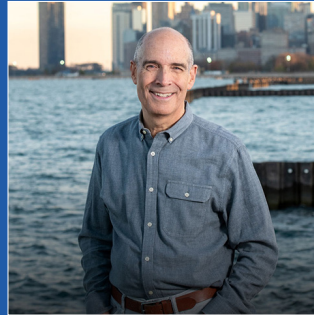


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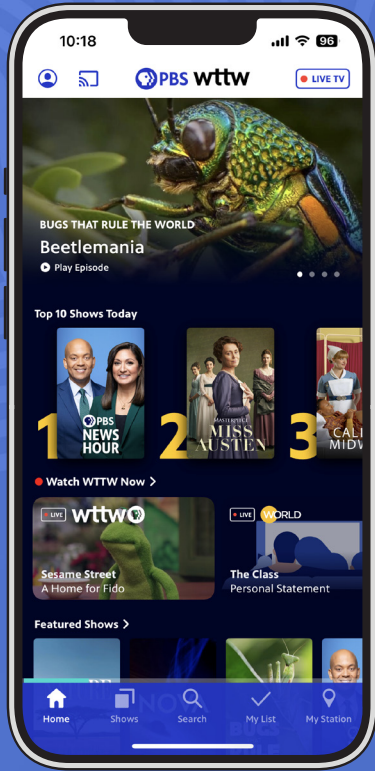
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A YEAR OF STORIES

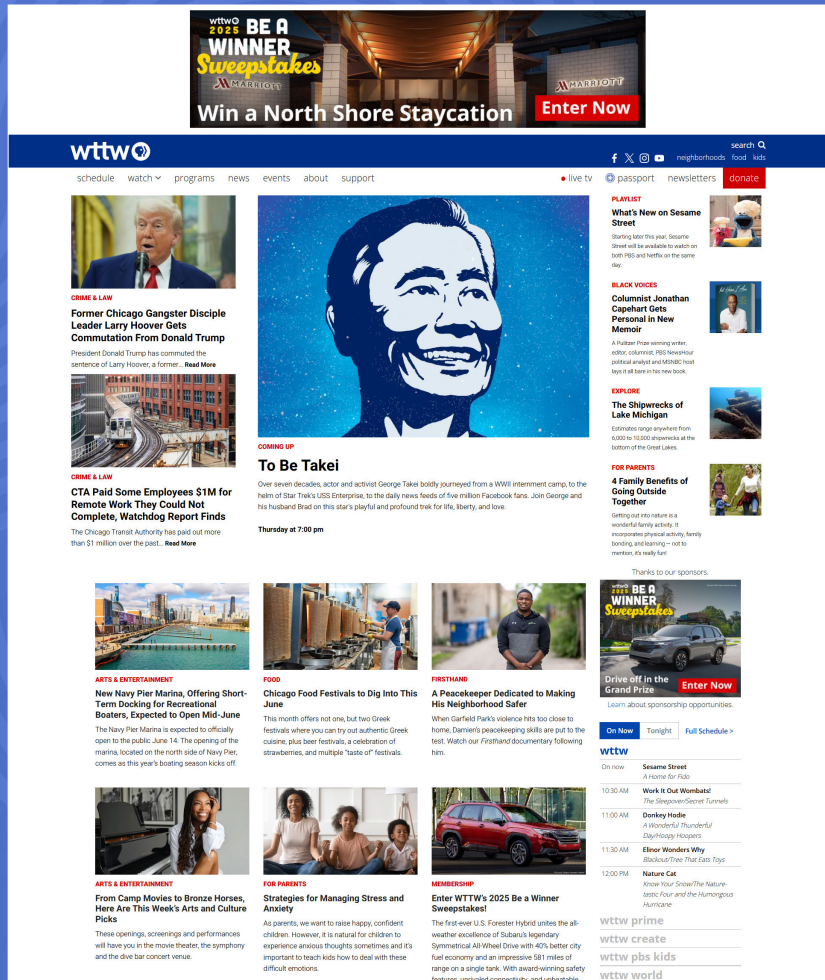


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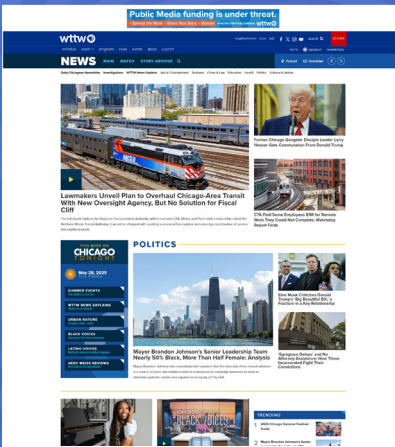
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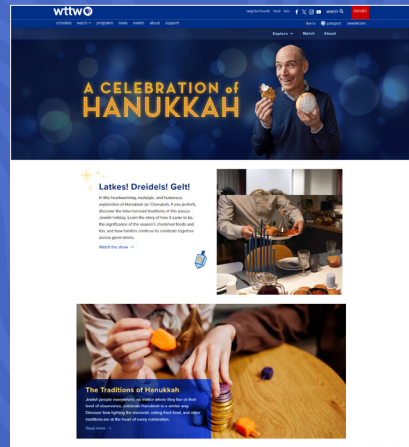
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A Celebration of Hanukkah homepage

Cover photos, left to right: Anne Harris on *Folkstage*, photo: Peter Jordan; *Firsthand: Peacemakers*, Diane Latiker, photo: Abel Arciniega for WTTW; *Touring Chicago's Lakefront*, Geoffrey Baer, photo: Liz Markel for WTTW; Grant Park Music Festival, Giancarlo Guerrero, photo: Matthew Holler for Sarasota Orchestra

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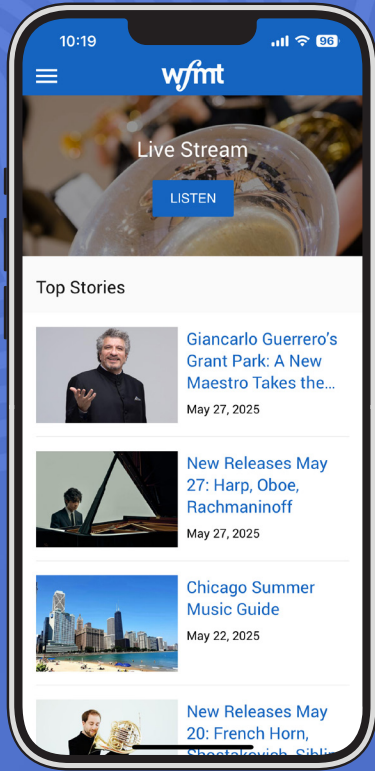
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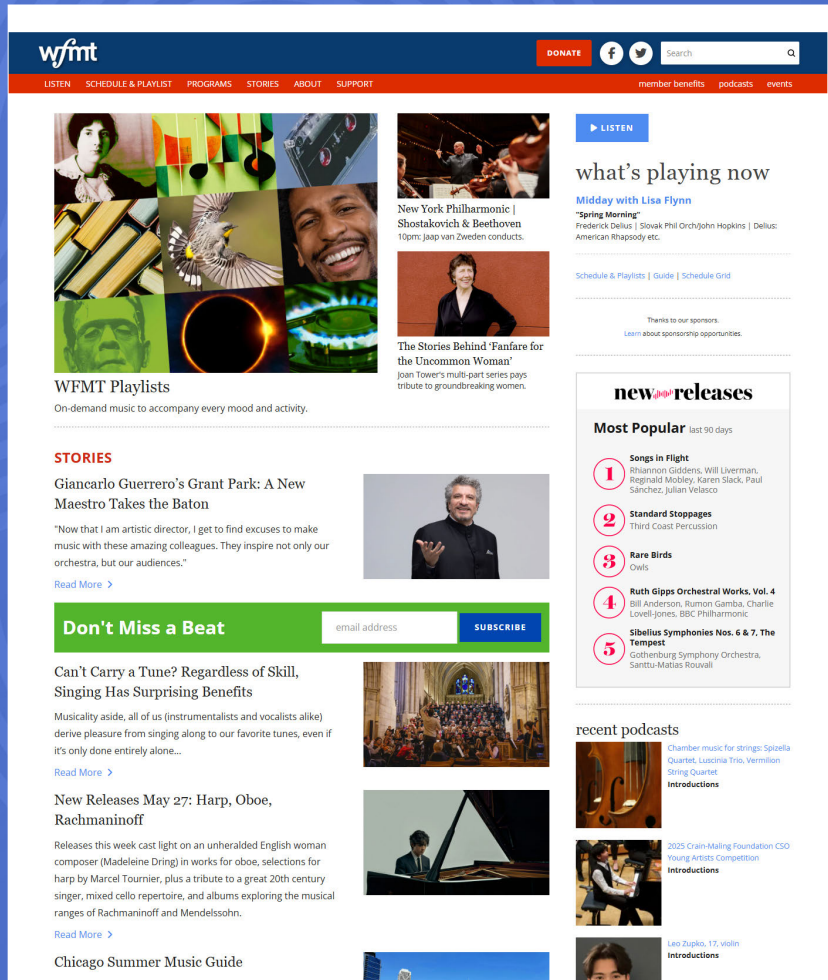
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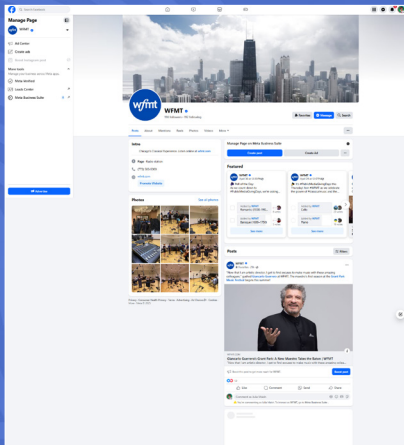
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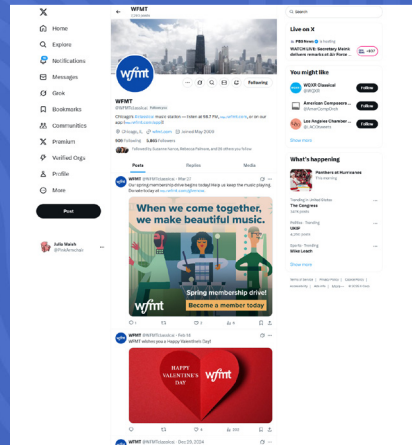
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Gods of Tennis, Billie Jean King



Hotel Portofino, Natascha McElhone



NOVA: Sea Change - Gulf of Maine



Marin Alsop conducts the CSO



Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha



RNC coverage: Amanda Vinicky, Brandis Friedman, Joanna Hernandez

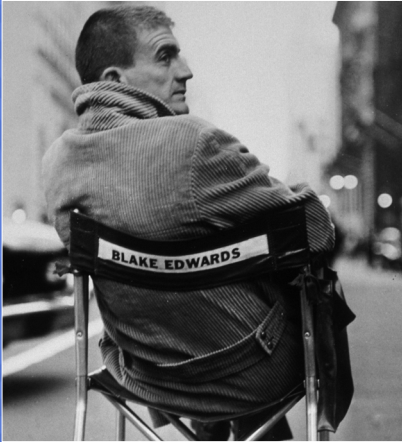
JULY

To kick off another fiscal year, right after *A Capitol Fourth*, America's annual live birthday celebration from Washington, D.C. and hosted by Alfonso Ribiero, WTTW journeyed to Milwaukee to bring you another quintessentially American institution: The 2024 Republican National Convention. For four consecutive nights, following live gavel-to-gavel [coverage and analysis from the PBS News Hour team](#) led by anchors Geoff Bennett and Amna Nawaz, *Chicago Tonight* host Brandis Friedman and her WTTW News correspondents offered [a wealth of local perspective](#) on WTTW and wttw.com.

Also this month, WTTW brought you a third season of the popular British drama series *Hotel Portofino*; a look back at *Gods of Tennis*, a three-part special that recalled the fierce rivalry between three pairs of legendary players competing at Wimbledon in the 1970s and '80s; and a new miniseries from NOVA exploring the dramatic effects of climate change on the ecosystem of one American region in *Sea Change: Gulf of Maine*, a body of water that is warming faster than 99% of the global ocean.

Throughout the summer, as always WFMT transported listeners to the [Grant Park Music Festival](#), live from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park and Highland Park's [Ravinia Festival](#). The July programs from Grant Park kicked off with the rousing annual Independence Day Salute on July 4, and subsequent programs included Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5; Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* featuring pianist Clayton Stephenson; Beethoven's iconic Fifth Symphony; and an evening of works by Bruckner, Sibelius, and Janáček. Notably, WFMT was live at [Ravinia on opening night](#) of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2024 residency, as conductor [Marin Alsop](#) led the CSO with pianist Michelle Cann in a centenary performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*; and soprano Masabene Cecilia Rangwanasha, featured in Samuel Barber's *Knoxville, Summer of 1915*.

AUGUST



Blake Edwards: American Masters



PBS News Hour



Karen Slack



Rick Steves Iceland



Pianist Aaron Diehl



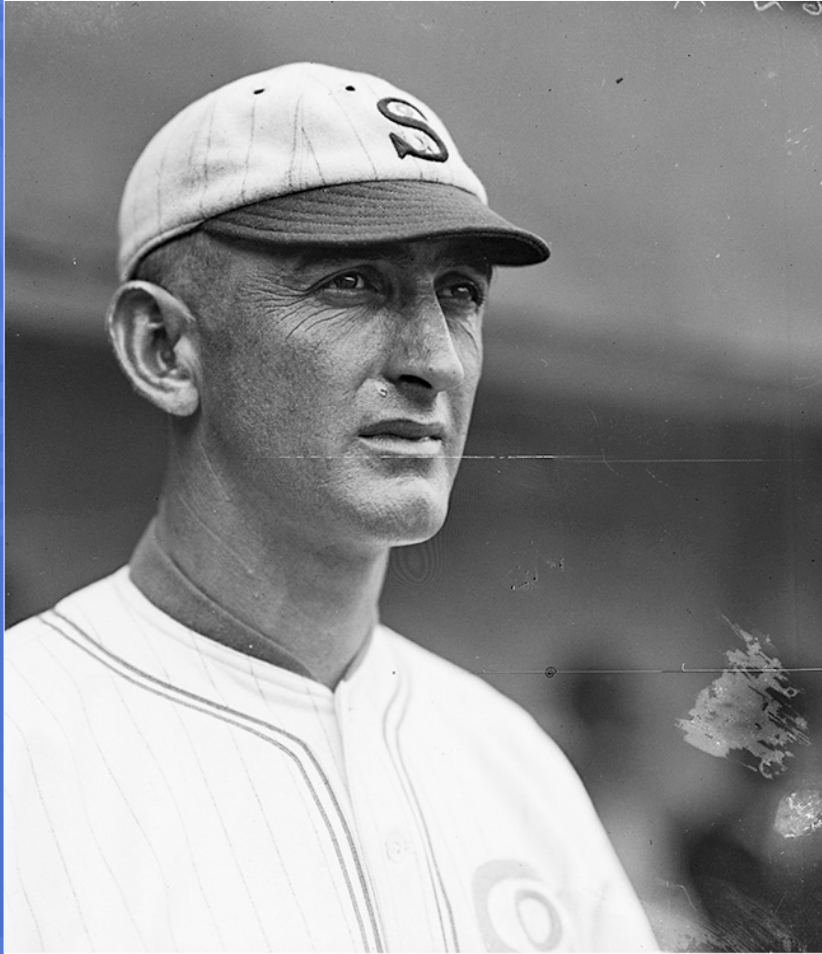
WTTW News at the DNC, Brandis Friedman

AUGUST

In this month of summer travel, WTTW brought you an all-new special from travel expert [Rick Steves](#), who took us along on a trek to an exciting destination that is becoming increasingly popular: Iceland. Viewers followed Rick as he visited Reykjavik, a world capital with a small-town feel; marveled at the Golden Circle's gorges, geysers, and waterfalls; and traced the 800-mile Ring Road and its glaciers, fjords, and geothermal hot spots. WTTW interviewed Rick's producer and frequent collaborator - writer, tour guide, and photographer [Cameron Hewitt](#) - who shared what it was like to venture with Rick into this majestic landscape.

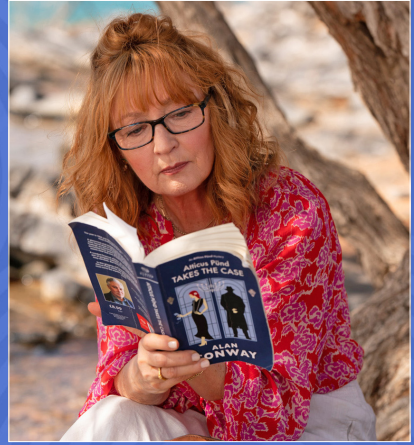
Also this month, [WTTW News](#) provided local perspective from the 2024 Democratic National Convention that happened here in Chicago. *Chicago Tonight* host Brandis Friedman and her correspondents were live at the United Center to provide extensive coverage of all four nights of the event. [The team from PBS News Hour](#), led by co-anchors Geoff Bennett and Amna Nawaz, also reported from the convention each evening. In addition, Margaret Hoover hosted *Counting the Vote*, a *Firing Line* special about voting systems across America. Separately, a new *American Masters* painted a revealing portrait of the trailblazing [film director Blake Edwards](#), and *NOVA* explored [Hawai'i's Kilauea volcano](#).

WFMT closed out the 2024 season of the [Grant Park Music Festival](#) with three final programs: an evening of works by Bruckner, Sibelius, and Janáček; Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Mozart's *Jupiter* Symphony; and, as Carlos Kalmar concluded his long tenure as Grant Park's music director, Mahler's large-scale choral work Symphony No. 8, *Symphony of a Thousand*. And from [Ravinia](#) that month, WFMT shared performances by an eclectic group of world-class performers that included The Knights, pianist Aaron Diehl, [Lyric Unlimited's 2024-25 Artist-in-Residence Karen Slack](#), the chamber orchestra A Far Cry, and the Takács Quartet, among many others.



Chicago Stories: The Black Sox Scandal, Shoeless Joe Jackson

Photo: SDN-0587463A, Chicago Daily News collection, Chicago History Museum



Moonflower Murders on Masterpiece

Photo: Courtesy of Eleventh Hour Films and Masterpiece



Pati's Mexican Table

Photo: Courtesy of WETA and American Public Television



Voces: American Historia, John Leguizamo

Photo: Jasmine Bailis



Folkstage, Ella Jenkins

Photo: Courtesy of artist



Klaus Mäkelä, CSO's Zell Music Director Designate

Photo: Jerome Bonnet

SEPTEMBER

This month, WTTW launched an all-new season of *Chicago Stories*, the only weekly documentary series dedicated to uncovering the sweeping history, rich diversity, and breadth of human experience that shaped our great American city. On Friday nights, WTTW premiered eight new films – kicking off in September with the stories of *Leopold and Loeb*, two affluent teenagers who committed what became known 100 years ago as the “Crime of the Century” in the shadows of Hyde Park, and *The Black Sox Scandal*, about the conspiracy to fix the 1919 World Series and its repercussions on sports today.

Also on WTTW in September, six of the most popular how-to series, including *America’s Test Kitchen*, *Pati’s Mexican Table*, *Cook’s Country*, and *This Old House*, launched new seasons. And in addition to new seasons of the popular *Ridley* and *Van der Valk* mysteries, WTTW premiered *Moonflower Murders*, the sequel to *Magpie Murders* which followed book editor Susan Ryeland as she became embroiled in a new mystery on the sunny Greek island of Crete. As the U.S. presidential election approached, *Frontline* presented its essential in-depth exploration of the lives and political trajectories of the two candidates in *Frontline: The Choice 2024*.

WFMT brought listeners performances from the Ravinia Festival and a thrilling *Chicago Symphony Orchestra* concert led by CSO’s Music Director designate Klaus Mäkelä, and welcomed the return of rising young cellist Jan Vargas Nedvetsky to WFMT’s *Introductions* program. On *Sounds Classical*, hosts Kristina Lynn and LaRob K. Rafael explored a new project tracing the life and legacy of the legendary American bass-baritone Paul Robeson. And as WFMT celebrated the 100th birthday of the iconic children’s music pioneer and longtime Chicagoan Ella Jenkins, *Folkstage* host Marilyn Rea Beyer brought together a group of top folk artists in WFMT’s Levin Studio for a special live tribute.

OCTOBER



Citizen Nation, Moriah Ratner



The American Vice President: American Experience



The Marlow Murder Club

Photo: Cecil Sloughton; White House Photographs, JFK Library

Photo: Courtesy of UKTV Robbie Gray



WFMT Orchestra Series, Yuja Wang

Photo: Julia Wesely



Chicago Stories: Amusement Parks

Photo: © Chicago Sun-Times Media, Inc. All rights reserved.



CSO Music Director for Life Riccardo Muti

Photo: Zani Casadio

OCTOBER

This month, with a consequential national election fast approaching, a new *American Experience*, *The American Vice President*, traced the evolution of the second-highest office from an afterthought to a position of political consequence. The film focused on the fraught period between 1963 and 1974, when a grief-stricken and then scandal-plagued America was forced to clarify the role of the vice president. WTTW also shared a live simulcast of the debate between the candidates for that office, J. D. Vance and Tim Walz, who were also profiled in a new *Frontline* special. Finally, the *Citizen Nation* series highlighted youth civic engagement, and *Voces* returned with relevant stories about the Latino vote.

Also in October, our flagship local history series *Chicago Stories* continued on Fridays with a nostalgic trip back to everyone's favorite *Amusement Parks*, an exploration of the history of the Puerto Rican activists known as *The Young Lords of Lincoln Park*, an inside look at *The Making of Playboy* with Hugh Hefner, and the eruption of rage and grief in Chicago after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in *When the West Side Burned*. The companion websites for each of these films offered viewers a wealth of extra content.

That month also saw a new season of *Live from WFMT* on Monday evenings from WFMT's Levin Studio. In three new programs in October, host Kerry Frumkin welcomed classical guitarists *Fareed Haque and Goran Ivanovic*; a *trio performance* by pianist Samantha Cho, violinist Florin Parvulescu, and cellist Brinton Smith; and Swiss violinist Rachel Kolly. WFMT aired concerts by an eclectic group of European orchestras, kicking off with the *Vienna Philharmonic led by Riccardo Muti*; the electrifying soloist *Yuja Wang* in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Berlin Philharmonic; and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic featuring the exceptional young cellist *Sheku Kanneh-Mason*.

NOVEMBER



Chicago Stories: Al Capone's Bloody Business

Photo: © Sun-Times Media, LLC. All rights reserved.



Chicago Stories: House Music - A Cultural Revolution, Frankie Knuckles

Photo: Credit: PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo



Leonardo da Vinci, a Film by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns, and David McMahon



Nature: Attenborough's Life Journey

Photo: Robert Hellingworth-Colossus Productions



Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade

Photo: Lieberman Photography



Pianist Jonathan Biss

Photo: Benjamin Ealovega

NOVEMBER

It's always exciting when there is a new film from Ken Burns to share, and that month WTTW was pleased to premiere *Leonardo da Vinci*, a sweeping new two-part documentary that told the story of this fifteenth century Italian polymath, who left behind artistic works of staggering beauty and detailed sketches and ideas that today are marveled at for their ingenuity and foresight. The film's co-producers Sarah Burns and David McMahon took visitors [behind the scenes of the production](#).

Also in November, WTTW closed out another season of its flagship local history series *Chicago Stories* with two compelling tales: *Al Capone's Bloody Business* recalled the world's first celebrity gangster – a South Sider who capitalized on Prohibition to make a fortune, murdering anyone who got in his way. And the season finale –

House Music: A Cultural Revolution – celebrated the trailblazing creators and Chicago origins of house music, exploring its lasting influence on musicians today. On another note, WTTW presented some special content in observance of [Veteran's Day](#); premiered a new NOVA miniseries, *Building Stuff*, that highlighted engineering creativity; took a fond look back at the career of legendary natural history documentarian [Sir David Attenborough](#); and debuted a new PBS Kids series, *Carl the Collector* – the first to center on an animated character on the autism spectrum.

That month, WFMT focused on American music, performers, and composers across several signature series, including *Live from WFMT*, which welcomed world-renowned pianist [Jonathan Biss](#) for a live performance and conversation; *Listening to Singers*, featuring an exclusive interview with the iconic American mezzo-soprano [Frederica von Stade](#); *Sounds Classical*, which shone a well-deserved spotlight on [Disney music](#), [the Harlem Renaissance](#), and [Americana elements](#) in classical music; and *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin* spent a week highlighting the work of Copland, Ives, Barber, Ellington, Gershwin, and Mark O'Connor.

DECEMBER



Photo: Courtesy of Decca Records

Brenda Lee: Rockin' Around - American Masters



Photo: Courtesy of BBC Studios Distribution Limited

Call the Midwife Holiday Special



Photo: Michael O'Halloran, Courtesy of BBC Studios

Too Hot to Handel: The Gospel Messiah



Photo: Liz Markel for WTTW

A Celebration of Hanukkah with Geoffrey Baer



Photo: Courtesy of Off Square Music

Folkstage: New Year's Steve, Don Stierberg



Photo: Nate Ryan

Holidays with Cantus

DECEMBER

This month, WTTW premiered a heartwarming new special and website, [A Celebration of Hanukkah](#), hosted by Geoffrey Baer. Geoffrey took viewers along on a rollicking journey as he explored the time-honored traditions of this joyous holiday, telling the story of how it came to be, examining the significance of the season's cherished foods and activities, and revealing how families continue to celebrate together across generations. For WTTW's *Playlist*, Geoffrey went behind the scenes to share [how the idea for the show came about](#), what he learned about the holiday, his personal favorite latke topping, and more.

Also this December, WTTW celebrated the holidays with an *American Masters* profile of [Brenda Lee](#) of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" fame, a new *Call the Midwife Holiday Special*, *Too Hot to Handel: The Gospel Messiah*, and an appearance by *Downton Abbey's* Lesley Nicol with the Tabernacle Choir. And WTTW rang in 2025 with singer-songwriter [Sara Bareilles](#) performing at the Kennedy Center with some special guests including Rufus Wainwright. And as a special treat, WTTW Passport members got an advance look at season 5 of *Miss Scarlet* prior to its January premiere.

As always, WFMT was filled with the vibrant sounds of [holiday music of all kinds](#), with the traditional live airing of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge; performances by Music of the Baroque of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and a special appearance at the [National Mexican Museum of Art](#); *Apollo's Fire's* dramatic interpretation of *Messiah*, along with another version by the [New York Philharmonic](#); and a *Live from WFMT* special, *Holidays with Cantus*. As 2024 wound down, *Folkstage: New Year's Steve* featured a stellar group of contemporary artists playing music by the late folk legend and Chicago icon Steve Goodman, hosted by Marilyn Rea Beyer.



Finding Your Roots, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Photo: Courtesy of PBS

All Creatures Great and Small

Photo: Helen Williams, Playground Entertainment and Masterpiece



Photo: Terra Fondrest for GBH, 2024 WGBH Educational Foundation

Antiques Roadshow



Photo: Courtesy of the Arthur family

Great Migrations, The Arthur family in Chicago



Cleveland Orchestra Series, Franz Welser-Möst



Live from WFMT, Laura Strickling

JANUARY

As WTTW ushered in 2025, it was a big month for Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. with the premiere of a new season of his popular genealogy series *Finding Your Roots*; and later in the month, a new four-part miniseries also hosted by Dr. Gates, *Great Migrations: A People on the Move*. The series told the story of African American movement over the 20th and 21st centuries, and how it shaped our nation. Chicago played a vital role in this history, and the producer/directors of the special [explained the significance of this story](#), and how our city became “the promised land” for so many Black migrants escaping the Jim Crow South and other places where they had lived under enslavement and oppression.

Also in January, WTTW brought viewers new seasons of *Antiques Roadshow*, which made fascinating stops at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas and Springs Preserve, Las Vegas; *NOVA*, with episodes that focused on the mystery surrounding UFOs and [building the ultimate airport](#); and the eagerly awaited British series *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Miss Scarlet*, *Vienna Blood*, *Death in Paradise*, and *Sister Boniface Mysteries*, as well as *The Brokenwood Mysteries*, set in New Zealand.

On WFMT, 2025 commenced with an annual tradition: the live [New Year’s Concert from Vienna’s Musikverein](#), this year conducted by Riccardo Muti. [Viewers could watch the performance](#) on WTTW that evening. And this month, WFMT launched a 13-part weekly series of performances by the renowned [Cleveland Orchestra](#), a world-class ensemble led by Franz Welser-Möst. WFMT also presented live performances from WFMT’s Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio and other local venues, featuring [soprano Laura Strickling with pianist Daniel Schlosberg on Live from WFMT](#); [Howard Levy on Folkstage](#); and numerous artists in the [Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts](#) from downtown Chicago.



Photo: © Todd Rosenberg

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Series, Sheku Kanneh Mason



Funny Woman, Gemma Arterton



Photo: Courtesy of Polboller Productions; Sky UK Limited

The Bike Vessel: Independent Lens

Photo: Courtesy of ITVS



Photo: Getty Images

The Disappearance of Miss Scott: American Masters



Photo: Claire Evers

Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, Nathan Amaral



Photo: Abel Arce/mega for WTTW

Firsthand: Peacekeepers, Damien Morris

FEBRUARY

This month, WTTW unveiled the 2025 installment in its multiplatform *Firsthand* initiative that focuses on the lived experiences of people facing critical issues in Chicago. This year's theme was *Peacekeepers*: individuals who take it upon themselves to make their communities safe and peaceful places. Each of the subjects shared their thoughts on the social and societal fractures that cause violence as they drew on their faith, cultural traditions, and research. View their stories at wttw.com/firsthand, along with expert talks, investigative journalism, and a discussion guide.

WTTW also celebrated Black History Month throughout February with *Great Migrations: A People on the Move* from Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; a new *American Masters* focusing on television pioneer *Hazel Scott*; an *Independent Lens* film, *The Bike Vessel*, about a local father and son who challenge themselves to cycle between Chicago and St. Louis; an *American Experience* history of *the NAACP and its architects*; and more. On another note, WTTW premiered season two of the Sunday night comedy series *Funny Woman*; met prehistoric creatures at London's Natural History Museum with *Sir David Attenborough*; and convened *The State of Our City: A WTTW News Town Hall* with Chicago mayor Brandon Johnson and community stakeholders.

WFMT also marked Black History Month with a performance by *Sheku Kanneh-Mason*, making his Chicago Symphony debut as soloist in Elgar's Cello Concerto; the world premiere, from the Cleveland Orchestra, of a new trumpet concerto by *Wynton Marsalis*; two *Sounds Classical* programs focused on the Harlem Renaissance and music inspired by *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*; and from the New York Philharmonic, an evening of *music of the African diaspora* including works by Carlos Simon and Nathalie Joachim, conducted by Thomas Wilkins. And separately, *violinist Nathan Amaral* made his Chicago debut with pianist Alice Chenyang Xu on the *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts*.

MARCH



Photo: Courtesy of BBC Studios

Call the Midwife



Cleveland Orchestra Series, Barbara Hannigan



Photo: © Marco Borggreve

Fly with Me: American Experience

Photo: Courtesy of United Airlines



Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light, Mark Rylance



Photo: Courtesy of Playground Television UK Ltd

Listening to Singers, Joelle Harvey

Photo: Arielle Donelson



Marie Antoinette, Emilia Schule

Photo: Caroline Dubois for Capa Drama and Canal Plus

MARCH

This month, WTTW premiered *Wolf Hall: The Mirror and the Light*, the long-awaited sequel to the acclaimed series tracing the precarious relationship between King Henry VIII, played by Damian Lewis, and his chief minister Thomas Cromwell, portrayed by Oscar winner Mark Rylance. The new series was adapted from the final novel in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* trilogy.

WTTW celebrated **Women's History Month** throughout March with such programs as *Jacqueline du Pré: Genius and Tragedy*, the story of one of the greatest cellists of all time narrated by Yo-Yo Ma; *Women of World War II: The Untold Stories*, about the American women who fought on the warfront and the home front; and *Shaking it Up: The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter*, the inspirational story of the groundbreaking journalist and press secretary for Lady Bird Johnson who helped shape some of the most vivid moments and movements of the 20th century. In addition, WTTW premiered a new season of *Marie Antoinette* and revealed how the first female flight attendants in the 1960s changed gender norms and fought for equal opportunities in the workplace in *Fly With Me: American Experience*.

WFMT also marked Women's History Month with a vibrant live performance by singer-songwriter and violin phenom **Anne Harris**, who brought her trio to WFMT's Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for *Folkstage*; an interview with **soprano Joëlle Harvey** in advance of her appearance in Haydn's *Mass in the Time of War* with the Chicago Symphony; and **Barbara Hannigan's** debut as guest conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra as she led works by Haydn, Legeti, and Strauss. Also this month, WFMT brought listeners powerhouse opera star **Lise Davidsen** as Leonore in Beethoven's *Fidelio* from New York's Metropolitan Opera. Finally, on the website, WFMT shared a rundown of notable **local women-centric arts and music events**.

APRIL



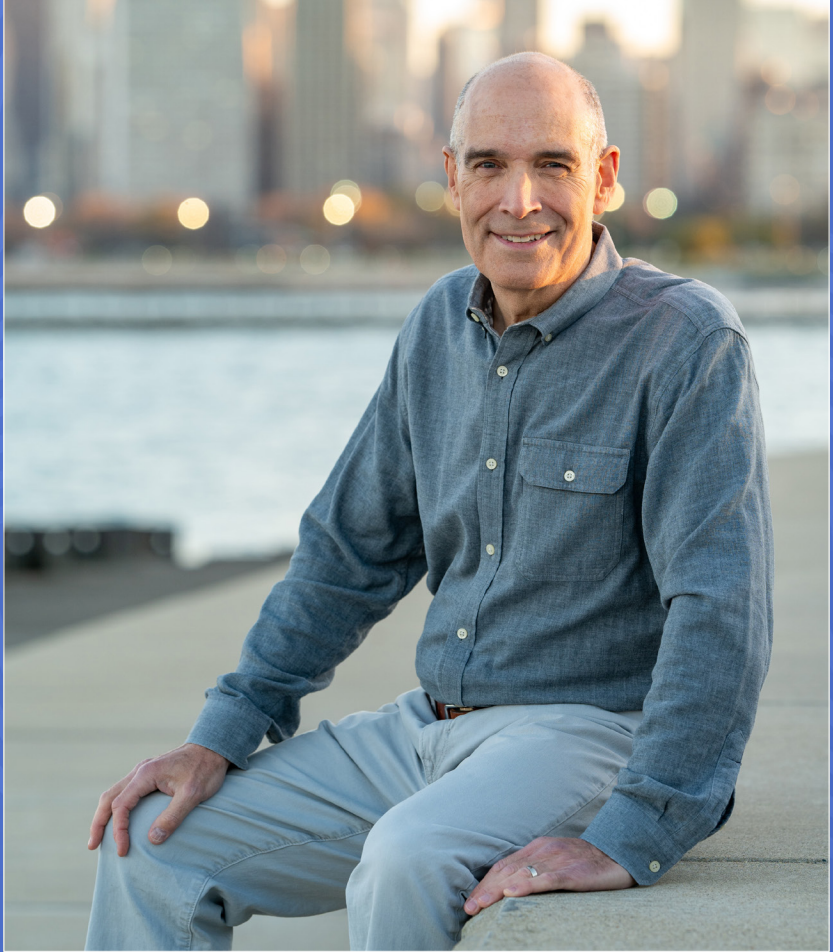
Changing Planet, Dr. M. Sanjayan

Photo: Jennifer Jones for BBC Studios



Conductor Joana Mallwitz

Photo: Simon Pauly



Touring the Lakefront with Geoffrey Baer

Photo: Liz Markel for WTTW



Live from WFMT: Time for Three



Liza Minnelli, American Masters

Photo: Atlas Media Corp



Nature, Katavi Baby crocodile, Tanzania

Photo: Owen Pflumm

APRIL

In April, WTTW brought viewers the all-new *Touring Chicago's Lakefront with Geoffrey Baer*, a fascinating exploration of the length and breadth of Chicago's famous "front yard." In the show, Geoffrey highlighted Chicago's founder Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, hiked on Northerly Island, fished for lake trout, learned a surprising fact about Promontory Point, snorkeled to a prehistoric reef, and more. The [companion website](#) offered a guided tour of the lakefront by bike, and included Chicago's history of shipwrecks among other stories.

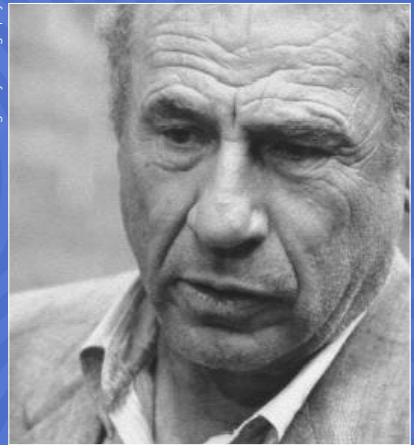
To mark Earth Day, WTTW focused on the natural world with a new *Nature* mini-series revealing the devastating effects of a severe drought in southern Tanzania's Katavi National Park; a new episode of *NOVA* that journeyed to forests in Australia, Costa Rica, and Brazil with scientists confronting the twin threats of climate change and species extinction; and a fourth season of *Changing Planet*, in which Dr. M. Sanjayan spotlighted another threatened ecosystem with a visit to an extensive river restoration project. Separately, WTTW premiered a new *American Masters* on entertainer [Liza Minnelli](#), took viewers on a voyage of musical discovery with host Scott Yoo on a new season of *Now Hear This*, and marked [Holocaust Remembrance Month](#) with relevant content.

This month, *Live from WFMT* welcomed the innovative Grammy Award-winning violin-vocal trio [Time for Three](#) for a live performance hosted by Kerry Frumkin from the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio. We know you will enjoy the ensemble's signature sound – a fusion of classical, Americana, and singer-songwriter styles. Also, WFMT observes the Easter holiday with inspirational content on *Baroque&Before*, *The Midnight Special*, *Fiesta!*, and *With Heart and Voice*, along with beautiful music throughout the day. Also in April, *Introductions* featured young pianist [Edie Park](#); and acclaimed German pianist [Joana Mallwitz](#) made her Metropolitan Opera conducting debut leading Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.



Miss Austen on Masterpiece

Photo: Robert Viglasky Photography



Mel Brooks: The Genius Entertainer

Photo: © Eva Productions



Snapshots of Confinement

Photo: Courtesy of NETA

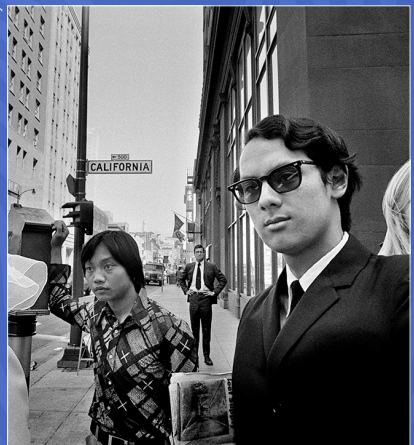


Pipa virtuoso Wu Man



Sylvia Pine and Rachel Barton Pine

Photo: Yoel Levy



Who is Michael Jang

Photo: Michael Jang, Courtesy of ITVS

MAY

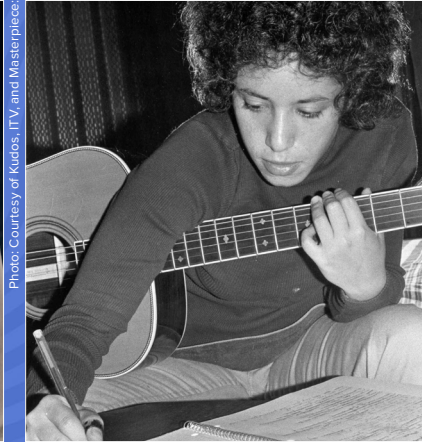
This month, WTTW brought viewers a new Jane Austen story, about the family of the famed author herself. The four-part drama *Miss Austen* reimagined a real-life event that has intrigued historians for generations – why Cassandra Austen (Keeley Hawes) burned her sister’s letters – and transformed it into a sharp-witted and ultimately heartbreaking tale of sisterly devotion.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, WTTW presented profiles of actor and activist [George Takei](#) and the enigmatic San Francisco artist [Michael Jang](#); two sobering documentaries about Japanese internment camps during World War II – *Amache: An American Injustice*, that told the story of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent who were unjustly incarcerated after the attack on Pearl Harbor; and *Snapshots of Confinement*, that revealed how Japanese American families documented their lives in the camps. For Jewish Heritage Month, *Where Neon Goes to Die* explored the rise and fall of South Beach, Florida’s Yiddish community created by Jewish immigrants after World War II; and the poignant film *Eva’s Promise* introduced viewers to artist Heinz Geiringer, who hid his artwork before being sent to Auschwitz. And finally for something different, this month WTTW shared an examination of the prolific career of comedy legend [Mel Brooks](#).

In May, WFMT debuted a new season of performances from the [Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival](#), which is known for featuring iconic repertoire alongside contemporary works. Performers provided insightful commentary about the festival, their experience in Santa Fe, and the music. To celebrate Mother’s Day, WFMT featured an appearance by violinists [Rachel Barton Pine and her daughter Sylvia Pine](#) who performed with pianist Matthew Hagle on *Live from WFMT*. And to observe AAPI Heritage Month, a special episode of *Introductions* and a *Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center* program included music by pipa virtuoso [Wu Man and the Shanghai Quartet](#).



Grantchester on Masterpiece



Janis Ian, American Masters



Patience



Walking with Dinosaurs



Author, pianist, and historian Samantha Ege



Grant Park Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero

Photo: Courtesy of Kudos, ITV, and Masterpiece

Photo: Courtesy of WNET 13

Photo: Courtesy of Channel 4, Charlie Clift

Photo: Courtesy of BBC Studios

Photo: Charles Osgood

Photo: Jason Dood

JUNE

As summer returned to Chicago, so too did the [Grant Park Music Festival](#) live from the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park – a WFMT tradition that always brings world-class music to the heart of the city. This year marked a new chapter as Giancarlo Guerrero stepped into his role as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, bringing his enthusiasm and global perspective to the popular series. [In an interview with WFMT](#), Guerrero revealed what he was looking forward to in the then-upcoming season, his thoughts on Chicago, and how WFMT influenced him as a young musician.

This month, WFMT also brought listeners an eclectic roster of artists on [Live from WFMT](#) including Josefien Stoppelenburg and Stephen Alltop who shared Baroque vocal music [accompanied by harpsichord and theorbo](#); the duo of violinist Paul Huang and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott; pianist Craig Terry and friends; and in the season finale, a performance by [pianist and musicologist Samantha Ege](#). And WFMT celebrated [LGBTQ+ Pride Month](#) with dedicated episodes of *The Midnight Special*, *Listening to Singers*, and *Best of Studs Terkel*, plus a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Canticle 1: My Beloved is Mine* on the monthly [Ryan Opera Center Recital Series](#).

WTTW also celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride Month with a moving new *American Masters* film that explored the life and work of the [iconic singer-songwriter Janis Ian](#), and the return of *Chicago Stories* documentaries on [activist-cartoonist Danny Sotomayor](#) and the local origins of [house music](#). Separately, WTTW premiered the penultimate season of the popular British detective series [Grantchester](#) and a new drama, [Patience](#); and took viewers [Walking with Dinosaurs](#) – a new miniseries that brought six iconic dinosaurs to life with state-of-the-art visual effects. It provided a rare chance to see these giants of our past up close and personal as they walked the earth millions of years ago.



Baratunde Thurston with Geoffrey Baer



Emcee Brandis Friedman with Geoffrey Baer



Kate Baldwin (right) with Christie Chiles Twillie



Overhead view of reception at Lyric Opera of Chicago



Honorees Joyce, Matt, Patty, and Dan Walsh



Steve Crown, Matt Walsh, Joyce Walsh, Dave Blowers, Patty Walsh, Dan Walsh, President and CEO Sandra Cordova Micek

CELEBRATION 2025

Chaired by Renée and Lester Crown, Celebration 2025 promoted the mission of WTTW and WFMT, and marked the upcoming 70th anniversary of WTTW. On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, the organization welcomed more than 400 guests to the Lyric Opera of Chicago for a cocktail hour, lively entertainment, and seated dinner.

Guests enjoyed a performance from musical theater artist Kate Baldwin and an engaging interview between the host of PBS's *America Outdoors*, Baratunde Thurston and Geoffrey Baer. WTTW and WFMT were also delighted to honor The Walsh family with the WTTW | WFMT Renée Crown Leadership Award. The evening was emceed by the WTTW News Alexandra and John Nichols Chief Correspondent and Anchor Brandis Friedman.

Celebration 2025 received 120 gifts from business, philanthropic, and civic leaders, raising almost \$1,365,000 in essential general operating support for WTTW and WFMT.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Navy Pier Summer Block Party, June 2025



Chicago Stories kickoff event



Firsthand: Peacekeepers Talks



Child at Mexican Art Museum event



Nature Cat and family at WTTW event



The State of Our City: A WTTW News Town Hall

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In FY 2025, WTTW hosted 128 events, reaching more than 150,000 people. Many of the screenings featured films focusing on minority communities and their stories, including *Great Migrations*, *A People on the Move*, *Leonardo di Vinci*, *We Want The Funk*, and *Critical Condition: Health in Black America*. WTTW also held events around six original multiplatform productions – *The Young Lords of Lincoln Park*, *A Celebration of Hanukkah*, *House Music: A Cultural Revolution*, *Ida B. Wells*, and *Firsthand: Peacekeepers*. In addition, WTTW hosted several community events leveraging WTTW News such as *Reducing Gun Violence: The Ecosystem of Public Safety* in partnership with business, civic and political leaders as well as *The State of Our City: A WTTW News Town Hall* with Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and My Block, My Hood, My City founder and CEO Jahmal Cole among others.

WTTW Kids continued to offer monthly activity calendars, Grandparent Connection in senior centers, [WTTW Kids Learn & Play](#) series in Chicago public libraries and at Lurie Children’s Hospital, and Dia Del Nino events in Pilsen and at Harold Washington Library. WTTW also premiered Daisy at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum’s installment of the Nature Cat Backyard and Beyond exhibit and Summer Block Party, as well as at Taste of Lincoln. Nature Cat appeared at the Urban Rivers Block Party, in Lurie Outpatient Centers, at Draw Together in Highland Park, at Fall Festival at Danada Equestrian Center, and in Scranton, Connecticut at Backyard and Beyond. New to the scene, the Okee Dokee Brothers from PBS Kids’ *Brambletown* stopped by Old Town School of Folk Music. WTTW Kids supported local school initiatives such as Our Lady of Tepeyac’s Trunk or Treat and breakfast with Santa, as well as Coonley Elementary’s Career Day, STEAM Expo at Roosevelt Middle School and Bridge Elementary’s International Fest.

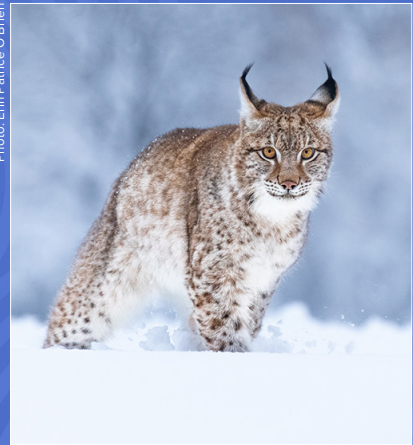
In the classroom, WFMT’s [Bach to School](#) program distributed 587 musical kits to more than 400 schools across the Chicago region. Finally, WFMT hosted a live [Introductions in the Community](#) event at Merit School of Music featuring Jacob Cornejo, an 18-year-old flute player from Chicago’s Gage Park neighborhood. This event was part of [Make Music Chicago](#), a one-day festival of free musicmaking across the city.



Be My Neighbor Day 2024



Nathalie Joachim on WFMT



Nature: Dracula's Hidden Kingdom

Photo: Erin Patrice O'Brien

Photo: Jan Stria-Shutterstock



Folkstage, Rachel Kolly

Photo: Tom Barnes



Firsthand: Peacekeepers, Adrian Rodriguez

Photo: Abel A. Cienega for WTTW



Vienna Blood

Photo: Petro Domenig, 2024 Ender Productions-MR Film

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FISCAL 2025 JULY 1, 2024-JUNE 30, 2025

(in thousands)

Assets

Cash and investments	\$71,611
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	1,203
Property and equipment, net	18,560
Other assets	8,291
Total Assets	\$99,665

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$2,770
Long-term loans payable	7,400
Other liabilities	6,074
Total Liabilities	\$16,244

Net assets:

Without donor restrictions	\$56,956
With donor restrictions	26,465
Total Net Assets	\$83,421
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$99,665

Revenue

Direct Public Support and Development	\$32,189
Underwriting and production sponsorship	5,936
Program Licensing and Facility Rental	1,140
Federal and state grants	4,451
Other	3,877
Total Revenue	\$47,593

Expenses

Programming and production	\$28,238
Fundraising	8,842
Business Support (or Administration)	5,741
Total Expenses	\$42,821

Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities	(\$4,772)
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Statement of Activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025



Kids at Lincoln Park Zoo event



Lucy Worsley's *Holmes vs. Doyle*



Wynton Marsalis on WFMT

Photo: Harry Tuman; BBC Studios

Photo: Piper Ferguson



Patience, Ella Maisy Purvis

Photo: Courtesy of Channel 4; Charlie Clift



2025 Gala attendees at Lyric Opera



Great Performances From Vienna: New Year's 2025, Riccardo Muti

Photo: Todd Rosenberg

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(as of June 30, 2025)

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(as of June 30, 2025)

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Thank You!

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

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