

wttw | wfmt
**A Year of
Stories**
.....
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Chicago River bridgehouse

PHOTO: All rights reserved to Ken Carl and Ken Carl Photography LLC

From the President and Chairman

Dear Donors and Members,

It was a momentous year at WTTW and WFMT. WTTW reached 2.7 million households, there were more than 4 million visits and more than 11 million pageviews on wttw.com, and more than 1.2 million video views and 6 million hours watched on WTTW digital platforms. WFMT reached 215,000 listeners in an average week during the fiscal year, and there were 550,000 visits and 3 million pageviews on wfmt.com, 8.5 million streams, 200 million minutes streamed, and 1.5 million app views on WFMT digital platforms.

Here are a few highlights from the year...

Geoffrey Baer brought us three engaging specials, *A Weekend in Havana*, an all-new *Chicago River Tour*, and *Architects Marc and Nada Breitman: Talk of the Town*, and we launched deep and evergreen companion websites featuring feature stories, 360 video, dozens of web extra videos, audio tours, histories of Havana and the Chicago River, an animated video short, behind-the-scenes production journals, and more.

On *Chicago Tonight*, we covered the stories that matter most to our community. Across our platforms, the year in news included the run-up to the midterm elections, the hotly contested Illinois gubernatorial race, and a special focus on public education, health, science, and technology. WTTW also helped to start a national conversation about our country's values in *American Creed*, welcomed Ken Burns to Chicago for the premiere of *The Vietnam War* in front of a packed Auditorium Theatre, and produced our own *Chicago's Vietnam War Stories*.

This year also marked the launch of an exciting initiative years in the making: The Studs Terkel Radio Archive, a treasure trove of more than 5,600 radio programs that Studs created at WFMT in Chicago between 1952 and 1997. This free and accessible archive is now available at wfmt.com/studsterkel.

WFMT also showcased classical musicians throughout the year on *Impromptu*, *Introductions*, *Live from WFMT*, and *Folkstage*, and the newly upgraded Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio made it possible for many

performances to be streamed live on Facebook and shared on wfmt.com. WFMT's first-ever artists-in-residence, KAIA String Quartet and Kontras Quartet, enriched the audience experience with special features and digital content. And WFMT was proud to present concerts from Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the local Thirsty Ears Festival, and Grant Park Music Festival. As the fiscal year drew to a close, we held our first-ever WFMT Beach Party – a Memorial Day celebration on the lakefront that attracted listeners of all ages.

WTTW and WFMT is fortunate to serve large audiences throughout our region and beyond, across all of our media platforms. We have been grateful for the support of numerous individual donors, corporations, foundations, and production partners who have made our mission a reality, including those of you who have made gifts of vehicles and remembered us in your estate plans. In

particular, I would like to thank those who have spearheaded, and contributed to, our successful capacity-building campaign, *Imagining More*. You can learn more about the special individuals involved and the aspects of our mission it has made possible inside.

We want to take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported, watched, listened, and interacted with us and our content; our talented and hardworking staff; and our invaluable Trustees, whose generosity and dedication to excellence make this organization so special. None of it would be possible without you.

With appreciation,



Sandra Cordova Micek

President and CEO
WTTW and WFMT
Window to the World Communications, Inc.



James W. Mabie

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



*James W. Mabie and
Sandra Cordova Micek*

Take 6's Claude V. McKnight on *Soundstage*



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WTTW CREATE (11.3 over the air, Comcast 369, RCN 38) – our how-to and lifestyle channel, airing 7:00 am-7:00 pm daily

WTTW WORLD (11.3 over the air, Comcast 369, RCN 38) – our channel featuring the best of public television’s signature documentaries, science, and news programming, complemented by original content from emerging producers, airing 7:00 pm-7:00 am daily

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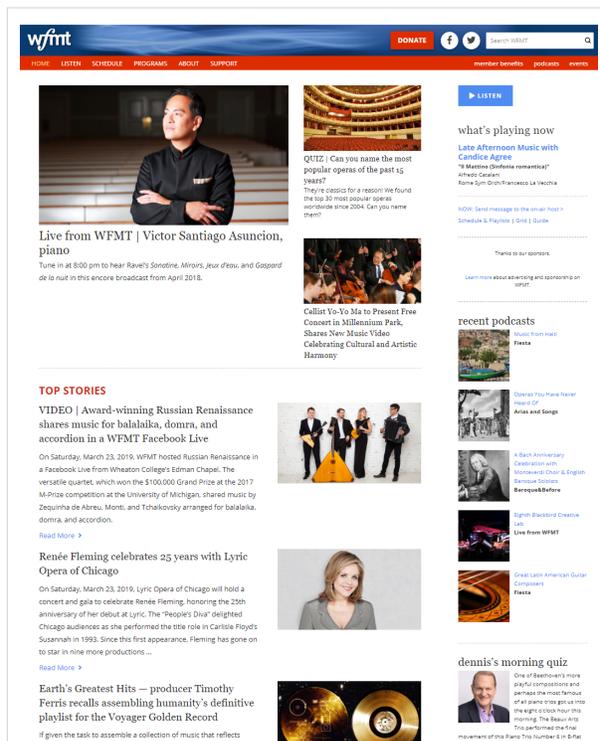
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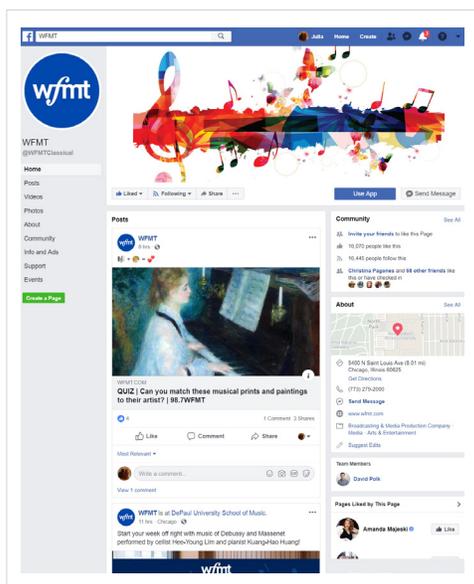
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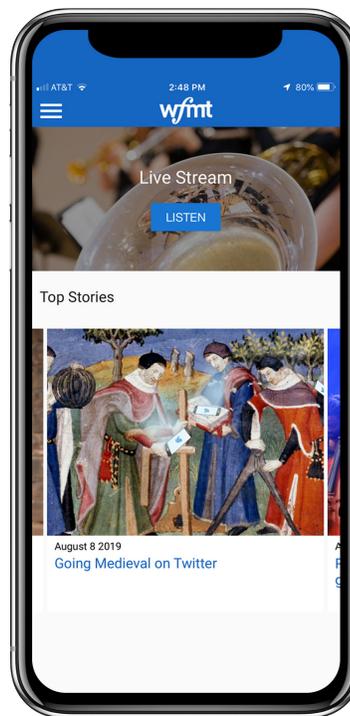
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Geoffrey Baer, *Weekend in Havana*

July 2017

Fiscal 2018 kicked off in July with the premiere of *Weekend in Havana*, a WTTW-produced special for PBS and a companion website that followed host Geoffrey Baer as he took to the streets of Cuba’s capital city with three young local Cuban guides (an architect, jazz musician, and dancer) who give him a whirlwind tour of Havana’s fascinating and colorful history, and an inside look at how everyday Cubans live. The *Weekend in Havana* website featured an immersive Havana tour, a selection of 360 videos, an insider’s travel journal view, and an exploration of the possibilities of Cuba.

Other notable programs on WTTW included *A Capitol Fourth*, the live Independence Day celebration from the U.S. Capitol; *The Experience with Dedry Jones* taped in WTTW’s Grainger Studio; *Stephen Fry in Central America*; *Wild Alaska Live*; *Remember Me with Michael Palin*; *Nature’s Great Race*; and *POV: Last Men in Aleppo*. On wttw.com, we went behind the scenes at Lincoln Park Zoo’s penguin encounter; obtained gardening tips from Jeanne Nolan and surveyed the harvest from *Chicago’s Tonight’s* garden; watched winning short documentaries from the *My Neighborhood: Pilsen* youth film festival; and met Raul Raymundo, CEO and co-founder of Pilsen’s Resurrection Project.

WTTW Kids community engagement initiatives left their mark at many indoor and outdoor venues in some underserved areas around the city and suburbs to celebrate summer with young

audiences and their families, and help young people make connections with more mature ones.

WFMT celebrated outdoor classical music festivals, presenting more live broadcasts from the Grant Park Music Festival that included Facebook Live videos featuring interviews with artists and audiences – this included the annual Independence Day celebration that capped off a day of iconic American music on WFMT. WFMT also shared concerts from Ravinia and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and performances from Lyric Opera of Chicago and LA Opera. The KAIA String Quartet wrapped up its highly successful WFMT residency of innovative web features that shone a spotlight on Latin American music. Other digital stories included Carl Grapentine’s video tour of Berlin, unique “heart-shaped” medieval sheet music, and a fun quiz that asked the question, “Which Character from Wagner’s ‘Ring’ Are You?”



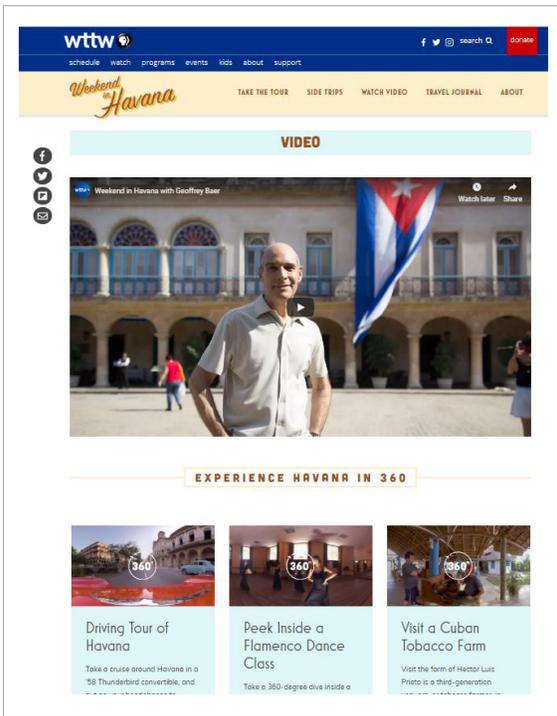


PHOTO: Capital Concerts/WETA

A Capitol Fourth, Jack Everly



The Experience with Dedry Jones



Website: *Weekend in Havana* homepage



PHOTO: BBC

Stephen Fry in Central America



PHOTO: Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Pianist Alessio Bax, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival



PHOTO: Todd Rosenberg

KAIA String Quartet

wfnt

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VIDEO: Take a Spin Around Berlin, Music Capital of the World, with Carl Grapentine

By David Polk | July 6, 2017

Facebook Twitter Email

When [Carl Grapentine](#), host of WFMT's Morning Program, first visited Berlin in 1965 as a student he immediately felt at home there. Since then, he's been back 8 times and says that it now feels like he's visiting an old friend. "It's the history, physical beauty and, of course, the music of Berlin that I love." He loves it so much, in fact, that he's sometimes wondered whether he could live there. Thankfully for Chicago, Carl is content (for now) with the [occasional trips to Berlin that he](#)

Web story: Carl Grapentine Tours Berlin



PHOTO: Grant Park Music Festival

Carlos Kalmar, Grant Park Music Festival



POV: Raising Bertie

PHOTO: Courtesy of Margaret Byrne

August 2017

In August, Chicago and WTTW celebrated the August 21 solar eclipse with *Chicago Tonight* adding to the excitement with its extensive on-air and digital coverage, including a Facebook Live video with correspondents reporting from various locations in the city and surrounding area. A special edition of *NOVA* captured the reaction of the world to this rare planetary event. WFMT's curated list of 10 relevant classical works definitely enhanced everyone's eclipse-viewing experience (through special glasses, of course!).

WFMT made the most of the summer with its continued focus on outdoor classical music festivals with Carl Grapentine's selected daily highlights and more concerts from Grant Park Music Festival, including the season's grand finale: a rousing performance of Beethoven's Ninth. Also, WFMT aired a special performance of Verdi's *Aida* from the Salzburg Festival featuring Anna Netrebko in the title role, and provided coverage of the city's only street event devoted to classical artists, Thirsty Ears Festival. The Danish String Quartet, Chicago Harp Quartet, and The Knights paid visits to WFMT's Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for *Impromptu*, and KAIA String Quartet accompanied dancers at Lincoln Square's Artango Bar & Steakhouse on WFMT's Facebook page. Also notable: digital stories comparing a variety of earbuds for listening to classical music; the debut of a new digital series, *Exploring Chords with Bill McGlaughlin*;

and Carl Grapentine shared his recollections of the late Leonard Bernstein as the world marked the maestro's 99th birthday.

WTTW also presented *Ireland's Wild Coast*, *The Arab Americans*, and *The Tunnel*; explored the major influence of great Jewish composers on Broadway musicals; welcomed season four of *Endeavour*; and followed Agatha Christie's *Partners in Crime*. Finally, the *POV* series painted a poignant portrait of three young African American men coping with a precarious coming-of-age in a rural North Carolina town in *Raising Bertie*. On wttw.com, a story recalled the turbulent 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention; the *My Neighborhood: Pilsen* website featured stories about Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Chicago's oldest domestic violence organization serving the Latino community, and the efforts being made by environmentalists to protect the Pilsen community from lead in their water supply.



August 2017



Chicago Tonight covers the solar eclipse



My Neighborhood: Pilsen



Agatha Christie's Partners in Crime

PHOTO: Endor Productions 2015. Laurence Cendrowic

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"I remember Lenny" | On Bernstein's 99th Birthday, Carl Grapentine reflects on the man and his music

By Carl Grapentine | August 24, 2017

f t e

I grew up with Leonard Bernstein.

Web story: Carl Grapentine remembers Leonard Bernstein

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Check out the sights and sounds of Chicago's only classical music street fest

By Josh Davidoff | August 14, 2017

f t e

Pianist Sebastian Huydts and cellist Katinka Kleijn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra open up the Thirsty Ears Festival with music by Beethoven and Fala

In the summer, Chicago is teeming with block parties and street fests. Over the weekend, the *Thirsty Ears Classical* [Street Festival](#) filled the block of Wilson Avenue between Ravenswood and Hermitage with music you won't like!

Web story: Thirsty Ears Festival



Danish String Quartet



Performers at Thirsty Ears Festival

Late Afternoon Music with Cordelia Agre

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EXPLORING CHORDS with Bill McGlaughlin

In this series, we focus on exploring 12 basic chords using Bill McGlaughlin, sitting at his piano, demonstrates chord structures in a conversational style. Since 2008, Bill has diligently crafted insights for us to discover music in new ways, and here we have chosen our favorites to include in this series. Bill's knowledge of small intervals, orchestral symphonies, and jazz standards will open you to new understanding and appreciation of this music.

The chords Bill describes are a combination of sounds that help characterize a composer's individual style. They organize the music vertically — interval by interval. And when composers add them together to form the sounds that define a melody and bring it to life, they're creating stories with a layer of complexity much like characters in a book.

The way a composer structures chords and how performers play them can bring a whole harmony — an agreement between sounds — or shape — or sounds that catch or hype fiction.

A chord can be a complete idea by itself. Like one word that says it all. "The guitar" and you have a heads-up for fare. "Broom" and you have started a Beethoven symphony.

C MAJOR CHORD

ROOT	FIRST INVERSION	SECOND INVERSION

A C major chord is root position, first inversion, and second inversion. | Illustration: Abbey Cademartini

SOME make a new sound, and some chords stop you dead in your tracks, and this is the music even before its set in motion. Chords can connect us to other cultures, create feelings of longing, start riffs, or even bring calm. The heart and power of music can be written in chords.

Website: Exploring Chords with Bill McGlaughlin



Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, *The Vietnam War*

PHOTO: Courtesy of Stephanie Berger

September 2017

September marked the premiere of *The Vietnam War*, a sweeping multi-part documentary from Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that Burns described as “the most ambitious project [they] have ever undertaken.” Burns and Novick came to Chicago for two events hosted by WTTW – a screening and discussion at the Auditorium Theatre that attracted 3,000 attendees, and an author luncheon at the Union League Club. The series inspired WTTW to create its own website, wttw.com/vietnam, featuring a photo gallery, episode guide, relevant archival content, and a collection of *Chicago’s Vietnam War Stories*. This was a special produced by WTTW that also aired on television around the Burns premiere in which Vietnam veterans and their families, along with Vietnamese-Americans, shared their personal stories about the conflict. In addition, wttw.com shared a guide to Chicago’s Vietnam War Memorials, among other related content.

Several new series were premiered on WTTW in September, including *Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street Television*, *Bluegrass Underground*, and *Third Rail with OZY* hosted by Carlos Watson; a life-affirming documentary, *Before I Kick the Bucket*; *American Masters* profiles of filmmaker Richard Linklater and artist Tyrus Wong; and new programs taking audiences *Inside the Pentagon* during the 9/11 attacks and on the Cassini probe’s *Death Dive to Saturn*, courtesy of NOVA. wttw.com featured a revealing interview with German violinist Anne-Sophie

Mutter, Christopher Kimball’s mouthwatering recipe for pumpkin tart, a new training program for Chicago police officers; and a look at Shedd Aquarium’s new “sea creature sculptures” made from ocean trash.

WFMT presented four concerts from the 2017 BBC Promenade season, from London’s Royal Albert Hall, including the annual season finale, *Last Night of the Proms*. Closer to home, WFMT previewed the upcoming Lyric Opera season with a live broadcast of *Stars of Lyric Opera* at Millennium Park and celebrated Mexican Independence Day with a special installment of *Introductions* featuring Mariachi Herencia de Mexico, a young group from the Chicago area, along with a Mexico-themed episode of *Fiesta!* and some associated videos and digital exclusives. wfmt.com also featured a breakdown of Claude Debussy’s *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*; some competitive tips from this year’s winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Yekwon Sunwoo; and, from Candice Agree, a trip back in time to examine the arts scene – and the work of Jewish composer Salamone Rossi – in 16th century Italy.



September 2017

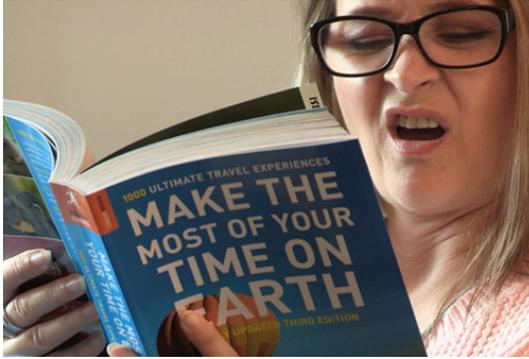


PHOTO: American Public Television



PHOTO: American Public Television

Before I Kick the Bucket

Marley's Ghosts



PHOTO: American Public Television/Channing Johnson

Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television



Mariachi Herencia de Mexico



PHOTO: Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (owns rights), Ralph Lauer (photographer)
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Yekwon Sunwoo, Van Cliburn prize winner



Poldark Season 3 on Masterpiece

Photo: Courtesy of BBC/Mammoth Screen for BBC and MASTERPIECE

October 2017

October ushered in new seasons of audience favorites on WTTW, including *Poldark* and *The Durrells in Corfu* (both of which were recapped on wttw.com); *Finding Your Roots with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*; *Nature*; *Frontline* (including segments on Russian leader Vladimir Putin and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un); and WTTW’s popular restaurant review series *Check, Please!* as the show and its website returned with more guest-reviewers dishing on their favorite local eateries.

October’s premieres also included *The Collection on Masterpiece*; the four-part series *The Italian Americans*; *Great Performances: She Loves Me*; the local documentary *Gadget Girls* about teens demonstrating their love of science; *Live from Lincoln Center: Falsettos*; and, just in time for Halloween, an evocative *American Masters* profile of poet and author Edgar Allan Poe as portrayed by actor Denis O’Hare. WTTW continued its observance of Hispanic Heritage Month with special programming that reflected the diverse perspectives of Chicago’s Latino community. WTTW.com featured a guide to the popular Open House Chicago; a profile of the author of a new book about the mysterious nanny and street photographer Vivian Maier; an important discovery by scientists at Northwestern University – molecules capable of killing cancer; a visit to Phil Ponce’s garden – and his chickens – to learn why he finds his “green” hobby so important; and a peek inside this year’s Chicago

Architecture Foundation Open House.

On WFMT, the Kontras Quartet commenced their residency focusing on the significance of folk music around the world. October also marked a new season from the San Francisco Symphony – music director Michael Tilson Thomas was joined by pianists Andras Schiff and Daniel Trifonov and soprano Susanna Phillips. Closer to home, audiences enjoyed a Saturday-afternoon opera from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra: Verdi’s comedy *Falstaff*, with Riccardo Muti conducting, in honor of both the Shakespeare anniversary and Maestro Muti’s lifetime commitment to Verdi. On wfmt.com: a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the weekly Dame Myra Hess concert broadcasts from the Chicago Cultural Center; a profile of Anish Kapoor, the artist who created “Cloudgate” (or The Bean, as it is commonly known) as he took his first selfie with it; and the artistry of the Eden Stell Guitar Duo as they worked their magic on a piece by Jean-Philippe Rameau.



October 2017



PHOTO: Courtesy of Liame Brandon

American Masters: Edgar Allan Poe



PHOTO: Courtesy of Joan Marcus

Live from Lincoln Center: Falsettos



PHOTO: Courtesy of REUTERS/Sergei Karpukhin

Frontline: Putin's Revenge



PHOTO: Courtesy of Stephanie Berger

Finding Your Roots with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



PHOTO: Courtesy of John Rogers/Sid Gentle Films for ITV and MASTERPIECE

Roger & Gerry (Milo Parker) The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece



Kontras Quartet

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Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts celebrates 40 years of presenting free concerts in downtown Chicago

By Stephen Raskauskas | October 18, 2017

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- Concerts You Have Never Heard Of: Arias and Songs
- A Bach Anniversary Celebration with the Millennium Choir & English Chamber Orchestra
- Eight Blackbird Creative

dennis's morning quiz

This morning we heard the first movement of a concerto by Johann Sebastian Bach. How many times a former grand wizard of you don't know the opera already. Bach reworked something he wrote earlier: the Prelude from the Suite for Anna Magdalena in E major. This superb setting for organ and continuo of Bach's own solo violin music acts as the opening for which Bach wrote?

Answer: >

Web story: Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts 40th Anniversary



PHOTO: 2010 Bill Sverbenski

Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the San Francisco Symphony



Geoffrey Baer, Chicago River Tour

November 2017

Geoffrey Baer's *Chicago River Tour* premiered this month. As the special and its website demonstrated, a lot had changed along Chicago's River, including the addition of the city's vibrant new Riverwalk. Geoffrey explored all three branches, filming from six different vessels. Along the way, he explained the River's transformation, sharing fascinating stories about its history and introducing some colorful characters who live, work, and play there. The companion website, at wttw.com/river, included a virtual tour of the River, an animation explaining the storied reversal of the River, 360° virtual reality videos of Wolf Point and a "view from a bridge," and stunning drone footage and images.

Also in November, WTTW premiered a new special for national broadcast on PBS and a companion website, *Making a New American Nutcracker*, which traced the creation of the Joffrey Ballet's new Chicago-centric production of Tchaikovsky's perennial holiday classic. WTTW marked Veteran's Day with a new film and web content surrounding the local story *Fighting on Both Fronts: The Story of the 370th*. This film showcased an Illinois African-American regiment that fought with valor and distinction during World War I. Other highlights included comedian David Letterman receiving *The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor*; astronaut Scott Kelly attempting to move *Beyond a Year in Space*; and director Ron Howard's Beatles film,

Eight Days a Week: The Touring Years. Stories on wttw.com recalled the sudden passing of Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington; an interview with the producer of a *Frontline* documentary on childhood poverty; and the revelation of how 16 Chicago streets got their names, among many others. The *My Neighborhood* website included a story about Jeramey Winfield, a North Lawndale native facilitating restorative justice in his community, and a trip inside Adalberto United Methodist Church to meet its spiritual leaders.

WFMT featured opening night broadcasts of Wagner's *Die Walküre* and Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, live from Lyric Opera of Chicago. Artists-in-residence Kontras Quartet continued their twice-daily *Folk Music Inspirations*, host Kerry Frumkin welcomed the Dover Quartet and eighth blackbird to the weekly series *Live from WFMT*, *Relevant Tones* spotlighted Chinese composer Zhou Long, and a Thanksgiving night edition of *The San Francisco Symphony in Concert* showcased American music. wfmt.com profiled Lidiya Yankovskaya, the new music director of Chicago Opera Theatre, and in advance of the holidays, a special visit to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio by the Vienna Boys' Choir.



November 2017



PHOTO: Todd Rosenberg; The Silverman Group

Making a New American Nutcracker



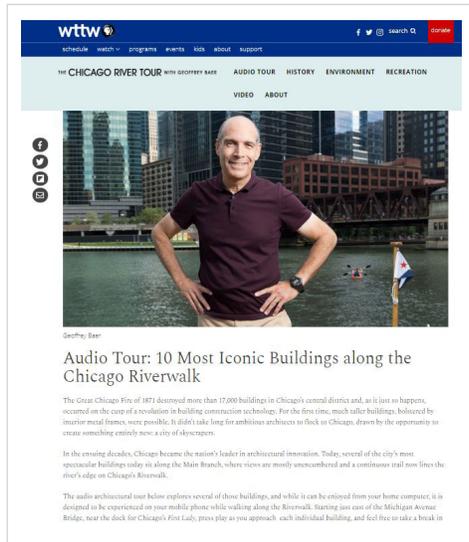
PHOTO: Courtesy of Apple Corps Ltd.

The Beatles: Eight Days a Week - The Touring Years

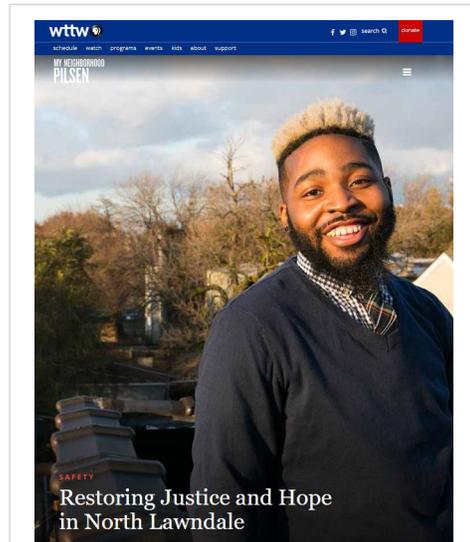


PHOTO: Courtesy of NASA

Beyond a Year in Space



Web story: Chicago River Tour



Web story: My Neighborhood: Pilsen - Jeramey Winfield

PHOTO: Kristian Lieb

▶ LISTEN Afternoons with Kerry Frumkin
Violin Sonata in G, "Didone Abbandonata" | Giuseppe Tartini | Locatelli Trio

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VIDEO | 5 Questions with conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya

By Stephen Raskauskas | November 18, 2017



Conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya

When conductor [Lidiya Yankovskaya](#) was recently named the new music director of [Chicago Opera Theater](#), she became the only woman to hold that title with a major American opera company. Get to know Yankovskaya in the video below. She speaks about her first experiences in the opera house and her favorite operatic works, as well as her experiences as a Russian-American woman working in a male-dominated field.



PHOTO: Kate Lemmon, courtesy of Verismo Communications

5 Questions with Conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya



PHOTO: Courtesy of REUTERS/Sergei Kravukhin

Dover Quartet

▶ LISTEN Afternoons with Kerry Frumkin
Piano Sonata No. 66 in C, K. KV150 | Franz Joseph Haydn | Emanuel Ax, p

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VIDEO | The Vienna Boys Choir share holiday classics in the WFMT studios

By Stephen Raskauskas | December 29, 2017



The Vienna Boys' Choir (Photo: Lukas Beck)

The Vienna Boys Choir, founded in 1498, is one of the best-known boys choirs today and sets a gold standard for ensembles of young voices around the world. The choir stopped by the WFMT studios during a tour across the United States to spread some holiday cheer. Below watch the choir perform a German Christmas classic, "Fröhliche Weihnacht."



The choir also performed two more holiday carols, "Leise rieselt der Schnee" and "Maria durch ein Dornwald ging." Scroll down to stream more recordings.

Conductor Manolo Cagnin, who has been leading the choir for about ten years, said that he has "a wonderful job. When you work with children, it's not just music – it's about relationships. We are like a family. On tour, we are together working every day for long hours, not just for concerts, but during our free time too. We play soccer. We

PHOTO: Lukas Beck

Vienna Boys Choir visits Levin Studio

Rev. Robert Jones, *The Midnight Special New Year's Eve*

PHOTO: Peggy Brisbane, courtesy of Tamulevich Management



December 2017

As December arrived, all was merry and bright as WFMT offered audiences a great collection of holiday music and specials throughout the month. These included: *The Film Score: Music for the Winter Holidays* from *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips; an edition of *Baroque & Before* focusing on Bach's Christmas Oratorio; the annual service of readings and music by the King's College Choir, live from King's College Chapel at Cambridge University; Vaughan Williams's Christmas cantata, *Hodie*; selections performed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; Morton Gould's *Serenade of Carols*, and much more. The year culminated, as always, with Rich Warren hosting *The Midnight Special New Year's Eve* program before a live audience and featuring special guests Chris Farrell, Fendrick & Peck, Rev. Robert Jones, and Heather Pierson.

On wfmt.com, the Music of the Baroque Brass Ensemble performed 17th century dances by Michael Praetorius, Chanticleer shared holiday music from around the world, and the U.S. Coast Guard Band Saxophone Quartet performed a festive holiday medley. Lisa Flynn revealed her favorite new classical Christmas releases of 2017, the modern-day von Trapp family shared their own arrangement of "Edelweiss," and Chicago Philharmonic conductor Scott Speck, orchestra leader for Joffrey Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, explained what makes Tchaikovsky's score so addictive.

In December, WTTW presented music from

a diverse group of performing artists, including Celtic Woman, Greek guitar virtuoso Pavlo, the Wheaton College choral ensembles, the Mormon Tabernacle and St. Olaf College Choirs, Ethan Bortnick, Sylvia McNair, Paul Simon, Cat Stevens, Elvis Presley, David Foster, Brit Floyd, and more. *Call the Midwife* and *Last Tango in Halifax* returned with holiday specials; *American Masters* profiled Bob Hope, and WTTW aired a sneak preview of the upcoming new season of *Victoria on Masterpiece*. Travel expert Rick Steves, Chicago producer Mike Leonard, *A Chef's Life*, and *The Great British Baking Show* celebrated the holidays in their own ways. wttw.com featured stories on Marshall Field's holiday windows; a celebration of 40 years of *A Christmas Carol* at the Goodman Theatre; the food and history of Kwanzaa; and a spotted owl sighting over Lake Michigan, birds in Union Station, and a snow monkey with surprising parentage. Also, the *My Neighborhood* website spotlighted two influential people in the Pilsen neighborhood, and *Chicago Tonight* revealed its picks for the best places to ring in 2018.



December 2017



PHOTO: Courtesy of Neal Street Productions 2017

Call the Midwife Holiday Special 2017



PHOTO: Courtesy of BBC/Red Productions/Matt Squire

Last Tango in Halifax Holiday Special



PHOTO: Courtesy of Love Productions 2014

Great British Baking Show Masterclass



Celtic Woman (l-r): Mairéad Carlin, Tara NcNeill, Susan McFadden and Éabha McMahon.

LISTEN Afternoons with Kerry Frumkin
 "Appalachian Spring" | Aaron Copland | The Knights/Eric Jacobsen

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Home | Stories | VIDEO | Music of the Baroque B...

VIDEO | Music of the Baroque Brass Ensemble performs 17th century dances by Michael Praetorius

By Stephen Raskauskas | December 15, 2017



For almost 40 years, holiday concerts with [Music of the Baroque](#) have been a Chicago tradition. This year, the Music of the Baroque Brass ensemble visited WFMT's Levin studio to share some selections from MOB's 2017 holiday concert, including two 17th century dances by Michael Praetorius. Both dances were published in his collection *Terpsichore*, named after the Greek muse of dance. Kick up your heels to these two dance tunes featuring trumpeters Barbara Butler, Charles Geyer, Scott Quackenbush, Jennifer Marotta, and trombonists Jay Evans, Mark Lawrence, Michael Becker, and Jared Rodin.

Web video: Music of the Baroque Brass Ensemble in Levin Studio

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 HOME LISTEN SCHEDULE PROGRAMS ABOUT SUPPORT

Home | Stories | Discover what makes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" sound like sugar, spice, and everything nice

By Stephen Raskauskas | December 13, 2017



The show scene in Joffrey's "Nutcracker" (Photo: Cheryl Mann)

Tchaikovsky composed *The Nutcracker*, one of the most beloved ballets of all time. Segregatingly, he was writing an opera, *Soyuz*, for the Mariinsky Theatre that was scheduled to premiere during the winter of 1902. But the Mariinsky's management was worried that *Soyuz* would not sell enough tickets, and convinced Tchaikovsky to create a holiday ballet that, hopefully, when paired as a double bill with the opera, would preclude financial losses. The rest, they say, is history, and the holidays wouldn't be the same without Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*.

Conductor Scott Speck, who co-authored *Classical Music for Dummies* and leads the *Chicago Philharmonic* for performances of *The Nutcracker* with *Joffrey Ballet*, explained what makes Tchaikovsky's score as addictive as your favorite holiday treats. Disclaimer: Speck is a nut for *The Nutcracker*. The very first record he owned as a young musician was an album that had *The Nutcracker* on one side and *Peter and the Wolf* on the other. The first musical score he purchased was *The Nutcracker*. Since, he's conducted approximately 350 performances of the ballet, both with Joffrey and other companies across the United States.

"In *The Nutcracker*, we hear Tchaikovsky's unending gift for melody. We hear new melodies almost every minute for two hours, which is beyond what even the greatest film composers do sometimes. We hear Tchaikovsky's skill as a

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recent podcasts

- Chicago Philharmonic: *Flute*
- Special: You Must Have Heard Robert Cray: *Drinks and Songs*
- A Bach Anniversary Celebration with Chamberlain Choir & English Baroque Soloists: *Baroque Solists*
- Light: *Rebop! Christmas*
- The Room: *WFMT*
- Great Latin American Guitar Performers: *Flute*

dennis's morning quiz

Discover more from playful composers and perform the music because of all piano not get us into a 4:45-5:00-hour time slotting. The Beethoven Trio performed the first!

Web story: What Makes The Nutcracker so Addictive?



Michael Phillips, *The Film Score: Music for the Winter Holidays*

Victoria Season 2 on Masterpiece

PHOTO: Courtesy of TVStudios2017 for MASTERPIECE



January 2018

WTTW commenced the New Year with a broadcast of the Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Day Concert as part of the *Great Performances* series; the CSO's Riccardo Muti conducted and Hugh Bonneville (*Downton Abbey*) hosted. Both stations also commemorated Martin Luther King Day with extensive digital content, including an event roundup, archival interviews from John Callaway and Studs Terkel, and stories – one of which centered on Coretta Scott King's love of classical music.

Also in January, WTTW presented the highly anticipated second season of *Victoria*, which followed the young and headstrong British queen as she coped with the challenges of motherhood, foreign intrigue, and heartache at home. WTTW premiered the new series *We'll Meet Again with Ann Curry*, in which she brokered reunions between people whose paths had crossed at historical moments; followed President Theodore Roosevelt *Into the Amazon on American Experience*, to the Black Hole Apocalypse with *NOVA*, and on an exploration of *Italy's Invisible Cities*; and celebrated the 40th anniversary of *Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review with Joel Weisman*. Two specials focused on African American writers James Baldwin and Lorraine Hansberry. The Australian sitcom *800 Words* returned, as did *Check, Please!* and *The Interview Show with Mark Bazer*, a local talk show filmed at The Hideout in Chicago. Finally, *Nature* ventured

into the wild to track *Animals with Cameras*. wttw.com launched the annual *Viewer's Choice Bowl*, and presented stories about local politics and the upcoming Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park.

On WFMT, Kontras Quartet wrapped up its residency by teaming up with the Kruger Brothers for a concert at the Athenaeum Theatre; this proved to be so popular that the program was later repeated in WTTW's Grainger Studio. Throughout the month, WFMT also paid tribute to Chicago Symphony Orchestra music director Riccardo Muti. The *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin* series devoted a week to compositions that evoke *Emotion and Meaning*. Live broadcasts from New York's Metropolitan Opera continued, and WFMT aired a new season of concerts from the Milwaukee Symphony featuring conductors Edo de Waart and JoAnn Falletta with pianist Emanuel Ax. Online, Candice Agree shared inspirational quotes from classical music luminaries the world lost in 2017, and the site introduced 10 Finnish composers (who weren't Jean Sibelius) and streamed a collection of the best in-studio performances from the previous year.



January 2018



PHOTO: Courtesy of @photo by David Turnley

We'll Meet Again with Ann Curry



PHOTO: Courtesy of David Attie

American Masters: Lorraine Hansberry - Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart

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'Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review' Celebrates 40 Years with Joel Weisman

Julia Meach
January 17, 2018



The year was 1978. Ben and Jerry's was founded, the first test tube baby was born, a postage stamp cost 15 cents, and the *Saturday Night Fever* soundtrack topped the *Billboard* charts. Closer to home, Chicagoans were suffering through a brutally cold winter – buffeted by subzero temperatures and a massive snowstorm that paralyzed the city – an event that many believe derailed any hope of re-election for then Mayor Michael Bilandic.

Something else happened in 1978: the premiere of *Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review* hosted by Joel Weisman, who was also one of the program's creators. Tonight at 7:00 pm on the show's 40th anniversary, Joel steps down from his role of moderator after an unprecedented run.

"*Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review* is one of WTTW's signature programs," says Dan Schmutz, who just retired as WTTW's President and CEO. "For an incredible four decades, the show has helped our audience make sense of the news each week and Joel has done a remarkable job over an unprecedented four decades, of always keeping this program relevant, informative, and engaging. On behalf of all of us at WTTW, extend our congratulations and thanks."

"It's rare for someone to maintain a consistent level of excellence over 40 years, but Joel has." *Chicago Tonight* Executive Producer Mary Papp says. "His ability to keep a lively and inclusive conversation moving while eliciting insights from his guests is really unparalleled. We will all miss his warmth, collaborative nature, and keen news acumen."

Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review is the longest-running series in WTTW history (which, after all, is only 52 years long), and one of Chicago television's longest-running series with a single host or anchor. Tonight's show celebrates that milestone with an hour-long retrospective featuring a variety of special guests (all of whom have been part of Joel's panels numerous times) and highlights from throughout the history of the series.

There have been a lot of memorable incidents over the four decades, as Joel fondly recalls the guestcenter who was so nervous to be asked about something beyond his beat that he had an anxiety attack and had to be rushed to the hospital in the middle of show's taping, leaving an empty chair for half the program, having to break up a fight between two reporters in the parking lot, the Evanston reporter whose only response was a blank stare when Joel asked a question outside the parameters of the story he had recently reported.

Throughout the history of *The Week in Review*, Joel, who describes himself as "a reporter, editor, traffic cop, and referee" has welcomed hundreds of reporters to his meeting four-genera weekly panel, long before such a format was commonplace. From the start, at Joel's insistence, the panels have been nonpartisan and diverse and have represented print, broadcast, and later digital media.



Over all those years of interacting with journalists – as well as in his work as an attorney specializing in media law – Joel has learned that "media people are among the smartest people you'll ever meet" he says. "They're facile and can turn on a dime; they're fun-loving and have real opinions." One accomplishment of *The Week in Review* is that it exposed those admirable traits to the public by showing journalists in a setting where their personalities could come

Web story: *Joel Weisman Celebrates 40 Years of The Week in Review*



PHOTO: Megan Bearder for WFMT

Kontras Quartet and Kruger Brothers in Grainger Studio



Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin



PHOTO: Jesse Williams, RSZ

Edo De Waart, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra On Stage



Independent Lens: Winnie Mandela

PHOTO: Courtesy of Paul Weinberg/South Photos/Africa Media Online

February 2018

Throughout February, WTTW and WFMT observed Black History Month, including documentaries on Congressman John Lewis, activist Winnie Mandela, the Pullman Porters, trailblazing ballerina Misty Copeland, poet and author Maya Angelou, vocalist Roberta Flack, and Chicago’s African American community, among others, and music specials featuring Nas and Alicia Keys. WFMT shared a variety of on-air and digital content focusing on African American music and composers, including artists who are changing the contemporary classical music landscape.

An important program and community engagement initiative, *American Creed*, also debuted in February. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, historian David M. Kennedy, and a committed group of unlikely activists (including Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon) explored the idea of a set of unifying ideals – an American creed to define what it means to be a citizen of this multicultural country. Coinciding with the premiere, Rice convened a panel discussion with young people at the Spertus Museum. Other notable WTTW programs included two *American Experience* specials: *The Gilded Age* and *The Bombing of Wall Street*; the new architecture series *Impossible Builds*; NOVA’s examination of the Great Escape of Dunkirk; and *American Epic Sessions*, which attempted to recreate America’s musical past through the use of vintage equipment by modern-day performers.

WFMT presented more live performances from Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Met; *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips returned with a new series of *The Film Score* in advance of the Academy Awards; folk music icon Tom Paxton paid a memorable visit to *Folkstage*; and a new series from the U.K., *The Listening Service*, covered a wide range of musical topics in an engaging way. On wfmt.com, *Morning Program* host Carl Grapentine prepared to leave his “dream job,” and other stories included six classical music and wine pairings from Italian conductor and “wine ambassador” Enrique Mazzola; the 60th anniversary of the Old Town School of Folk Music; a Chinese opera artist’s transformation into a Dragon Princess backstage at Symphony Center, and a *Live from WFMT* performance by Serbian violinist Stefan Milenkovich and pianist Rohan de Silva in Levin Studio. Finally, WFMT highlighted a CSO concert in Palm Beach, Florida that Riccardo Muti dedicated to the shooting victims at nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.



February 2018



PHOTO: Courtesy of Citizen Film

American Creed

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Black History

What to Stream This Month

Daniel Hautzinger
FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Celebrate Black History Month with some monumental surveys of history that cover everything from Chicago's African American community to the most American of music to Africa's civilizations. Plus, two documentaries about indomitable black women.

Frederick Douglass's Defiant Stand at Chicago's World's Fair
Daniel Hautzinger
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Although Frederick Douglass did not know his official birth date, he celebrated it on February 14.

WTTW Playlist: Black History Month stories



PHOTO: Courtesy of The Library of Congress

American Experience: The Bombing of Wall Street

▶ LISTEN Late Afternoon Music with Candice Agree
 "The Charge of the Light Brigade" | "Charge!" | Steiner | Brandenburg Phil Orch, Potsdam/Richard Kaufman

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Classical radio host Carl Grapentine announces retirement from "dream job" at WFMT

By Stephen Raskauskas | February 20, 2018







Web story: Carl Grapentine announces his retirement

▶ LISTEN Late Afternoon Music with Candice Agree
 "Merry Mount" | Suite | Howard Hanson | Cincinnati Pops/Erich Kunzel

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Home | Programs | Best of Studs Terkel | Happy 60th Anniversary, Old To...

Happy 60th Anniversary, Old Town School of Folk Music (c. 1997)

December 1, 2017, 11:00 pm





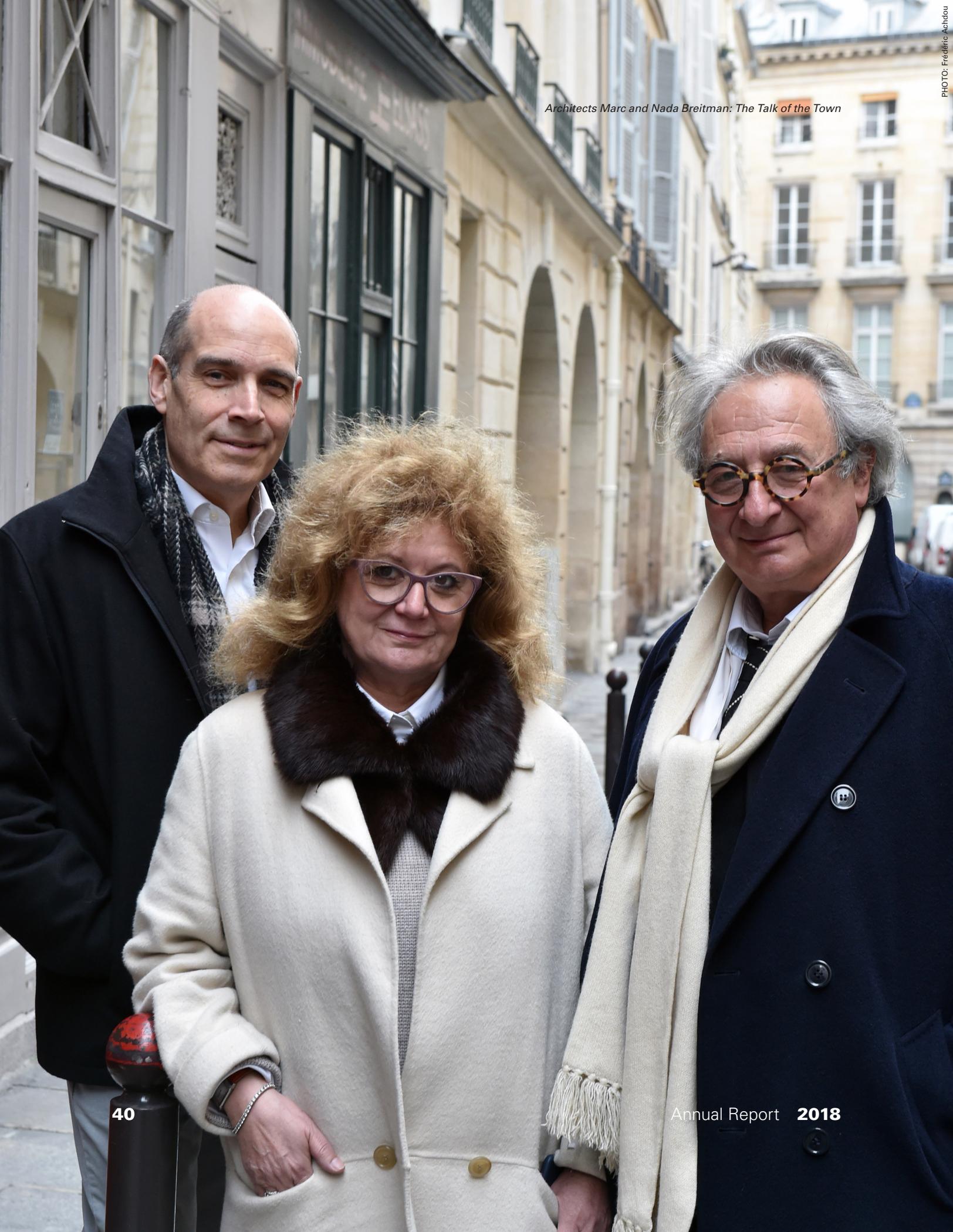


Sixty years ago today, Dawn Greening hosted an informal music lesson in her living room. The seeds of welcome, collaboration and learning sown that evening grew into one of Chicago's greatest homes for the musical arts: The Old Town School of Folk Music. On the occasion of the Old Town School's 40th anniversary, in 1997, Studs Terkel welcomed inaugural teacher, Frank Hamilton, and director, Jim Hirsch, for an hour of music and tribute.

Web story: Old Town School of Folk Music Celebrates 60th Anniversary



The Listening Service



Architects Marc and Nada Breitman: The Talk of the Town

PHOTO: Frédéric Achob

March 2018

As meteorological spring arrived in Chicago, Geoffrey Baer highlighted the newest recipients of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame, the French husband-and-wife architectural team of Marc and Nada Breitman. Geoffrey and his crew traveled to Paris to create an engaging documentary and a robust companion website featuring the Breitmans' most important structures and design philosophy, and travel journals from Geoffrey and producer Daniel Andries.

Also in March, WTTW aired a documentary celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood – It's You I Like*. In advance of the midterm primary elections, WTTW presented candidate forums on its signature public affairs program *Chicago Tonight* and a comprehensive online Voter's Guide. *Call the Midwife* and *Death in Paradise* returned with new episodes, and *Frontline* delved into the Harvey Weinstein #MeToo scandal. Also notable were music specials from Queen, The Bee Gees, Angela Ingersoll as Judy Garland, and The Rolling Stones; a profile of activist Dolores Huerta for Women's History Month. wttw.com featured *Call the Midwife* recaps, an interview with a Chicago teen invited to speak at the March For Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C.; Hedy Weiss's review of a "heavenly" new work from the CSO and Chorus; and stories about America's first African American woman pilot, Bessie Coleman, and Loyola's

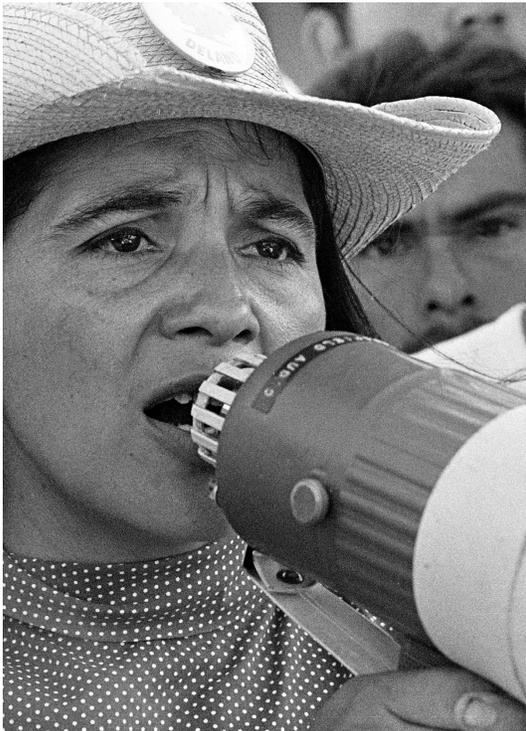
thrilling journey to the NCAA Championship's Final Four.

WFMT brought audiences a new Lyric Opera production of Gounod's *Faust*, starring Benjamin Bernheim in the title role with Ailyn Perez as Marguerite. *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips recapped the Oscars' film score awards; the Milwaukee Symphony season finale featured works by Elgar, Bruckner, and Mahler; and the *Impromptu* series welcomed two visiting pianists to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio: George Li and Wael Farouk. On wfmt.com, stories included 10 classical works perfect for spring; Lisa Flynn's introduction to 10 trailblazing composers who also happen to be women; the scoop on the Ravinia Festival's upcoming season; Seth Boustead's interview with the founder of the New York-based chamber orchestra The Knights; and a treatise from visiting expert Pandit Satish Vyas on an ancient, "meditative and romantic" instrument: the santoor.





Chicago Tonight: Democratic Gubernatorial Forum



Independent Lens: Dolores

PHOTO: Courtesy of © 1976 George Ballis / Take Stock / The Image Works

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TALK OF THE TOWN
ARCHITECTS MARC & NADA BREITMAN

Main | Breitman | Video | Travel Journals | About

Marc and Nada Breitman believe in towns. For them, the ideal urban space consists of a mix of social and private housing, cafes and bakeries, businesses and offices, all within walking distance and organized around a city center that can host markets and fairs. Compelling, convenient, representative of the complexity of urban life this is how a town should be.

Throughout their career, the Breitmans have sought to build towns along these principles. They have rehabilitated coal mining towns in a depressed region of northern France to ensure that the communities remain viable now that the mines have closed. By redesigning streets, housing blocks, and public spaces, they have turned anonymous areas into enviable urban spaces. And they have done it all with an eye towards how people inhabit and interact with an urban space.

Architects Marc and Nada Breitman with Geoffrey Beer
Photo Credit: Frédéric Achouy

BIOGRAPHY Learn how Marc and Nada became socially minded suburbanists.

SOCIAL HOUSING The Breitmans believe that social and private housing should be equal.

WATCH THE SHOW View the documentary online, whenever you want.

SELECTED WORKS Explore the Breitmans' urban design, housing, and more.

THE RICHARD H. DARRHMAN PRIZE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

An aerial view of the Breitmans' remodeling of the suburb of La Plaine-Robinson. Courtesy: Marc and Nada Breitman

Architects Marc and Nada Breitman: The Talk of the Town homepage

▶ LISTEN Late Afternoon Music with Candice Agree
Symphony No. 31 in D, K. 297, "Paris" | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | London Mozart Players/Jane Glover

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10 Classical works to put a little spring in your step

By Stephen Raskauskas | March 19, 2018



Composers have been inspired by all aspects of nature, and the changing of the seasons is no exception. As the weather warms up and the birds begin to chirp, here are some classical works to put a little spring in your step.

1. Verdi's "Spring" from *I vespri siciliani*



Web story: 10 Classical Works Perfect for Spring

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VIDEO | Hear one of the world's most ancient and romantic instruments: the santoor

By Stephen Raskauskas | March 6, 2018



Pandit Satish Vyas visited the WFMT studios to perform on what he considers to be one of the most meditative and romantic instruments in the world: the santoor. It's also one of the most ancient. The santoor was first mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts, but has been incorporated into classical traditions only in recent decades.

The santoor is a kind of hammered dulcimer, a stringed percussion instrument played with mallets. "When we hit the string," Vyas said, "it produces sound. It's comparable to pianos: on the piano, when you press keys, hammers inside hit the strings, and that's how sound is created. It's interesting that there are instruments of this type all over the world," Vyas said. "In Hungary and Romania there is an

Web story: The Santoor



PHOTO: Simon Fowler

Pianist George Li, *Impromptu*



Soundstage: Michael McDonald

April 2018

April marked the premiere of an exciting new concept in culinary television: *Dishalicious*, a local series hosted by James Beard Award-winning chef Sarah Grueneberg (also chef-owner of Monteverde and a *Top Chef* competitor) in which three renowned Chicago-area chefs collaborate on the preparation of a meal for a live audience in a specially built and fully functional kitchen on the stage of WTTW's Grainger Studio. Guests included *Mexico: One Plate at a Time* host Rick Bayless, Spiaggia's Tony Mantuano, and bellyQ's Bill Kim. The accompanying website contained recipes from the chefs and more.

WTTW's music series *Soundstage* returned to Grainger Studio in April featuring Katharine McPhee, Take 6 and Manhattan Transfer, Chicago, and Michael McDonald. Benedict Cumberbatch headlined the drama *The Child in Time*, Holocaust Remembrance Month was marked with several thought-provoking programs, and the gritty British crime series *Unforgotten* made its WTTW debut. *Civilizations* and host Liev Schreiber traced the history of art; *America's Busiest City* went straight to the core of The Big Apple in New York; Bill Nye (The Science Guy) was profiled; Rwanda's president Paul Kagame conducted an exclusive guided tour of his country; and *Live from Lincoln Center* specials spotlighted Broadway stars Sutton Foster and Leslie Odom, Jr. On wttw.com, actor Rainn Wilson shared the physical challenges in playing farce, and a

Parkland shooting survivor reflected on a visit to a local high school. Other stories included the story of humanity through the story of art, and some troubling news about the city's air quality.

WFMT commenced a new season of San Francisco Symphony in Concert with Michael Tilson Thomas, and aired the annual Ryan Opera Center Rising Stars Concert, co-hosted by Lisa Flynn and Roger Pines showcasing the young performers from Lyric Opera of Chicago's training program. The Saturday afternoon Metropolitan Opera series included works by Donizetti, Verdi, Massenet, and a new work by British composer Thomas Adès. WFMT also shared Grant Park Music Festival's interpretation of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil (Vespers)*, recorded at the South Shore Cultural Center. wfmt.com celebrated World Book Day with connections between classical music and works of literature, and shared music inspired by nature to welcome spring.





Dishalicious and its website



Peter Greenberg, Rwanda: The Royal Tour

PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Greenberg/NETA



Unforgotten

PHOTO: Courtesy of John Rogers/Mainstreet Pictures



The Child in Time on Masterpiece

Courtesy of Pinewood Television, SunnyMarch TV and MASTERPIECE for BBC One and MASTERPIECE



PHOTO: Grant Park Music Festival

Grant Park Music Festival: Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil

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Home | Stories | "A rose for love and a book fore..."

"A rose for love and a book forever" | Literature for music lovers to read on World Book Day

By Candice Agree | April 22, 2018

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"All art," Walter Pater assures us in *The Renaissance* (1873), "constantly aspires to the condition of music." Well, who knows whether that is true, whatever it means. What is true, however, is that today is World Book Day, and that means we have a wonderful opportunity to think about favorite books that have *inspired* the creation of music. First, though, a bit of background on World Book Day.

UNESCO first organized an annual observation of World Book and Copyright Day on April 23, 1995. Why April 23? It is

Web story: World Book Day selections for music lovers



PHOTO: Bill Swerbenski

San Francisco Symphony, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas

WFMT Beach Party: Eugenia Moliner and Marguerite Lynn Williams



May 2018

This month, WFMT was proud to announce the completion of a project that had been more than 20 years in the making: The Studs Terkel Radio Archive on wfmt.com, which, fittingly, made its debut on May 16, Studs's 106th birthday. One of the world's most comprehensive spoken-word collections, the Archive consists of more than 5,600 painstakingly digitized radio programs that originated at WFMT between 1952 and 1997 – 45 years' worth of Studs's revealing conversations with celebrated and the unsung...and everyone in between.

WFMT's Saturday afternoon operas in May included works by Gluck, Verdi, and Wagner. From the Chicago Symphony came a Baroque concert with a collection of Italian concertos and arias, and Marin Alsop led the CSO in some American music: Gershwin, Barber, and former composer-in-residence Anna Clyne. And Memorial Day brought the first-ever WFMT Beach Party, live from Theater on the Lake; audiences could join the audience in person or listen on air, online, or on Facebook. wfmt.com features included cellist Andrea Casarrubios and pianist Ronaldo Rolim performing works by Schumann; a behind-the-scenes look at EMPOWER, a world-premiere new opera created with and featuring high school students from Chicago's South and West sides; the Neave Trio performing Debussy and Fauré in the Levin Studio; and an exclusive interview with conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen on the vital

importance of new classical music.

WTTW celebrated Mother's Day with a new adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, featuring Angela Lansbury and Emily Watson; a related digital feature explored the incredible longevity of Alcott's novel 150 years after its publication in the face of its author's assertion that "she never liked girls or knew many, except [her] sisters." A new *Soundstage* special featured RSO (Richie Sambora and Orianthi) in WTTW's Grainger Studio. In May, we launched the Chicago chapter of *The Great American Read* – a national initiative hosted by Meredith Vieira designed to spark a conversation about the books that have inspired, moved, and shaped readers. WTTW developed a local *Great American Read* at wttw.com/read with several interactive features including a voting tool and a platform for sharing favorite books. As the month neared its end, WTTW also shared content related to royal weddings to coincide with a highly anticipated one in Great Britain, and honored outstanding area educators on the 33rd annual *Golden Apple Awards*.





Little Women on Masterpiece

PHOTO: Courtesy of MASTERPIECE on PBS, BBC and Playground



Host Meredith Vieira, *The Great American Read*

PHOTO: Courtesy of Stephanie Berger



A winner of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching



Soundstage: Richie Sambora and Orianthi

WTTW's Great American Read website



PHOTO: Ken Carl

The WFMT Beach Party crew



PHOTO: Mark Roemisch

Impromptu: Neave Trio



Studs Terkel at WFMT

Home | Stories | Esa-Pekka Salonen: Without new...

Esa-Pekka Salonen: Without new music, orchestras and opera houses will “dry up” and become “mummified”

By Stephen Raskauskas | May 24, 2018

Esa-Pekka Salonen (Photo: Benjamin Suomela)

Composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen is known for his innovative approach to creating new music and curating concerts. His 2018 residency with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is a testament to the diversity of his repertoire. In the middle of a four-concert run of Mahler's great Symphony No. 9 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, he conducted the CSO's final MusicNOW concert in its 20th anniversary season, which featured new works by Magnus Lindberg and Anna Thorvaldsdóttir as well as world premieres by Elizabeth Ogonek and Samuel Adams. He completes his residency with three concerts featuring Brahms's Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night*, and Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3. Following an afternoon of rehearsing Bartók with the CSO and pianist Mitsuko Uchida, Salonen sat down for a wide-ranging conversation about the importance of performing new works alongside beloved classics in order to ensure the future of classical music in the twenty-first century.

"The beloved classics have once been new music – every single one of them. If we go back not that far in history, I would say in the mid-nineteenth century, most concerts were new music concerts. The idea of

Web story: Esa-Pekka Salonen



Celebration 2018

On Wednesday, May 2, WTTW and WFMT held the organization’s annual gala; this year’s theme was *On Broadway: A Celebration of WTTW and WFMT*. The evening was hosted by Geoffrey Baer in anticipation of his upcoming special and website, *10 that Changed America; Streets, Monuments, and Modern Marvels*, set to premiere in July 2018. The evening’s dedicated and hard-working event chairs Renée and Lester Crown devised a magical and unforgettable experience that celebrated the glitz and glamour of Broadway for the 400-plus generous supporters who attended.

As they arrived, guests posed for photos in front of a large and colorful Broadway theatre curtain, and then moved on to cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in WTTW’s strikingly decorated Grainger Studio. There, they were entertained by Tony and Grammy Award winner Heather Headley, Broadway star Robyn Hurder, and principal dancer Lucas Segovia, with Devin DeSantis, Courtney Mack, and Ariana Burks leading a children’s choir, with assistance from Ericka Mac. The program was choreographed by Rachel Rockwell with music direction by Roberta Duchak.

After the performance, guests dined in a large transparent tent with white accents. Jewell Events Catering provided the cuisine, accompanied by libations from Terlato Wines. The dinner commenced with remarks by WTTW Chairman James W. Mabie and newly minted President and

CEO Sandra Cordova Micek. After dinner, many in the crowd moved back into Grainger Studio for Baked Alaska and an impromptu cabaret performance by *Chicago Tonight’s* Paris Schutz. The guests departed with some special gifts, including treats from Swirlz Cupcakes.

This lively and fun evening raised more than \$1 million in support of the organization’s mission, thanks in part to lead sponsor BMO Harris Bank and trustee Peter McNitt.



Celebration 2018



Emcee Geoffrey Baer and Gala Co-Chair Lester Crown



Dancers performing during the show



Emcee Geoffrey Baer, WTTW and WFMT President & CEO Sandra Cordova Micek, Gala Co-Chair Renée Crown, and Peter McNitt of Lead Sponsor BMO Harris Bank



Lester and Renée Crown with family enjoying the dinner

Celebration 2018



Robyn Hurder and dancers



The audience in Grainger Studio



Table cards



Chicago Tonight correspondent Brandis Friedman and emcee Geoffrey Baer

Endeavour Season 5 on Masterpiece

PHOTO: Courtesy of ITV PLC and MASTERPIECE



June 2018

In June, WTTW presented music specials from across the genres, from Frank Sinatra to Fleetwood Mac, Leonard Cohen to tenor Pasquale Esposito, and Foreigner to Perry Como. Endeavour Morse returned for a fifth season, and the station marked LGBTQ Pride Month with *Coming Out: A 50-Year History* and *Man in an Orange Shirt*, starring Vanessa Redgrave. Also, *Nature* took audiences inside the mysterious minds of our pets, the legendary political talk show *Firing Line* returned with a new host, *NOVA* looked into the causes of epic hurricanes, *In Plain Sight* told the gripping true story of a serial killer in 1950s Scotland and the detective on his trail, a new documentary and companion web story recalled a Chicago advertising firm (and its visionary leader Tom Burrell) who broke the industry's African American color barrier in the 1960s, and a star-studded adaptation of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* featured Aidan Turner (*Poldark*). wttw.com featured two lively quizzes related to *The Great American Read*, recipes from *The Great British Baking Show*, revisited the story of The Staple Singers to mark Mavis Staples's 79th birthday, traced the history of the Union Stockyards, and introduced Brookfield Zoo's newborn Western lowland gorilla.

WFMT also celebrated LGBTQ Pride Month with its own content, and brought audiences more live concerts from the Grant Park Music Festival and two opening night broadcasts from Lyric Opera of Chicago: Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*

and Gounod's *Faust*. *Relevant Tones* covered the New Music Gathering conference in Boston. *Live from WFMT* welcomed back Japanese duo pianists (and sisters) Yuki and Tomako Mack for a return visit to Levin Studio, and Rich Warren hosted singer-songwriter Ellis and The Resonant Rogues on *Folkstage*. *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin* focused on American Masters, and WFMT aired the Chicago Symphony's premiere of a new work by composers-in-residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek.

On wfmt.com, pianist Simone Dinnerstein revealed what composers Philip Glass and Johann Sebastian Bach have in common, mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato weighed in on the importance of arts education, and famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma honored the victims of gun violence on Chicago's South side at *A Concert for Peace*. Finally, *Morning Program* host Carl Grapentine shared his annual tribute to the first day of summer.

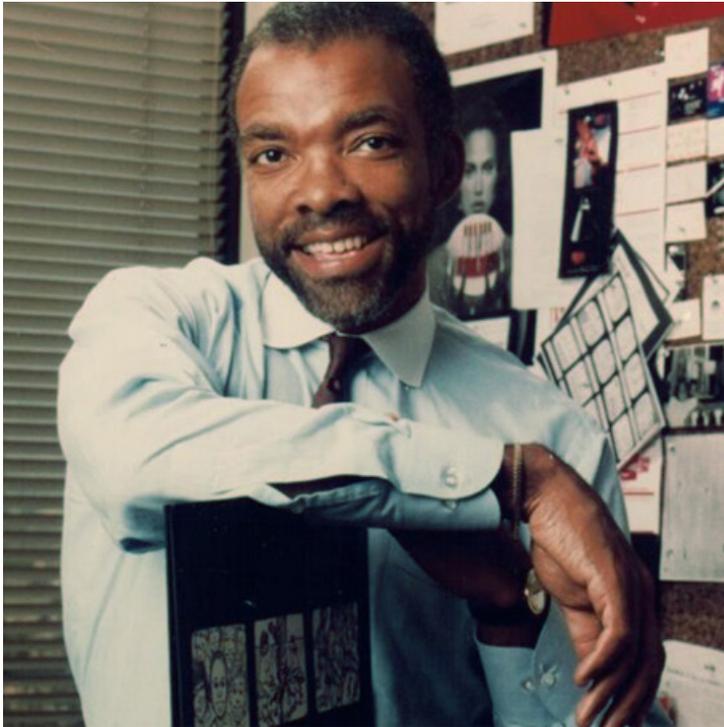


June 2018



PHOTO: American Public Television

And Then There Were None



Thomas J. Burrell, Burrell Communications, *Burrell: Advertising Revolution*



PHOTO: Courtesy of © Love Productions, worldwide, all media in perpetuity

The Great British Baking Show



Courtesy of WNET/Joseph Simott

Firing Line with Margaret Hoover

wfmt
HOME LISTEN SCHEDULE PROGRAMS ABOUT SUPPORT

Home | Stories | Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato ...

Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato | Without the arts as an outlet, children may turn to anger and violence

By Stephen Raskauskas | June 15, 2018

f t e

Web story: Joyce DiDonato on Arts Education



Folkstage: The Resonant Rogues

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HOME LISTEN SCHEDULE PROGRAMS ABOUT SUPPORT

Home | Stories | Yo-Yo Ma performs at St. Sabina...

Yo-Yo Ma performs at St. Sabina Church on Chicago's South Side to raise awareness about gun violence

By Stephen Raskauskas | June 11, 2018

f t e

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma, creative consultant to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performs during the second Concert for Peace at St. Sabina Church in Chicago on Sunday, June 10, 2018 (Photo: Todd Rosenberg)

In 2018, 6,308 Americans have died due to gun violence, and 11,841 more have been injured, according to Gun Violence Archive. In Chicago alone, 1,164 people have been shot this year, including 190 deaths and 974 injuries; 38 of those shootings took place between the evening of Friday, June 8 and the morning of

Web story: Yo-Yo Ma Performs at St. Sabina Church

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HOME LISTEN SCHEDULE PROGRAMS ABOUT SUPPORT

Home | Stories | What do Philip Glass and J. S. Ba...

What do Philip Glass and J. S. Bach have in common? More than you think, according to pianist Simone Dinnerstein.

By Stephen Raskauskas | June 4, 2018

f t e

There are a few topics that can be difficult to discuss in large groups: religion, politics, and the music of Philip Glass. People tend to either love or hate Glass's music, though few would fail to acknowledge that the American composer is one of the most influential figures in music today.

A former senior critic of *The New York Times* reviewed Glass's opera *Akhnaten* as "one more example of going-nowhere music" that provides mere "backgrounds of continually repeated, barely varied sound patterns. They stand to music as the sentence 'See Spot run' stands to literature." In the same 1984 review, he complained that, "It is as if in [Glass's] schooling he never got beyond Hanon and Clementi, or perhaps the first prelude of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*."

Web story: What Do Philip Glass and J.S. Bach Have in Common?



Community Engagement

WTTW Kids BIG IDEA Tour

The WTTW Kids BIG IDEA tour was created to encourage children between the ages of 2 and 7 to learn via live performances and excerpts from WTTW Kids' most popular shows, promoting the concept that a BIG IDEA is a solution to a problem, an answer to a question, or something that has opened a child's mind to a new understanding.

WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest

The WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest encourages kids to create lifelong healthy habits by following along with our host and guitarist in song, dance, and activities inspired by their favorite PBS Kids shows, while enjoying healthy food and drink samples. The performances explored themes such as dietary and physical health, recycling, math, and more.

WTTW Kids Grandparent Connection

The mission of the WTTW Kids Grandparent Connection program is to give seniors a deeper sense of fulfillment and children a greater understanding of their elders. Each event took place at a senior living facility, during which children aged 7-9 took part in light physical activity and games with their new elderly friends.

Public Events

WTTW and WFMT hosted a wide variety of public events in connection with our content throughout the year. The costumed character Nature Cat

engaged with kids and families, and there were also major public screenings and discussions with Ken Burns and Lynn Novick in association with their multi-part film *The Vietnam War* at the Auditorium Theatre, and with former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in connection with *American Creed* at the Spertus Institute. In addition, there were author luncheons at the Union League Club (including one with Burns and Novick) and engaging WTTW Trivia Nights. WTTW also presented monthly screenings and panel discussions at the Chicago Cultural Center in association with the *POV* and *Independent Lens* series, Kartemquin Films, Free Spirit Media, and other content producers.

Throughout the year, WFMT hosted live broadcasts in front of audiences around the city: from Lyric Opera of Chicago; at the Chicago Cultural Center (the weekly *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts*), from the Grant Park Music Festival (which also included lively Facebook Live videos); from the lake-front for WFMT's first-ever Beach Party; and from various locations for *WFMT Classical Cabaret* and other events. WFMT also welcomed guests to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for live broadcasts in the *Impromptu*, *Ryan Opera Center Recitals*, *Folkstage*, and *Live from WFMT* series.



Community Engagement



WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest



A family with Clifford the Big Red Dog



WTTW Kids BIG IDEA Tour

Community Engagement



WTTW Kids Grandparent Connection



Live music at a WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest



Panel discussion at Chicago Cultural Center



WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest

In Memoriam



Elizabeth Brackett



Richard Gray



Sister Ann Ida Gannon

Elizabeth Brackett

1941-2018

Longtime *Chicago Tonight* host and correspondent Elizabeth Brackett passed away in June after a lakefront cycling accident while training for a triathlon.

Elizabeth was a tenacious reporter, exceptional writer, skilled and insightful host, and a valued colleague and friend to everyone on the *Chicago Tonight* team. In the course of her 40-year career as a journalist, her work garnered multiple Emmy Awards, two Peter Lisagor Awards, and a national Peabody Award, among others. During her tenure on *Chicago Tonight*, she also served as a local correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. Since her retirement from WTTW in 2014, Elizabeth had remained an occasional

contributor, focusing primarily on environmental issues.

Elizabeth was also a world champion triathlete, having won five international titles in her age group, and was still the reigning champion at the time of her death. She left an indelible mark on *Chicago Tonight* and WTTW, and her intelligence, integrity, and dedication to top-flight reporting are continuing to inspire aspiring journalists.

Richard Gray

1929-2018

Richard Gray, a longtime member of the WTTW and WFMT Board of Trustees, died in May at the age of 89.

In Memoriam

Richard helped to lead this institution for almost 40 years and was responsible for the founding of the major gift annual fund. In his years of support, he advanced many projects and programs, most recently through the creation of the Richard and Mary L. Gray Artistic Collaboration Fund for WTTW and WFMT. Richard prevailed in the bidding wars that brought Sue, the famed *T. Rex*, to the Field Museum. And he helped preserve the Farnsworth House, both incredible stories shared on WTTW.

Richard changed the face of not only our organization, but that of so many cultural institutions in Chicago, including the Chicago Humanities Festival, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Goodman Theatre, the Smart Museum, and the Center for Arts and Inquiry at the University of Chicago. We are grateful for his friendship, generosity, and leadership.

Sister Ann Ida Gannon

1915-2018

WTTW and WFMT Trustee Emeritus Sister Ann Ida Gannon died on June 3 in Dubuque, Iowa at the age of 103. She was appointed to the board by Newton R. Minow in 1975. Sister Ann Ida was a devoted supporter of WTTW, opened many doors in the Catholic community and Catholic schools for public television, and never missed a board meeting. She actively served until 1995, and

then was named Trustee Emeritus, a position she held until her death.

A member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sister Ann Ida's life was dedicated to education. She served as the President of Mundelein College for 18 years, taught primary and secondary school, and throughout her career received 26 honorary degrees and more than 28 prestigious awards for her leadership and service in education. We thank her for her dedication and support.





Imagining More

The Imagining More campaign launched in 2012 with the goals of:

- Increasing our ability to produce and share original programming,
- Building our financial and technological strengths to nimbly address opportunities, and,
- Deepening our connection with the communities we serve.

Thanks to our supporters, we successfully completed the campaign after raising more than \$66 million. That generosity is an investment in mission critical initiatives, a contribution to the future of public media, and a bold statement in support of our community.

Imagining More helped us to grow WTTW's national reach, pilot new WFMT programs, and increase our digital footprint with more local reporting and public affairs coverage, more original content across our sites and apps, and more digital-first series.

As our production capacity grows, so does our community's access to high-quality content that inspires a sense of discovery and sparks curiosity. WTTW and WFMT work hard to find innovative ways to fund and distribute content on new platforms, reduce our environmental impact, and increase our efficiency. Ongoing technology improvements are critical to our ability to produce and share quality content today and in the future.

WTTW and WFMT's endowment is an enduring revenue source that is vital to our long-term health as an organization. During the Imagining More campaign, the Newton N. Minow Founders Society, which honors benefactors who have included WTTW and WFMT in their estate plans, grew from 184 to 335 members.

During the life of the campaign, we reached thousands of people at documentary screenings and discussions, educational family events, and professional development opportunities for early childhood educators.

Crossing the finish line for Imagining More leads to a new beginning rather than an ending. We are just getting started.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: The Crown family's transformational gift to the Imagining More campaign honors Renée Crown and her incredible contributions to WTTW and WFMT. The Renée Crown Public Media Center celebrates this visionary who champions excellence, innovation, and accessibility in public media.



Imagining More



PHOTO: Ken Carl

Maggie Clennon Reberg and David Polk hosting the WFMT Beach Party



PHOTO: Ken Carl

The Chicago Tonight team

Imagining More



WFMT artists-in-residence KAIA Kids web feature



Children at the Shedd Aquarium



WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest

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Fiscal 2018 Financial Information

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

(In thousands)

Assets	
Cash and investments	\$50,382
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	5,845
Property and equipment, net	16,988
Other assets	2,177
Total Assets	\$75,392

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$5,467
Long-term notes payable	18,300
Other liabilities	2,714
Total Liabilities	\$26,481
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	\$25,616
Restricted	23,295
Total Net Assets	\$48,911
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$75,392

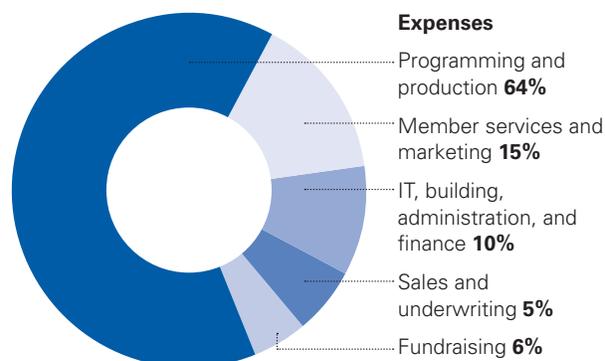
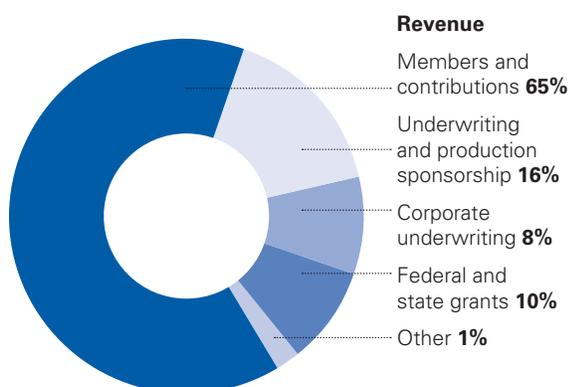
Revenue	
Members and contributions	\$29,127
Underwriting and production sponsorship	7,016
Corporate underwriting and advertising	3,713
Federal and state grants	4,338
Other	712
Total Revenue	\$44,906

Expenses	
Programming and production	\$28,634
Member services and marketing	6,598
Sales and underwriting	2,236
Fundraising	2,532
IT, building, administration, and finance	4,525
Total Expenses	\$44,525

Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities 381

*Reflects \$2.5 million in non-cash depreciation expense

Statement of Activity* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018





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 Schiller, Ducanto, & Fleck
 Senior Lifestyle Communities
 Shane's Fine Jewelry
 Shane's Pawn Shop
 Shell Point Retirement
 Shirley Ryan Abilitylab
 Shoreline Sightseeing
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 Skydeck
 Snackhack LLC (SW Hub, INC)
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 Steppenwolf Theatre Company
 Stuart Brent Children's Book Club

Sun Badger Solar
 Sweden Shop
 Symphony of Oak Park-River Forest
 Tamarkin Camera
 Tauk
 Teuscher Chocolates
 Thompson Coburn LLC
 Three Crowns Park
 Timeless Toys
 Timeline Theatre
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