

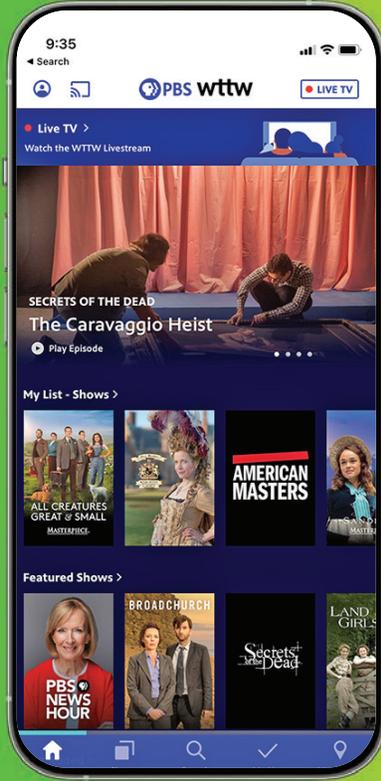
ANNUAL REPORT

2021

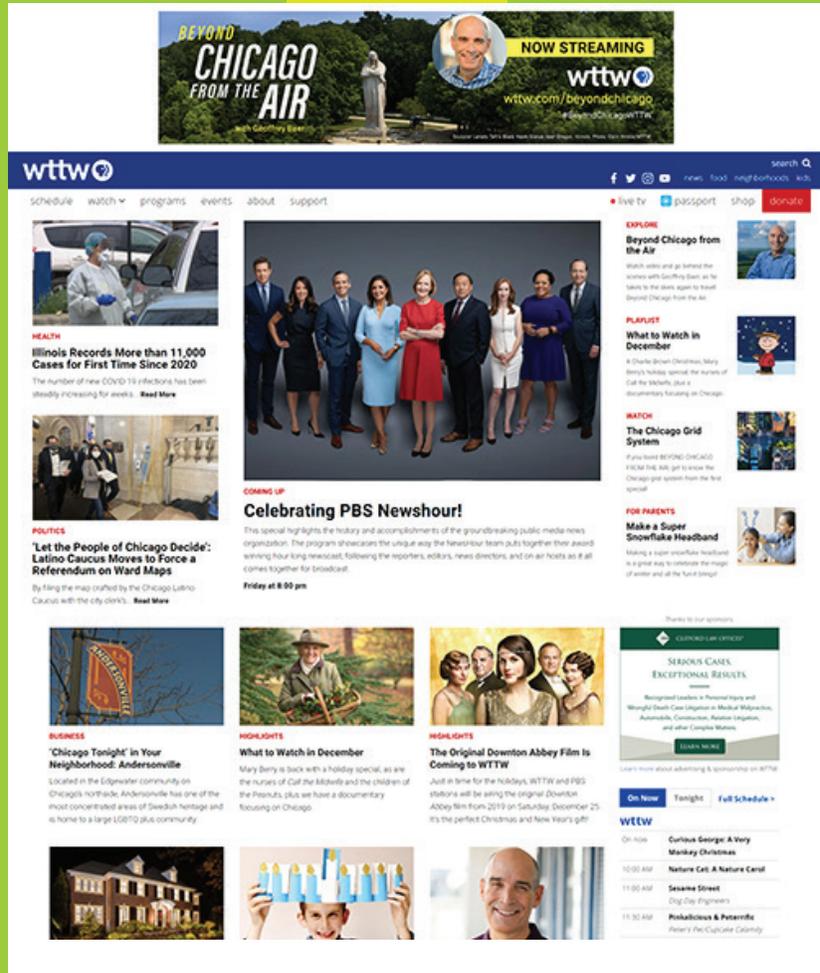
A YEAR IN STORIES



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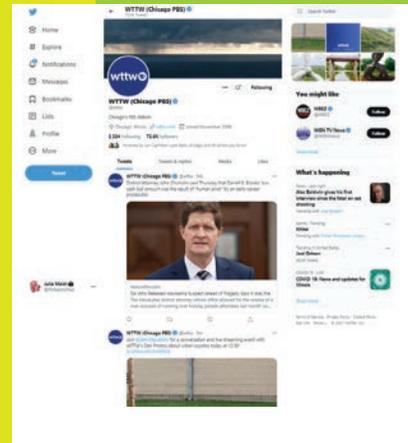
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On the cover (left to right): Geoffrey Baer – *Chicago from the Air*, photo by Ken Carl; *Donkey Hodie*, courtesy of Fred Rogers Productions; cellist Andrew Byun – *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts*; Patricia Jackson – *FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty*, photo by Liam Alexander

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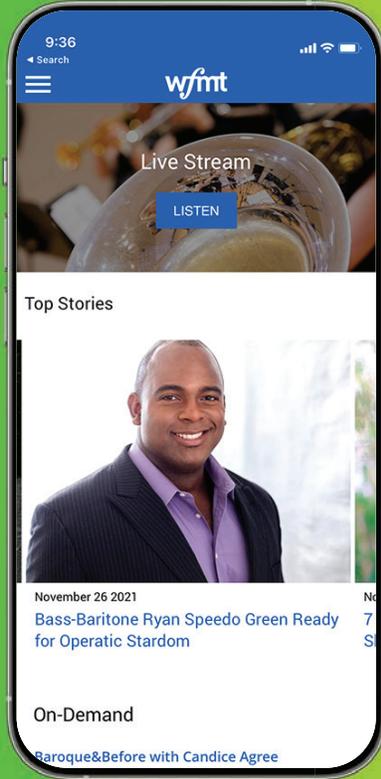
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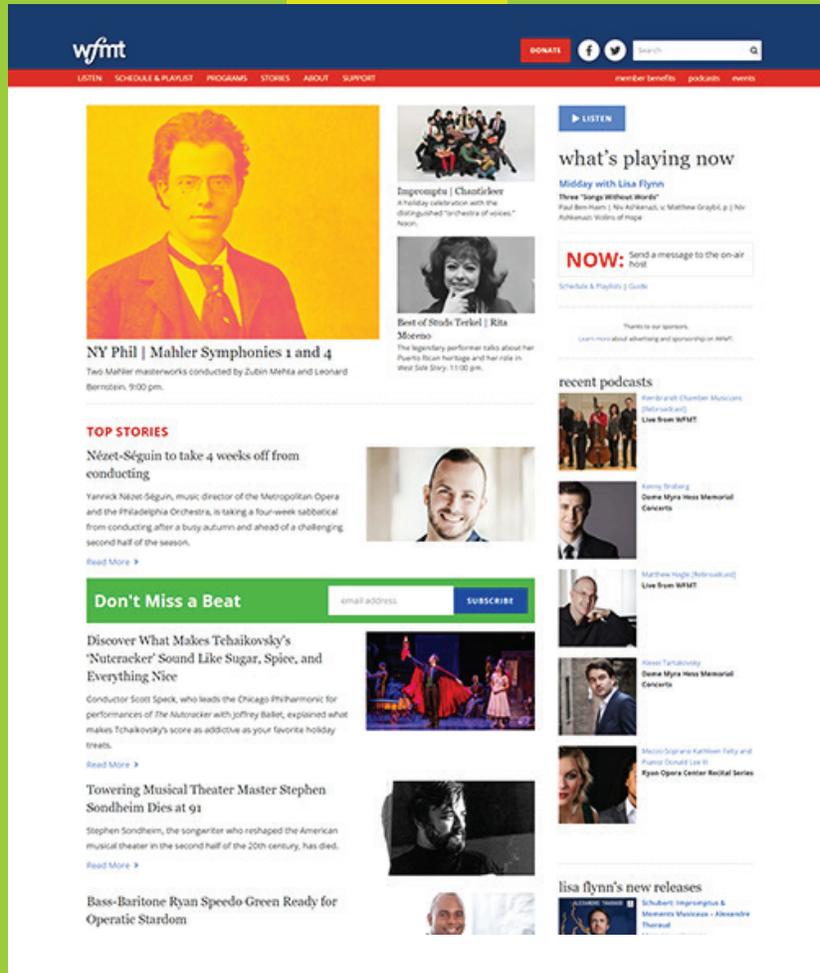
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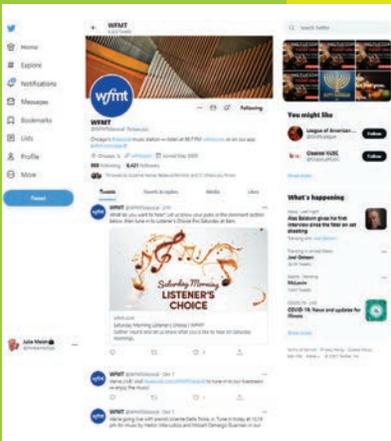
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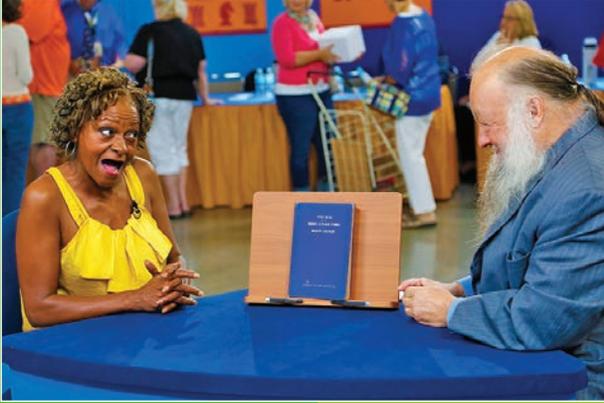


Photo: Jeff Dunn for WGBH

Antiques Roadshow: Women's Work

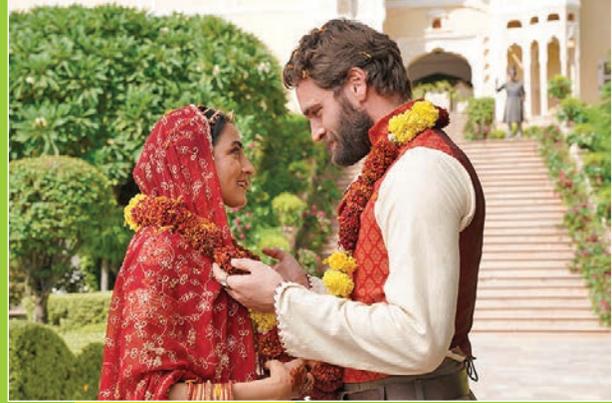


Photo: Masterpiece

Beecham House on Masterpiece



Photo: Kudos, ITV, Masterpiece

Grantchester



Photo: Julie Florio

Prehistoric Road Trip, Emily Graslie



Photo: Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing

The Vote: American Experience, Alice Paul



Photo: Mark Reinstein-Alamy Stock Photo

A Capitol Fourth



Nelson Algren



Photo: Peignoit Prod

Secrets of the Dead: Viking Warrior Queen

JULY

As Fiscal 2020 began, WTTW focused on a seminal event that happened 100 years ago that summer – the ratification of the U.S. Constitution’s 19th Amendment, which guaranteed American women the right to vote. WTTW and WFMT celebrated with a slate of special content highlighting trailblazing women past and present, highlighting their fight for equality and social justice.

Speaking of trailblazing women, WTTW’s *Prehistoric Road Trip* hosted by Emily Graslie concluded on July 1, but viewers could plan their own adventure, delve into the history of mammals, and take a behind-the-scenes look at the series anytime at wttw.com/prehistoricroadtrip. Other relevant highlights included *One Woman, One Vote*; *The Vote: American Experience*; *Antiques Roadshow: Women’s Work*; *Unladylike 2020: American Masters*; and *Secrets of the Dead: Viking Warrior Queen*. Also in July: a new film about writer Nelson Algren, and *Grantchester* and *Beecham House* continued on Sunday nights. wttw.com told the inspiring stories of game-changing political women in Illinois and Chicago, including Senator Tammy Duckworth and Juliette Kinzie, a pioneering historian of Chicago and the Midwest from the 19th century.

WFMT and wfmt.com highlighted works by women composers and performances by women artists, along with the contributions of women in music and society with interviews from the Studs Terkel Radio Archive ranging from Gloria Steinem to Gwendolyn Brooks. WFMT continued to offer the weekly series *Best of the Grant Park Music Festival*, along with recorded recitals from recent summers of the Ravinia Festival. For Independence Day, WFMT highlighted some composers who give a new voice to American classical music, and this month’s Saturday operas were all memorable productions from Lyric Opera of Chicago, including Bellini’s *I Puritani* starring Albina Shagimuratova and Lawrence Brownlee. Finally, to round out the month, wfmt.com explored some music composed for the theremin, the glass armonica, and more on Uncommon Instruments Awareness Day.





Endeavour Season 7 on Masterpiece

Photo: Mammoth Screen



Japan with Sue Perkins



American Experience: GHW Bush

Photo: George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum



New Midnight Special host Marilyn Rea Beyer

Photo: Rick Beyer Plate of Peas Productions

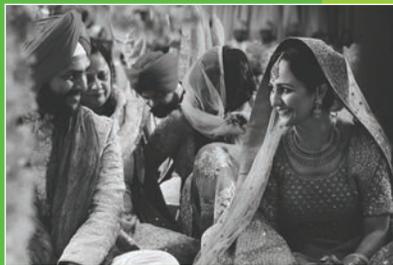


Folkstage host Rich Warren

Photo: WFMT



Playlist story: A Short History of Corruption in Illinois



POV: About Love

Photo: Archana Atul Phaeke



Lucy Worsley's Royal Photo Album

Photo: Lorian Reed-Drake

AUGUST

The months leading up to a presidential election are always an exceptionally busy time for news organizations, but the 2020 election season was unlike any other in memory. The lingering effects of COVID-19 on our communities compelled journalists everywhere to reimagine how they reported local and national news, and in 2020, this included a presidential election. On WTTW, *PBS NewsHour* and *Chicago Tonight* provided exclusive analysis and coverage of the virtual national conventions, and there was also plenty of political reporting on wttw.com/news. Also this month, *American Experience* explored the presidency of George H.W. Bush. For something completely different, *Endeavour Season 7* on *Masterpiece* and *Lucy Worsley's Royal Photo Album* premiered, along with two new POV films, *Chez Jolie Coiffure* and *About Love*. On wttw.com, stories included a look at Operation Silver Shovel, one of the largest political corruption cases in the country; and a profile of feminist Sophonisba Breckinridge, a progressive and social reformer in Chicago in the early decades of the 20th century.

To kick off the month on WFMT, new host Marilyn Rea Beyer took the reins of *The Midnight Special* from Rich Warren, and the station revisited two spectacular Grant Park Music Festival concerts to end its virtual summer radio season: a celebration of women composers and Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*, and followed up with a new series of highlights from Chicago's Music of the Baroque. *LA Opera on Air* presented Bizet's *Carmen*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, and Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*; and the CSO performed a concert version of Verdi's *Aida* conducted by Riccardo Muti. To round out the month, WFMT shared the Royal Danish Opera's production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. wfmt.com offered a compendium of music from the women's suffrage movement, and created a challenging quiz as the world prepared to mark the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven.





Great Performances: Romeo and Juliet



Frontline: The Choice



Last Tango in Halifax

Photo: Matt Squire



Black Voices host Brandis Friedman on set



Catalyst Quartet

Photo: WTTW & Ken Carl



Elinor Wonders Why

Image: Pipeline Studios; SHOE Ink



Mariachi Herencia de Mexico



Van der Valk on Masterpiece

Photo: Company Pictures; all3media

SEPTEMBER

As the COVID-19 lockdown continued, WTTW News reported nightly from the neighborhoods, talking with residents and sharing their stories. The coverage illuminated how the pandemic disproportionately affected Black and Latino communities in Chicago, compelling WTTW to sharpen its focus on how the station uses its public media platform to serve Chicago's diverse community.

With that priority in mind, that month WTTW launched the weekly *Chicago Tonight: Latino Voices* and *Chicago Tonight: Black Voices*, two additions to the news and public affairs lineup and an extension of WTTW's flagship news program. The VOICES series provides insightful coverage of current events and create opportunities for real conversation, offering features on a wide range of topics, including arts and life, entrepreneurship and innovation, and equity and justice in the city's Black and Latino communities.

WTTW also offered extensive election coverage, including the incisive *Frontline: The Choice - Trump vs. Biden*, interviewing its renowned producer-director-writer, Michael Kirk. The station also presented a slate of content to mark Hispanic Heritage Month; premiered a new children's series, *Elinor Wonders Why*; the four-part series *Hacking Your Mind*; a *Great Performances* ballet production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*; an edgy new detective series, *Van Der Valk on Masterpiece*; and a much-anticipated season of the British "dramedy" *Last Tango in Halifax*.

WFMT also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by featuring works by Spanish and Latin-American composers and musicians including Heitor Villa-Lobos, Alfredo Rolando Ortiz, and Guadalupe Trigo. And listeners enjoyed the legendary soprano Leontyne Price's performance of Manuel de Falla's *El Amor Brujo* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and *Impromptu's* visit with the award-winning Catalyst Quartet. WFMT also presented new recitals from the Ravinia Festival and *Voices from the Silence*, commemorating the 9/11 attacks. wfmt.com featured Latin music and performing arts groups, including Mariachi Herencia de México and Sones de México.





MIC 90th Anniversary, The Chen Family Quartet



COBRA on Masterpiece

Photo: Sky UK Limited



Great Chicago Fire a Chicago Stories Special



Flesh and Blood on Masterpiece

Photo: Masterpiece



New Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: John Cebulia



Hidden Poland, Peter Greenberg



The Trouble with Maggie Cole

Photo: Jess Barratt, Genial Productions



Welz Kauffman recalls 20 Summers at Ravinia

OCTOBER

The anniversary of a cataclysmic event that radically altered the course of the city's history: the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. WTTW delved into the incident and its aftermath with a new documentary and website, *Chicago Stories: The Great Chicago Fire*, that explored the root causes and lasting effects of the tragedy – how it forever changed the way city planners envisioned its built environment; how prevailing attitudes toward immigrants contributed to an innocent woman being blamed for igniting it; and how Chicago residents pulled together to build back better than before. The website added more fascinating stories, including how Queen Victoria sought to help the city recover.

Hispanic Heritage Month continued with more relevant content (including a web story on Chicago labor activist Rudy Lozano), and WTTW also marked Polish-American Heritage Month with two new specials, including *Hidden Poland*. Also in addition to extensive political coverage of the upcoming elections, three new drama series premiered: *Flesh and Blood on Masterpiece*, *COBRA*, and *The Trouble with Maggie Cole*. *American Masters* profiled conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and *Nature's* cameras captured pandas in the wild.

WFMT too honored Hispanic Heritage Month with music written and performed by musicians from Spain and Latin America including an Hispanic-themed program from the Milwaukee Symphony. Also, WFMT shared highlights from Music of the Baroque; looked back at Welz Kauffman's 20 summers at Ravinia; presented operas from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Hamburg State Opera; and aired a New Philharmonic Orchestra tribute to film composer John Williams. And as WTTW focused on the Great Fire, wfmt.com created a companion playlist of music inspired by fire and an exploration, in parallel, of the illustrious 130-year history of the Chicago Symphony, via *From the CSO's Archives* and a program that celebrated CSO founder Theodore Thomas.





POV: Our Time Machine



Photo: Trickster Cultural Center

D-Day Warriors: It Was Our War Too



Photo: Johan Persson

Great Performances: One Man, Two Guvnors



Photo: America's Test Kitchen LLC

America's Test Kitchen: Home for the Holidays



Changing Nature



Photo: Terra Mater Factual Studios

Nature: Santa's Wild Home



Photo: WTTW and Ken Carl

Geoffrey Baer in Chicago from the Air



Photo: Wndrll Productions

NOVA: Saving Notre Dame

NOVEMBER

This month, WTTW brought its audience something for which to be truly thankful: an all-new special narrated by Geoffrey Baer. In *Chicago from the Air*, a drone-mounted camera soared, swooped, and spiraled through and around Chicago's landmarks, neighborhoods, and suburbs. Along the way, Geoffrey shared his signature "I never knew that!" facts while following remnants of long-lost trails, roads, and green spaces, discovering how Chicago truly lives up to its motto, "City in a Garden." The program's companion website extended the experience with a colorful map, many more fascinating stories about the city's landmarks, and web-exclusive video.

As Thanksgiving approached, WTTW aired holiday specials from two of its most popular cooking programs: *A Chef's Life*, in which Vivian Howard served up her Southern cooking heritage; and *America's Test Kitchen*, with the entire cast revealing their all-time favorite recipes. *Great Performances* offered a front-row seat for *One Man, Two Guvnors* starring the Tony-winning James Corden; *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, a history of the iconic musical *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn the Musical*; and Broadway star *Lea Salonga in Concert*. *NOVA* went behind the scenes of *Saving Notre Dame*; *Nature* explored *Santa's Wild Home*; and *Masterpiece* celebrated *50 Fabulous Years* of incredible programs.

WFMT played music by American composers and performers throughout the month, plus Dvorak's iconic *New World Symphony* to honor Thanksgiving Day. Other Thanksgiving-related content included three special episodes of *Arias and Songs*; a *With Heart and Voice* Thanksgiving special. *Introductions* teamed up with the People's Music School for a special livestreamed event, and wfmt.com celebrated Thanksgiving with a playlist of American autumn-oriented works and explored the musical heritage of some Native American tribes who inhabited the Chicago area. Finally, WFMT hosts and staff shared their favorite Thanksgiving recipes, and music that goes with them.





Photo: Apollo's Fire

Itzhak Perlman's Hanukkah Radio Party

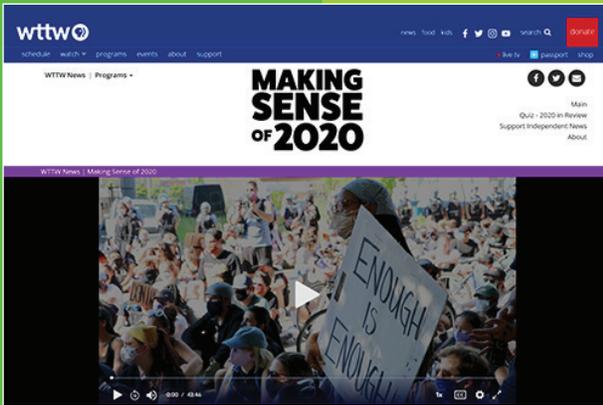


Photo: Apollo's Fire

Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain



Call the Midwife Holiday Special 2020



Making Sense of 2020 webpage



Chicago a cappella's Hanukkah special



Wild Travels: Most Unusual Festivals



Lincoln is Crying, Rita Crundwell



Photo: Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

Kelli O'Hara with The Tabernacle Choir

DECEMBER

With a global pandemic, a recession, nationwide racial reckoning, the 2020 census, and a presidential election, 2020 was a year like none other. To kick off December, *Chicago Tonight* and WTTW News presented a new special, *Making Sense of 2020*, that journeyed back to the beginning to show how Chicagoans adapted to a new normal in the face of COVID-19, how the city coped with racial unrest and responded with activism, and how communities strove to rebuild their lives. wttw.com offered a related quiz where viewers could test their knowledge about the year's big events.

Also in December on WTTW, *Lincoln is Crying* highlighted Illinois political corruption, *Call the Midwife* returned with a new holiday special set in 1965, and WTTW also brightened the holiday with some exceptional choral music, including *Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir with Kelli O'Hara and Richard Thomas*, *The Wheaton College Christmas Festival*, and *Christmas at Belmont*, and marked Hanukkah with *Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas* and *Hanukkah: A Festival of Delights*. wttw.com, in this month of holiday treats, entered the Wonka-esque world of Chicago candymakers in *Shelf Life: The Story of Lanzi Candy*, and shared some run and safe ways to enjoy the holidays in Chicagoland.

WFMT was pleased to present a new holiday special, *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain*, in which the ensemble Apollo's Fire explored the medieval Irish and Scottish roots of traditional holiday music in the Appalachians. WFMT's Sunday morning series *With Heart and Voice* honored the Advent and Christmas seasons, Chicago a cappella and famed violinist Itzhak Perlman celebrated Hanukkah, and the Chicago Symphony brought listeners the traditional Handel's *Messiah*. wfmt.com offered a rundown of safe holiday music celebrations in the area, ranked Beethoven's 10 most influential compositions to mark his 250th birthday, and revealed a playlist of underrated and obscure classical holiday music.





Photo: Liam Alexander

FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty, Andino



Photo: Liam Alexander

FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty, Dominetrius



Photo: Liam Alexander

FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty, Gary



Photo: Liam Alexander

FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty, Melissa



Photo: Liam Alexander

FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty, Patricia



Photo: Playground Television Ltd.

All Creatures Great and Small on Masterpiece



Photo: BBC

Africa With Ade Adepitan



Photo: STV Productions photo by Mark Mainz

Elizabeth is Missing on Masterpiece



Photo: SMasterpiece

Miss Scarlet and the Duke on Masterpiece

JANUARY

On January 18, WTTW was proud to launch Year 3 of the Emmy Award-winning multi-platform initiative *FIRSTHAND*, that tells important stories from personal, firsthand perspectives. The digital documentary series *FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty* focuses on five individuals who were born in Chicago's most impoverished areas and what makes their circumstances so difficult to escape. WTTW also presented five filmed "Talks" by experts offering possible solutions, text stories on the five subjects and related features, a discussion guide, and community screening events that included panel discussions.

Also in January, WTTW presented more timely personal stories in *PBS American Portrait*, and other highlights included a new adaptation of *All Creatures Great and Small*; the new series *Miss Scarlet and the Duke*, *The Long Song*, and *Africa with Ade Adepitan*; *Elizabeth is Missing* starring Glenda Jackson, *POV: The Mole Agent*, and new episodes of *Finding Your Roots*. On wttw.com, viewers explored more causes and solutions to the issue of poverty in America with *PBS NewsHour*, WTTW News, and more; looked back on WTTW's two previous *FIRSTHAND* series, and got insights from a *Frontline* producer about the issue of child poverty in America.

WFMT commenced 2021 with *New Year's in Vienna* from the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Riccardo Muti – the special also aired on WTTW that evening. Also this month, George Preston hosted *Music and Conversation with Enrique Mazzola*, Lyric Opera's music director designate; the Metropolitan Opera recalled a memorable 1961 performance of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* starring Leontyne Price and Franco Corelli; and WFMT brought listeners *A Beautiful Symphony of Brotherhood*, tracing Dr. Martin Luther King's life and legacy through his love of music. On wfmt.com, Renée Fleming's *Music and the Mind* series explores how music contributes to health and happiness. WFMT staff members also shared videos and recordings that never fail to bring them reassurance and serenity.





The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song



Finding Your Roots host Henry Louis Gates with Tony Shalhoub



Photo: IMG Artists

Baritone Chris Kenney



Photo: Zensky Green Artist Management

Soprano Nicole Heaston



The HistoryMakers: Harry Belafonte



Cellist Ifetayo Ali-Landing



Photo: Eari E. Gibson III

When Disaster Strikes: A Perfect Storm



Photo: Mercury Studios

Tina Turner: One Last Time

FEBRUARY

As is traditional in February, WTTW marked Black History Month with a full roster of dedicated programs. Notable among them was Henry Louis Gates's celebration of *The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song*, along with more new episodes of *Finding Your Roots*; relevant documentaries from *Independent Lens* and *American Experience*; revealing biographies of the legendary entertainers Josephine Baker and Tina Turner and renowned R&B musician Billy Stewart; and a look back at the TV showcases *SOUL!* and *Tower of Power*.

All Creatures Great and Small and *Miss Scarlet and the Duke* continued on Sunday nights, and other programs included two *Independent Lens* films, *9to5 - The Story of a Movement* and *Women in Blue*; *Europe's New Wild*; and *Beyond the Elements on NOVA*. Stories on wttw.com included a compendium of historic Black churches in Chicago - their importance to the community, their storied visitors, and their outstanding architecture; a look back at Chicago's groundbreaking first Black mayor, Harold Washington; and a profile of an important Black author tied to Chicago: Willard Motley, also known as Bud Billiken.

WFMT featured Black composers and performers throughout the month, including a Sunday edition of *With Heart and Voice*, plus a variety of vintage conversations on *Best of Studs Terkel*. The station's newest voice, LaRob Payton, hosted *Music of the Black Church*, to preview the following week's WTTW special; LaRob also presented *Cello-Piano Music by Black Composers*, with youthful artists Ifetayo Ali-Landing and Joshua Mhoon. And from WQXR-WNYC came an encore broadcast of *A Beautiful Symphony of Brotherhood*, paying tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On wfmt.com, listeners got a rundown of streaming concerts and events centering around Black musicians and composers, and explored some memorable film scores by Black composers, from Terence Blanchard to Marvin Gaye to Kathryn Bostic.



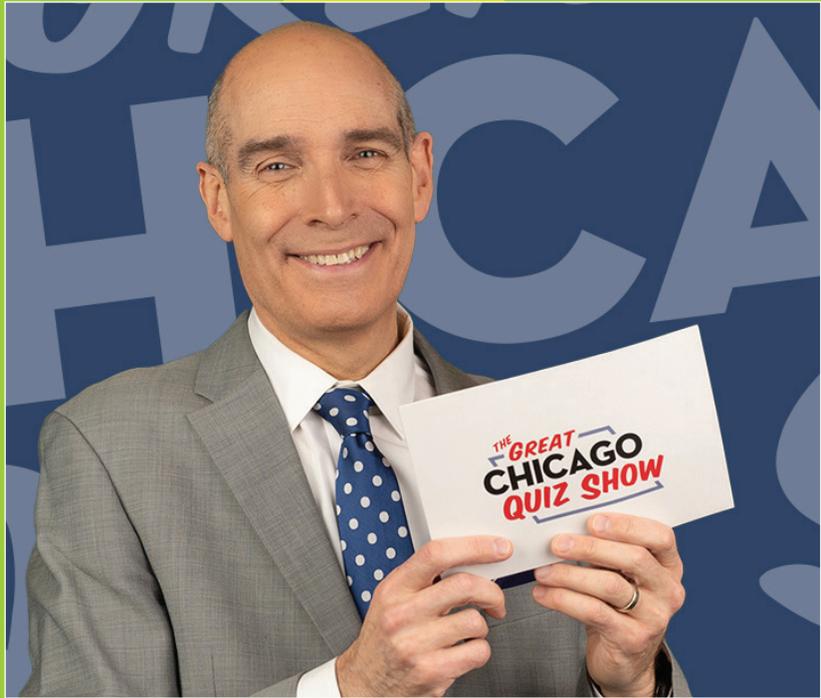
MARCH



Chicago Sinfonietta's Mei-Ann Chen



Playlist story, Emily Taft Douglas



Great Chicago Quiz Show with Geoffrey Baer

Photo: WTTW-Ken Carl



A More Perfect Union: A Tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg



POV: And She Could Be Next

Photo: Grace Lee and Marjan Safinia



Dolly Parton: 50 Years at the Opry

Photo: Grand Ole Opry LLC Chris Hello



Not Done: Women Remaking America

Photo: Victoria Pickering



Renée Fleming

Photo: Andrew Eccles

MARCH

This month, WTTW was excited to premiere a fun new series designed to appeal to area trivia buffs and curious explorers alike. In *The Great Chicago Quiz Show*, Geoffrey Baer connected in a new way with a smart and socially distanced group of local contestants - with a few notables sprinkled in - who tried their hand at some wide-ranging questions about our city. On its companion website, wttw.com/quiz, viewers could play along at home and test their knowledge - in real time - with many other questions not in the show.

WTTW marked Women's History Month with profiles of novelist Flannery O'Connor, entertainer Dolly Parton (celebrating 50 years at the Grand Ole Opry) and choreographer Twyla Tharp; a *POV* documentary, *And She Could Be Next*, that explored a defiant movement of women of color transforming politics; and *Not Done: Women Remaking America*, tracing the last five years of women's fight for equality. On wttw.com, subjects included Emily Taft Douglas, wife of Senator Paul Douglas, who served in U.S. House of Representatives; the past and present of Chicago's Women's Park and Gardens; and restaurateur Niquenya Collins and her new Afro-Caribbean restaurant and catering business, Cocoa Chili.

On WFMT, *A More Perfect Union: A Tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg* was just one of the Women's History Month features. WFMT also presented *The Wreckers*, by the trailblazing British composer Dame Ethel Smyth, plus profiles of soprano Leontyne Price and *Music and Conversation* features with mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne and soprano Renée Fleming. wfmt.com streamed live Chicago Cultural Center performances of music by female composers, including Rebecca Clarke, Fanny Mendelssohn, Mel Bonis, and Henriette Renié; featured female pianists who have changed the instrument for good; and shone a spotlight on women conductors Antonia Brico, Nadia Boulanger, Marin Alsop, and Mei-Ann Chen, who changed the face of classical music.





Photo: Steve Munding

International Jazz Day, Stevie Wonder and Esperanza Spalding



Photo: Sonya Garza

Angel Blue: From the Metropolitan Opera



Photo: Rob Youngson

Great Performances: Romeo & Juliet

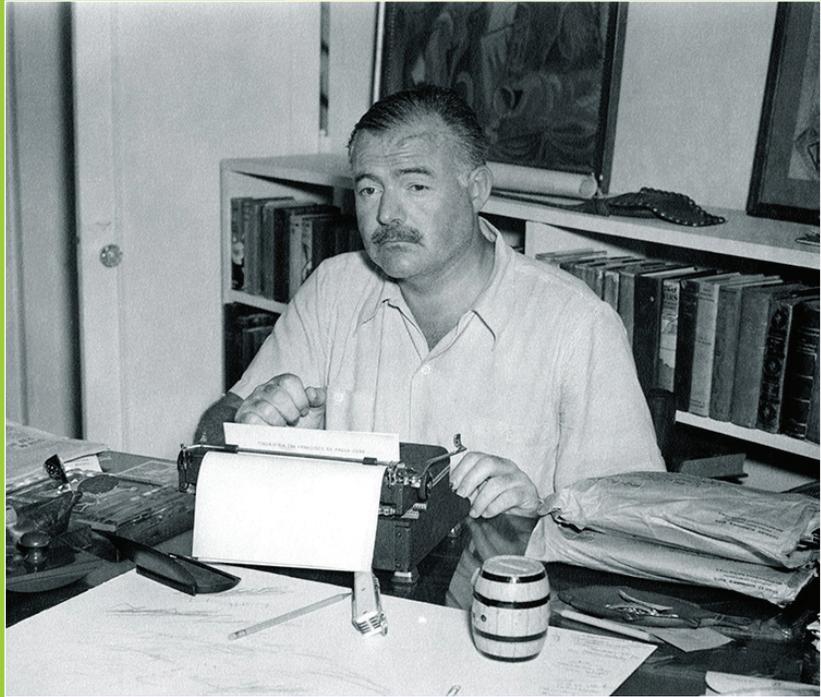


Photo: Ernest Hemingway Photograph Collection, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

Ernest Hemingway



Photo: Sisi Bum

Apollo's Fire conductor Jeannette Sorrell



Photo: Elisa Ferrari

Losing Earth composer Adam Schoenberg



Photo: Masterpiece, Julie Vrabelova

Atlantic Crossing on Masterpiece



Photo: Jon Sayers © BBC Studios

Greta Thunberg, A Year to Save the Planet

APRIL

This month saw the much-anticipated premiere of a new multipart film from Ken Burns and Lynn Novick: an in-depth look at the turbulent life and indelible work of the legendary 20th century author Ernest Hemingway. Burns told the story of this native Midwesterner through excerpts from his iconic short stories, novels, and non-fiction, revealing the brilliant, ambitious, charismatic, and complicated man behind the myth. WTTW created a microsite around the film that included an image gallery, episode guide, video, and related stories, including an in-depth look at the writer's youth in Oak Park and Chicago.

April also brings Earth Day, and WTTW celebrated with a three-part documentary on the teen climate activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Greta Thunberg. Also notable was *Atlantic Crossing on Masterpiece*; a *Great Performances* presentation of *Romeo and Juliet*; *American Masters* profiles of trumpeter Doc Severinsen and author Oliver Sacks; the docuseries *Philly D.A.*; and the *International Jazz Day 10th Anniversary Celebration*. wttw.com shared an interview with composer Johnny Gandelman about the process of scoring the *Hemingway* series – he had previously worked with Burns and Novick on *The Vietnam War*.

On WFMT, the San Francisco Symphony program on Earth Day opened with *Losing Earth*, a concerto for percussion and orchestra by the contemporary American composer Adam Schoenberg. Also, for Holy Week, WFMT aired *O Jerusalem: Crossroads of Three Faiths* by Apollo's Fire conducted by founder Jeannette Sorrell, *The Midnight Special* featured Peggy Seeger, and *Live from the Metropolitan Opera* included Puccini's *La Bohème* starring Angel Blue as Mimi. On wfmt.com, in connection with the Ken Burns film, there was music in film and TV adaptations of Hemingway's works, and for Earth Day, a playlist of contemporary classical music inspired by the earth and environmentalism and a compendium of easy, eco-friendly solutions to help musicians stay green.





Photo: Triumph Pictures

Say His Name: Five Days for George Floyd



Photo: Johan Persson

Great Performances: Uncle Vanya



Photo: KJR Films

American Masters: Amy Tan



Photo: The Logan Industry

Independent Lens: The Donut King



Photo: Keith Perry

The Midnight Special, Eric Bibb



Photo: Jiyang Chen

Soprano Diana Damrau



Composer-musician Kenji Bunch



Photo: University of Chicago Photographic Archive, [a.pft-08637], Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Ida B. Wells: A Chicago Stories Special

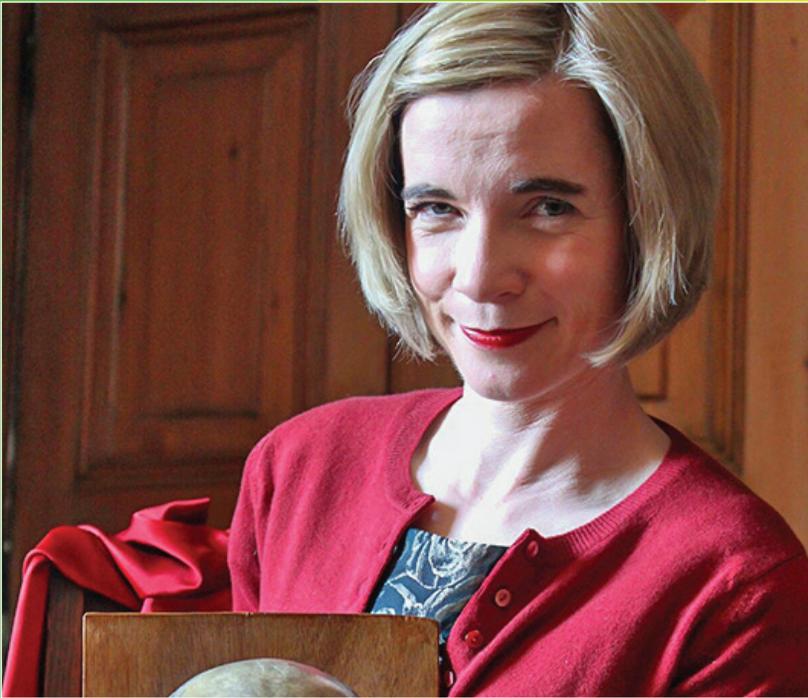
MAY

This month, WTTW brought to life the investigative journalist, activist, and suffragist Ida B. Wells as never before with a primetime documentary and companion website. The latest *Chicago Stories* special painted a deeply humanizing portrait of a woman who was uncompromising in her quest for racial justice and equity, and placed Ida B. Wells' life and legacy squarely in the context of our present moment.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, WTTW presented new specials on author Amy Tan, Vietnamese-American chef Tu David Phu, statesman Norman Mineta, pioneering meteorologist Ted Fujita, and "donut king" Ted Ngoy. Also notable were a *Great Performances* presentation of Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, the nature series *Life at the Waterhole*, and the documentaries *Unadopted* and *Say His Name: Five Days for George Floyd*. On wttw.com, stories included the student-led campaign to institute Asian American Studies programs in Chicago schools, and a profile of Mary Anne Mohanraj, a Sri Lankan-born, Chicagoland-based writer whose work spans genres from science fiction and fantasy to cookbooks. Also: a behind-the-scenes look at the new PBS KIDS series *Donkey Hodie* which is filmed in WTTW's own Grainger Studio.

WFMT also recognized Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a broad range of selected music including a focus on Kenji Bunch, an acclaimed composer and violist. *The Midnight Special* featured acoustic blues singer/songwriter Eric Bibb, and stars this month on *From the Metropolitan Opera* included Sondra Radvanofsky, Diana Damrau, Željko Lucic, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Sir Simon Rattle. Also, WFMT explored the stories of Asian American composers and musicians such as Yo-Yo Ma and Midori who have changed the face of classical music, and sat down with instructors at Chicago's Japanese Cultural Center for a discussion about classical dance and music that originated in their country.





A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley

Photo: BBC



How She Rolls, Carrie Morey

Photo: Monica Galloway Photography



Ballerina Boys: American Masters

Photo: Merrywidow Films LLC; Laura Nespola



Monty Python Best Bits Celebrated

Photo: Python Monty Pictures Ltd.



People vs. Agent Orange, Tran To Nga with victims

Photo: Hoang Nguyen



Human: The World Within

Photo: Juan O. Rodriguez



Out in Rural America



Out in Rural America

JUNE

In June, WTTW and WFMT celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride Month with a rich and diverse collection of on-air and digital content.

Highlights on WTTW included *American Masters: Ballerina Boys*, profiling an all-male ballet troupe putting a comedic spin on the classics; *Out in Rural America*, five stories about the LGBTQ experience in a small Midwestern town; *Expect a Miracle: Finding Light in the Darkness of a Pandemic*, spotlighting the AIDS crisis in San Diego and the heroes who run its Fraternity House hospice; and *Becoming Johanna*, following a teenaged transgender Latina. Also notable: *Us on Masterpiece*, *Agatha and the Truth of Murder*, and *A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley*. On wttw.com, featured stories included on local activist Lori Cannon, who applied her decades of experience feeding AIDS sufferers to the COVID-19 pandemic; a spotlight on Chicago's Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, documenting LGBTQ+ history in the hope of dispelling homophobia and marginalization; and an explanation of the role that lesbians played in the city's women's movement as they fought for equality.

WFMT's content for LGBTQ Pride Month included Benjamin Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings*. Britten wrote this piece for his creative and life partner, tenor Peter Pears, who appeared on the recording with Britten himself conducting. Other selections included Britten's *Billy Budd* from the Metropolitan Opera; the special *An AIDS Quilt Songbook: Sing for Hope* on *Listening to Singers* as well as an episode featuring lesbian artists Patricia Racette, Jamie Barton, and Laurie Rubin; and throughout the month, works by Copland, Ravel, Debussy, and many more. wfmt.com included a walking tour of 11 LGBTQ+ pioneering artists, part of a display in Lakeview; a playlist of classical music by LGBTQ+ composers from Antonio Vivaldi to Ethyl Smith; and WFMT's livestream of a preview of the North Shore Chamber Music Festival.



JAMES W. MABIE

(1935-2021)

Jim served as Trustee at WTTW and WFMT for 20 years and as Board Chair from 2014-2020. He was an invaluable advocate for public media and fine arts broadcasting and had an affinity for WTTW's Chicago Tonight and an eclectic appreciation for the classical and folk music presented on WFMT. On May 5, 2021 Jim was honored at WFMT and WTTW's gala celebrating the 70th anniversary of WFMT – *Your Front Row Seat: A Celebration of Music and the Arts* – for his contributions to the arts community.

During his leadership as Board Chair, Jim was instrumental in the appointment of Sandra Cordova Micek as President and CEO. Jim oversaw the successful completion of the organization's largest capacity-building campaign, the Imagining More campaign and its major projects including the launch of the Studs Terkel Radio Archive, the *10 that Changed America* national PBS series, and several digital productions including *Math in Music*. He helped create and launch the 3-year Strategic Plan, participated in WTTW's Diamond Anniversary, and was instrumental in the formation of a Community Engagement program.

Curious, invested, and accessible, Jim was an engaged Board Chair and Trustee. When visiting the station, he would meaningfully connect with staff and volunteers, join team meetings, and attend events such as our annual galas and live performances in the Daniel & Fay Levin Performance Studio. Jim also travelled to Havana, Cuba with fellow Trustees and staff during the filming of *Weekend in Havana*.

Jim's passion for the organization and his many interests translated to his philanthropy. He actively supported general operations and programming for WTTW and WFMT on every platform, including WFMT's *Introductions* and multiple Challenge Grants during Membership Drives; WTTW's Fall Arts Festival, Geoffrey Baer's *Chicago By 'L'*, and the Chicago presentation of Ken Burn's *National Parks*; and all three seasons of the digital-first series *FIRSTHAND*, among others. He also made the inaugural leadership gift to the WTTW Fund for Independent News, supporting his belief that public media is essential to an informed citizenry and democracy.

In addition to his service as Trustee and Chair at WTTW and WFMT, Jim was actively involved in the philanthropic community particularly in the areas of public media, arts and culture, and social services. To name some of his volunteer commitments, he served with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, WBEZ Public Radio, Thresholds, Old Town School of Folk Music, the Cara Program, and was the founding Chair of Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts).

Jim was the Chair of Chicago Capital since 2018 after holding senior leadership and portfolio management roles with William Blair and A.G Becker. Early in his career, Jim spent thirteen years in the retail business with Marshall Field & Company.

Jim is survived by his wife Kay and their four children and their families.





James & Kay Mabie with Grover



Denny Cummings, Sandra Micek, Jim Mabie, Peter McNitt

Photo: WTTW & Ken Carl



James W. Mabie



Jim Mabie in convertible

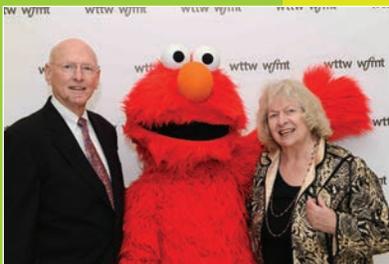
Photo: Liam Alexander for WTTW



Jim Mabie and Ken Burns



Jim & Kay Mabie



Jim & Kay Mabie with Elmo



Geoffrey Baer, Sandra Cordova Micek, Jim Mabie



Denyce Graves, WFMT Classical Conversations event



Buddy Bison and Nature Cat



FIRSTHAND Living in Poverty kickoff event



FIRSTHAND Living in Poverty event



FIRSTHAND Living in Poverty Instituto event



Miguel de Leon, WTTW Kids Learn & Play



WFMT's Introductions - Livestream with The People's Music School

Photo: The People's Music School



FIRSTHAND Living in Poverty: Reverend Jesse Jackson at kickoff event

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WTTW hosted a wide variety of virtual public events – in connection with our content throughout the year.

WTTW launched *FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty*, a multiplatform initiative that put a human face on intergenerational poverty in Chicago. For the third season of the series, WTTW collaborated with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, City Colleges of Chicago, United Way of Metro Chicago, Instituto Del Progreso Latino to host a series of community conversations, plus expert talks and discussion guide. To launch the *FIRSTHAND* community engagement events, Rev. Jesse Jackson welcomed guests. Other community forums included *Hemingway and Childhood: A Virtual Preview & Discussion* with Ken Burns and Lynn Novick; *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*, a live conversation with civil rights activist Rev. Otis Moss III; and *Ida B. Wells: A Chicago Stories Special*, featuring the film's producer-writer Stacy Robinson; Wells' great grandson Dan Duster, and Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* reporter and creator of the landmark 1619 Project. WTTW also recognized the somber one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd by hosting a *VOICES: A WTTW News Community Conversations* that explored the impact of his death both locally and nationally, explored where the racial justice movement stands, and offered ideas for the path forward.

WTTW Kids launched a new online educational series, *WTTW Kids Learn & Play*, that guides preschool students in developing skills in social-emotional development, math, and language and literacy. WTTW Kids also collaborated with the National Park Service, offering interactive, virtual Nature Cat meet-and-greet sessions. Nature Cat also continued to engage children at home via a virtual summer camp offered in partnership with Think TV, the Greater Dayton PBS station (Ohio).

In an effort to continue to engage with classical music listeners, WFMT launched *Classical Conversations*, interviews with some of the most renowned composers and performers in classical music. Guests included with star mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves; Marin Alsop, one of America's foremost conductors; and acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator Jessie Montgomery.





Photo: Courtesy CYSO

Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra



Photo: WTTW & Ken Carl

Chicago Tonight co-anchors Paris Schutz, Brandis Friedman



Photo: Courtesy of McGee Media

Finding Your Roots: Laughing on the Inside, Henry Louis Gates and Lewis Black



Photo: Vicki Sharp Photography

The Midnight Special, Peggy Seeger



Photo: Liam Alexander for WTTW

Firsthand: Living in Poverty, Patricia Jackson



American Masters: The Doc Severinsen Story



Photo: Playground Television UK Ltd

All Creatures Great and Small on Masterpiece



Photo: BioQuest Studios-Nature Footage

NOVA: Reef Rescue

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FISCAL 2021 JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

(in thousands)

Assets

Cash and investments	\$63,837
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	7,364
Property and equipment, net	18,397
Other assets	2,427
Total Assets	\$92,024

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$4,035
Long-term loans payable	8,925
Other liabilities	2,054
Total Liabilities	\$15,014

Net assets

Without donor restrictions	\$40,596
With donor restrictions	36,414
Total Net Assets	\$77,010
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$92,024

Revenue

Direct Public Support and Development	\$25,715
Underwriting and production sponsorship	7,815
Program Licensing and Facility Rental	1,754
Federal and state grants	3,717
Other	1,956
Total Revenue	\$40,956

Expenses

Programming and production	\$27,622
Fundraising	8,537
Business Support	4,213
Total Expenses	\$40,372

Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities	\$584
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Statement of Activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021; figures subject to rounding.

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(as of June 30, 2021)

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(as of June 30, 2021)

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WFMT

Timothy Russell

Vice President

Community Engagement and DEI

All of us at
WTTW and WFMT
thank you
for your
support.



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