



wttw | wfmt

# A Year of Stories

2015 ANNUAL REPORT





# Letter from The Chairman of The Board



Jim Mabie

## Dear Donors and Members,

It has been a true honor to find myself at the helm of the WWCI Board of Trustees during a fiscal year in which WTTW celebrated its landmark Diamond Anniversary, and when WFMT, having reached that impressive milestone a few years back, continued to enrich the lives of audiences with classical and fine arts content of the highest quality.

On the WTTW side, we were delighted to welcome the production crew and appraisers of *Antiques Roadshow* to the city for the first time in 11 years (see pages 16-17), and actively participate in the taping of this national series. We were also proud to salute our friend, colleague, and public broadcasting pioneer Newton N. Minow at our annual gala in May (see pages 58-61). The tributes that poured in resulted in the most financially successful fundraising event in the organization's history.

Again this year, WFMT brought an eclectic mix of Chicago's music festivals, whether it be the Grant Park Music Festival, Rush Hour Concerts, Thirsty Ear Festival, and other live broadcasts (see page 13) to loyal audiences throughout our listening area and globally via online streaming. And speaking of online offerings, both stations have continued to engage with our audiences through web exclusives and video, podcasts, apps, social media platforms, blogs and web posts that expand upon our already extensive on-air content, and make all of it accessible to anyone, anytime and anywhere (see pages 8-11).

That WTTW and WFMT enjoyed a breakeven year is a testament to the steadfast commitment and hard work of our valued trustees and everyone at WTTW and WFMT, and also to the foundations, corporations, and individuals whose generous support has made it possible to fulfill our mission to educate, engage, and entertain our diverse community.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you, our loyal supporters, who make everything we do possible, day in and day out.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Mabie".

Jim Mabie  
Chairman of the Board  
Window to the World Communications, Inc.

Cover images, clockwise from upper left: *Where in Chicago with Geoffrey Baer*; Sir Andrew Davis, Lyric Opera of Chicago; *Poldark on Masterpiece*; *Frontline: The Rise of ISIS*.

We celebrate 60 years at 5400 North St. Louis Avenue. (left to right) Edward L. Ryerson, Mayor Richard J. Daley, Irving B. Harris, Seymour Simon, and Nathan J. Kaplan break ground on WTTW's studios in October 1964.



# Letter from the President and CEO

## Dear Donors and Members,

Sixty years ago this fall, in the same month that Bill Haley’s “Rock Around the Clock” was at the top of the *Billboard* charts and “Mr. Cub” Ernie Banks hit his fifth grand-slam home run of that season, an innovative “working exhibit” opened to the public in the east wing of Chicago’s Museum of Science & Industry. And WTTW was on the air.



Dan Schmidt

It seems commonplace today in this age of storefront digital broadcast studios, but in 1955, it was miraculous that for the nominal cost of a museum admission, people were able to see local live television being made, right in front of them. The first program that went out over the airwaves was *Report to the Teachers*, the first in a very long line of distinguished, award-winning WTTW programs that continues to this day. At that time, WFMT had been in existence for almost four years, broadcasting for eight hours each weekday, and had recently moved to its present place on the radio dial: 98.7FM.

Since those humble beginnings, WTTW and WFMT have jointly evolved into a distinguished multi-platform media organization. Our longtime broadcast facility, in 2014 dubbed the Renée Crown Public Media Center, is a vibrant hub for original program production. WTTW pioneered such technologies as stereo sound for television, and WFMT was the first U.S. radio station in the world to broadcast music from a CD.

In the grand scheme of things, sixty years might be considered a short span of time. When it comes to the ways in which content is created and distributed, however, it might as well be a millennium.

Today, both stations serve a wide and diverse audience online as an on-demand, anywhere-you-are public media service. A comprehensive video player with a full library of treasures is available at [wttw.com](http://wttw.com), along with blogs, podcasts and other exclusive web content on our digital platforms. And WTTW and WFMT create more hours of original local content – television, radio, and digital – than almost any public media organization in America.

A few highlights:

In July, WTTW welcomed *Antiques Roadshow* back to Chicago for the first time in more than a decade. The new local documentary *Old St. Patrick’s Church: A Chicago Renaissance Story* premiered the following month, telling the story of the city’s oldest public building and the vibrant community that had grown up around it. Documentarian Ken Burns returned to town with his latest multi-part film, *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*, a huge hit with our binge-watching audiences.

*Chicago Tonight* presented a variety of informative candidate forums in advance of the Presidential election, and two highly visible Mayoral forums. *Check, Please!* and its robust website continued to steer local foodies to new and exciting dining experiences, and the digital series *FOODPHILES* introduced us to the personalities who make the food we eat. Actor David Suchet reached the end of the road as *Agatha Christie’s Poirot*, and for the 29th consecutive year, the Golden Apple Awards

honored outstanding local educators. Geoffrey Baer hosted his very first quiz show, *Where in Chicago*, and profiled the year's winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize, Texas architect David M. Schwarz. Audiences were taken back in time to the very first *Soundstage*, a 1974 tribute to blues great Muddy Waters. *Downton Abbey* returned for a highly rated fifth season. Finally, a new incarnation of the popular series *Poldark* galloped onto our schedule, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel commenced a series of regular visits to *Chicago Tonight*.

WFMT commenced the fiscal year with its annual slate of live broadcasts from the Grant Park Music Festival and the Rush Hour Concerts, and in what has become an annual tradition, *Relevant Tones* host Seth Boustead hosted the live Thirsty Ear Festival broadcast from City Winery. Once again, WFMT brought audiences live opening night broadcasts from Lyric Opera of Chicago throughout the season, plus the annual *Stars of Lyric Opera* concert from Millennium Park and the *Ryan Opera Center Recital Series*. We also continued our ongoing series from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. The station marked the 25th anniversary of Cedille Records, and Rich Warren celebrated four decades as the host of *Folkstage*; that series, along with *Impromptu* and *Live from WFMT*, welcomed numerous guests to Levin Studio throughout the year. In September, WFMT brought audiences four complete BBC Proms concerts from London's Royal Albert Hall, and commenced a very ambitious and successful ten-concert series, *The Bach Organ Project*, which featured live performances of all of Bach's organ works.

And speaking of marathons, in December WFMT celebrated the birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven with an impressive feat: broadcasts of all 32 of his piano concertos over two weeks. Opera star Eric Owens celebrated his move to Chicago with a new radio series, *Eric on Opera*, and audiences also enjoyed the stylish, interactive *Signature Series with Paolo Pietropaolo*. One more superstar arrived at WFMT as the fiscal year drew to a close: renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, whose live appearance entranced both the live audience in Levin Studio and many others hearing the performance on radio, via online streaming, and on their mobile devices.

Sadly, this year also saw the unexpected loss of longtime program host and WFMT's critic-at-large, Andrew Patner. He is greatly missed – not just here, but by arts organizations all over the city for whom he was a larger-than-life presence.

Yes, we have come a long way from that long-ago museum exhibit, and that small, struggling radio station. Needless to say, so has the media landscape. It seems light years away from the time when audiences received their television and radio content via a box plugged into a wall, hooked to an antenna, and only for a limited number of hours a day. Now, it is anywhere and everywhere you are, whenever you want it, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

WTTW and WFMT have continued to innovate, grow, and evolve through all of these transitions. But our mission, sixty years ago and today, has remained the same: to inspire, educate, and entertain, encouraging audiences throughout our diverse community to imagine more.

Sincerely,



Dan Schmidt  
President and CEO  
Window to the World Communications, Inc.

# Stay Connected

## WTTW

### Broadcast

**WTTW** is one of Chicago's premier public media organizations, dedicated to bringing Chicago and the world together to explore the arts, sciences, humanities, and public affairs. WTTW is composed 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).

**WTTW CREATE** is our how-to and lifestyle programming channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to



*Rick Steves' Europe*



*The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*

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).

**ON DEMAND** You can find WTTW on Demand on Comcast.

# WTTW

## Digital

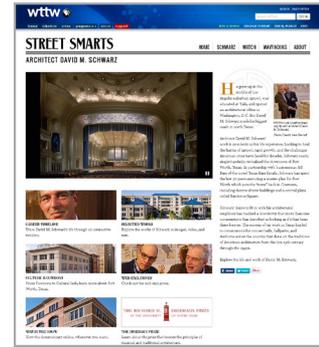
In an on-demand and ever-advancing media world, WTTW content can now be accessed anytime and anywhere – on desktop, mobile, and streaming television devices via our IOS and Android apps and online at wttw.com.

With 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 including sites for the Geoffrey Baer specials *Where in Chicago?* and *Street Smarts: Architect David M. Schwarz*; and for Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and the annual Viewer's Choice Bowl.

WTTW's news and public affairs digital content grew exponentially this year. Politics coverage included the November



*Where in Chicago?* website on wttw.com

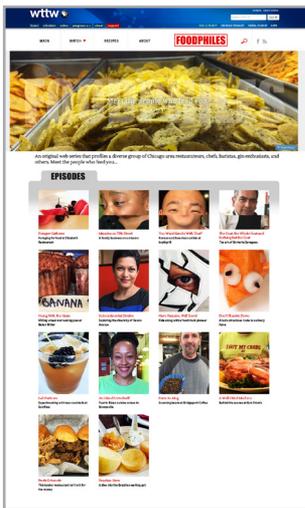


*Street Smarts: Architect David M. Schwarz* website on wttw.com

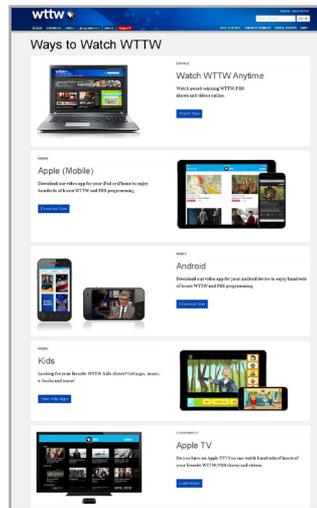
Illinois gubernatorial contest, the February mayoral forum and its subsequent April runoff, and Governor Rauner's budget issues. We reported on Francis Cardinal George's final manuscript before his death; Geoffrey Baer's "Ask Geoffrey" posts were more popular than ever; the world of arts and culture found a home on wttw.com; and there were feature stories about Chicago history, including some newly discovered footage of the 1915 Eastland Disaster on its centenary.

This year, WTTW also maintained its reputation as the resource for Chicago area foodies and restaurant enthusiasts with new content on the *Check, Please!* website including Talk & Eat and Foodie in Residence blogs, extensive video archive, our searchable restaurant database, social media integration, and more.

In April, we premiered our second original digital series, *FOODPHILES*. Over 13 mouthwatering mobile-optimized webisodes that were released simultaneously, audiences journeyed into the kitchen, behind the bar, and into the field to meet a diverse group of local restaurateurs, chefs, baristas, gin enthusiasts, and others to hear their personal stories and insights about the meaning of their work, how they got into the hospitality business, and why they have such a passion for what they do. The eateries featured in *FOODPHILES* reflect Chicago's rich and diverse culinary palette, and reinforce the city's reputation as a go-to destination for adventures in world-class dining. Included were Bob Chinn's Crab House in Wheeling, Bridgeport Coffee, the Devon Avenue Indian restaurant scene, Birrieria Zaragoza in Archer Heights, the Logan Square gin bar Scofflaw, Maracas in Bronzeville, Arun's, and others.



Digital series *FOODPHILES* on wttw.com



Watch Anywhere

Another original short-form digital series, *The Good Stuff*, hosted by YouTube star Craig Benzine, made its debut on wttw.com in May 2015. This lively and fun series covered a wide range of topics in a never-ending quest for “the good stuff.” Each month, new webisodes were posted exploring different aspects of a common theme, ranging from how to get a good night’s sleep to how robots affect our daily lives.

## APPS

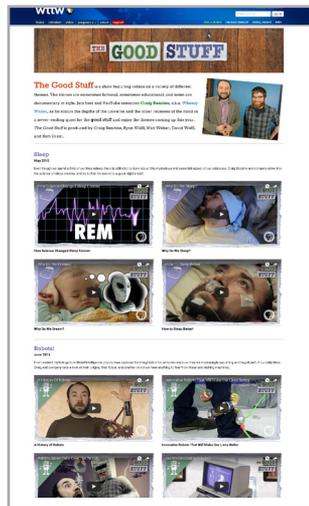
WTTW apps are another way to access and engage with WTTW content. In addition to watching WTTW and PBS programming via our mobile video portal at wttw.com/video, viewers can also access local and national video content via the PBS mobile app. Visit wttw.com/mobile to learn more and to download our apps.

## Over-The-Top Content Streaming

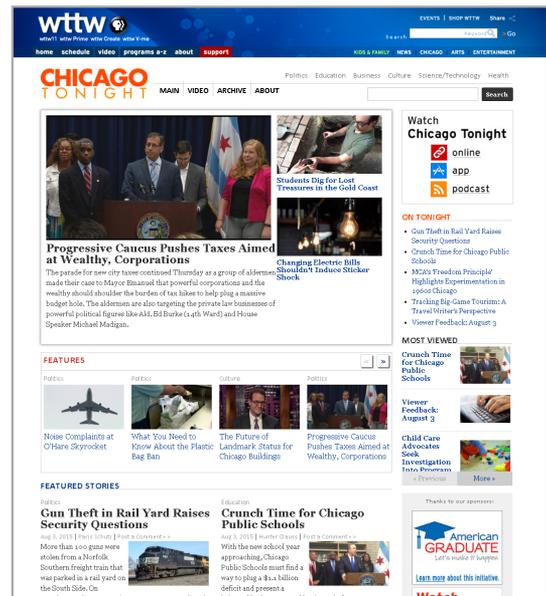
PBS and WTTW programming are available through a variety of over-the-top hardware, software, and video streaming solutions including Roku, Chromecast, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and more.



WTTW video app



Digital series *The Good Stuff* on wttw.com



Chicago Tonight

## Social Media

### WTTW Facebook

facebook.com/wttw11

### Central Standard Facebook

facebook.com/  
centralstandard312

### Check, Please! Facebook

facebook.com/  
checkpleaseWTTW

### Chicago Tonight Facebook

facebook.com/  
chicagotonight

### Geoffrey Baer Facebook

facebook.com/  
geoffreybaerWTTW

### Jay's Chicago Facebook

facebook.com/  
jayschicagoWTTW

### My Chicago Facebook

facebook.com/  
mychicagoWTTW

### WTTW Twitter

twitter.com/wttw

### Central Standard Twitter

twitter.com/centralstand

### Check, Please! Twitter

twitter.com/  
checkpleaseDave

### My Chicago Twitter

twitter.com/  
mychicagoWTTW

### WTTW YouTube

youtube.com/wttwchicago

### Central Standard YouTube

youtube.com/  
centralstandardWTTW

### WTTW Flickr

flickr.com/photos/  
wttwchannel11

### WTTW Pinterest

pinterest.com/wttw



# WFMT

## Broadcast

98.7WFMT is Chicago's classical radio station, committed to providing the best and broadest selection of classical, fine arts, and folk music content 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 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.

The screenshot shows the WFMT website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with '98.7wfmt' logo, 'LISTEN LIVE', 'SEARCH', and 'DONATE' buttons. Below the navigation, there's a 'select a date' calendar for March 2015. The main content area features a large photo of the Kronos Quartet members. The headline reads 'Exclusive Interview: Kronos Quartet Announces a Summer Festival and Drops a New Album'. Below the photo, there's a text block starting with 'The world-renowned Kronos Quartet stopped by WFMT to perform a live concert on Impromptu Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 10:00 pm. For a podcast of the broadcast, click here.' There's also a section titled 'You've been very busy recently, can you tell us about some of your recent and upcoming engagements?' with a sub-headline 'We just came from New York City. We played at Carnegie Hall on Saturday night (March 7, 2015) and it was really a high point for us because we were able to perform with forty-five young players from a program called Phase the Music. We are mentoring and coaching these junior high and high school kids and they joined us for our American premiere of Merlin Twaalshoven's On Parslo. We ended the concert with music of Aleksandra Vrebalov playing her piece called Beyond Zero: 1914-1918 which we are playing on this tour and features a film by Bill Morrison. Five Serbian Orthodox monks joined us for that concert. They came all the way from Novi Sad, Serbia and it was just unbelievable to have them join us. We had performed together in Serbia in November, and I never thought we would be able to do it again, but to bring that sound, that ancient sound – it's like 1200 years old – was wonderful and their singing was incredible. Aleksandra had incorporated their work into her piece and to have them join us in the United States was really thrilling. As we're touring, there's all sorts of music that we are encountering and that we are playing. We'll be at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana [Tuesday, March 10, 2015], and later we're at the Harris Theater in Chicago with Laurie Anderson, and then we move on to the Big Barn Festival in Knoxville, Tennessee in a couple months. We're artists in residence at Big Barn and it's really a cool festival. I can't wait to be there. It's non-stop music from the morning through the night. We're doing – I think – five or six concerts in three days. I'll be doing and meeting with composers and of course I will be coaching young groups. I think we're performing with six or eight of our collaborators, so it's really a festival and we're looking forward to it very much.'

Web post on wfmt.com

## Digital

- WFMT reaches larger online audiences around the world than ever before. wfmt.com hosts a vast library of original streaming audio and podcasts, and has expanded to include more engaging content such as:
- interactive polls and quizzes;
- accessible listicles and infographics that make learning about classical music fun;
- original video featuring such notables as Kronos Quartet and mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade;
- exclusive interviews with artists such as countertenor David Daniels and composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir;
- arts news in Chicago and beyond, including discoveries of long-lost scores, winners of major prizes, and new appointments at institutions across the globe.

Visitors to wfmt.com can also explore program information, participate in discussions, and interact with hosts to enhance their listening experience. WFMT has also significantly expanded its presence on social media.

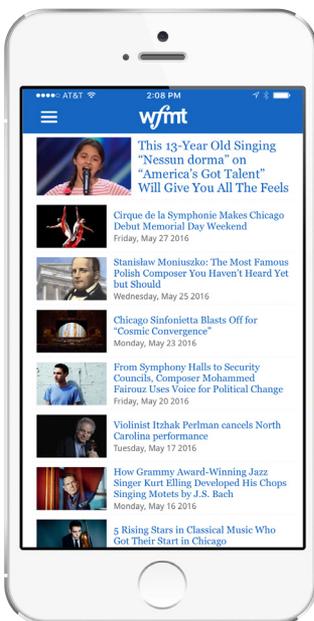
The screenshot shows the 'The Complete Studs Terkel Radio Archive' website. The header includes 'THE STUDS TERKEL RADIO ARCHIVE' and the WFMT logo. The main title is 'The Complete Studs Terkel Radio Archive' with a sub-headline 'The complete archive will feature 45,000 radio shows, recorded between 1950 and 2015, across centuries.' Below this, there's a section titled 'Over the course of his 45 years on WFMT radio, Studs Terkel discussed every aspect of 20th-century life with movers, shakers, artists, and working folks. From civil rights to labor to jazz, his work opened an impressive array of topics and topics. These enduring, historically significant interviews – which have been largely inaccessible to the public – will soon come to life in a new website housing the comprehensive Studs Terkel Radio Archive.' A statistics bar shows '45 years on WFMT radio', '9,000+ hours of radio & audio programs', and '5,000+ unique artists & stories'. The footer contains 'JOIN OUR MAILING LIST' and 'CONTACT US' buttons.

The Complete Studs Terkel Radio Archive on wfmt.com

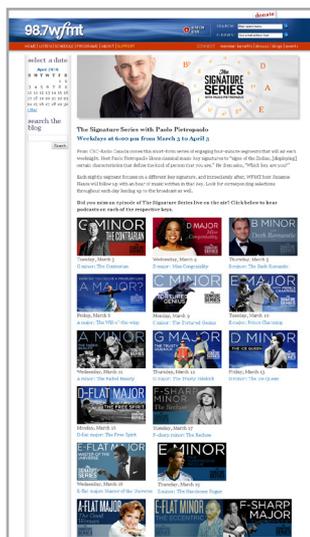
Two of the most popular stories on wfmt.com this year were an exclusive interview with the world-renowned pianist Lang Lang, who discussed his love of Tchaikovsky and Chopin, and what it's like to play Bach on the piano instead of the harpsichord; and a story about a real head injury that took place during a performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor* (famous for its bloody mad scene) at the Metropolitan Opera. 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

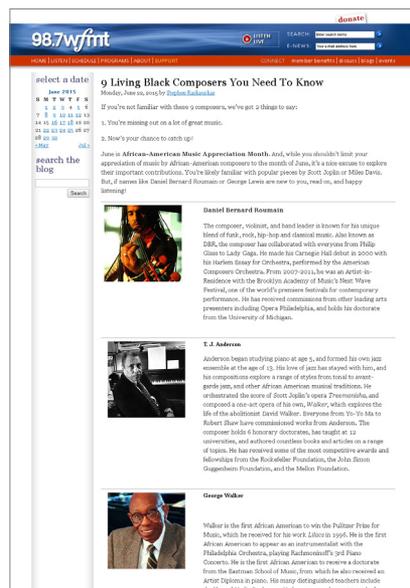
The WFMT app is the online equivalent of the WFMT on-air broadcast, and can be accessed anywhere, anytime. Visit wfmt.com/mobile to learn more, and to download the Apple and Android apps.



WFMT app



Signature Series with Paolo Pietropaolo



9 Living Black Composers You Need to Know

## Social Media

### WFMT Facebook

facebook.com/98.7wfmt

### WFMT Twitter

twitter.com/wfmtclassical

### WFMT Playlist Twitter

twitter.com/wfmtmusic

### WFMT YouTube

youtube.com/WFMTChicago



# July 2014

As always in the summer months, WTTW and WFMT were out in the community, engaging with audiences of all ages. The WTTW Great Food Fan Van and WTTW Readers Are Leaders Tour promoted good nutrition, active lifestyles, and childhood literacy in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor venues, many of which were located in underserved areas of the city and suburbs. WFMT once again offered live broadcasts of the Grant Park Music Festival from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, and the weekly Rush Hour Concert Series from St. James Cathedral in downtown Chicago. In addition, in what has become an annual tradition, this month *Relevant Tones* host Seth Boustead hosted a live WFMT broadcast from the Thirsty Ear Festival, live from City Winery, with Fonema Consort, Gaudete Brass, and Graham Reynolds.

Programming highlights on WTTW included the new three-part series *Time Scanners*, focusing on historical building techniques, with episodes on the Egyptian pyramids, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Petra, Jordan. Once again, the nation celebrated *A Capitol Fourth* with an inspiring concert followed by a dazzling fireworks display from Washington, D.C. Two new British drama series premiered: *Mr. & Mrs. Murder* and *Frankie*, and another, *Death in Paradise*, returned with a new central character. *Masterpiece Mystery!* presented a new



Grant Park Music Festival

Endeavour Morse season and more stories featuring the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot (David Suchet), and *Frontline* examined issues surrounding the war in Iraq. *Chicago Tonight* created an innovative web initiative surrounding Homegrown, an organic garden that staffers planted right outside their office windows. The website, [wttw.com/homegrown](http://wttw.com/homegrown), features invaluable tips from local organic gardener Jeanne Nolan how to create your own garden, even if you have limited space; a question-and-answer forum; popular solutions to common gardening problems; an interactive map of other urban and community gardens and a place to share your own; a glossary of common gardening terms; recipes incorporating the food you've grown; and much more.

WFMT brought audiences two works by Mozart: *La Clemenza di Tito* from Lyric Opera of Chicago and *The Magic Flute* from LA Opera. Hershey Felder added to his repertoire of musical luminary portrayals with *Maestro Bernstein: A Play with Music*, and renowned Montenegro guitarist Miloš Karadaglić paid WFMT a visit for a special installment of *Impromptu*.



Homegrown website

July 2014



Jeanne Nolan and Phil Ponce work in *Chicago Tonight's* organic garden, Homegrown



Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein



Guitarist Miloš Karadaglić



Frankie



Christine Lavin and Don White, *Folkstage*



WFMT at the Thirsty Ear Festival

# ANTIQUES ROADSHOW in Chicago



A fan with a cherished family heirloom



WTTW cameraman Dave Moyer taping *Antiques Roadshow*



WTTW's Bruce Rehberger on set for *Antiques Roadshow*



Candace Jordan on *Antiques Roadshow* with her *Playboy* memorabilia

# ANTIQUES ROADSHOW in Chicago



An appraiser checks out a vintage model airplane

Fiscal 2015 kicked off with a momentous event: the enduring national series *Antiques Roadshow* rolled into the Windy City for the first time in 11 years to tape three episodes for the program's 19th season. A random ticket lottery had been held earlier in the year attracting almost 19,000 applicants, and on taping day, July 26, 6,000 lucky winners descended upon McCormick Place toting their antiques, collectables, and fascinating oddities. They were greeted by more than 70 *Antiques Roadshow* appraisers spanning 20 different categories, who had a great time chatting with them about the items they brought and highlighting some amazing finds. These included: a 1976 *Playboy* Bunny collection presented by the Bunny herself, local journalist Candace Jordan; graffiti art by Keith Haring; and a Walt Whitman Civil War letter, among many others. WTTW's crew helped to record the event, taping interstitials and behind-the-scenes features, and several hundred volunteers – WTTW staff and others – ensured that this logistically complicated event ran smoothly.

Chicago joined Bismarck, Santa Clara, Birmingham, Austin, Albuquerque, Charleston (WV), and New York City on the 2014 schedule. The three Chicago episodes were scheduled to premiere nationwide in October 2015.



One of the famous Keno brothers appraises an antique table for its owners

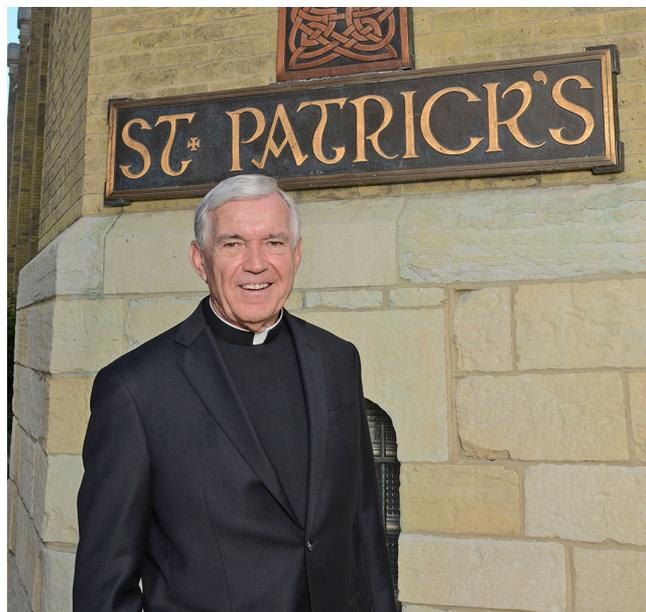


# August 2014

One of WTTW's important priorities is telling local stories and showcasing the work of area filmmakers. Both were true of the documentary *Old St. Patrick's Church: A Chicago Renaissance Story*, a deeply personal film by Emmy-winner Mike Leonard. In it, he traces the history of this oldest public building in Chicago, and introduces audiences to the people who transformed it from an empty house of worship into the vibrant heart of its West Loop community, home to a popular and widely-attended annual event, "The World's Largest Block Party."

WFMT celebrated a local entity as well, the Chicago classical record label Cedille Records, founded by Jim Ginsburg, which marked its 25th anniversary this month with a day of Ginsburg and his artists. Rich Warren observed his 40th anniversary as host of *Folkstage* with a special two-hour live broadcast from Fox Valley with some of his favorite guests.

Notable WTTW programs in August included the national premiere of a local series by Terry Spencer Hesser, *Islands Without Cars*; an *American Masters* film on photojournalist Dorothea Lange; a behind-the-scenes look at actor David Suchet in *Being Poirot*; *NOVA: Vaccines: Calling the Shots*; and *Masterpiece Mystery!: Breathless*. Comedian Robin Williams, who passed away on August 11, was fondly remembered on



Fr. Jack Wall at Old St. Patrick's Church

*Chicago Tonight* in a panel discussion, and with some informative web extras. Other digital highlights included the Foodie in Residence and Talk & Eat blogs on the content-packed *Check, Please!* site, where restaurant enthusiasts/guest bloggers shared their favorite dining experiences and tips for making the most of what Chicago's culinary scene has to offer.

On the WFMT side, Andrew Patner also weighed in on the loss of Robin Williams and shared some thoughts about mental health issues. Opera lovers in August enjoyed *Billy Budd*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Thais* from LA Opera, and San Francisco Opera's productions of *Mefistofele* and *Tosca*.



*Billy Budd*, LA Opera



*Thais, LA Opera*



Host Kira Hesser, *Islands Without Cars*



*Mork & Mindy, Robin Williams Remembered*



Dorothea Lange,  
*American Masters*



Jim Ginsburg, Cedille Records



**Foodie in Residence** is a new space for some of our favorite Chicagoland foodies to share tips, trends, and news around town for all things food and drink in Chicagoland.

### Ramenfest 2015



From chili festivals to doughnut fests, every food has its day. This most definitely includes ramen, which is gearing up to once again take the spotlight as the second annual Ramenfest takes place November 7. It all goes down at urbanbelly, at apt locale considering the Asian restaurant was one of the first in Chicago to legitimize the dish

Foodie in Residence website



# September 2014

This month, WTTW was excited to welcome to its schedule, for seven consecutive nights, the latest in Ken Burns' epic miniseries: *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*—a compelling and addictive 14-hour film that traced the lives of Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt, three icons who influenced 20th century American history more than perhaps any other family, voiced by Paul Giamatti, Edward Herrmann, and Meryl Streep. The national premiere was preceded by a visit from Ken Burns himself, who presided over two events on September 9 in connection with the film: a luncheon at the Union League Club, and a packed screening at Frances W. Parker School. He even found time that day to pay WFMT's Kerry Frumkin a visit on *Impromptu*.

Also in September, WFMT launched an ambitious five-week, 10-concert series, *The Bach Organ Project*, during which attendees heard live performances of all Johann Sebastian Bach's organ works. Top-flight organists, including Nathan Laube, David Schrader, Stephen Alltop, Bruce Barber, Michael Costello, performed more than 900 minutes of music on magnificent organs across the Chicago and suburban area.

Billed as "the greatest classical music festival on earth," the annual BBC Proms was represented on WFMT in the form of four full-length concerts on Sundays at 5:00 pm throughout September. In addition, audiences heard the annual *Stars of Lyric Opera* broadcast from Millennium Park, and Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*; and Wagner's *Flying Dutchman* and Britten's *Peter Grimes* from San Francisco Opera.

This month, WTTW's digital series *Central Standard: On Education* came to television; Agatha Christie's Miss Marple solved new mysteries; *American Masters* presented its *Master List*; *Nature* introduced audiences to *Penguins: Spy in the Huddle*; and a new group of accomplished American women were profiled in a second season of the six-part documentary series *MAKERS*.



BBC Proms 2014



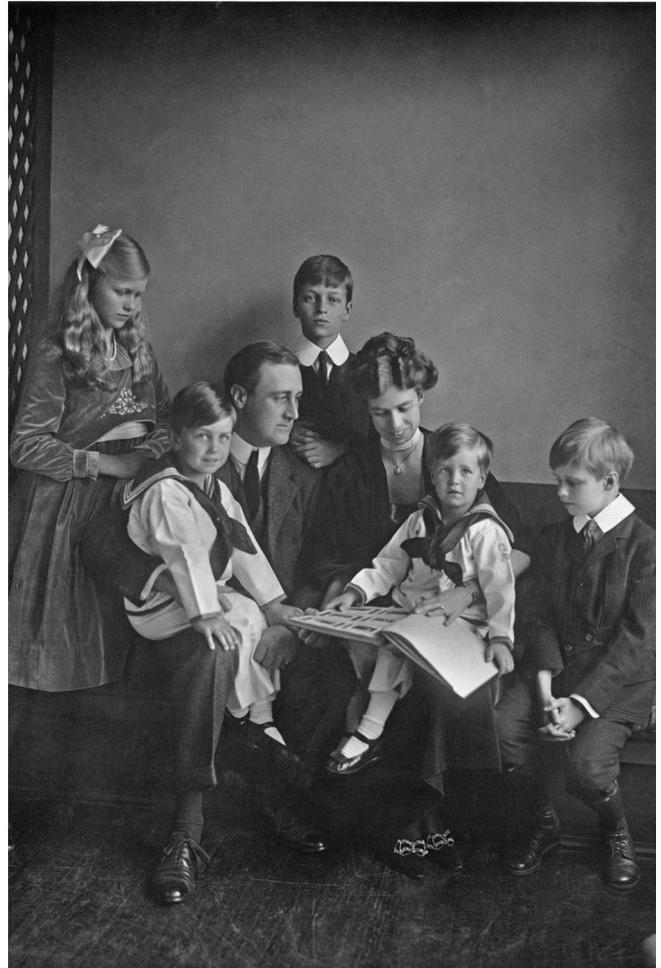
Photo: Todd Rosenberg Photography

Marina Rebeka in *Don Giovanni*





*The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*



*Nature: Penguins – Spy in the Huddle*



# October 2014

*Chicago Tonight's* extensive, thoughtful, and balanced political coverage is second to none in Illinois. Throughout this fall's election cycle, the program executed a true full-court press on a vital part of WTTW's mission: educating the public about the candidates and issues to ensure that voters can make informed decisions when heading to the polls. In the run-up to November's midterm elections, the program did just that – presenting moderated candidate forums with contenders for state and federal offices while providing top-flight reporting, exclusive video, and live web streaming. The month culminated in two events in partnership with the City Club of Chicago: a lively forum with the candidates for U.S. Senate, Richard Durbin and Jim Oberweis; and a Q&A with Illinois gubernatorial candidate (and incumbent) Pat Quinn. On both nights, thanks to a new partnership with Twitter, the program used new technology to engage with audiences by displaying many of their reactions and questions in real time.

In other WTTW news, Catherine De Orio began her sophomore season of *Check, Please!* (the series' 14th); the venerable music program *Austin City Limits* celebrated its 40th anniversary; *Frontline* traced *The Rise of ISIS*; *Masterpiece* brought audiences a second season of *The Paradise* and, in a three-part miniseries, fans of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* discovered



*Chicago Tonight*: Dick Durbin and Jim Oberweis

what happens when *Death Comes to Pemberley*. Also, the new science series *How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson* made its debut; theatre and music fans were given a front-row seat to Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess* from San Francisco Opera, *The Nance* with Nathan Lane on *Live from Lincoln Center*, and Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga in their dual tour-de-force *Cheek to Cheek Live*. And here in town, *Masterpiece Mystery!* host Alan Cumming headlined a luncheon and booksigning at the Union League Club.

WFMT brought listeners the 60th anniversary gala from Lyric Opera of Chicago and also aired two of their opening night performances, of Strauss' *Capriccio* and Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. Opera fans also heard Dolores Claiborne from the San Francisco Opera. The young men of the Danish String Quartet paid WFMT a visit, as did the Atrium Quartet, Old Man Luedecke, and Tom Chapin, and audiences enjoyed tributes to Artur Rodzinski and Andrzej Panufnik. And in an all-day Immersion event, Henry Fogel saluted Maria Callas.



PBS Fall Arts Festival: *Porgy and Bess*, San Francisco Opera



Actor, author, and *Masterpiece Mystery!* host Alan Cumming at an event at the Union League Club



Frontline: The Rise of ISIS



# November 2014

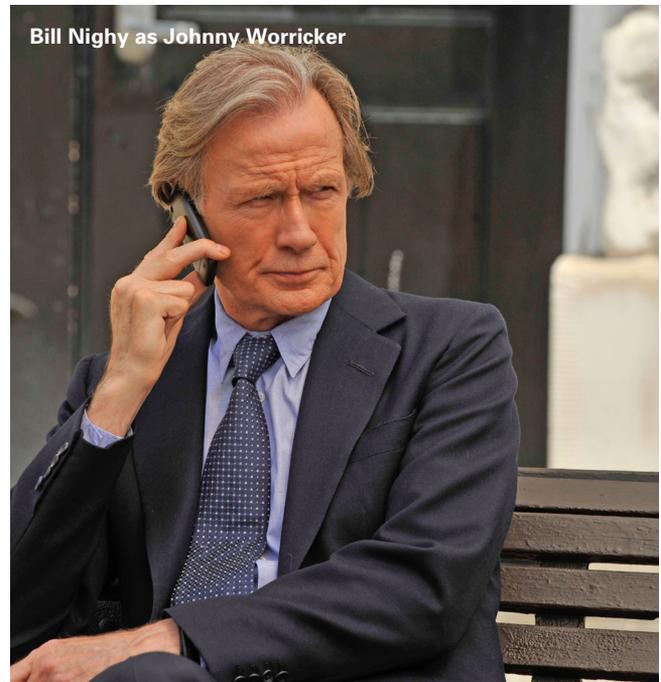
This month marked the culmination of an actor's 25-year journey in a single role: David Suchet as Agatha Christie's wily Belgian detective, Inspector Hercule Poirot, who had been identified with this part through 67 of Christie's 70 Poirot mysteries. In November, WTTW audiences were treated to the final three, bidding a poignant farewell to him on Thanksgiving night. Suchet also allowed cameras behind the scenes to follow his process in the documentary *Being Poirot*.

Also on the mystery front on WTTW, British actor Bill Nighy reprised his role as MI-5 spy Johnny Worricker, in a follow-up to last season's acclaimed *Page Eight*. Jay Leno was the 17th recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor; the musical *CATS* came to *Great Performances*; *NOVA* focused on *Killer Landslides*; several programs were presented in observance of Veteran's Day; and young singing phenom Jackie Evancho captivated audiences in *Awakening: Live in Concert*. Finally, the *Golden Apple Awards* recognized 10 outstanding 4th-8th grade teachers in the Chicago area.

WFMT remembered one of its earliest and most influential employees, the late director Mike Nichols, with a digital feature which included his notorious difficult Announcer Audition,



Mike Nichols



Bill Nighy as Johnny Worricker

still torturing hopefuls today. Rich Warren welcomed Michael Johnson to *Folkstage*. Audiences heard Eric Owens and Adina Aaron in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Gustavo Dudamel conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic in works by Tchaikovsky; the CSO and its Chorus, conducted by Riccardo Muti, presented Verdi's *Macbeth*; and the Rossini Opera Festival's production of *Armida*.

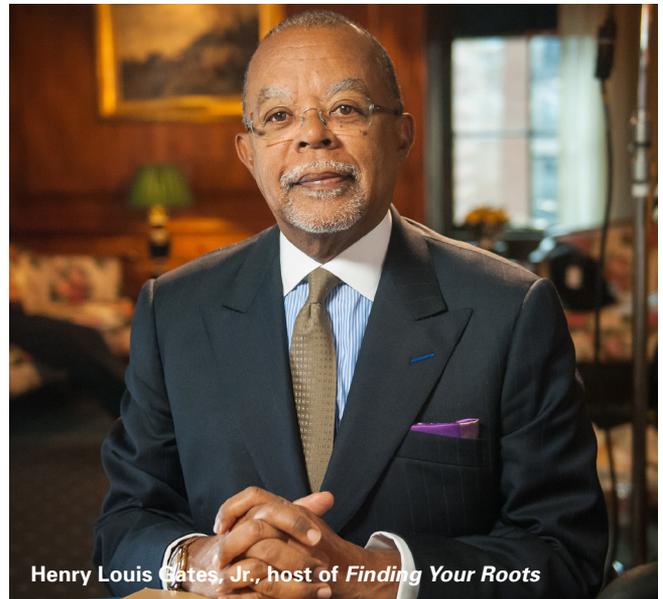
All of this emanated from a more energy-efficient facility, as the Renée Crown Public Media Center was outfitted, inside and out, with "green" LED lighting, which significantly reduced energy costs while helping to promote a far healthier work environment.



Comedian Jay Leno received this year's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor



Armida, Rossini Opera Festival



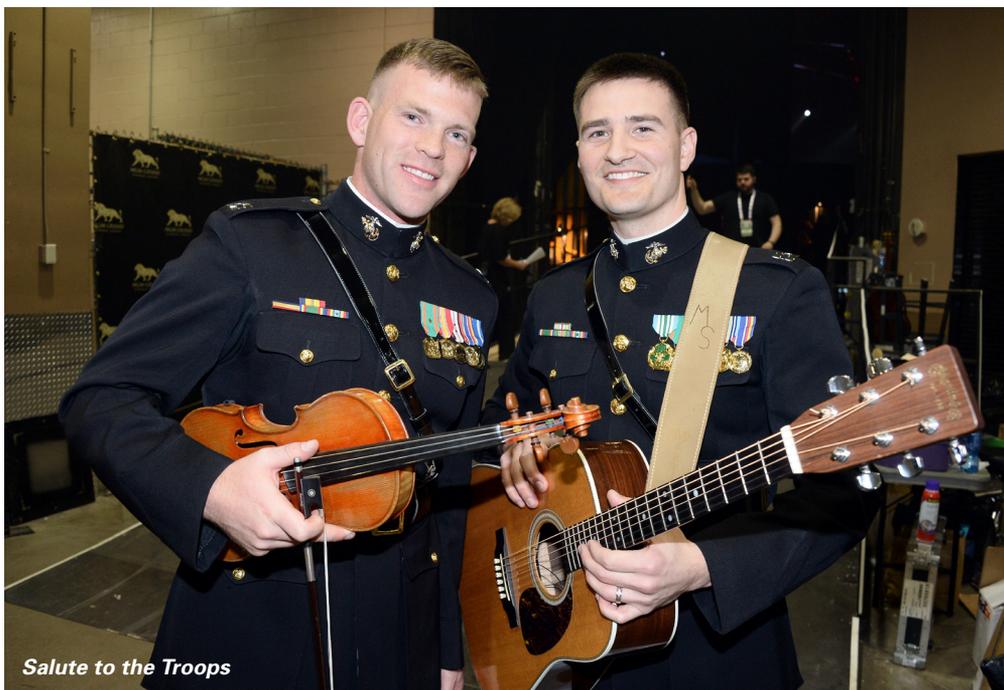
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., host of *Finding Your Roots*



Jackie Evancho: Awakening – Live in Concert



Gustavo Dudamel, LA Philharmonic





# December 2014

WTTW kicked off December with the premiere of a very different kind of Geoffrey Baer tour special: a quiz show. In *Where in Chicago?*, Geoffrey and his crew took to the streets to pose some challenging Chicago history and trivia questions to a lively and diverse group of passersby all over the city – in Lincoln Park, Daley Plaza, Chinatown, Navy Pier, Hyde Park, and other locales – and reveal the often-surprising answers.

Audiences also took a journey back in time with a rebroadcast of the very first episode of the groundbreaking music series *Soundstage* – a tribute to the iconic blues great Muddy Waters, taped in WTTW's studios in 1974. Music legends Johnny Winter, Willie Dixon, Junior Wells, Dr. John, and Koko Taylor performed with Waters.

Other notable programs included a *NOVA* installment on Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon; an *American Masters* profile of Bing Crosby, and a variety of holiday programs, including a new special from *Call the Midwife*. In advance of the premiere of season five of *Downton Abbey*, WTTW hosted a special screening event at the Chicago History Museum. And on the digital front, *Chicago Tonight* provided extensive



Lyric Opera of Chicago: *Anna Bolena*

coverage of the controversy over the use of lakefront parkland for the proposed Lucas Museum of Narrative Art.

WFMT celebrated the birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven with an impressive feat: broadcasts of all 32 of the composer's piano concertos, over two weeks. Audiences also heard a Carnegie Hall recital from Daniil Trifonov, co-hosted by actor David Hyde Pierce; *Anna Bolena* from Lyric Opera of Chicago; and several operas in the *Live from the Met* series.

The station also aired a rich and eclectic collection of holiday content, and, in an annual tradition, fans of WFMT's *The Midnight Special* rang in the New Year with longtime host Rich Warren and a live broadcast featuring folk music stars Jim Bizer and Jan Krist, Mark Dvorak, Connie Kaldor, and James Lee Stanley. A great time was had by all.



*Call the Midwife* Holiday Special

## December 2014



The proposed Lucas Museum of Narrative Art on *Chicago Tonight*



Attendees enjoying the *Downton Abbey* screening event at Chicago History Museum



Muddy Waters on the first *Soundstage*, 1974

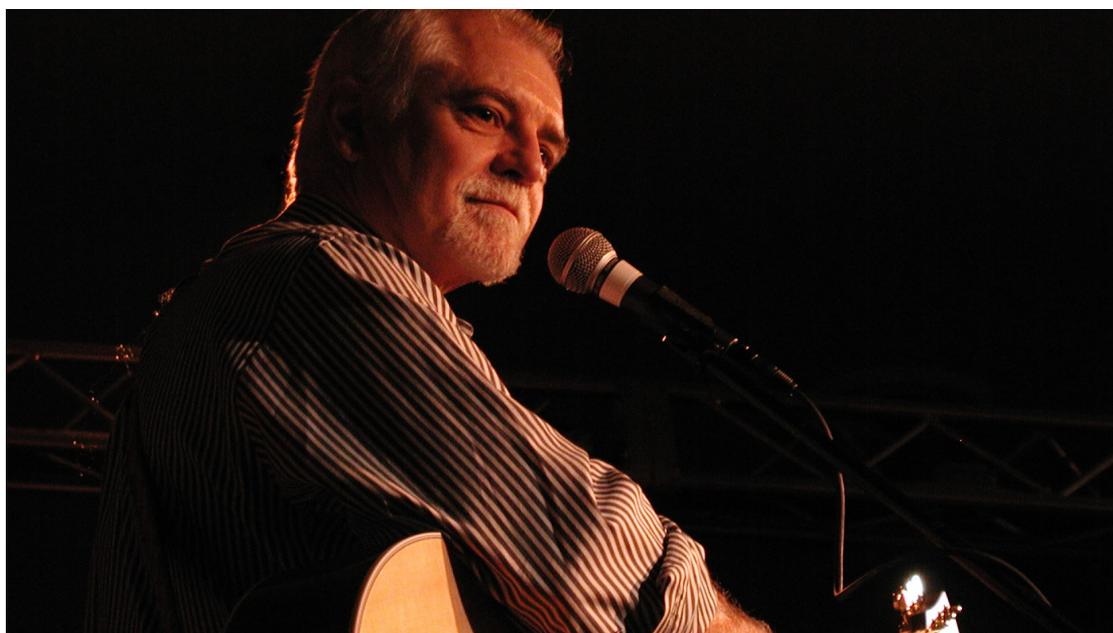


Connie Kaldor



Mark Dvorak

Performers who joined host Rich Warren for *The Midnight Special* on New Year's Eve



James Lee Stanley



# January 2015

On WTTW, for the fifth consecutive year, January commenced with the eagerly anticipated season premiere of the enduring favorite *Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey*, once again attracting audiences across a wide demographic. The program, truly a game changer for public media, consistently came in second with tough competition from the Super Bowl, the Oscars, the Golden Globes, and the Grammys. And nationally, it came out ahead of such popular drama series as *Game of Thrones*, *Mad Men*, *American Horror Story*, and others. There were between 850,000 and one million online streams of each episode, and constant chatter on social media. Yes, the *Downton* juggernaut was still going strong.

In other January news, as always WTTW rang in the New Year with *Great Performances*, Julie Andrews and the Vienna Philharmonic; home bakers were celebrated on *The Great British Baking Show*; Billy Joel received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize; fans of the old *Wild Chicago* series enjoyed a new six-part series, *Wild Travels*, hosted by Will Clinger, and *Nature* took us to *Wild France*; David Tennant and Emily Watson starred in *The Politician's Husband*; local correspondent and filmmaker Mike Leonard returned with



*Downton Abbey* on Masterpiece

the new series *inCommon*, and Rick Bayless continued his trek through *MEXICO – One Plate at a Time*; renowned musicians were spotlighted on *Speakeasy*; audiences gained a new perspective on the Bard of Avon in *Shakespeare Uncovered*; and the three-part series *A Path Appears* focused on human rights violations across the globe. Finally, audiences voted online in the *Viewer's Choice Bowl*, and Phil Ponce was named the first Alexandra and John Nichols Correspondent and Host.

WFMT saluted the acclaimed music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Riccardo Muti Day on January 30, and presented birthday tributes to composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Schubert. Audiences had a front-row seat to Lyric Opera of Chicago's *Tosca*, and the Saturday afternoon Met operas continued; enjoyed two new series: *The Piano in France* with David Dubal and *The Sopranos* with Debbie Voigt; and attended an all-day Immersion in our studios as John C. Tibbets hosted *Classical Music Goes to the Movies*.



Host Will Clinger, *Wild Travels*



Photo: Todd Rosenberg Photography

Lyric Opera of Chicago: *Tosca*



Mike Leonard, *inCommon*

Great British Baking Show hosts Mel and Sue



Billy Joel received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize

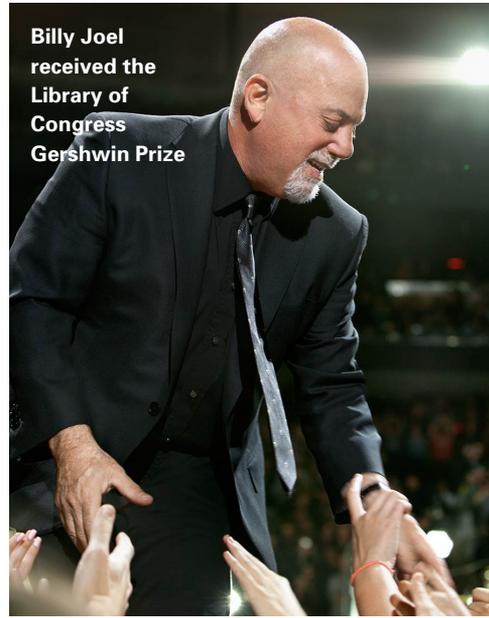


Photo: Dario Acosta

Deborah Voigt, *The Sopranos*



# February 2015

As always, WTTW marked Black History Month with its usual eclectic slate of programming, including *Antiques Roadshow: Celebrating Black Americana*, an *American Masters* focusing on the distinguished playwright August Wilson, an *Independent Lens* that explored American denial of racial injustice, and *Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP*. A dedicated website listed all the relevant content on WTTW11 and on WTTW Prime 11.2.

*Chicago Tonight* partnered with the City Club of Chicago on a mayoral candidate forum in advance of the February 24 election which would later result in a runoff. A new local documentary, produced by WTTW, highlighted the work of *Illinois Artists at Work*. The new five-part series *EARTH A New Wild* weighed the relationship between humans, animals, and natural history events. *American Experience* recalled the devastating tuberculosis epidemic and its repercussions today; *NOVA* marveled at Istanbul's Hagia Sophia, one of the world's *Building Wonders*; *Frontline* delved into end-of-life issues in *Being Mortal*; audiences heard the story of America's Italian Americans; and *Motown 25* marked the anniversary of the



*American Masters: August Wilson – How I Learned What I Learned*

first time television audiences thrilled to the sight of Michael Jackson's legendary moonwalk.

February began for WFMT with a very sad loss: program host and critic-at-large Andrew Patner passed away suddenly after a brief illness; more on page 45.

Two productions from Lyric Opera of Chicago had opening-night broadcasts on WFMT: Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser* and Mieczysław Weinberg's *The Passenger*. Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes played Beethoven on *Carnegie Hall Live*; *Live from the Met* featured operas by Verdi, Tchaikovsky, and Bartók starring Anna Netrebko, and two by Mozart: *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. Canadian pianist Winston Choi and mandolin artist Avi Avital stopped by *Impromptu*; Villa Palagonia performed on *Folkstage*; and pianist Wu Han and Lyric Opera's music director and principal conductor Sir Andrew Davis each joined Kerry Frumkin in the announcer booth as Guest Host to share some of their favorite music with audiences.



Lyric Opera of Chicago: *Tannhäuser*



*The Italian Americans*



*EARTH A New Wild*

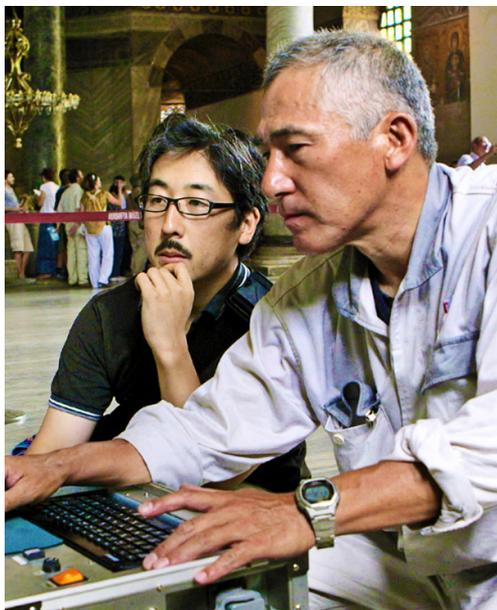


Photo: Michael Bresilow

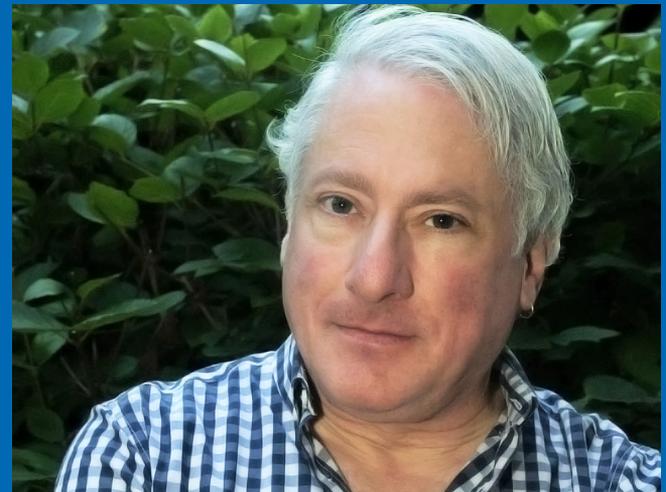
*Lyric Opera of Chicago: The Passenger*



Rahm Emanuel takes questions from the press after the mayoral runoff forum



NOVA: Hagia Sophia – Istanbul's Ancient Mystery



**Andrew Patner: 1959-2015**

Longtime WFMT program host and Chicago classical music critic Andrew Patner passed away suddenly on February 3. A longtime member of the WFMT family, Andrew Patner served as WFMT's Critic-At-Large and hosted for a number of years the station's weekly programs *Critic's Choice* and *Critical Thinking*, while concurrently serving as an arts and classical music critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

A third-generation Chicagoan and Hyde Park native who attended the University of Chicago, Andrew previously served as a staff writer and editor for *Chicago Magazine*; a staff writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, and spent eight years as a program host, critic, and producer at WBEZ. His work appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The Progressive*, the *Financial Times*, *Art & Antiques*, *German GEO*, London's *The Art Newspaper*, *Gramophone*, and *Opernwelt*, among others, and on the national broadcasting services of Britain, Norway, Poland, Japan, and Israel. He taught and lectured all over the world, and won the Peter Lisagor Award for his coverage of race and politics on the eve of Harold Washington's election as Chicago's first black mayor.

On March 18, family, friends, and fans gathered at Orchestra Hall in Symphony Center to celebrate his life and accomplishments. Online, WFMT offered a podcast of the memorial, along with a rundown of the evening's events and participants. It was a fitting tribute to a man who was a treasured mainstay and steadfast supporter of WFMT, and of the city's vibrant arts scene.



# March 2015

In an annual tradition, WTTW once again produced a new 30-minute documentary, hosted by Geoffrey Baer, focusing on the year's winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame. In 2015, the resulting program was *Street Smarts: Architect David M. Schwarz*, about the visionary who transformed the downtown area of Fort Worth, Texas. As always, the special's companion website went far beyond the program, to tell the complete story with a career timeline, images, video, web exclusives, and more.

One week before the runoff election for Chicago mayor, WTTW nightly newsmagazine *Chicago Tonight* hosted a well-attended candidate forum with the two contenders, Jesús "Chuy" García and Rahm Emanuel, once again in partnership with the City Club of Chicago.

Also in March, WTTW presented the Ken Burns miniseries *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, and premiered new seasons of *Call the Midwife* and *Mr. Selfridge on Masterpiece*, starring Chicago's Jeremy Piven. Other programs included *Great Performances: L'Allegro with the Mark Morris Dance*



*Street Smarts: Architect David M. Schwarz* with Geoffrey Baer

*Company*; *Frontline: The Vaccine War*; *Trains Around North America*; and *Independent Lens: Little White Lie*.

WFMT welcomed renowned bass-baritone Eric Owens for a new weekly series, *Eric on Opera*, in which the singer focused on opera and its interpreters from a variety of unexpected angles. Audiences had great fun with another new program, *The Signature Series with Paolo Pietropaolo*, which likened music's key signatures to signs of the Zodiac. Each day, WFMT played an hour of music in the signature key of the day, a website feature invited audiences to take an online quiz to find out which key best matched their personalities, and podcasts were available for each.

Numerous special guests paid a visit to WFMT, including The Silk Road Ensemble, The Kronos Quartet (which included a web interview and podcast), and pianist Orion Weiss to *Impromptu*, and The Young Novelists, Jeni & Billy, and Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin to *Folkstage*. Fans of *Live from the Met* heard Bizet's *Carmen*, Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*, Massenet's *Manon*, and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Finally, the Ryan Opera Center singers presented their annual *Rising Stars* concert, and the Chicago Symphony celebrated the 90th birthday of composer Pierre Boulez with a broadcast on WFMT.



Eric Owens, *Eric on Opera* on WFMT



Contenders Rahm Emanuel and Jesús "Chuy" García join moderator Phil Ponce for a mayoral forum on *Chicago Tonight*



Great Performances: *L'allegro* with the Mark Morris Dance Company



*The Signature Series* with Paolo Pietropaolo on WFMT



*Frontline: The Vaccine War*



*Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*



# April 2015

In addition to the debut of the mouthwatering new digital series *FOODPHILES*, WTTW's groundbreaking *Soundstage* series returned with *Brian Wilson and Friends: A Soundstage Special Event*. WTTW was also the national presenting station for *Rx: The Quiet Revolution* and *Rx: Doctors of Tomorrow*, which spotlighted healthcare professionals placing the patient at the center of their practices, and first-year medical students being trained to follow in their footsteps. The award-winning *Masterpiece* series *Wolf Hall* premiered, along with *Independent Lens: The Homestretch*, a moving documentary focusing on three homeless Chicago teens and their struggle to stay in school and build a future. Immediately after, *Chicago Tonight* convened a town hall to discuss these issues with principals from the film. Finally, *American Experience: Last Days in Vietnam* marked the 40th anniversary of the controversial end of that conflict.

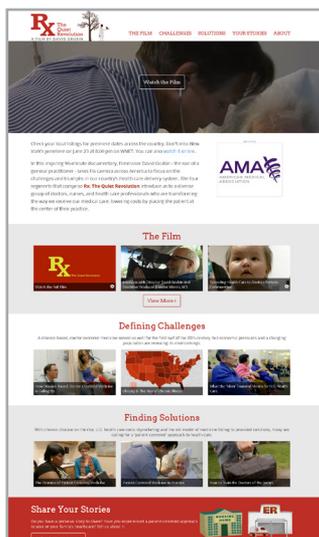
Events included a *Sesame Street* Play Zone in Grainger Studio for children and families; President and CEO Dan Schmidt's participation in a panel discussion at the Union League Club focusing on Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address; a



*Brian Wilson and Friends: A Soundstage Special Event*

School Project screening, *Uncharted Territory*, at the Chicago Cultural Center; and a WFMT *Warsaw Comes to Chicago* event at the Copernicus Center.

Notable WFMT broadcasts included the final production of the season from Lyric Opera of Chicago: Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Carousel*, headlined by Broadway stars Laura Osnes, Stephen Pasquale, and Tony Roberts and opera diva Denyce Graves; two Metropolitan Opera productions by Verdi: *Ernani* and *Don Carlo*; the new series *PoetryNow* with the Poetry Foundation; and the premiere of a new season from the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. The WFMT Radio Network was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant for a partnership with Radio New Zealand to create a new radio series. WFMT marked Passover with celebrated violinist Itzhak Perlman's *A Musical Feast*, and as always, celebrated Easter Sunday in style with a variety of relevant content.



Rx website on wttw.com



*Wolf Hall on Masterpiece*, Mark Rylance



*Rx: The Quiet Revolution*



*Last Days in Vietnam: American Experience*



Phil Ponce with panelists for *The Homestretch*

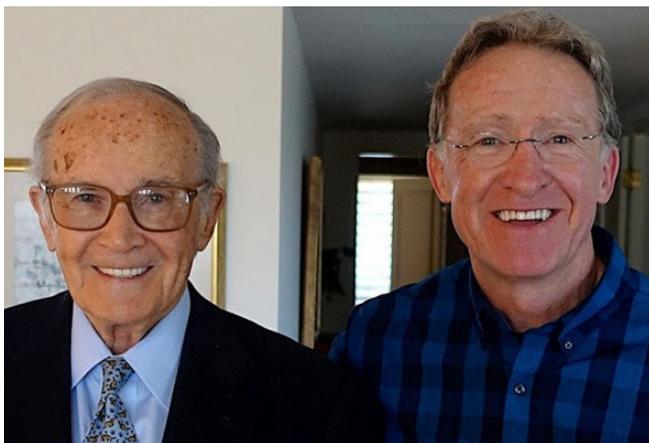


# May 2015

To coincide with WTTW's 60th Anniversary and annual gala paying tribute to a true public broadcasting pioneer, local filmmaker Mike Leonard brought audiences a new installment in his *inCommon* series: *Newton Minow: An American Story*. Also, WTTW's upcoming national animated series *Nature Cat*, a co-production with Spiffy Pictures, was introduced to programmers at the PBS Showcase in Austin, Texas. The popular retro detective series *Foyle's War* presented its final episodes; *American Masters* traced the history of American Ballet Theatre; *Frontline* revealed *The Trouble with Chickens*; and two new documentaries dealt with local activism against violence. Several representatives from both WTTW and WFMT participated in the citywide On the Table initiative, sharing a meal with diverse groups of local residents to brainstorm on way to improve local communities.

As always, May concluded on WTTW with hosts Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise and an all-star lineup on the *National Memorial Day Concert* live from the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and some of America's brightest elementary school students taking part in the annual *National Geographic Bee*, hosted by Soledad O'Brien.

WFMT experienced an exceptionally busy month. Included were *A Celebration of Peace Through Music* from Orchestra Hall and several theme initiatives – *One-Hit Wonders* on



*Newton Minow: An American Story* with Mike Leonard



*Folkstage*: Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

May 8, *Favorite Symphonies* during the last two weeks of the month, and *The Sounds of Global Cities*, in connection with the Chicago Forum on Global Cities taking place in the city during that week. Guests enjoyed another all-day Immersion at the studios – *Latin American Rhapsody* with Elbio Barilari.

The Ryan Opera Center's monthly recital focused on *Songs About Men*; *Live from the Met* featured Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Broadcasts from The Salzburg Festival returned, and rebroadcasts of Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2014-15 season commenced. Rich Warren welcomed Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Claudia Schmidt and Sally Rogers, and Rebecca Folsom to *Folkstage*. WFMT's *Impromptu* series featured performers from Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of *Sense & Sensibility*, mandolin virtuoso Dimitris Marinos, and Spektral Quartet.

May 2015



*The National Memorial Day Concert*



*Live from the Met: Un Ballo in Maschera*



*Foyles War*



On the Table initiative 2015



*A Celebration of Peace Through Music*



Spektral Quartet



# Celebration 2015

On Tuesday, May 5, the organization held its annual gala, a Diamond Celebration marking WTTW's 60th anniversary. The evening's special honoree was WTTW Trustee and former Board Chairman Newton N. Minow, who was recognized for his many contributions to public broadcasting on a local and national level.

The event's 500 guests were greeted on arrival by *Sesame Street*'s Grover, who obligingly posed for photos. The evening commenced with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres under shimmering crystal chandeliers in Grainger Studio, while highlights from six decades of WTTW programming played. This was followed by a video that highlighted WTTW presentations in the areas of children's programming, news and public affairs, history and heritage, science and nature, arts and culture, and travel and cooking. A series of tributes to Mr. Minow included *Sesame Street*'s Elmo and Cookie Monster, Ken Burns, President Obama, and the Minow family. Event Chairs Renée and Lester Crown spoke warmly about Mr. Minow, celebrating some of his many accomplishments. Mr. Minow then took to the stage to share stories about the early days of WTTW, highlighting the station's founder, Ed Ryerson.



Virginia and Norm Bobins with *Sesame Street*'s Grover



Phil and Dan Ponce serenade the evening's honoree, Newton Minow

*Chicago Tonight*'s Alexandra and John Nichols Chief Correspondent and Host Phil Ponce and his sons surprised Mr. Minow with a serenade, and then introduced the event's headliner, legendary Tony-winning Broadway star Bernadette Peters, who treated guests to a unforgettable performance of songs spanning her storied career.

Immediately following, the guests 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. The dinner commenced with remarks by WTTW Chairman James W. Mabie and PBS President Paula Kerger. After guests enjoyed a cherry clafoutis inspired by Julia Child, President and CEO Dan Schmidt said a final goodnight, and the crowd departed with smiles and some special gifts, including delectable cake truffles from Swirlz Cupcakes.

Lead Sponsor for the Diamond Celebration was BMO Harris Bank. The event raised \$1.5 million to support quality programming on WTTW and WFMT.

# Celebration 2015



Newt and Jo Minow with Bernadette Peters



Bernadette concluding her performance in style



Mike and Pat Koldyke with Grover



WTTW and WFMT President and CEO Dan Schmidt speaking during dinner



Chairman of the Board of Trustees Jim Mable and wife Kay



Carol Marin, Jo Minow, and Phil Ponce



Lester and Renée Crown with Bernadette Peters



# June 2015

As the fiscal year drew to a close and the warm weather arrived, WFMT's live summer Chicago music broadcasts returned with the weekly Rush Hour Concerts from St. James Cathedral, and Grant Park Music Festival broadcasts from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. A very special *Impromptu* featured world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who performed live in Levin Studio with musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in front of an enthusiastic studio audience of fans.

In other news, composer Mason Bates served as Guest Host; The *Ryan Opera Center Recital Series* that month focused on songs from and about Scotland, and the monthly *PianoForte Salon Series* featured the Lincoln Trio; audiences enjoyed The North Shore Chamber Music Festival 2015; and *Folkstage* featured Small Potatoes and Ernest Troost.

On WTTW, audiences thrilled to *Poldark on Masterpiece*, a swashbuckling remake of the popular series from the 1970s. Also notable: the new series *First Peoples* and *The Crimson Field*; a third season of *Last Tango in Halifax*; two Andrew Goldberg documentaries focusing on Armenian heritage; a behind-the-scenes look at Claridge's Hotel in London; and two



*The Crimson Field*



Civitas Ensemble, Rush Hour Concerts on WFMT

British detective series, *Father Brown* and *Death in Paradise*. The station's annual Pride Month programming initiative highlighted many aspects of LGBT history and culture with a variety of relevant content.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel began a series of regular visits to *Chicago Tonight*, for periodic in-depth interviews during which he also answered questions submitted from audience members.

On the digital side, a lively new web series, *The Good Stuff*, came to wttw.com as host and YouTube sensation Craig Benzine scoured the depths of the universe and the inner recesses of the mind in a quest for "the good stuff."

Also, WTTW organized an American Graduate free community "slow roll" bike ride, *Celebration of Graduation: Rolling into the Future*, designed to celebrate the achievements of Chicago's young graduates and inspire them to "roll into their future" with solid goals to realize their full potential.

The screenshot shows the WTTW website header with navigation links: home, schedule, video, programs a-z, about, support, KIDS & FAMILY, CHICAGO TONIGHT, CHECK, PLEASE!, ARTS. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a wooden background with a sign that reads 'THE GOOD STUFF'. Below this is a text block describing the show and a small photo of two men.

**The Good Stuff** is a show featuring videos on a variety of different themes. The stories are sometimes fictional, sometimes educational, and some are documentary in style. Join host and YouTube sensation **Craig Benzine**, a.k.a. **Wheezy Waiter**, as he scours the depths of the universe and the inner recesses of the mind in a never-ending quest for the **good stuff** and enjoy the themes coming up this year. *The Good Stuff* is produced by Craig Benzine, Ryan Wolff, Matt Weber, David Wolff, and Sam Grant.

*The Good Stuff*



Composer Mason Bates





*Last Tango in Halifax*



Small Potatoes on WFMT's *Folkstage*



Mayor Rahm Emanuel on *Chicago Tonight*



# Community Engagement

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

WTTW's American Graduate initiative has continued to raise awareness of the school dropout crisis in Chicago across a variety of platforms. PSAs produced in partnership with the youth production organization Free Spirit Media continued to broadcast in station breaks throughout the year, and *Chicago Tonight* provided coverage of the issues leading to low graduation rates and the programs in place to support students at risk. WTTW presented a free screening, discussion, and resource fair around the locally produced film *The Homestretch*, along with a *Chicago Tonight* special which aired after the program. WTTW participated in the all-day national American Graduate Day broadcast, providing 13 locally produced interviews and packages recognizing organizations and individuals who provide services and resources. In June, WTTW, in partnership with Slow Roll Chicago and the Chicago Park District, hosted a *Celebration of Graduation* neighborhood bike ride and party in the park on Chicago's south side. This event was attended by more than 250 community residents.

## WTTW Kids Readers Are Leaders Tour

This year, the WTTW Kids Readers are Leaders program continued to educate more children than ever and visited more venues than ever before. In the program's seven-year



Great Food Fan Van



Miss Lori gets the crowd moving at the WTTW Great Food Fan Van

history, the program has entertained and educated close to 40,000 children between the ages of 3 and 8, many of them in underserved areas of Chicago where educational materials are scarce. In 2014-15, math games and learning were added via the integration of UMIGO.com; children were provided with booklets, learning toys, and tools which provide an exciting link between the worlds of reading and math. Children, parents, and caregivers are guided to visit UMIGO.com where math adventures continue through interactive appisodes and online games. These UMIGO gifts accompany other special learning materials, resources for parents and caregivers, and gift certificates for complimentary fruits and vegetables from presenting partner ALDI, distributed to every child at the end of every event.

## WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van

This was the 7th anniversary season of the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van program, which educated and entertained thousands of children, parents, grandparents, and caregivers throughout seven Chicagoland counties at grocery stores

## Community Engagement

including Whole Foods Market, Jewel-Osco, Mariano's, Brookhaven Marketplace, Sunset Foods, Ultra Foods, and Strack & Van Til. Every Great Food Fan Van event included 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 is reinforced by the healthy food samples that are provided by our generous partners.

### The Grandparent Connection

2014 was year two for this outreach program that brings children between the ages of 7 and 9 from a nearby school or day-camp together with seniors during an hour-long program that integrates stretching and movement activities, collaborative storytelling, lessons about nutritious eating and healthy habits, interactive sing-alongs, and fun games that build and help rebuild literacy skills. These interactions reduce isolation, connect seniors to their community, and provide positive stimulation for those suffering from dementia and other cognitive impairments. Averaging more than 50 senior attendees per event, the program serves more than 300 seniors each year, alongside more than 450 students.

### The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching

For the 29th consecutive year, in November WTTW produced and aired this annual awards 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 WTTW's Grainger Studio and hosted by Geoffrey Baer, featured the best 4th through 8th grade teachers from the city and surrounding suburbs.



Readers are Leaders, Stratford

### Public Events

WTTW and WFMT hosted public events in connection with relevant content throughout the year. Among these were monthly *Independent Lens* community screenings at the Chicago Cultural Center, part of a partnership with ITVS; a *Sesame Street* Play Zone event in Grainger Studio; author luncheons at the Union League Club; several public screening events surrounding *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* and *Rx: The Quiet Revolution*; a meet-and-greet with the *Chicago Tonight* on-air hosts and correspondents; a screening for *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* with Ken Burns at Frances W. Parker School, and a *Downton Abbey* preview screening and reception at the Chicago History Museum.

WFMT offered several all-day Immersion events designed to enhance the listening experience by providing in-depth seminars on a variety of genres of classical music. These included a tribute day to Maria Callas with Henry Fogel; a treatise on classical music in the movies with John C. Tibbets; an overview of early music from the Baroque period with Ellen Hargis; and *Latin-American Rhapsody* with *Fiesta!* host Elbio Barilari. In April, WTTW partnered with Access Contemporary Music on a celebration of Poland's classical composers with a concert at the Copernicus Center, and welcomed guests to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for a variety of live broadcasts in the *Impromptu*, *Ryan Opera Center Recitals*, *Folkstage*, and *Live from WFMT* series.



# FISCAL 2015 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

(in thousands)

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and investments	\$47,009
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	4,555
Property and equipment, net	18,270
Other assets	2,054
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$71,888</b>

<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$4,661
Long-term bonds payable	19,800
Other liabilities	3,714
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$28,175</b>
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	\$22,732
Restricted	20,981
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$43,713</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$71,888</b>

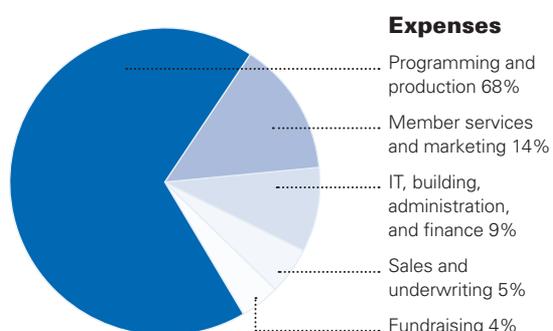
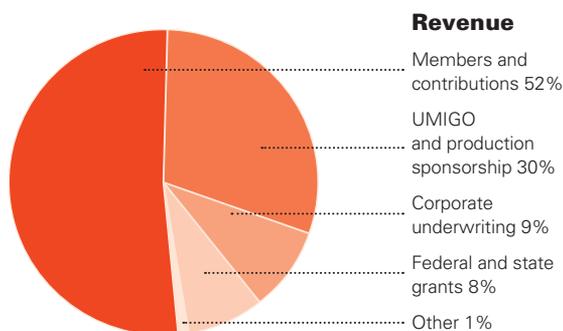
<b>Revenue</b>	
Members and contributions	\$25,473
Ready-to-Learn and production sponsorship	14,753
Corporate underwriting and advertising	4,551
Federal and state grants	3,923
Other	625
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$49,325</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Programming and production	\$33,257
Member services and marketing	7,126
Sales and underwriting	2,440
Fundraising	2,138
IT, building, administration, and finance	4,277
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$49,238</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities</b>	<b>87</b>

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

Statement of Activity\* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015





70

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