



WTTW11 ▶ 98.7WFMT Annual Report 2004



Words from the President & CEO:

It seems like yesterday that my family gathered in breathless anticipation for the delivery of our first color television set. It was massive. We gazed in amazement as the florescent colors flickered in Art Linkletter’s necktie and danced on the Lennon Sisters’ dresses. You actually had to get off the couch to change the channel – you had a grand total of three choices. That was 1965.

Well, it’s now 2005. We have 500 cable stations, countless music channels, internet connect, and wide screen high-def with surround sound. Soon you will connect your plasma screen to your computer, opening the door to unlimited world-wide content. And you will download your favorite TV shows on your Palm Pilot. Anytime. Anywhere.

The pace of today’s changing broadcast landscape is staggering. So, how does WTTW11, born 50 years ago, stay relevant in today’s world? And how does 98.7WFMT endure in the 21st century? Those questions are a mantra at our management and production meetings. We believe that to stay relevant, we need to provide a multi-dimensional sensory experience. Now, more than ever, public television and classical radio have become a community meeting place. We must reach out to our viewers and listeners in a way that affects them both emotionally and intellectually.

Throughout 2004, the staff at WTTW11 and 98.7WFMT focused not only on producing the very best programming, but on ways to extend the experience. In January, we hosted our first Taste of Check, Please!, a special event that featured 24 restaurants seen on our hit show – more than 400 people attended. In September, we hosted a Get Ready to Learn event -- nearly 1,000 children joined *Between the Lions* characters to read stories, play educational games and collect school supplies for underprivileged families. In August, 2,000 children came to Lincoln Park for a 5K walk and a 3K run to benefit quality children’s programming. Faces lit up as children met their favorite characters, got treats and balloon animals, and danced to live music.

Throughout the year, 98.7WFMT proudly opened its Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio to 84 artists, who performed short segments live on the radio. Chicago’s only remaining classical music station continued its commitment to local performing ensembles -- from the Chicago Chamber Musicians to the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. We also joined to celebrate the opening of the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park by broadcasting one of their first concerts.

This year, more than ever, we welcomed Chicagoans of all ages into our studios – from rock fans for *Soundstage* to the Chicago Children’s Choir, from international journalists touring the Digital Broadcast Center to high school students participating in the senatorial candidate forums. The goal of every special event was to better connect to our 4 million monthly viewers and 1.3 million monthly listeners.

In closing, I want to thank our tireless Board of Trustees for their long hours and invaluable contributions; our dedicated staff, who are committed to producing the best that broadcasting has to offer; and our members and donors, who make WTTW11 and 98.7WFMT possible.

As you browse through this year’s annual report, you will see images that reflect the passion felt by the people behind your favorite programs. Thank you for appreciating their work.

Sincerely,



Dan Schmidt  
President & CEO/Network Chicago



Network Chicago: Core Services

WTTW11 Public Television

Now in its fifth decade, WTTW11 reaches 4 million viewers a month and enjoys the largest public television audience in the nation. With a strong combination of national and local productions, WTTW11 offers a range of quality programming in the performing and fine arts, nature, science and public affairs, as well as a rich and diverse children’s schedule.

98.7WFMT: Chicago’s Classical Experience

Since its inception in 1951, 98.7WFMT continues to provide the best and broadest selection of classical music and fine arts programming heard in the country. While other classical music broadcasters are fast disappearing, 98.7WFMT is enjoying the largest audience and highest ratings in its history. WFMT Radio Network syndicates a wide range of series and programs across the United States and around the world.

Events

All of our outreach events are designed to serve and engage the community, especially children and their families. This year, we extended our programming into the lives of our audience with the highly successful Taste of Check, Please! event in our studios in January, the first annual WTTWKids Fun and Run in August in Lincoln Park, and educational initiatives such as Ready to Learn, the PBS-sponsored children’s literacy program, which this year provided workshops, books and other materials to hundreds of parents, childcare professionals and educators, and more than 3,000 of our youngest viewers. We also created events exclusive to our members, including a well-attended Fall Preview screening.

networkchicago.com

There were more than 45.6 million visits to our websites, WTTW.com and WFMT.com, over the past year. Beyond serving as a resource for our TV and radio listings, the sites continue to be a place for our members to become connected to the people, places and things to do in Chicago.

The Network Chicago Guide

Our widely distributed monthly program guide provides our members with comprehensive, easy-to-read television and radio listings, as well as exclusive invitations to special events and information on community initiatives.







*The Chicago Tonight Team. Left to right: Bob Sirott, Rich Samuels, Phil Ponce, Eddie Arruza, Elizabeth Brackett.*



## WTTW11 Public Television

### 2004 Highlights:

WTTW11 maintained its status as the most-watched public television station in America, becoming the leading producer of more local programming than any other public television station – and possibly commercial station – in the country.

- ▶ We are one of only three PBS stations that have increased prime time ratings by 15%.
- ▶ Steady ratings have prevailed for the hour-long *Chicago Tonight*, our flagship nightly magazine show. Ratings among viewers aged 25-49 are up 80% over last year.
- ▶ Winner of 9 Midwest Emmy Awards for excellence in broadcasting, tying with ABC7 for the most wins in the region.
- ▶ Significant growth in membership among culturally diverse households.
- ▶ Continuing strong alliances with other cultural institutions, including the Chicago Historical Society, the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium and more, to share inspiring and educational content.

- ▶ Ready to Learn, our preschool literacy program, has conducted more than 50 workshops in our community, all of which have enriched the lives of thousands of parents, teachers, childcare providers, and – most importantly – children.
- ▶ Over the past year, WTTW11 and 98.7WFMT have created events that further connect our viewers and listeners to the world of Chicago. The monthly *Network Chicago Guide* and our website networkchicago.com offer a sneak peek at these wonderful concerts, events and experiences.
- ▶ Programs that appealed to a wide age range of WTTW11 audiences – *Check, Please!*, a highly rated restaurant review series, *Sound Opinions*, a rock music review program, and *Soundstage*, a national high-def PBS music concert show – enjoyed continued popularity.
- ▶ WTTW11 provided its usual stellar political coverage and analysis during this year's election campaign, profiling the candidates for U.S. Senate, featuring them in candidate forums, and offering *Candidate Free Time* for local candidates to present their platforms to our audience, helping them to make informed decisions on Election Day.

### WTTW11 Local Productions and Co-Productions

#### About Chicago

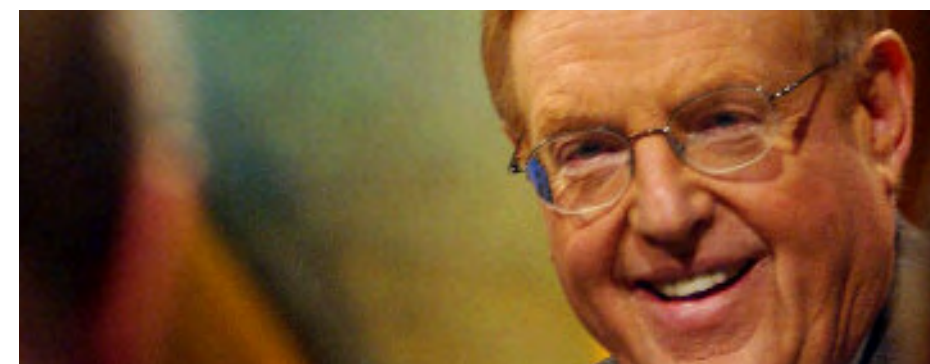
Host Geoffrey Baer leads these architectural mini-tours throughout Chicago. Highlights this year included Chicago's grand new Millennium Park, a tour of four architecturally significant hotels, festive holiday lights and home decorations in Lincolnwood, and the centennial of Orchestra Hall. (These are segments on *Chicago Tonight*, but also air as distinct half-hours.)

#### Artbeat Chicago

Now in its ninth season, hosts Fawn Ring and Phil Ponce and their team of correspondents showcase Chicago's rich and diverse visual and performing arts scene.

#### Arts Across Illinois

Hosted by Bob Sirott, this series, made possible by the Illinois Arts Council, showcases diverse artistic talent from across the state, through magazine programs and a live performance special.



Top right: U.S. Senator Barack Obama participates in the televised Student Voices Forum. Center right: Dancers in performance during Arts Across Illinois: CenterStage. Bottom right: Joel Weisman, host of Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review.



*Fawn Ring and Phil Ponce, co-hosts of Artbeat Chicago.*



### ***Check, Please!***

This Emmy-winning local restaurant review program began a new season with its popular host: Master Sommelier Alpana Singh of Chicago's acclaimed Everest.

### ***Chicago Matters: Our Next Generation***

Now in its 14th year, the nation's longest-running multi-media public affairs series turned its attention to Chicago area youth in segments on *Chicago Tonight*. Mawi Asgedom, a young Chicago immigrant who became a Harvard valedictorian and teen motivational speaker and author, brought us a wide range of insightful stories on teens and their challenges.

### ***Chicago Stories***

This critically acclaimed Emmy award-winning documentary series, narrated by John Callaway, tells the inside stories of Chicago's most fascinating people, places and events – past and present. *Chicago Stories* documentary segments on the Iroquois Fire, the Pump Room, Hugh Hefner, the polio epidemic and many others were also featured on *Chicago Tonight*.

### ***Chicago Tonight***

WTTW11's flagship nightly live newsmagazine is hosted by Bob Sirott with news analysis by Phil Ponce. Correspondents Elizabeth Brackett and Rich Samuels have been joined by reporter

Eddie Arruza. Favorite features include film and theater reviews, cooking segments, financial stories from *Crain's Chicago Business*, and Bob's personal essays, "One More Thing."

### ***Chicago Tonight Election Specials***

#### ***The Choice for Senate***

Correspondents Elizabeth Brackett and Rich Samuels teamed up on these documentary-style biographies of Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Alan Keyes, examining the formative experiences in their lives that led them to seek a place in the most exclusive club in America: the U.S. Senate.

#### ***Candidate Forums***

For both the primary and the general election, WTTW teamed up with the City Club of Chicago to present these live joint appearances by the U.S. Senate candidates in the closing days of the campaign. *Chicago Tonight* news anchor Phil Ponce moderated these fast-moving, provocative forums before a live audience in the Grainger Studio.

#### ***Candidate Free Time***

As a service to voters, candidates for local office were given free airtime to present their political platforms.

### ***Student Voices Forum***

Working with the non-partisan Mikva Challenge and with support from the Annenberg Foundation, these televised forums during the primary and general election campaign allowed Chicago area high school students an opportunity to question the candidates for U.S. Senate directly. *Chicago Tonight* news anchor Phil Ponce hosted.

### ***Chicago Tonight: The Week in Review***

Local writers, reporters and broadcasters recap the most significant stories of the week in a high-energy roundtable discussion hosted by Joel Weisman.

### ***Chicago Tonight: The Friday Night Show***

On this weekly show, host Bob Sirott conducts a freewheeling discussion with one of Chicago's most colorful and newsworthy personalities. Guests have included such luminaries as actor Dan Aykroyd, former Bears coach Mike Ditka, newscaster and journalist Carol Marin, U.S. Senator Barack Obama and Francis Cardinal George.

### ***Global Chicago***

These *Chicago Tonight* segments examined Chicago's place in the global marketplace by looking at its imports and exports -- people and goods -- in this increasingly small world.

### ***The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching***

This year's 19th annual broadcast, hosted for the first time by Bob Sirott, honored 10 outstanding Chicago high school teachers. Former WTTW President Bill McCarter was also honored for his part in initiating the Awards and bringing them to television.

### ***High School Basketball Championships***

Live coverage of the Chicago Public League High School Boys Basketball Game of the Week, with play-by-play commentary provided by veteran sports reporter and *Chicago Tonight's* Executive Producer Mike Leiderman.

### ***Illinois Lawmakers***

Respected political analyst Bruce DuMont hosts this in-depth examination of issues under consideration in the Illinois General Assembly.

### ***Image Union***

The longest-running program of its kind in America, WTTW11's showcase for award-winning documentaries and short films is in its 27th year.

### ***Jewish Chicago: 1948 and Beyond***

This sequel to WTTW11's highly praised documentary about the early history of Jewish Chicago followed Chicago's Jewish community as it migrated across the Chicago metropolitan area, and sampled the incredibly diverse array of Jewish life in the city today.

### ***Leopold and Loeb: Love and Murder in Chicago***

This one-hour documentary – winner of this year's Emmy for Best Documentary of Historical Significance – explored one of the crimes of the century as a pair of brilliant University of Chicago students murdered a young boy in the 1920s, just to see if they could pull off "the perfect crime." This program, narrated by John Callaway, inspired an exhibit which opened at the Chicago Historical Society on the 80th anniversary of the murder.

### ***Northwest of Chicago: From Farm Fields to Boomtowns***

In the latest of his tours, Geoffrey Baer examined "the land beyond O'Hare." From an architecturally significant movie palace in Park Ridge to the first McDonald's in Des Plaines to the historic Woodstock Opera House where Orson Welles and Paul Newman got their starts, this pledge special captured it all.

### ***South of Chicago: Suburbs, Steel Mills, Shoreline***

In the region south of Chicago, everything seems bigger than life -- the heroes and villains, the bridges, boats and buildings, and even people's dreams. Starting in Gary, Geoffrey Baer took us on a rollicking journey along the waterways, highways and railways of Chicago's south suburbs and northwest Indiana.

### ***Sound Opinions***

As on their popular radio program, the rock music critics from the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Greg Kot and Jim DeRogotis, sit down in front of our cameras to sound off on the music releases of the week.

### ***Chicago's Wildest Moments: 15 Years in One Hour***

This award-winning special, with host Will Clinger and his Wild Correspondents, celebrated *Wild Chicago's* 15th anniversary by featuring the best of WTTW's guide to the offbeat, strange and just-plain-weird in Chicago and beyond.

### ***Your Chicago Kitchen***

Hosts Cheryl Hamada and Richard Steele welcome professional and amateur local chefs into the studio to demonstrate their favorite recipes in this hit pledge program.



*Tour program host Geoffrey Baer.*





Top left: Buddy Guy and John Mayer on Soundstage. Middle left: Money Farm. Bottom left: New PBS Kids program Maya & Miguel. Right: Shelby Lynne on Soundstage.



## WTTW National Productions

### *The McLaughlin Group*

Irrepressible host John McLaughlin and his regular guests tackle topics of interest and intrigue in the political, social, and economic arenas. McLaughlin fuels the fire by interjecting his own opinions and keeps the conversation on the fast track.

### *John McLaughlin's One on One*

Now in its 20th year, this weekly program is one of the most respected public affairs programs on the air. With his finger on the pulse of breaking news, John McLaughlin secures exclusive, thought-provoking, behind-the-scenes accounts from diverse and international figures.

### *MEXICO—One Plate at a Time with Rick Bayless*

Renowned chef Rick Bayless turns up the heat on this continuing popular cooking series, celebrating traditional and contemporary Mexican cuisine.

### *Money Farm*

Produced in partnership with Bank One, this series, now syndicated in other cities, teaches children fundamental lessons in managing money in a fun and engaging way.

### *One Dog at a Time with Dennis Hill*

This 90-minute pledge special features an amazingly simple new way to train your dog. On the show, Mr. Hill demonstrates his system with great success by teaching five “behavior-challenged” dogs he has never seen before.

### *Soundstage*

WTTW National Productions’ hit music series continues with recent tapings in our own Grainger Studio: John Mayer with Buddy Guy; and the Chris Isaak Christmas show with special guests Michael Bublé, Brian McKnight and Stevie Nicks. We also recently produced two shows in Nashville: George Jones: 50 Years of Hits, which PBS aired in prime time on Thanksgiving night and a new Michael McDonald show with special guests Toni Braxton, Take 6 and India.Arie.

### *RAGGs Holiday Jam*

The RAGGs Kids Club Band is an award-winning musical troupe that stars in a live-action holiday musical adventure in the Colorado Rockies. In this delightful children’s special, the Band has a great time playing a school concert featuring lots of holiday songs and learns valuable lessons about making new friends. WTTW is the presenting station for this national show.

### *PBS Signature Series*

WTTW11 continues to present the best that PBS has to offer, including *The American Experience*, *Nature*, *Nova*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Masterpiece Theatre*, *Frontline*, *Great Performances* and much more.

### *PBS Kids*

With new episodes of *Arthur* and *Dragon Tales*, and two new series, *Maya & Miguel* and *Postcards from Buster*, our children’s program roster remains strong, with more than half of our broadcast day devoted to quality kids’ programming. And our commitment is rewarded: in Chicago, WTTW11 is the most-watched television station by children 2-11.





*98.7WFMT hosts Lisa Flynn and Carl Grapentine in the Richard and Mary L. Gray Music Library.*



## 98.7WFMT: Chicago's Classical Experience

### 2004 Highlights:

- ▶ Steve Robinson, Senior Vice President of Radio, won the Deems Taylor Award for Excellence in Contemporary Music Programming.
- ▶ Through the WFMT Radio Network, the station broadcasts major symphony orchestra concerts, grand opera, drama, mainstream jazz, folk music and news to more than 650 outlets in the U. S. and around the world.

### 98.7WFMT Local Programming

#### *Chicago Symphony Retrospective with Don Tait*

Drawing on the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's discography of more than 900 recordings, Don profiles the orchestra's recorded history from the 78-rpm days to the digital era.

#### *Critical Thinking with Andrew Patner*

Andrew's ongoing conversation series explores the performing arts scene in Chicago. Guests have included University of Chicago Professor Norman Golb, who discussed medieval Jewish music, and renowned stage director Peter Stein, creator of the recent production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

#### *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts*

Carl Grapentine hosts weekly live broadcasts that showcase emerging young artists in recital at Chicago's Cultural Center.

#### *Folkstage*

Rich Warren hosts hour-long, uninterrupted performances by noted folk artists and singer-songwriters from the U.S. and Canada. Many of the broadcasts originate live from the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio.

#### *From the Recording Horn with Andy Karzas*

Andy plays and discusses rare recordings made by the great vocal artists of the past. Often taken from hard-to-find 78-rpm recordings, the performances celebrate opera's golden age.

#### *Grant Park*

WFMT joined the celebration of the opening of the Grant Park Orchestra's new home, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park, with its broadcast of a concert during the opening weekend. Other Grant Park Orchestra performances were broadcast as part of WFMT's *Music in Chicago* series. And WFMT continued its tradition of live broadcasts of the annual Independence Eve concert from the Petrillo Music Shell.

#### *Impromptu*

These brief performance segments from the Levin Performance Studio featured 84 performers.

#### *Live from the Martin Theatre*

WFMT aired chamber music concerts and recitals on Monday nights, live and recorded throughout the summer in Ravinia's Martin Theatre.

#### *Live from WFMT*

WFMT's own concert series presents Chicago area and visiting artists in live performance and conversation from the Levin Performance Studio, hosted by Kerry Frumkin.

#### *The Midnight Special with Rich Warren*

Folk music and farce, show tunes and satire, madness and escape – Rich covers the local and national folk-music scene with three hours weekly devoted to a wide range of recordings by artists of yesterday and today.

#### *Music from Northwestern*

Hosted by Kerry Frumkin, this weekly series showcases Northwestern University School of Music faculty, ensembles, distinguished alumni, and guest artists in performance and conversation.

#### *Music in Chicago*

Part of WFMT's commitment to Chicago area performing ensembles, weekly broadcasts featured the Chicago Chamber Musicians, concerts from the series *The University of Chicago Presents*, the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, and the complete season of nine *Live from NEIU* concerts, which are broadcast live from Northeastern Illinois University's Fine Arts Recital Hall in their *Jewel Box* concert series.

#### *Tranquillo with Dennis Moore*

Dennis hosts this late-evening music series, presented without commercial interruption.

#### *Writers on the Record*

Produced jointly with *Chicago Magazine*, *Writers on the Record* is a new monthly series hosted by Victoria Lautman, and broadcast live from the Lookingglass Theatre. Victoria's guests have included Edward P. Jones, winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for literature for his book *The Known World*, Susan Orlean and Augusten Burroughs.

#### WFMT and the Radio Networks

#### *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*

Listener response to this popular series is unprecedented. This program airs each weekday at 7 p.m. on WFMT and is heard in markets throughout the country.

#### *Leonard Bernstein: An American Life*

This 11-part series on the life and work of Leonard Bernstein was produced by Steve Rowland and hosted by Susan Sarandon. It is distributed by the Network.

#### *The Milken Archive of American Jewish Music*

This 13-part series, hosted by Leonard Nimoy, covers the entire range of Jewish musical expression in American classical, liturgical, theatrical, pop, and folk genres.

#### *The New York Philharmonic*

This 39-week national broadcast series began in October.

#### *Concerts from the Milwaukee Symphony and a 4-week series from the Jerusalem Symphony*



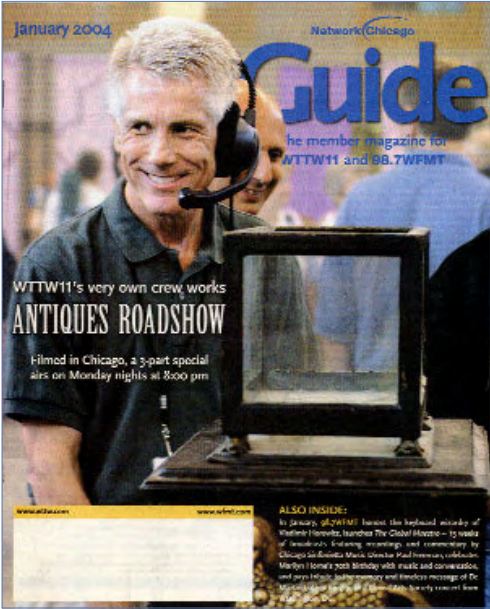
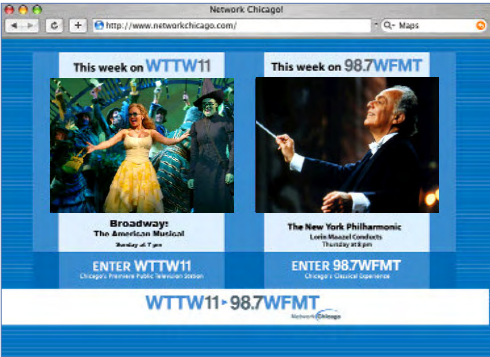
Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin.



Broadcast Map

Every month, WTTW11 reaches more than 4 million viewers in four states: Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin. About 85 percent of Chicago households tune in to Channel 11 at least once a month.

98.7WFMT serves more than 1.3 million monthly listeners in its four-state broadcast range, through the Internet, and as the largest FM cable superstation in the country.



networkchicago.com

Nearly a million pages were viewed each month over the past year on Network Chicago's websites, WTTW.com and WFMT.com. And the monthly hits grew to more than 5 million as electronic communications expanded to reach thousands of viewers, listeners and members through our television and radio e-mail newsletters. Beyond serving as a resource for programming information, the sites continue to serve as an events and information connection point for Chicago's cultural community.

Network Chicago Guide

The *Network Chicago Guide* has gotten rave reviews from members and advertisers alike. In addition to comprehensive TV and radio listings, it also provides "Connections" to exclusive member events and other local activities, and "Perks" – discounts on entertainment and services around town. Produced very economically in-house, the *Guide* has also been a steady revenue generator with paid advertising and promotion of organizational fundraising initiatives.

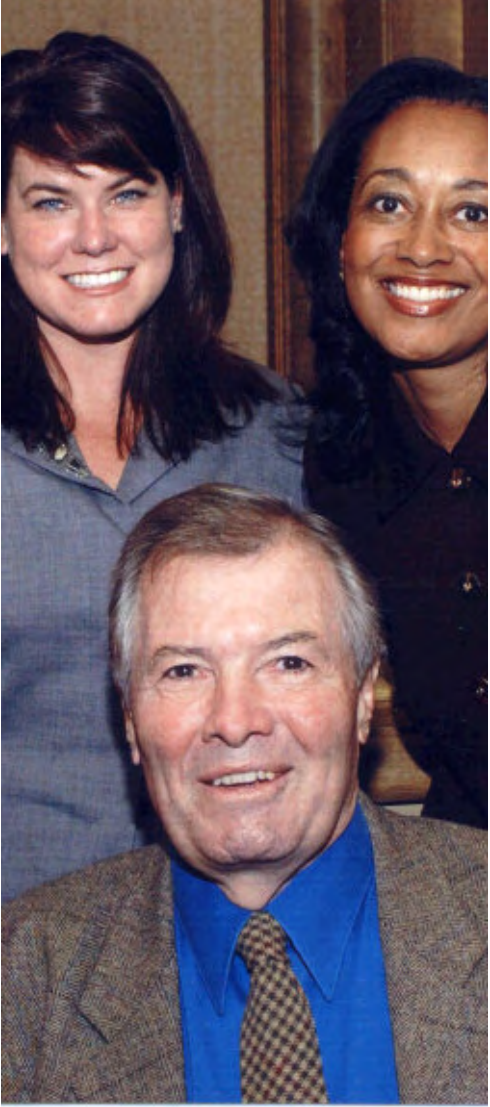
Events

Over the past year, WTTW11 has created events that target the interests and passions of our wide and diverse audience. These events not only educate, engage and entertain -- they connect our audience to all things Chicago and to the world beyond.

Throughout 2004, we opened our studio doors to hundreds of schoolchildren, college students, and international visitors. We are focusing more on outreach, which allows us to extend program content into our communities to impact lives.

Ready to Learn

This children's literacy initiative allowed us to extend our reach to area children far beyond our children's programming -- conducting free workshops for parents, children and caregivers. We also distributed books and other educational materials to kids in underserved communities in our viewing area, and hosted special events and performances by our own Ready to Learn Players and others to engage and entertain our smallest viewers. In 2004, these workshops and other events reached thousands of area childcare professionals, educators, parents and their children.



Left: Kelly Mannard and Deborah Liverett from Northern Trust with Chef Jacques Pepin. Right: Trustee Joan Harris and producer Steve Rowland at the premiere of Leonard Bernstein: An American Life.





Carmen Schmidt conducts a Ready to Learn workshop.



#### WTTW11 Highlights:

##### *Taste of Check, Please!*

This first-ever event attracted 400 guests and showcased 23 area restaurants previously featured on our hit local restaurant review program. Participants were treated to tastings from a wide variety of eateries, a great silent auction and sweepstakes drawing, and also had the opportunity to meet many of our on-air stars, including *Check, Please!* host and Master Sommelier Alpana Singh.

##### *WTTWKids Fun and Run*

In August, WTTW hosted 2,000 of our youngest viewers and their families at this inaugural event, a 3K Family Walk and 5K Fun Run in Lincoln Park. Participants enjoyed refreshments, performances by Ralph Covert of *Ralph's World*, visits with their favorite characters from our PBS Kids program lineup, and other surprises.

##### *Fall Preview Event*

In September in our own Grainger Studio, our midlevel donors enjoyed a sneak preview of our upcoming fall programs, heard a lecture by Vice President of Programming, Dan Soles, and met hosts Kevin O'Connor and Roger Cook of *This Old House*.

##### *Fast Food, My Way*

Noted chef and author Jacques Pepin hosted an elegant luncheon for donors at the Ritz-Carlton. Pepin was in town to launch his new PBS cooking series and book by the same name, *Fast Food, My Way*.

##### *Hispanocare*

In conjunction with our presentation of the popular *American Family* series, we conducted eight seminars, bringing a wealth of healthcare information and materials to Chicago's Latino community.

##### *Aging Out*

WTTW11 is partnering with the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for children to develop an outreach campaign about youth aging out of foster care. This effort is an extension of the PBS program titled *Aging Out*.

#### 98.7WFMT Highlights:

##### *The Midnight Special*

##### *50th Anniversary Celebration*

Held on New Year's Eve 2003 at the Old Town School of Folk Music, Rich Warren hosted the live national broadcast that featured Tom Paxton, Anne Hills, Susan Werner, Greg Greenway and others.

##### *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin Live!*

This Fine Arts Circle event held at The Arts Club in May featured Bill and a quintet of talented musicians from Chicago's Merit School of Music.

##### *Richard and Mary L. Gray Library Dedication Concert*

The library was dedicated with a concert featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble.

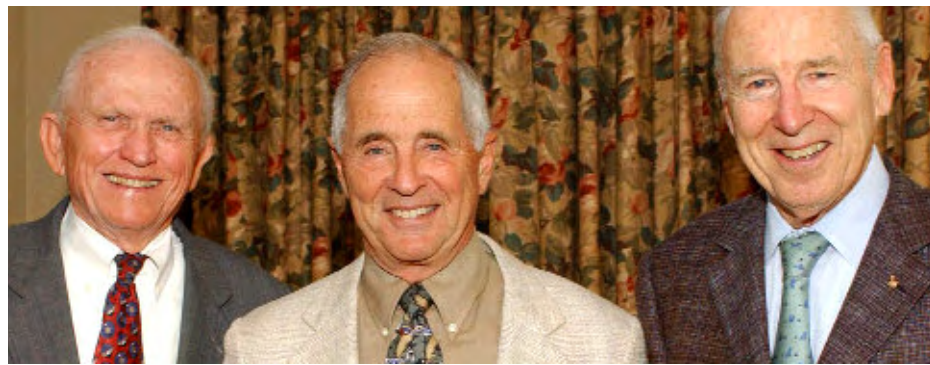
##### *Leonard Bernstein: An American Life*

A reception to kick off the 11-part series was held at The Arts Club in September. Series producer Steve Rowland provided a fascinating account of the history of the series.



Top left: Arthur and friend at a WTTWKids event. Top right: Trustee Jim Donnelley with Check, Please! host and Master Sommelier Alpana Singh and Chicago Tonight's Phil Ponce at the first Taste of Check, Please! event. Center right: Taste of Check, Please! Lower right: Opera singer Marilyn Horne with WFMT's Kerry Frumkin.





Left: (top) Midnight Special host Rich Warren with Greg Greenway and Tom Paxton. Upper right: Peter Martinez, Chicago Tonight's Elizabeth Brackett, Jim and Kate Lehrer, Trustee Virginia Ojeda and Anne Roosevelt at a Lehrer booksigning. Middle right: Kevin O'Connor of This Old House with a fan at the Fall Preview event. Lower right: The crew of Apollo 8 (Frank Borman, Bill Anders and James Lovell) at a fundraiser for a new documentary on the mission.



The first WTTWKids Fun and Run event. Left: Buster and friends. Upper right: Families participating in the Walk. Middle right: Spencer Weber with Farrell and Doris Frentress. Lower right: Entertainer Ralph Covert with a young fan.







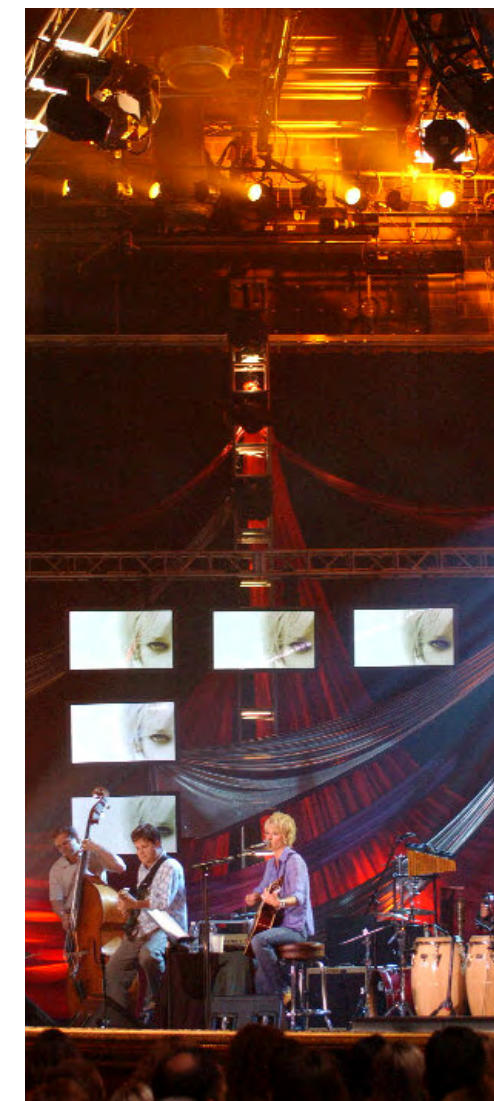
Check, Please! *host and Master Sommelier Alpana Singh at Everest.*

## Chicago Production Center: A Full-Service Facility

The Chicago Production Center is one of the Midwest’s most significant television production facilities, producing numerous award-winning national programs. It is comprised of four major soundstages, including the 10,000-foot Grainger Studio.

The Center has been the home of a wide variety of syndicated series, network series and specials – including talk shows, live concerts and “how to” series. Our studios also serve as locations for national commercials, infomercials, corporate videos and teleconferences.

Production partners include A.T. Kearney, Capital Nashville, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Sony Electronics, NBC Productions, *Fan’s Choice Awards*, the BBC, the NAACP-sponsored senatorial debate, BBCNews, FOX, Laugh-It-Off Productions, Richard Harrison Bailey, *Nightly Business Report*, Pegasus Players, *Celebrity Justice*, WYCC, Walgreens, Marx Creative of Milwaukee, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance and more. Our most recent production in Grainger Studio is the national music series *Soundstage*, featuring a wide variety of musical performers, including John Mayer, Chris Isaak, Stevie Nicks, Burt Bachrach and Ronald Isley, and many more.



*A taping of Soundstage.*



### Executive Staff

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Network Chicago  
5400 North St. Louis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625  
773.583.5000  
[www.networkchicago.com](http://www.networkchicago.com)

CHICAGO  
TONIGHT

*On the cover: WTTW Master Control Room during production of Chicago Tonight.*

CHICAGO  
TONIGHT