *Folkstage*





African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross



San Francisco Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas



# November 2013

This month, WFMT celebrated the centennial of British composer Benjamin Britten with a variety of dedicated programming, including the new two-hour documentary *The Beauty of Loneliness and Pain*, an intimate and comprehensive portrait produced by Jon Tolansky and hosted by Lisa Flynn. Other Britten-themed content included a week of *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*, two installments of *Cedille Chicago Presents*, an episode of *With Heart and Voice*; and a discussion on *The Tuesday Night Opera with Peter Van De Graaff* about one of Britten's rarities, the opera *Owen Wingrave*, produced for television in 1970. A recording of the work was played during the sequence.

Other notable WFMT broadcasts included Lyric Opera of Chicago's productions of Wagner's *Parsifal* and Verdi's *La Traviata* with Latvian soprano and Lyric newcomer Marina Rebeka in the role of Violetta; the premiere of a fall series from the Houston Grand Opera; the American Pianists Association Classical Fellowship Awards; two performances by the San



Composer Benjamin Britten



Francisco Symphony led by music director Michael Tilson Thomas, one of which originated from Carnegie Hall; and the best of the *Chicago Symphony Orchestra's River Festival*.

On the WTTW side, in addition to luncheons with local science guy Neil Shubin and *Masterpiece* Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was marked with a week of specials, including a new two-part *American Experience* treatise on his life, an installment of *NOVA* focusing on the forensic evidence surrounding his murder; *Secrets of the Dead: One P.M. Central Standard Time*, a fascinating chronicle of events as they unfolded in the CBS newsroom on that fateful day; and *JFK: Breaking the News*, following the general news coverage of the event.

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## November 2013

Another U.S. President was spotlighted in *Lincoln@Gettysburg*, which revealed our 16th President's prescient use of the telegraph (the internet of its day) to control the course of the Civil War.

On the entertainment front, *Great Performances* presented a unique production of Stephen Sondheim's *Company* with the New York Philharmonic; *American Masters* profiled the charismatic young rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix; audiences learned *Secrets of Selfridges* and *Secrets of Scotland Yard* as well as *The Truth About Exercise with Michael Mosley*; Carol Burnett took home that year's *Mark Twain Prize for American Humor*; entertainment icon Barbra Streisand journeyed *Back to Brooklyn*; and the vocal group Celtic Woman went *Home for Christmas*.



The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor: Carol Burnett





**November** 2013



Virginia Bobins, *Masterpiece* Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton, Shirley Madigan



Rebecca Eaton autographing her book for a fan



*American Masters: Jimi Hendrix*



*Lincoln@Gettysburg*



Geoffrey Baer and his *Chicago Time Machine*



# CHICAGO TIME MACHINE



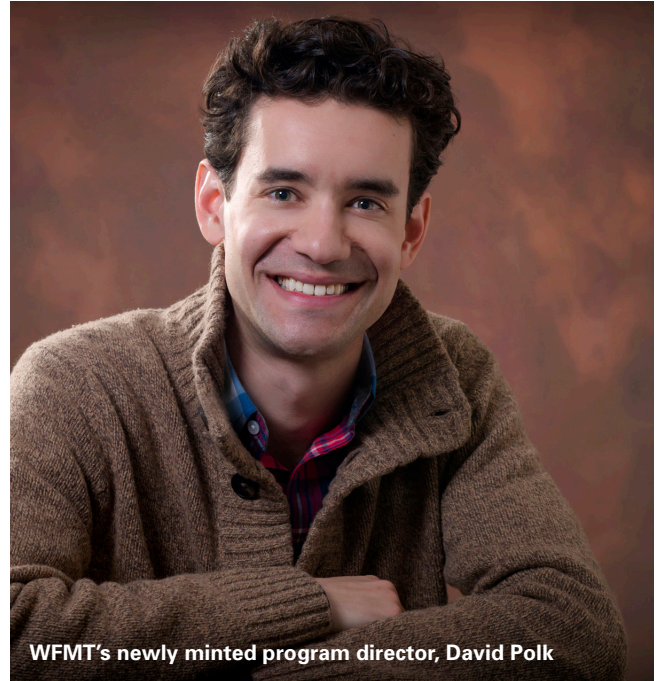
# December 2013

“Chicago’s Tour Guide” Geoffrey Baer had previously journeyed across Chicago history and architecture by boat, by car, by train, by bicycle, and on foot. This month, he introduced a new and unique mode of transportation: his very own *Chicago Time Machine*. This engaging new program took audiences, and Geoffrey, on a whirlwind tour around the city to contemporary locations and displayed, through an antique window and via innovative special effects that sometimes incorporated Geoffrey into the action, significant events that happened at those exact spots at various times in the past. It’s a safe bet that audiences – and Geoffrey, too – had never before experienced Chicago in quite the same way.

WTTW also profiled legendary musicians Marvin Hamlisch and Luciano Pavarotti; remembered the local series *Gospel’s Jubilee Showcase*; revealed *How Sherlock [Holmes] Changed the World*; broadcast the new local special *A Christmas Carol: The Concert*, presented *Downton Abbey*’s Hugh Bonneville as the odoriferous *Mr. Stink*, the *Call the Midwife Holiday Special*, and



*Gospel’s Jubilee Showcase*



WFMT’s newly minted program director, David Polk

the annual *National Christmas Tree Lighting* along with much more eclectic holiday programming; Susan Sarandon hosted *Return to Downton Abbey*; and celebrated New Year’s Eve with Yo-Yo Ma, Tony Bennett, Elton John, and Carole King with James Taylor from the Troubadour in Los Angeles.

WFMT began December with a significant announcement: the appointment of David Polk to the post of Music Director – one of the youngest in the history of the station. David created, produced, and hosted the successful weekly series *Introductions*, showcasing up and coming local pre-college musicians, and reported on the arts locally and around the world. At the same time, Peter Van De Graaff was named Chief Announcer.

Other programs of note on WFMT in December included a two-part *Live from WFMT: Poetry and Music with Julia Bentley*; a

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## December 2013

sprightly *Die Fledermaus* at Lyric Opera of Chicago; a special appearance by violinist Gil Shaham with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera; and an impressive slate of holiday programming for Christmas and Hanukkah.

Finally, in an annual tradition, intrepid fans of WFMT's *The Midnight Special* braved the snowy weather to ring in 2014 with longtime host Rich Warren. This year was far more significant than most: this marked the program's 60th anniversary, which was celebrated with a large party in Grainger Studio and a live broadcast featuring folk music stars Spuyten Duyvil, Garnet Rogers, Brother Sun, Bonnie Koloc, and Kim and Reggie Harris. A great time was had by all.



*A Christmas Carol: The Concert*



*Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts: Die Fledermaus*



*Poetry and Music with Julia Bentley*



**December** 2013



Performers who joined us for *The Midnight Special* 60th Anniversary Celebration







# January 2014

On WTTW, as always the year began with an eagerly anticipated television event: the season premiere of the wildly popular *Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey*, once again garnering record ratings across a wide demographic. On Super Bowl Sunday, the much-loved drama series from the U.K. would put its own big numbers on the scoreboard, coming in second only to the big game in our viewing area (and no doubt many others), ahead of every other broadcast and cable program that evening. Meaning that a huge number of viewers who weren't watching the Seattle Seahawks battle the Denver Broncos were eagerly following the travails of the Crawley family and servants at their Yorkshire estate.

Aside from all things *Downton*, as always WTTW rang in the New Year with *Great Performances*, Julie Andrews, and the Vienna Philharmonic; Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman returned for a new season of *Masterpiece Mystery! Sherlock*; *American Experience* took a peek inside the *Poisoner's Handbook* and looked back at the tumultuous year 1964; veteran actor



*Masterpiece Mystery! Sherlock*



*Chicago Tonight* host Phil Ponce poses for a selfie with a student from the Mikva Challenge candidate forum

Christopher Plummer portrayed another veteran actor, John Barrymore; *Chicago Tonight* invited students and Republican contenders for Illinois Governor to the station for a special Mikva Challenge candidate forum on Martin Luther King Day; and the WTTW National series *Vintage: Napa Valley 2012* premiered, along with the BBC detective series *Dirk Gently*, the three-part *Chasing Shackleton*, *Rocket Men*, and a revealing *American Masters* portrait of the reclusive author J.D. Salinger. At the Chicago Cultural Center, *Independent Lens* fans enjoyed a free "Saturday Cinema" screening of the documentary *Las Marthas*.

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## January 2014

WFMT presented an all-day Bach Organ *Immersion* with local keyboardist David Schrader. The 70th birthday of CSO cellist Lynn Harrell was celebrated throughout the month. Audiences heard performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, Tchaikovsky's *Yevgeny Onegin*, and Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* on *Live from the Met*; a new season of broadcasts from the 2013 Salzburg Festival; a variety of local *Arts Features*; the local cello-piano duo iAN & ANi on *Live from NEIU*; the new series *Song Travels with Michael Feinstein*; birthday celebrations honoring composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Schubert, the latter of which included a performance by baritone Ryan de Ryke on *Live from WFMT*.



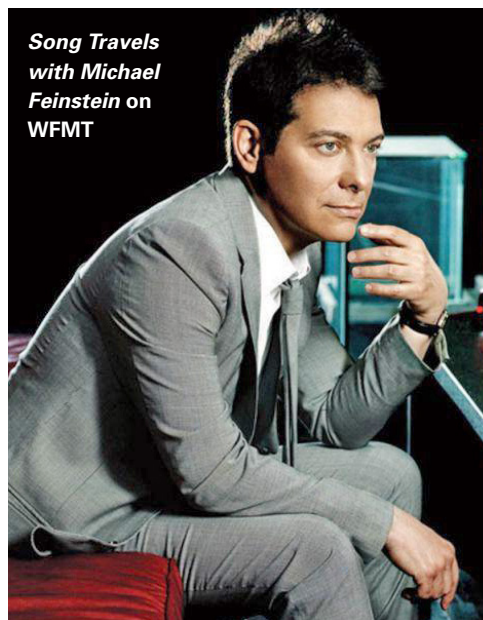
Cellist Lynn Harrell







David Schrader, WFMT Bach Organ Immersion



*Song Travels  
with Michael  
Feinstein on  
WFMT*



*American Masters: Salinger*







# February 2014

WTTW marked Black History Month with its usual eclectic slate of programming, including an *American Masters* focusing on author Alice Walker; a segment of the documentary series *POV*, *American Promise*, following two African American students over several years as they make their way through the exclusive Dalton School in Manhattan; and a new *Independent Lens* documentary, *The Trials of Muhammad Ali*, looking at the famous boxer's life outside the ring, with a free "Saturday Cinema" screening at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Audiences also enjoyed a front-row seat as the renowned actor Christopher Plummer portrayed the legendary John Barrymore, and rock icon Sting highlighted his semi-autobiographical Broadway musical *The Last Ship* on *Great Performances*; the month also saw the premiere of an original new crime drama from the U.K., *Murder on the Home Front*, in which a brilliant pathologist investigates a series of murders taking place during the London Blitz of 1940.



*Great Performances: The Last Ship*



*The Trials of Muhammad Ali*

Also this month: former Trustee and FCC Chairman Newton N. Minow received a high honor: he was named by Governor Quinn to the state of Illinois' Order of Lincoln for professional achievement and public service. His fellow honorees included business executives John Canning, Jr. and Glenn Tilton, Duke University basketball coach Michael Krzyzewski, husband-and-wife composers Bernard Rands and Augusta Read Thomas, and the Rev. Donald Senior. This year's Order of Lincoln awards was presented at the Field Museum on May 3; the ceremony will air on WTTW next year.

February brought listeners two *Lyric Opera of Chicago* opening night broadcasts – Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* starring Nathan Gunn as Figaro, Isabel Leonard as Rosina, and Alek Shrader as Almaviva; and Antonín Dvořák's *Rusalka* in its Lyric Opera premiere, starring Ana María Martínez in the title role, with Brandon Jovanovich, Jill Grove, and Eric Owens, conducted

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Newton N. Minow (second from left) with Governor Quinn and his fellow Lincoln Laureates

by Sir Andrew Davis. There was also a new special profiling the legendary soprano Renata Scotto; several broadcasts from New York's Metropolitan Opera, and a special tribute to the recently deceased folk icon Pete Seeger on *The Midnight Special*.

WFMT rounded out Black History Month with a broadcast of *A Beautiful Symphony of Brotherhood: A Musical Journey in the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, as host Terrance McKnight used gospel music, folk music, and spirituals in connection with Dr. King's speeches and writings to show how intrinsic music was to the great civil rights leader's message.







*Great Performances: Barrymore, starring Christopher Plummer*



*The Midnight Special: Pete Seeger Tribute*



*Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts: Rusalka with Ana María Martínez*



Call the Midwife





# March 2014

Once again this year, WTTW created a new 30-minute documentary on the year's winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame. In 2014, this happily involved the crew traveling to Italy and France, and the resulting program, *A Taste for the Past: Architect Pier Carlo Bontempi*, hosted by Geoffrey Baer, was later nominated for a Midwest Emmy Award. As always, the special's companion website offered a variety of fascinating supplementary content.

WTTW nightly newsmagazine *Chicago Tonight*, in its quest to help voters make informed decisions on Election Day, presented several midterm primary candidate forums, one of which included the Republican contenders for Illinois Governor and was underwritten in part by the City Club of Chicago. *Chicago Tonight* also remembered the late local actor/writer/director Harold Ramis and folk legend Pete Seeger.

*Blackhawks: 17 Seconds* recalled the Chicago hockey franchise's successful quest for the Stanley Cup; new seasons premiered of the popular British series *Call the Midwife* and *Masterpiece Classic: Mr. Selfridge* starring Chicago's Jeremy Piven; and new specials from the male vocal groups Under the Streetlamp and Gentleman's Rule captivated audiences.

WFMT began the month with its annual *Introductions* live coverage of the Merit School of Music's *Performathon*, hosted by David Polk. Audience also heard the Lyric Opera of Chicago's opening night performance of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*, starring Matthew Polenzani and Joyce DiDonato, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis, and also the annual *Rising Stars of Lyric Opera* concert, featuring singers from the Ryan Opera Center. WFMT also presented a half-day *Immersion* seminar, *Master Piano Trios with the Lincoln Trio*.

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*A Taste for the Past: Architect Pier Carlo Bontempi*



*Masterpiece Classic: Mr. Selfridge, with Jeremy Piven*



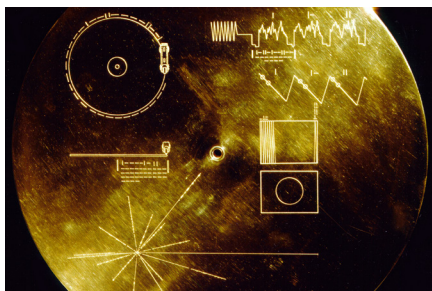
## March 2014

Suzanne Nance uncovered a unique treasure: a time capsule put together at NASA's request by the late ebullient astronomer and public television fixture Carl Sagan which included a "golden record" of classical music that in Sagan's opinion "represented humanity." Suzanne shared Sagan's list with WFMT audiences, which included an eclectic group of compositions by Beethoven, Mozart, Chuck Berry, Louis Armstrong, and Stravinsky. The time capsule was later launched into space aboard an unmanned probe.

The month came to a close with a program hosted by someone not often referenced on classical radio: comedienne Carol Burnett, who paid tribute to promising students at the Music Academy of the West. The broadcast included a performance by the Academy Festival Orchestra conducted by Leonard Slatkin, Nicholas McGegan, and Matthias Pintscher, with faculty members and Academy students in music by Mozart, Vivaldi, Mahler, and others.



*Lyric Opera of Chicago  
Broadcasts: La Clemenza di Tito*



Carl Sagan's golden record



*Under the Streetlamp*



*Carol Burnett, Music Academy of the West*



# Central Standard: On Education

As Chicago's unusually long and brutal winter finally gave way to spring, there was a first in WTTW history: a program that premiered not on television but on YouTube and . . . The innovative and dynamic short-form documentary web series *Central Standard: On Education*, produced with filmmakers Ben Kolak and Brian Ashby of Scrappers Film Group focused on education in Chicago and the surrounding region as seen through the eyes of five 8th grade students attending five very different publicly-funded schools as they strove to make it into one of the region's top public high schools, providing a close-up view of issues important to local communities within Chicago and across the country.

The 9-part series, which also included a rich and content-packed website, premiered in mid-April, with a new 15-minute webisode premiering each Monday. The featured students and their schools were:

- **ROBERT:** Creative Communications (District 149 S.T.E.M. Academy (Calumet City)
- **GINA:** Marquette School of Excellence, Chicago Lawn (Chicago)
- **NATALIA:** UNO Esmerelda Santiago, Humboldt Park (Chicago)
- **KYLE:** Walt Disney Magnet School, Buena Park (Chicago)
- **EMMA:** Wilmette Jr. High (Wilmette)



Student Gina Madera

Along the way, audiences watched them deal with factors that may affect their educational experience, such as participation in extracurricular activities, challenging financial situations, testing, social pressures, and much more. We also heard the perspectives of their parents, teachers, and other individuals involved in the education sphere, in order to provide a window to the on-the-ground reality of education across our region.

The initiative also included a live online chat on OVEE moderated by a panel, and a preview screening.

This groundbreaking series was made possible, in part, by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Northern Illinois University, PBS Digital Studios, and supporters of the initiative via Indiegogo.



Scenes from  
*Central Standard:  
On Education*









# April 2014

This month, WTTW and WFMT announced a new name for its production facility: *The Renée Crown Public Media Center*, in recognition of a major gift to the organization from the Crown Family in honor of longtime trustee and supporter Renée Crown. Also, WTTW's flagship nightly newsmagazine *Chicago Tonight* celebrated a significant milestone: its 30th anniversary on the air.

In addition to *Central Standard: On Education*, April included the premiere on WTTW of a lively new local series from the creators of *Check, Please!: My Chicago*, in which two intrepid hosts, Mark Bazer and Odette Yousef, drove around Chicagoland interviewing two famous, notable, or simply *interesting* Chicagoans who shared insights about their life in the city. Guests included *New York Times* bestselling author John Green; Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke; grocery store magnate Bob Mariano; Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; Rep. Luis Gutierrez; *Chicago Tonight* host Phil Ponce and his sons Dan and Anthony; and more.



*Your Inner Fish* with Neil Shubin



Our newly named production facility

WTTW also aired new seasons of the British detective series *The Bletchley Circle* and *Pioneers of Television*; the science series *Your Inner Fish* with Dr. Neil Shubin (host of the “Scientific Chicago” segment on *Chicago Tonight*); Ken Burns's *The Address* in which students used the Gettysburg Address as a tool for success; and a production of *Peter Pan* from the Milwaukee Ballet. Audiences met *The Real Mad Men* and *Women of Madison Avenue* and, conversely, a group of obsessed Wisconsin sturgeon fishermen in *The Frozen Chosen*.

On the WFMT side, the station was elated to achieve the most successful membership drive in station history, and was awarded generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts to support its *Relevant Tones* and *Introductions* series.

Notable WFMT broadcasts included the April Ryan Opera Center recital, fittingly this month celebrating the glories of

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## April 2014

spring; the final production of the Lyric Opera of Chicago season, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* starring Billy Zane as Captain Von Trapp; Metropolitan Opera productions of Puccini's *La Bohème*, Giordano's *Andrea Chénier*, Strauss' *Arabella*, and Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*; a documentary tribute to the late Ray Still, longtime CSO Principal Oboe; and the premiere of a new season of broadcasts from the *Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival*. WFMT marked Passover with a special from New York's WQXR featuring celebrated violinist Itzhak Perlman sharing music for the holiday by Handel, Halevy, Korngold, and many others, plus Yiddish and Ladino folk songs. And as always, WFMT marked Easter Sunday and Earth Day with a collection of relevant content.



Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts: *The Sound of Music*



*The Address: A Film by Ken Burns*



*A Musical Feast for Passover with Itzhak Perlman*





*Live from the Met: La Bohème*







# May 2014

WTTW ushered in the “merry month of May” with a new local special from HMS Media – *Our City, Our Shakespeare* – that celebrated Chicago’s love of the Bard of Avon by highlighting how his work comes alive locally through theatre, opera, ballet, improvisation, and contemporary art. A new documentary, *Remember Me Sue*, focused on the mother of U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and her struggle with Alzheimer’s disease. *Mulberry Child* explored the relationship between a Chinese mother and her American daughter; the documentary *Edward VIII: The Nazi King* revealed the surprising connection between the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and the Third Reich; and *American Masters* profiled that literary jack-of-all-trades, George Plimpton. Also, a new film celebrated the centennial of the home of the Chicago Cubs, Wrigley Field.

As always, WTTW marked the month of Memorial Day with several special programs – this year, with a new three-part series, *Coming Back with Wes Moore*, shining a spotlight on the challenges that veterans face in returning home from war. And as always, Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise joined an all-star lineup



WFMT host Kerry Frumkin with opera superstar Jessye Norman



*Coming Home with Wes Moore*

for the *National Memorial Day Concert* live from the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and audiences met some of the brightest elementary school students in America as Soledad O’Brien hosted the annual *National Geographic Bee*.

*Chicago Tonight’s* correspondents participated in the citywide *On the Table* initiative, sitting down to dinner all over the area with diverse groups of people to discuss civic issues. And on May 28, the program paid tribute to the late Maya Angelou.

WFMT also observed Memorial Day, and brought listeners broadcasts from two chamber music festivals: North Shore and Santa Fe. A new summer season of rebroadcasts of the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s just-completed season commenced. And Metropolitan Opera fans enjoyed Bellini’s *I Puritani* and

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## May 2014

Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. And the station was honored by a visit from the legendary opera star Jessye Norman, who also appeared on WTTW's *Chicago Tonight*.

That month, Bill McGlaughlin, as his nightly series *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin* marked its 10th anniversary on the air, hosted a memorable *Immersion* focusing on composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist Leonard Bernstein.



*Mulberry Child*



*Live from the Met: I Puritani*

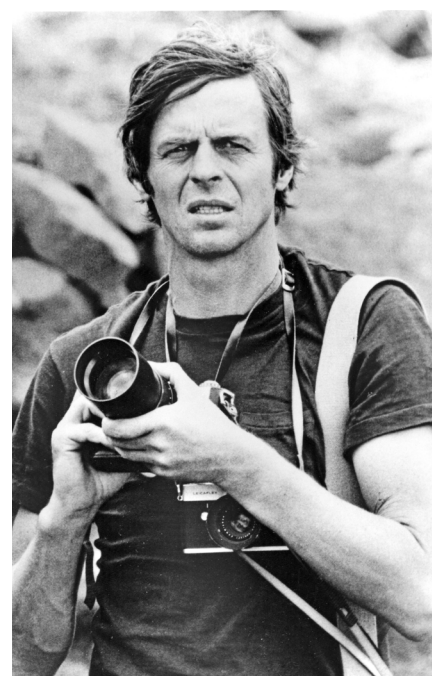


*Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*





*The National Memorial Day Concert hosts Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise*



*American Masters: George Plimpton*



*2014 National Geographic Bee, with host Soledad O'Brien*



Geoffrey Baer launches *Celebration 2014* with a bedtime story





# Celebration 2014: Come & Play

On May 1, the organization held its annual gala, *Come & Play*, a celebration of our popular children's programming. More than 350 guests converged at the station to be treated to a unique evening of entertainment, produced by Nicolette Ferri and Louise Frank, in WTTW's Grainger Studio.

*America's Got Talent* and PBS star Jackie Evancho, the evening's headliner, was joined by some special guests: talented young pianist and entertainer Ethan Bortnick, musical director Orbert Davis, singer Phillip Armstrong, and the younger members of The Chicago Children's Choir under the direction of President and Artistic Director Josephine Lee and Associate Director and Choreographer Judy Hanson. The emcee for the evening was Geoffrey Baer, ably assisted by his young daughters Ruby and Louise, making their stage debut with their dad.

Guests were greeted on arrival by *Sesame Street*'s Elmo for photos, and the evening commenced with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in Grainger Studio under large and colorful glass floral canopies provided by Kehoe Designs. Immediately



Ethan Bortnick performs



Gala co-chairs Lester and Renée Crown in Grainger Studio

following the performance, everyone moved outdoors to an elegant dinner under the stars in a large transparent tent with white accents. Jewell Events Catering provided the wonderful cuisine, accompanied by wine from Terlato Wines International.

Guests heard speeches by Norman R. Bobins, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; WTTW/WFMT trustee John Brennan of William Blair and Company; and WTTW/WFMT President and CEO Dan Schmidt. Gala co-chairs again this year were the tireless Renée and Lester Crown, and the event's lead sponsor was BMO Harris Bank. The event raised almost \$1 million to support quality programming on WTTW and WFMT.





Celebration 2014



Gala attendees Linda Gantz, Marcia Cohn, and Virginia Bobins



Trustee Peter McNitt of Lead Sponsor BMO Harris Bank, and Jane McNitt



The Crown family with Phil Ponce on the *Chicago Tonight* set



President and CEO Dan Schmidt with gala co-chair Renée Crown and Board of Trustees chairman Norman R. Bobins, speaking at the dinner



## Celebration 2014



Mary and Richard Gray with Elmo



John and Alexandra Nichols



The grand finale, with Ethan Bortnick, Jackie Evancho, Phillip Armstrong, and the Chicago Children's Choir



*Masterpiece Mystery! The Escape Artist, with David Tennant*





# June 2014

As the fiscal year drew to a close and the weather grew warmer, WFMT's live summer Chicago music broadcasts returned with the 15th anniversary season of the *Rush Hour Concerts* from St. James Cathedral; Grant Park Music Festival broadcasts from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park; and special reports from the citywide all-day *Make Music Chicago* festival on June 21, an annual Summer Solstice event that annually coincides with similar festivals around the globe. *The Ryan Opera Center Recital Series* that month focused on *The Trojan War and its Aftermath*, eighth blackbird appeared on *Live from WFMT*, pianist Jeeyoon Kim was featured on the monthly *PianoForte Salon Series* broadcast, and Richard Strauss was Composer of the Month.

Finally, the station celebrated Engineer Appreciation Day, as audiences learned more about the unsung heroes behind the scenes who keep WFMT functioning well and on the air, year in and year out.



Carlos Kalmar conducts at the Grant Park Music Festival



WFMT Composer of the Month Richard Strauss

On the WTTW side, *Check, Please!* host Catherine De Orio hit the road and had a great time *Touring Illinois*; Monty Python's Michael Palin took us to Brazil, *NOVA* showed us the view from *The Edge of Space*, and Oscar-nominated director Roko Belic traveled the world in search of what really makes people *Happy*.

Chicagoans gained a greater appreciation for the man responsible for so many of the city's green spaces in *Jens Jensen: The Living Green*, and the documentary *Frederick Law Olmstead: Designing America* profiled the visionary whom many regard as "the father of landscape architecture."

The station's annual Pride Month programming initiative highlighted many aspects of LGBT history, recalling *The Day it Snowed in Miami*. In a sweeping five-part series, Simon Schama related *The Story of the Jews*. *Doctor Who*'s David Tennant portrayed *The Escape Artist* and Shaun Evans returned as the young Endeavor Morse on *Masterpiece Mystery!*; and two entertaining

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## June 2014

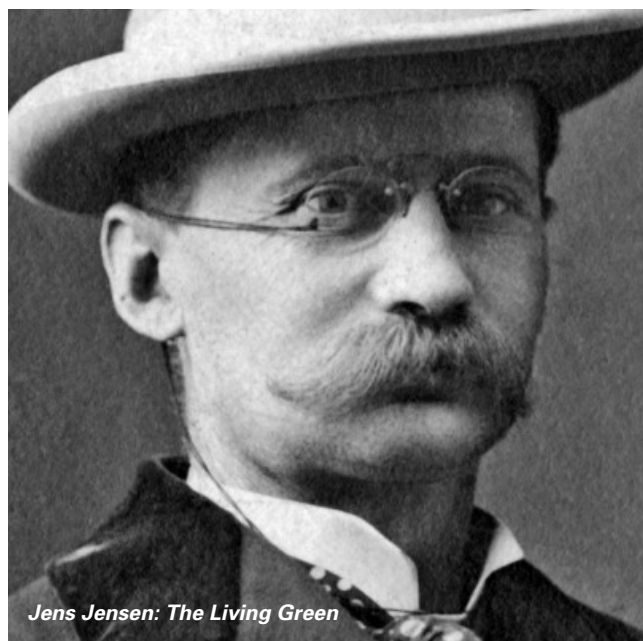
series from the U.K., *Last Tango in Halifax* and *Vicious*, featured the renowned actor Derek Jacobi in wildly differing roles – a dazzling acting tour-de-force which goes a long way toward explaining why British programming is so popular with audiences on this side of the pond.



*Masterpiece Mystery! Endeavour*



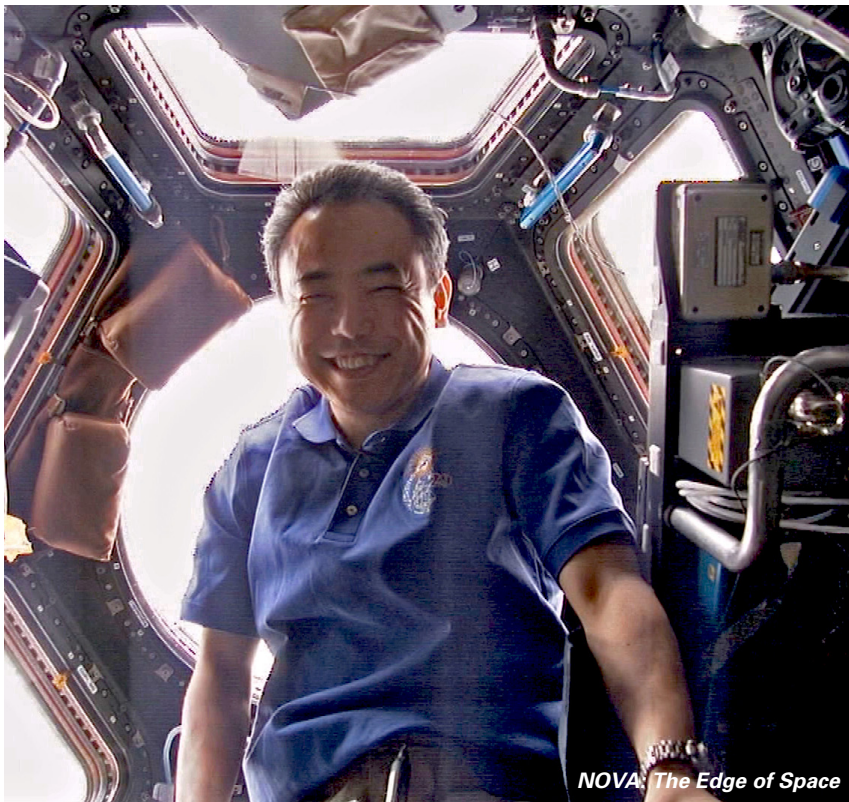
Ian McKellan and Derek Jacobi in *Vicious*



Jens Jensen: *The Living Green*



**May** 2014



*NOVA: The Edge of Space*



*Brazil with Michael Palin*



*Happy*





Kids at a WTTW Great Food Fan Van event



# Community Engagement

## American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen!

Our *American Graduate* website was expanded to include additional community resources, content, and better showcase the PSAs that were created by WTTW, *Chicago Tonight* and our youth production partners, Free Spirit Media, to be broadcast in station breaks throughout the year. WTTW participated in the national *American Graduate Day*, providing three inserts which aired throughout the day. We also hosted public events around *Independent Lens: The Graduates/Los Graduados*, and a town hall-style *Chicago Tonight American Graduate Special*, with a studio audience of more than 150 students, educators, and representatives from the city's non-profit organizations. Finally, WTTW organized another community conversation at our studios to help inform the final content of the special.

## WTTW Kids Readers Are Leaders Tour

In 2013, the WTTW Kids Readers are Leaders program educated more children and visited more venues than ever before. In our six-year history, we have entertained and educated over 30,000 children between the ages of 3 and 8, many of them in



Kids take part in a *Readers Are Leaders* exercise



An *American Graduate* event with Free Spirit Media

under-served areas of Chicago where educational materials are scarce. The goal is to reach children during their formative years to instill a drive and desire to learn. Every event comprises of adult and child movement, exciting dialogic reading exercises, and interactive games to create excitement about reading, good nutrition, and an awareness of the body-mind connection. At the conclusion of each performance, along with a free book from the Great Books Foundation, WTTW gives every child special learning materials, resources for parents and caregivers, and gift certificates for complementary fruits and vegetables from our presenting partner, ALDI.

## WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van

2013 marked the 6th anniversary season of the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van program which educates and entertains thousands of children, parents, grandparents, and caregivers throughout seven counties in Chicagoland. Taking place each

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## Community Engagement

year between May and September, this program continually delivers nutritional guidance in a fun, interactive, two-hour performance that takes place inside a WTTW Kids “village” constructed in front of major grocery stores. Every event comprises of healthy food education and sampling, stretching exercises, singing, dancing, educational games, and one-on-one health guidance. The goal of the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van program is to combat childhood obesity through fun and education, one family at a time. The nutritional guidance that is provided is reinforced by the healthy food samples that are provided by our generous partners.

### The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching

For the 28th consecutive year, in November WTTW devoted a broadcast (and several rebroadcasts) to this annual ceremony, honoring ten outstanding teachers from schools throughout the Chicago area. In addition to a trophy and valuable prizes (including an Apple computer and a sabbatical), each teacher was featured in an interstitial which included revealing footage shot at the school and heartwarming testimonials from students and parents. This year, the awards show, taped at our studios, featured the best high school teachers from the city and surrounding suburbs.

### The Grandparent Connection

Building upon the goals to further engage the senior community in Chicagoland, *The Grandparent Connection* is a program created and designed to specifically enrich the lives of senior citizens by providing direct connection to youth. The program uses community engagement to connect seniors and children, allowing each to share stories and valuable time together. Studies have shown that a grandparent connection can improve the lives of seniors exponentially, and the involvement of a grandparent has been shown to lead to better-adjusted, mentally healthier teens. *The Grandparent Connection* provides



Fun in the sun at a WTTW *Great Food Fan Van* event

an important link between these two generations. Events take place at senior living communities throughout Chicagoland,

### Screening Events

Public screenings in connection with our programming were held throughout the year, including an event with the Kratt Brothers at Brookfield Zoo, several events during Hispanic Heritage Month promoting the *Latino Americans* series, at universities in the area and at the Instituto Cervantes of Chicago. We also organized a meet-and-greet with the host and correspondents of *Chicago Tonight*, and luncheon events/book signings featuring David Pogue of *NOVA's Making Stuff II*, Neil Shubin of *Scientific Chicago*, and Masterpiece Executive Producer Rebecca Eaton. In addition, we held an African American History Educator event in conjunction with *African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* and *DuSable to Obama: Chicago's Black Metropolis*, and partnered with ITVS on monthly *Independent Lens* community screenings at the Chicago Cultural Center.





# Fiscal 2014 Financial Information

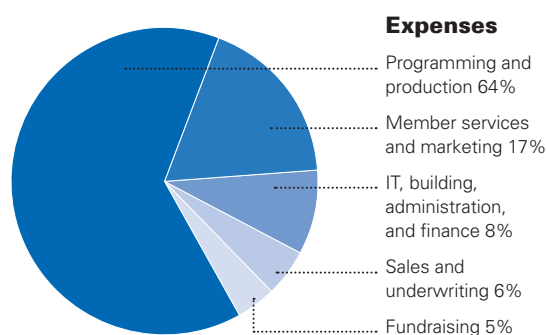
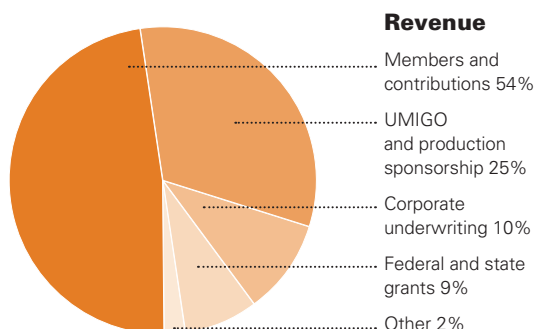
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

(in thousands)

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and investments	<b>\$40,511</b>
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	4,972
Property and equipment, net	19,253
Other assets	2,038
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$66,774</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<b>\$4,486</b>
Long-term loan payable	20,300
Other liabilities	4,005
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$28,791</b>
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	<b>\$20,522</b>
Restricted	17,461
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$37,983</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$66,774</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
Members and contributions	<b>\$25,191</b>
UMIGO and production sponsorship	11,585
Corporate underwriting and advertising	4,724
Federal and state grants	3,929
Other	885
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$46,314</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Programming and production	<b>\$29,647</b>
Member services and marketing	7,912
Sales and underwriting	2,599
Fundraising	2,153
IT, building, administration, and finance	3,927
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$46,238</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities</b>	<b>76</b>

\*Reflects \$2.6 million in non-cash depreciation expense







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(Gifts from 7/2013 to 6/2014)

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Dan Levin and friend at the WTTW Kids *Fun and Run*

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