

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

A YEAR IN STORIES

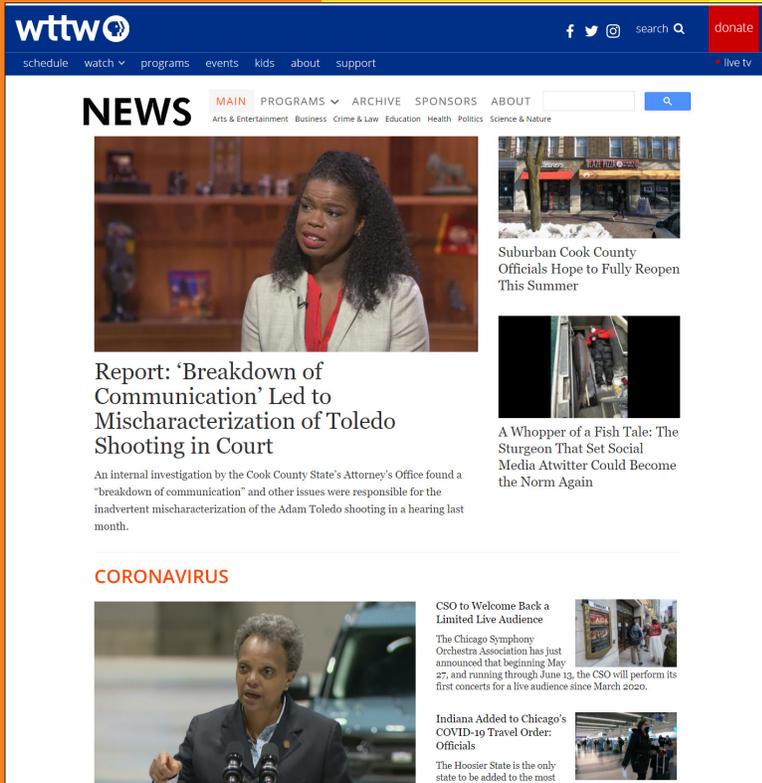


wttw  | wfmt

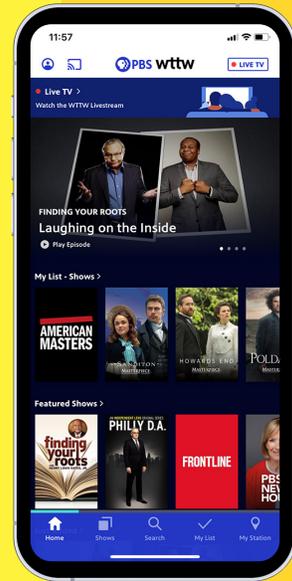
On the cover (left to right): Falguni Dave, *FIRSTHAND: Coronavirus*; Geoffrey Baer, *Chicago by 'L'*; Rachel and Sylvia Pine, *Saturday Morning Listener's Choice*; Reality Allah, *FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence*



WTTW homepage



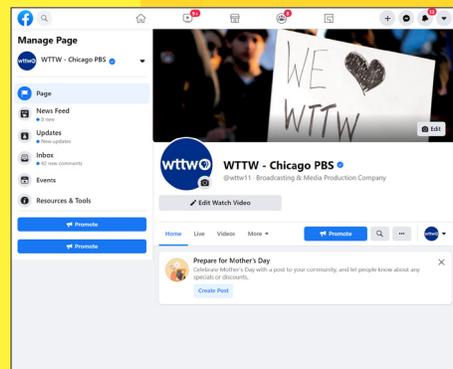
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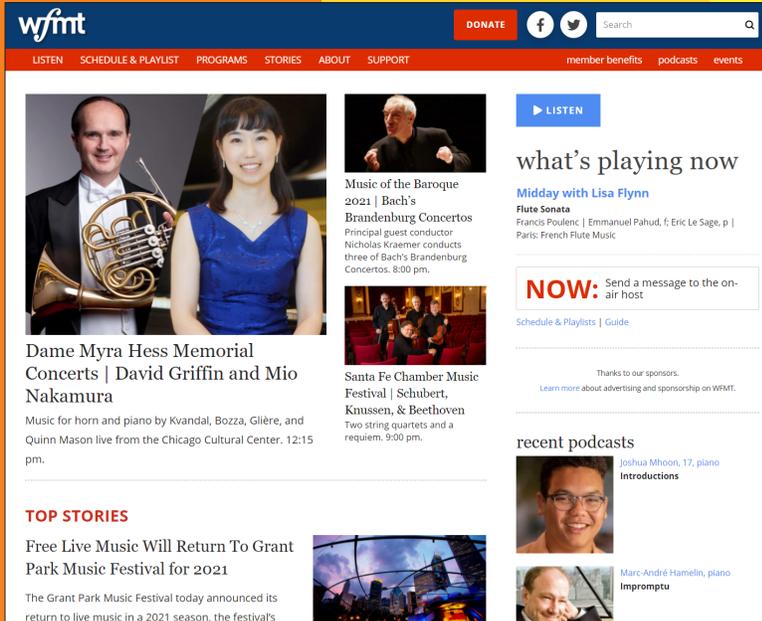
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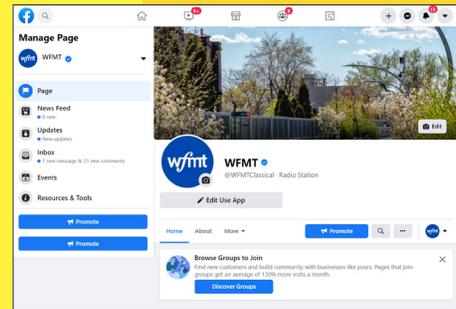
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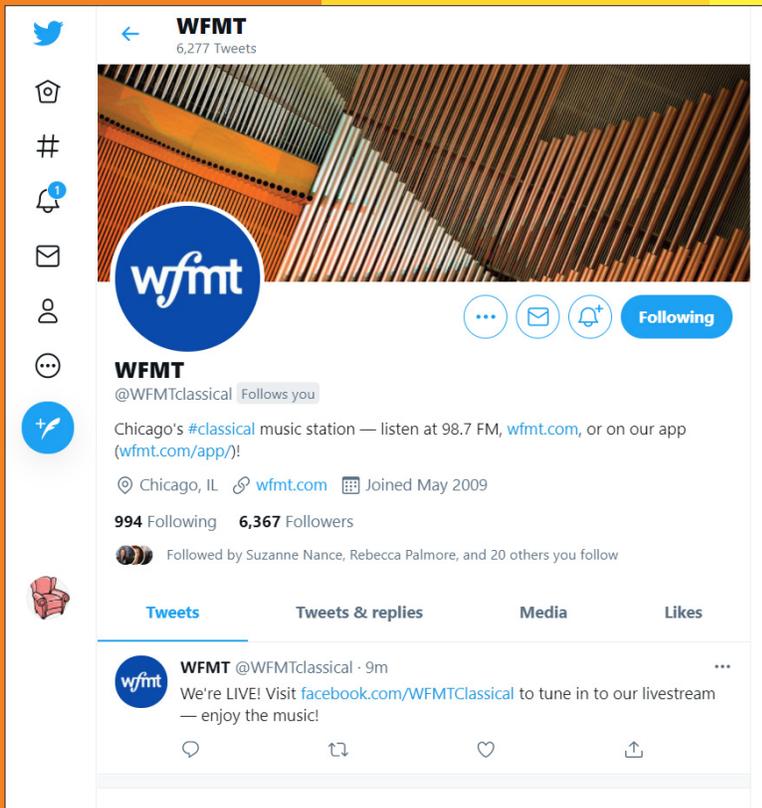
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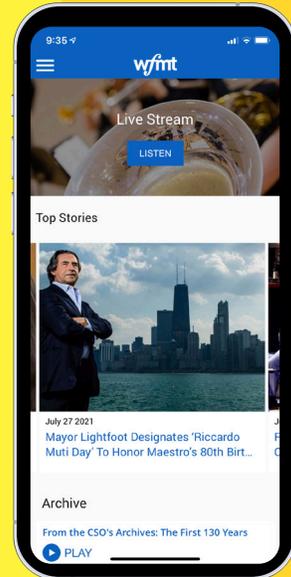
WFMT homepage



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# STAY CONNECTED



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Photo: Courtesy of Capital Concerts

A Capitol Fourth

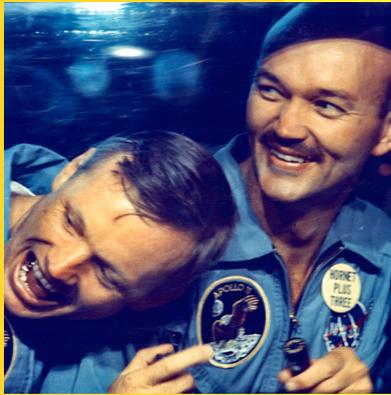


Photo: Courtesy of NASA

Chasing the Moon: American Experience



Photo: Courtesy of Colin Hutton-Kudos, an Endemol Shine Company, MASTERPIECE and ITV

Grantchester on Masterpiece

wttw  
schedule watch programs events kids about support

playlist > science

### When the Moon Landing Became a Conspiracy Theory

Meredith Francis  
JULY 8, 2019

Astronauts Neil Armstrong, commander; Michael Collins, command module pilot; and Buzz Aldrin, lunar module pilot, leave the Kennedy Space Center's Manned Spacecraft Operations Building during the prelaunch countdown for the Apollo 11 mission on July 16, 1969. Photo: courtesy of NASA

Chasing the Moon airs throughout July and is available to stream.

Story on WTTW Playlist

LISTEN Music for the Afternoon  
"Billy the Kid" | Suite | Aaron Copland | San Francisco Sym/Michael Tilson Thomas | Copland The Populist

wfmt

LISTEN SCHEDULE & PLAYLIST PROGRAMS STORIES ABOUT SUPPORT

Home | Stories | Music Director Andi Lamoreaux ...

### Music Director Andi Lamoreaux Reflects on 50 Years with WFMT

By Andi Lamoreaux | June 26, 2019

Story on wfmt.com



Photo: © 2018 WGBH Educational Foundation

Molly of Denali



Photo: Mark Battrell

Harpist Yolanda Kondonassis on WFMT



Bob Sirott and Maryanne Murciano interview Apollo astronaut James Lovell

# JULY

**AS FISCAL** 2020 commenced, WTTW marked the 50th anniversary of a seminal event in American history – NASA’s first landing on the moon – with *A Summer of Space*, a multiplatform celestial experience anchored by the highly anticipated six-hour film *Chasing the Moon*, along with a collection of new and encore programs that explored different aspects of space exploration. WFMT too marked the occasion with some moon-related music as well as a special space-related edition of *Arias and Songs with Larry Johnson* on the actual anniversary of the landing.

Also that month, in addition to WTTW’s annual Independence Day broadcast of *A Capitol Fourth*, WTTW Kids premiered *Molly of Denali*, a new program for children aged 4-8, the first national children’s series to feature a Native American lead character. Other highlights included new seasons of *Grantchester on Masterpiece* and *Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators*, and a new detective series in Flemish with English subtitles, *Professor T*. On wttw.com, audiences dove into the wild world of lunar landing conspiracy theories and learned how China, India, Japan, and other countries were approaching space exploration. Closer to home, Geoffrey

Baer took audiences on Architecture Road Trips originating from the Chicago Architecture Center.

WFMT continued its series from the Grant Park Music Festival in Millennium Park, including the annual live Independence Day salute, plus subsequent performances featuring Stephen Hough and Yolanda Kondonassis. Each performance was preceded by a Facebook Live feature. In addition, a new season of Carnegie Hall concerts commenced, featuring Mahler from the Boston Symphony, Berlioz from L’Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, and more. On wfmt.com, music director Andi Lamoreaux took a nostalgic look back on her 50 years at the station, multi-instrumentalist Andrew Bird sat down for an exclusive interview, and audiences found playlists of music inspired by cats. Finally, a fun quiz determined whether its user had perfect pitch.



AUGUST



Downton Abbey Live - local event



Mezzo-soprano J'Nai Bridges on WFMT



Charlottesville on WTTW



Kathryn Lewek in *The Magic Flute*



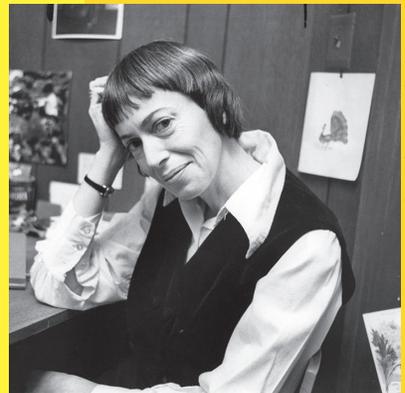
Magical Land of Oz



Story on WTTW Playlist



From Slavery to Glory



Ursula K. Le Guin: American Masters

# AUGUST

**THIS MONTH**, as the *Summer of Space* continued, WTTW took viewers back to a seismic event in popular music that happened 50 years ago that month: an outdoor festival that attracted half a million people to a dairy farm in upstate New York. *Woodstock: Three Days that Defined a Generation* examined the tumultuous decade that culminated in this defining moment of the counterculture revolution.

In advance of the highly anticipated feature film that premiered the following month, WTTW also hosted a special event in connection with *Downton Abbey Live!*, as actors, producers, and others from the popular series took questions live from New York City. WTTW's event featured fans taking part in a costume contest judged by *Downton Abbey's* costume designer Anna Robbins and series actor Harry Hadden-Paton. On [wttw.com](http://wttw.com), users explored Woodstock's impact, immersed themselves in Chicago's jazz community and history as Chicago Jazz Festival approached, and met a new generation of science fiction writers in connection with Ursula K. Le Guin's *American Masters* episode. Screenings of WTTW programs continued at locations around the city.

On WFMT, the 2019 Grant Park Music Festival concluded with Gustav Mahler's

Symphony No. 2, subtitled *Resurrection*; two Ryan Opera Center alums, J'Nai Bridges and Amanda Majeski, were featured and WFMT presented more Facebook Live features from Millennium Park. Also this month, WFMT shared Saturday broadcasts from the Lyric Opera of Chicago archives: *Norma*, *The Magic Flute*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Don Quichotte*. Also, *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, hosted by Alec Baldwin, returned to the schedule. With back-to-school season right around the corner, [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) offered music to help boost any study session and tips to care for a treasured classical music LP collection, and reported from the annual neighborhood Thirsty Ears outdoor classical music festival.





Photo: Courtesy of BBC Studios

Animal Babies: First Year on Earth



Photo: Courtesy of Sid Gentle Films 2019

The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece



Photo: Courtesy of Mammoth Screen for BBC and MASTERPIECE

Poldark on Masterpiece



Photo: Jared Ames

Country Music



Photo: Tipping Point Photography

Mariachi Herencia de Mexico on Introductions in Millennium Park



Photo: Paul Hudson CC BY 2.0

Last Night of the BBC Proms



Photo: Dario Accosta

Bernard Labadie, Les Violons du Roy



Story on wfmt.com

# SEPTEMBER

**A NEW KEN BURNS** film is always cause for celebration, and that month, WTTW was excited to bring audiences his latest – an epic 16-hour series tracing the history of *Country Music*. As only Ken could, the film told the story of this quintessentially American art form and how it evolved over the course of the 20th century through biographies of its most notable practitioners. The premiere kicked off with a lively star-studded concert special featuring contemporary country legends hosted by Ken from Nashville’s Ryman Auditorium (former home of the Grand Ole Opry).

Also in September, WTTW marked Hispanic Heritage Month with an impressive lineup of relevant content, bid farewell to the popular comedy-drama series *800 Words*, traced *Animal Babies’ First Year on Earth*, and embarked on the final seasons of *Poldark* and *The Durrells in Corfu*. On [wttw.com](http://wttw.com), a story introduced the real people who inspired the *Durrells’* characters; another looked back at a 100-year-old scandal, when the “Black Sox” were accused of intentionally losing the 1919 World Series; and another recalled the Chicago-based WLS’s *National Barn Dance*, a popular country music radio program in the ’30s and ’40s.

WFMT presented four performances from London’s great summertime

tradition, the BBC Promenade Concerts in Royal Albert Hall. The series aired on Tuesday evenings, and its concerts featured the London Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony, the Vienna Philharmonic, and – for the super-lively Last Night – the BBC Symphony. Also, one of WFMT’s final Carnegie Hall broadcasts of the season included Les Violons du Roy and La Capelle de Québec performing Bach’s B Minor Mass. Closer to home, WFMT’s *Introductions* was once again featured in YAS Fest live from Millennium Park. On [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), audiences found a fall arts preview and a compendium of classical works with a welcome sense of humor.





Photo: John Partipilo

Songwriting with Soldiers



Photo: L. Myszyński

Leaning Out



Photo: Courtesy of Lookout Point Colin Hutton

Press on Masterpiece



Photo: WTT Wand Dan Proffess

Urban Nature



Photo: WTT Wand Ken Carl

Check, Please!



Photo: Artist's website

Pianist Matthew Hagle on Live from WFMT



Photo: Courtesy of Brandon Ogden, PBS

PBS Retro Report



Story on wfmt.com

# OCTOBER

**IN AN ERA** when local news sources were diminishing and journalism was under attack, this month WTTW premiered *Press*, a new six-part British drama series that explored the turbulent media landscape and the ethical dilemmas journalists face each day. In the Sunday night lineup after *The Durrells in Corfu* and *Poldark*, *Press* told the story of two rival newspapers struggling to compete in a 24-hour news cycle.

Also on WTTW, *Check, Please!* returned for a 19th season with host Alpana Singh and new groups of citizen reviewers who took audiences on more journeys of diverse tastes and neighborhoods. WTTW's digital series *Urban Nature* returned to WTTW with more explorations of wildlife in the urban jungle; Hispanic Heritage Month continued with more relevant content; *NOVA* explored *Why Bridges Collapse*; and the new magazine series *Retro Report on PBS* connected our present with our past. *wttw.com* recounted the true story of the infamous Black Sox scandal on its centennial. Also, WTTW delved into the topic of government surveillance of Muslim Americans in Bridgeview in an interview with the filmmaker behind *POV: The Feeling of Being Watched*.

WFMT's concert series *Live from WFMT*, hosted by Kerry Frumkin, returned to Monday evenings with guests that included Chicago Symphony concertmaster Robert Chen and pianist Matthew Hagle, and a new season of *Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra On Stage* commenced. For Halloween, *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips sampled music composed for horror movies; *Exploring Music* devoted a week to *Demons, Spooks, and Other Things That Go Bump in the Night*; and *wfmt.com* shared a rundown of some of the most exciting, strange, and spooky musical events of the season, along with interviews, previews, and Facebook Lives with performers from some of the finest music and arts organizations across the city.





Story on WTTW Playlist



Story on wfmt.com



College Behind Bars

Photo: Courtesy of Skiff Mountain Films



Sesame Street 50th Anniversary

Photo: Courtesy of Richard Termini



Great Performances: Kinky Boots

Photo: Matt Crockett



FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence



Frontline: For Sama



Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum

Photo: Courtesy of 19 Story Media

# NOVEMBER

**THIS MONTH**, WTTW was proud to launch *FIRSTHAND*, a multiplatform initiative that explored the personal, firsthand perspectives of five individuals affected by everyday gun violence in Chicago. The expansive project included a 15-part documentary series, reported stories, expert talks, and events to spur community engagement. In addition, WTTW aired *College Behind Bars*, a two-part program created by Lynn Novick, that followed incarcerated men and women hoping to turn their lives around by earning a college degree through the famously rigorous Bard Prison Initiative.

Also on WTTW, *The Chaperone* reunited three talents from *Downton Abbey* for a 1920s era story of a Kansas woman who accompanies the young Louise Brooks on a tumultuous trip to New York City. A new series on WTTW Kids, *Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum*, introduced children to notable historical figures, and on Friday nights, WTTW offered a front row seat to the best of Broadway. Visitors to [wttw.com](http://wttw.com) celebrated *Sesame Street's* 50th anniversary with playlists of series highlights and much more at [wttw.com/sesamestreet](http://wttw.com/sesamestreet). Also, the site shared foolproof recipes from *America's Test Kitchen* as the series celebrated its 20th anniversary, and a story delved into the

big-bucks fraud that went on in Dixon, Illinois in *All the Queen's Horses*.

WFMT presented a live performance from New York's Carnegie Hall by Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and a concert recorded at Paris' Notre-Dame de Paris: Hector Berlioz's Requiem Mass. And in observance of Veterans Day, *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips presented music from war-themed movies old and new. As the fall arts season continued, [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) produced numerous behind the scenes features, videos, and Facebook Lives with some of the best artists performing in Chicago, along with an array of Thanksgiving features, including playlists, quizzes, and recipes to guarantee a wonderful holiday.





Photo: Courtesy of Neal Street Productions

Call the Midwife Holiday Special



Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir featuring Kristin Chenoweth



Photo: Courtesy of Burning Bright Productions

Lucy Worsley's 12 Days of Tudor Christmas



Kerry Frumkin, host of *Whole Notes: Music of Healing and Peace*

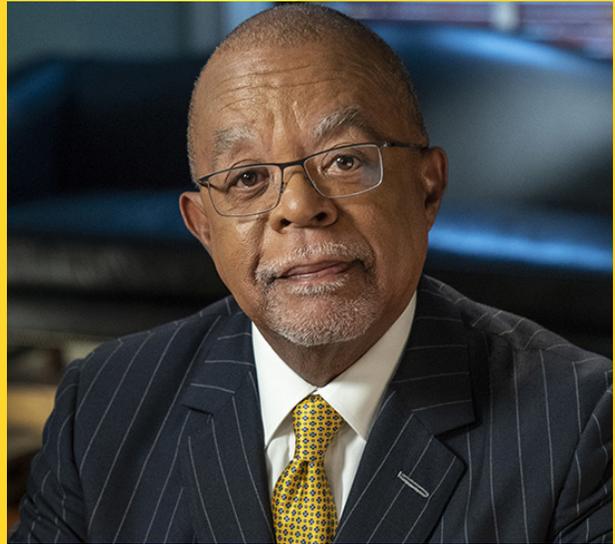


Photo: Courtesy of Stephanie Berger

Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Photo: Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Itzhak Perlman's Hanukkah Radio Party



Story on WTTW Playlist



Photo: Courtesy of Suzi Pratt

No Passport Required

# DECEMBER

**RENOWNED CHEF**, restaurateur, and author Marcus Samuelsson is famously passionate about the cuisine of America's diverse immigrant cultures. This month he returned with a new season of *No Passport Required*, in which home cooks and professional chefs around the country share how important food can be in bringing us together around the table. Marcus's first stop in the season premiere spotlighted Seattle's Filipino culinary traditions.

Also on WTTW, music icon John Legend played *Jesus Christ Superstar*, in a production that landed him his EGOT (as an Emmy-Grammy-Oscar-Tony winner). A new special marked *Sesame Street's* 50th anniversary; and among WTTW's many holiday specials, notable were *Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir featuring Kristin Chenoweth* and *Lucy Worsley's 12 Days of Tudor Christmas*. On [wttw.com](http://wttw.com), in connection with *No Passport Required*, visitors discovered the stories of a Chicago Filipino restaurant and those of its neighbors; celebrated the holiday season with a roundup of festive seasonal events around Chicago; and dove into the latest *Call the Midwife Holiday Special* with our engaging recap.

WFMT presented a new special hosted by Kerry Frumkin, *Whole Notes: Music of Healing and Peace*, in response to

America's gun violence epidemic. Audiences also enjoyed a variety of music for the December holidays, including the live *Lessons and Carols* from Cambridge University during the day on Christmas Eve. In addition, Metropolitan Opera performances resumed, and WFMT rang in 2020 with the annual New Year's Eve *Midnight Special*, hosted by Rich Warren. On [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com), the year wrapped up with coverage of Chicago's musical holiday traditions, and as the 2010s draw to a close, took a nostalgic look back at what they held for classical music. Finally, WFMT staff and hosts shared their musical New Year's resolutions for 2020.





Story on wfmt.com



Story on WTTW Playlist



Sanditon on Masterpiece

Photo: Courtesy of Simon Ridgway/Red Planet/Pictures ITY



Saturday Morning Listener's Choice

Photo: WFMT and Teresa Crawford



From the Metropolitan Opera: Der Rosenkavalier - WFMT



Vienna Blood

Photo: Courtesy of Petro Domeringi, Endor Productions MR Film



Howards End on Masterpiece

Photo: Courtesy of 2017 Starz Entertainment, LLC



Step It Up with Steph!

# JANUARY

**AS CHICAGOANS** welcomed a new decade, WFMT kicked it off in style with two new weekend programs. The first was *Saturday Morning Listener's Choice*, a fun weekly kids and family-oriented classical request and dedication show hosted by Maggie Clennon Reberg. On the first episode, Maggie welcomed two notable violinists: Chicago native Rachel Barton Pine and her young daughter Sylvia, and together, they encouraged audiences to email or call a dedicated line to weigh in with requests, or dedicate one to someone special. Immediately following was another new series, *Soundtrack*, which spotlighted a wide variety of film, television, and video game music.

On WTTW, January proved to be a time of renewal as popular series returned with new episodes (*Doc Martin*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Check, Please!*, and *Finding Your Roots*, to name a few) and there were also some exciting new ones. Of special note were series based on Jane Austen's unfinished novel *Sanditon* and E.M. Forster's *Howards End*, and the original and distinctly Freudian *Vienna Blood* – WTTW offered recaps of them all along with associated digital content. And in connection with *No Passport Required*, wttw.com uncovered some richly diverse, immigrant-owned

restaurants clustered into one half-mile stretch of Chicago.

In addition to the new Saturday mornings, in January WFMT welcomed back Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, along with a varied quartet of performances from the Metropolitan Opera: *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Wozzeck*, *La Traviata*, and *La Bohème*. WFMT also marked Martin Luther King Day and the Lunar New Year with special content. On wfmt.com, audiences enjoyed some warmhearted musical fun to chase the cold away, previewed WFMT's two new series, and took listeners live to the Chicago Cultural Center for four Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts.





Story on wfmt.com



From the Metropolitan Opera: Porgy and Bess- WFMT



Cooked: Survival by Zip Code



Rise Up: Songs from the Womens Movement



Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool - American Masters



No Passport Required: WTTW Event



Pianist Yuja Wang



Nature: The Mighty Weasel

# FEBRUARY

**AS IS TRADITIONAL** in February, WTTW marked Black History Month with a full roster of relevant programs. Notable among them were award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson's new documentary *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*, which delved into the six-decade career of this musical genius, and two compelling *Independent Lens* documentaries - *Always in Season*, which followed a mother's quest to solve the mystery of her son's death; and *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code*, which took us back to Chicago's deadly 1995 heat wave to explore the role poverty and racism played in the tragedy.

On another note, *Nature* fans were introduced to *The Mighty Weasel*, *Frontline* examined the *Amazon Empire*, and the Viewer's Choice Bowl revealed its winners. Visitors to wttw.com met the filmmaker of *Cooked*, recalled Chicago's role in the development of food standards, and explored the local history of the women's suffrage movement to mark its 100th anniversary. Foodies also signed on for WTTW's *No Passport Required* restaurant walking tour along Lawrence Avenue in Chicago's Albany Park neighborhood.

WFMT aired the Metropolitan Opera's acclaimed production of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, starring

Eric Owens, Angel Blue, and Denyce Graves; and also a special installment of the weekly *Heart and Voice* series that focused on spirituals. In addition, throughout the month, WFMT shared numerous works by African-American composers and/or recorded by African American artists, including Duke Ellington, Florence Price, William Grant Still, Marian Anderson, and Herbie Hancock.

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Los Angeles Philharmonic assembled a group of musicians from China, including the Taiwanese-born violinist Ray Chen, for a concert of works by Chinese composers; the following week, keyboard superstar Yuja Wang was featured in John Adams' latest concerto, *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?* And on wfmt.com, visitors recalled 11 Studs Terkel conversations with prominent African Americans to celebrate Black History Month.





East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story



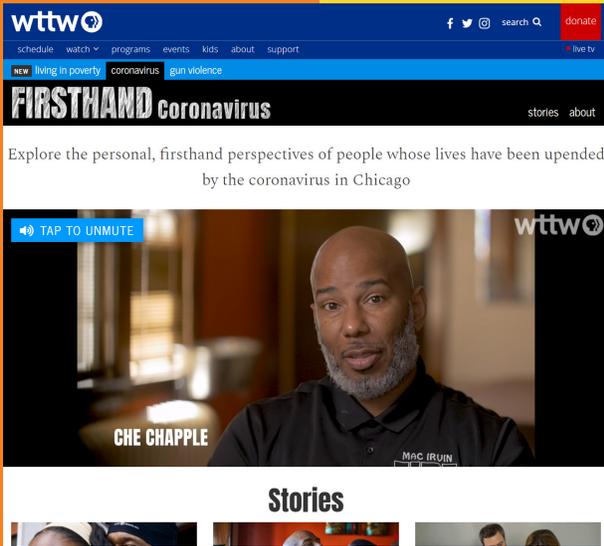
Math in Music host Dr. Eugenia Cheng

Photo: Paul Crisaniti/PhotoGoGo



Isabella Brown, winner of Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition

Photo: Todd Rosenberg



FIRSTHAND: Coronavirus homepage



FIRSTHAND: Coronavirus

Photo: WTTW and Liam Alexander



Story on WTTW Playlist



Stories of Survival



Story on wfmt.com

# MARCH

**IN MARCH, WTTW** was excited to premiere *Chicago by 'L'* with Geoffrey Baer, the newest of Geoffrey's television and digital tours of the city. He took a fascinating ride on Chicago's famous color-coded elevated train system, hopping on and off to meet people who live and work in its shadow. The special's companion website, [wttw.com/L](http://wttw.com/L), included an interactive map of Chicago's neighborhoods; more features on the history and future of the 'L'; stunning drone footage and video extras; and a photo gallery of 'L' art.

Also this month, as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed through Chicago, WTTW launched *FIRSTHAND: Coronavirus*, a multi-part digital series produced and released in real time that explored the personal, firsthand perspectives of a diverse group of people being impacted by the crisis. A new season of *Call the Midwife* premiered along with other programs in honor of Women's History Month, and audiences watched *East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story* and also *Stories of Survival*, composed of two moving documentaries produced by the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

Fittingly on Pi Day, March 14, WFMT Digital premiered a new web series, *Math*

*in Music*, hosted by mathematician, author, and pianist Dr. Eugenia Cheng. The 11-part series explored, through Dr. Cheng's lively explanations and the use of fun and innovative visuals, some specific connections between math and music.

WFMT also offered a collection of special content and virtual experiences, and observed Women's History Month with an emphasis on women composers and performers, including Bill McGlaughlin's *Exploring Music* topic, *Millennium of Women's Music*. The station also presented the Civic Orchestra of Chicago's centennial concert with conductor Ken-David Masur and cellist Yo-Yo Ma joining the ensemble. And as the station aired the Young Artists Competition with the Civic Orchestra from Symphony Center, [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a compendium of Irish composers worthy of anyone's classical music library.





Baptiste

Photo: Two Brothers Pictures and all3media international



Frankie Drake Mysteries

Photo: Courtesy of American Public Television



International Jazz Day from Australia

Photo: Steve Mundinger



Nature: Spy in the Wild

Photo: Courtesy of John Downer Productions

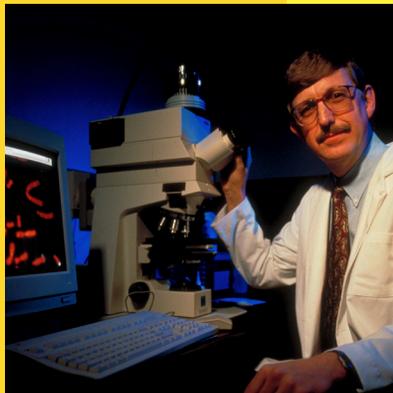


Pianist Lara Downes on WFMT

Photo: artist's website



Story on wfmt.com



The Gene: An Intimate History

Photo: Courtesy of Getty Images



Story on WTTW News

# APRIL

**AS APRIL** arrived and Chicago families settled in for an indeterminate stretch of working and learning from home, WTTW and WFMT adapted as well, providing a host of content designed to make the time productive, educational, worthwhile, and fun. (See page 31 for details.)

To mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, WTTW premiered the dramatic *Masterpiece* miniseries *World on Fire*, a seven-part British drama series that followed ordinary people grappling with the effects of World War II on their everyday lives; this was accompanied by a digital feature that also marked this milestone. Related to that, the moving film *The Windermere Children* told the story of young Holocaust survivors rebuilding their lives in the English countryside, and a Holocaust survivor told the harrowing story of his struggle in *Call to Remember*. WTTW also welcomed new seasons of *Father Brown* and *Death in Paradise* and the new series *Baptiste* and *Frankie Drake Mysteries*; revealed *Secrets of the Royal Kitchens*; went undercover with *Nature's Spy in the Wild* series; celebrated *International Jazz Day from Australia*; and went inside the search for the human genome in *The Gene: An Intimate History*.

wttw.com celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with a visit to the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and examined the Chicago-centric legacy and influence of The Poetry Foundation for National Poetry Month.

On WFMT, Bill McGlaughlin devoted a week of his popular weeknight series *Exploring Music* to Wagner's *Ring* cycle. Itzhak Perlman hosted *A Musical Feast for Passover*, and a new work by Stacy Garrop, *Terra Nostra*, aired in honor of Earth Day, accompanied by a digital story exploring how classical composers drew inspiration from the natural world.. Also on wfmt.com, visitors celebrated International Guitar Month with a story on the instrument's wide musical range, and enjoyed performances by acclaimed pianists Joseph Moog and Lara Downes.





Story on wfmt.com



Asian Americans



Story on wfmt.com



National Memorial Day Concert

Photo: Courtesy of Capitol Concerts



Alison Balsom and Music of the Baroque



Great Performances: LA Phil 100

Photo: Craig T. Mathew and Greg Gruadt- Matthew Imaging



New York Philharmonic This Week

Photo: Cheryl Mazak



George W. Bush: American Experience

Photo: Courtesy of the National Archives

# MAY

**THIS MONTH**, WTTW's digital initiative *FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence* available online at [wttw.com/firsthand](http://wttw.com/firsthand) continued to air on Friday evenings – the series shares the personal stories of Chicagoans whose lives have been forever changed by everyday gun violence in the city, a trauma that affects not only the injured person, but ripples through communities.

As May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, WTTW offered the new two-night special *Asian Americans*, and on another note, continued to offer viewers its exciting Sunday night drama and mystery series bloc. As the month drew to a close, WTTW aired the country's first virtual National Memorial Day Concert. Online, visitors discovered the crafts, philosophical riches, and martial arts available at Chicago's Japanese Culture Center; revisited the furor around an attempted neo-Nazi march in Skokie that led to the creation of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center as *Viral* examined resurgent anti-Semitism; and learned about the fate of Chicago's oldest church structures as *NOVA* delved into efforts to save Paris's Notre Dame after last year's devastating fire.

WFMT continued to present *Maestro's Choice: For All Music Lovers in These*

*Difficult Times*, a series of performances from the Chicago Symphony's archives personally chosen by Maestro Riccardo Muti. Also, WFMT shared a Music of the Baroque concert performed and recorded earlier this year, with superstar trumpeter Alison Balsom, and Jane Glover conducting. Finally, the station launched a new series of international opera productions – this month, from the Munich National Opera and the Vienna State Opera. On [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) in recognition of Mother's Day, WFMT compiled a playlist of music inspired by and dedicated to mothers and grandmothers; took a look at music's long relationship with flora and nature; and featured a profile of the eccentric 20th-century composer, musician, performance artist, poet, and inventor Moondog.





Photo: Julie Florio and WTTW

Prehistoric Road Trip



Photo: Courtesy of Kudos-TV-Masterpiece

Grantchester Season 5 on Masterpiece



Photo: Courtesy of ITV, Fremantle

Beecham House on Masterpiece



Photo: Courtesy of Platon

Great Performances: Ann



Photo: Courtesy of Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, Magnolia Pictures

American Masters: Toni Morrison - The Pieces I Am



Photo: Courtesy of Joan Marcus

Great Performances: Gloria - A Life



Photo: Courtesy of Hulton-Archive/Getty Images

American Masters: Mae West - Dirty Blonde



Photo: Courtesy of Twin Cities Public Media Workshop, LLC

Hero Elementary

# JUNE

**THIS MONTH**, WTTW was proud to present to a national audience a new three-part series, *Prehistoric Road Trip*, written and hosted by the Field Museum’s “Chief Curiosity Correspondent” Emily Graslie, an epic adventure through America’s dinosaur country to search for mysterious creatures and bizarre ecosystems that have shaped Earth as we know it. The series included a rich companion website, [wttw.com/prehistoricroadtrip](http://wttw.com/prehistoricroadtrip), that featured an interactive road trip map, a behind-the-scenes travel journal, and more fun and fascinating web extras.

WTTW told the stories of more trailblazing women in June, with *American Masters* profiles of film icon Mae West and award-winning author Toni Morrison; Holland Taylor’s portrayal of legendary Texas governor Ann Richards; historian Lucy Worsley tracing *Royal History’s Myths and Secrets*; and an *American Experience* treatise on feminist Gloria Steinem, among others. On [wttw.com](http://wttw.com), visitors could watch an archival interview with Morrison and meet some recent Illinois female political figures, from labor activist Agnes Nestor to environmental activist Hazel Johnson.

WTTW also celebrated LGBT Pride Month with relevant content; premiered a new children’s series, *Hero Elementary*;

and brought audiences new seasons of *Grantchester* and *Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators*, plus a new British drama series set in India, *Beecham House*.

WFMT, mindful that Chicago’s summertime classical music festivals and other live performances were on pause for the season due to COVID-19, launched a new weekly series, *Best of the Grant Park Music Festival*, continued the *Maestro’s Choice* series from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, aired favorite past productions from Lyric Opera of Chicago, brought listeners a Danish String Quartet appearance with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and marked Father’s Day with cellist Lynn Harrell’s *Songs My Father Taught Me*. And in lieu of summertime travel, [wfmt.com](http://wfmt.com) offered a playlist celebrating far-flung locales, maritime voyages, and long layovers; and a lively music-oriented summer book list to brighten everyone’s time at home.





STAY HOME. HIT PLAY.



Photo: Liam Alexander

FIRSTHAND: Coronavirus



Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot in Garfield Park

wttw  
schedule watch programs events kids about support

playlist > culture

### Shows to Stream While You're Staying at Home

Daniel Hautzinger  
MARCH 17, 2020

You can still explore the world from the confinement of your home with shows and websites like WTTW's Weekend in Havana. Photo: Simon Phillips

As much of the city, state, and country stay at home and practice social distancing to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus, you might be looking for some things to do. Whether you're working from home and

Story on WTTW Playlist

WTTW CHINATOWN

Brandis Friedman and Paris Schutz report on Chinatown

wfmt

LISTEN SCHEDULE & PLAYLIST PROGRAMS STORES ABOUT SUPPORT

Quarantine Made Musical: Streamable Classical Concerts & Films To Brighten Your Day

By Keegan Morris | March 17, 2020

As people around the world hunker down to contain the spread of COVID-19, we're sorely lacking for sources of hope, inspiration, and beauty. But even in shutdown, these things aren't gone! They just require some extra hunting.

We've done the hunting for you, compiling classical, jazz, and dance performances, films, and videos that will brighten your day. Part of all of these come with free streaming options that you can enjoy on your phone or computer.

Story on wfmt.com

wttw

What You Should Know About The Novel Coronavirus

FRONTLINE: Love, Life & the Virus/Undocumented in the Pandemic

Latest News from WTTW

Important Resources

- [Coronavirus.gov](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Chicago Department of Public Health](#)
- [State of Illinois Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](#)

PAGE LINKS

- [WTTW News Coverage](#)
- [PBS NewsHour Coverage](#)

WTTW News Coronavirus hub



STAY HOME. HIT PLAY.

# THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**WITH THE** arrival of COVID-19 in Chicago, WTTW/WFMT fulfilled its responsibility to the public by providing vital updates as well as engaging, educational, and entertaining content to people of all ages, including:

## **WTTW Coronavirus Hub**

[wttw.com/coronavirus](http://wttw.com/coronavirus)

WTTW's dedicated site provided COVID-19 information and resources – a quick list of city, state, and federal resources and livestreams of coronavirus briefings and a feed of the latest WTTW News and *PBS NewsHour* stories and coverage.

## **FIRSTHAND: Coronavirus documentary series**

[wttw.com/firsthand](http://wttw.com/firsthand)

WTTW's new multipart digital series produced and released in real time on numerous WTTW and PBS platforms explored the personal, firsthand perspectives of a diverse group of Chicagoans affected by COVID-19. One of the stories appeared nationally on *PBS NewsHour*.

## **WTTW News Coverage**

[wttw.com/news](http://wttw.com/news)

WTTW News correspondents reported live from a different area or neighborhood each evening, learning how COVID-19 was affecting communities.

WTTW News also hosted a town hall meeting with young journalists to share how they were covering the pandemic, and produced an explainer video in English and Spanish about the 2020 Census.

## **WTTW Virtual Tours and Field Trips for Families**

During the city's stay-at-home order, WTTW provided virtual tours of many of Chicago's art and cultural institutions, and shared Mayor Lightfoot's weekly video "field trip" series *Stay Home. Hit Play*.

## **WTTW and WFMT Arts, Education, and Entertainment**

To keep families engaged while at home, WTTW and WFMT provided playlists of entertaining educational content, including immersive bingeable drama series, classical music experiences (concerts, films, quizzes, master classes), fascinating documentaries, and information about local restaurant pickup and delivery. In addition, games and activities for kids were made available, as well as PSAs and in-home learning resources, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools, for older students, young adults, parents, teachers, and caregivers.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Daisy with kids at Nature Cat event



FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence panel discussion



Nature Cat at Girl Scout camp



FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence Talks



East Lake Meadows event panelists & Brandis Friedman



Party for the Planet



Nature Cat at Lurie Children's Hospital



Free Spirit Media students and Paris Schutz

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**WTTW HOSTED** a wide variety of public events – first in-person, and then virtual – in connection with our content throughout the year.

WTTW launched *FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence*, focusing on five people affected by Chicago gun violence. WTTW collaborated with Heartland Alliance and Metropolitan Family Services to host a series of community conversations, in addition to the initiative’s expert talks and discussion guide. Other community forums included *East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story* with Sarah Burns and David McMahon at the Chicago Cultural Center; *College Behind Bars*, a live conversation with award-winning filmmakers Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein; and The First Rainbow Coalition, featuring Congressman Bobby Rush as part of a panel discussion. In the wake of civil unrest and killing of George Floyd, WTTW hosted *Peace and Justice: A Community Discussion* in connection with the WTTW News special.

WTTW also hosted a virtual screening of *Prehistoric Road Trip* that included an educators guide for students and an interview with series host Emily Graslie, and presented monthly screenings and panel discussions at the Chicago Cultural Center (and later virtually) in association with a variety of content producers. For kids, WTTW continued to leverage the costumed character

Nature Cat, including collaborating with the Kohl’s Children Museum on an interactive exhibit for children. The children’s series *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood* was the focus at Be My Neighbor Day, and Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum debuted at the Chicago International Children’s Film Festival. Other children’s community engagement opportunities included the WTTW Kids Big Idea Tour, the WTTW Kids Fun Food Fest, and the WTTW Kids Grandparent Connection.

Up until the COVID-19 shutdown, WFMT presented weekly live *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts* from the Chicago Cultural Center and from the Metropolitan Opera. WFMT also welcomed guests to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for numerous live broadcasts. Subsequently, archival performances were available on wfmt.com.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Be My Neighbor event with Daniel Tiger



Child with Daisy at Nature Cat event



Nature Cat & family



Grandparent Connection



College Behind Bars event



East Lake Meadows event panelist



FIRSTHAND Cultural Center event



College Behind Bars producer Lynn Novick

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**FISCAL 2020** JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

(in thousands)

## Assets

Cash and investments	\$50,574
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	3,184
Property and equipment, net	15,645
Other assets	2,361
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$71,763</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$2,892
Long-term loans payable	18,132
Other liabilities	2,360
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$23,384</b>

## Net assets

Without donor restrictions	\$25,753
With donor restrictions	22,626
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$48,379</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$71,763</b>

## Revenue

Direct Public Support and Development	\$22,860
Underwriting and production sponsorship	8,454
Program Licensing and Facility Rental	1,135
Federal and state grants	3,896
Other	6,120
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,465</b>

## Expenses

Programming and production	\$29,981
Fundraising	7,772
Administration	4,554
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$42,307</b>

Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities	\$158
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Statement of Activity\* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020

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(as of June 30, 2020)

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(as of June 30, 2020)

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