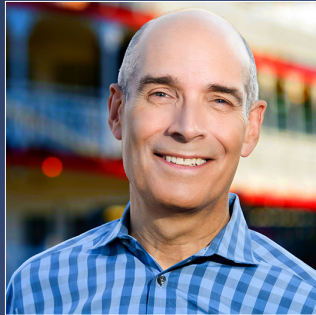


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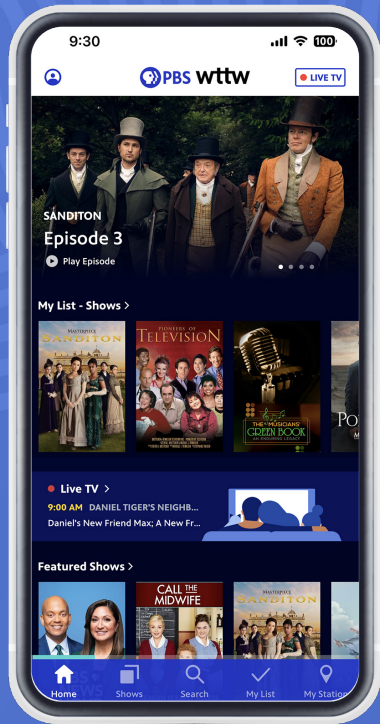
2022

A YEAR OF STORIES

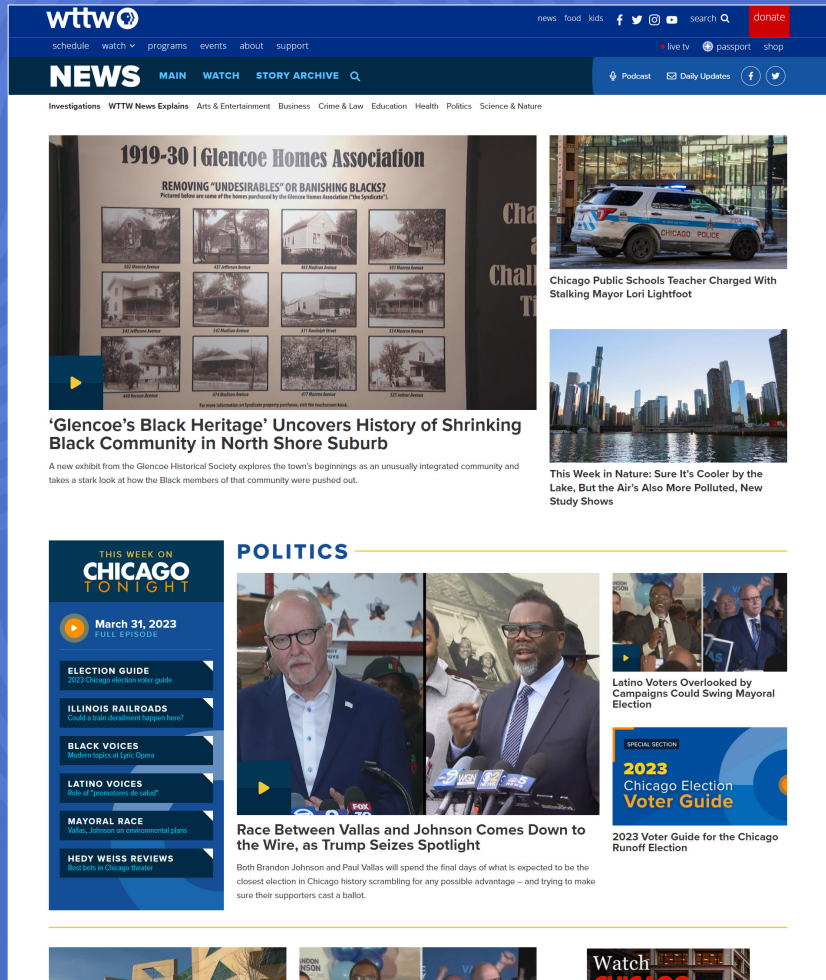


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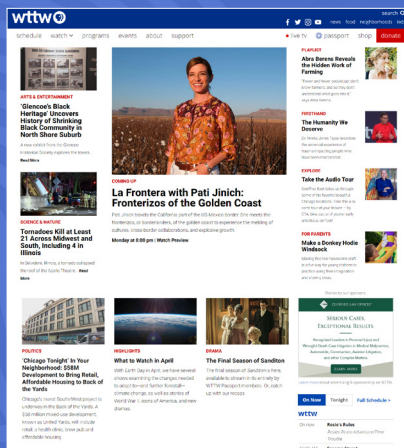
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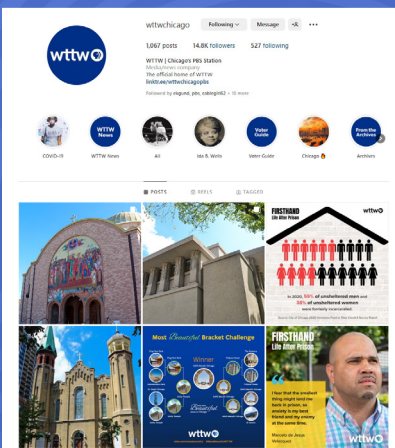
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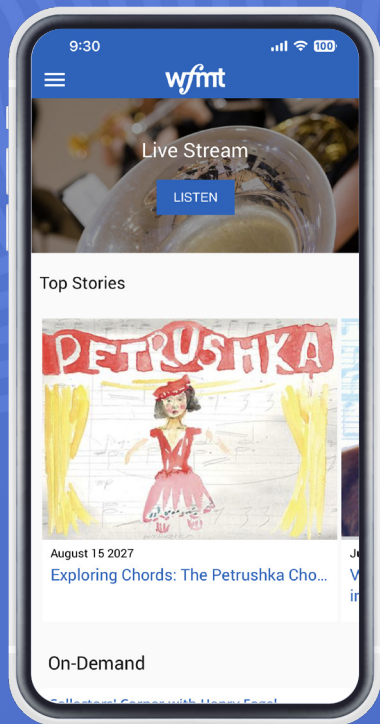
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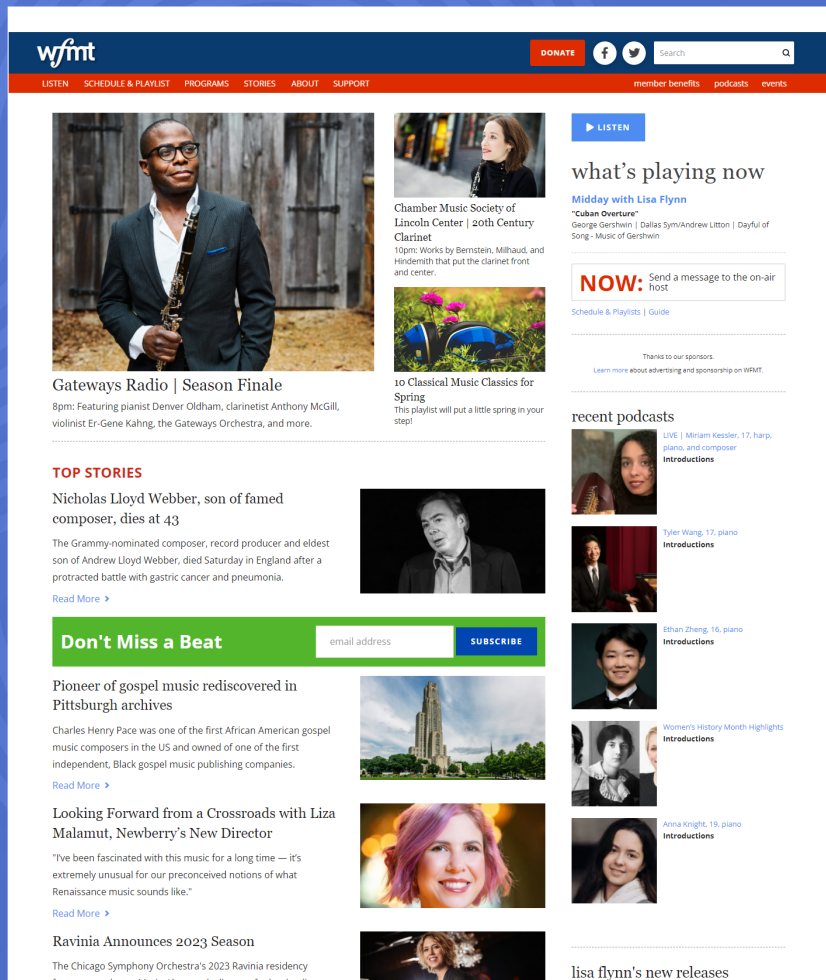
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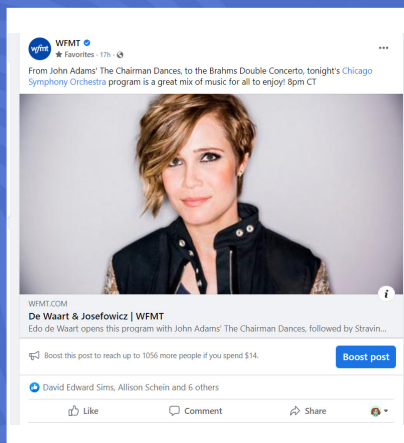
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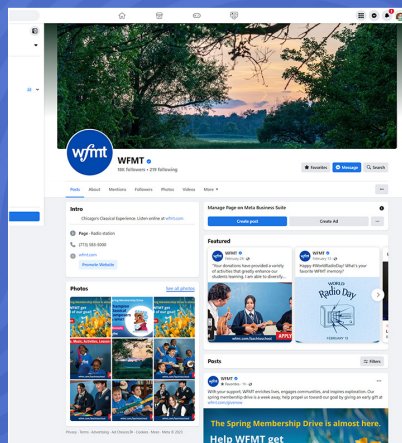
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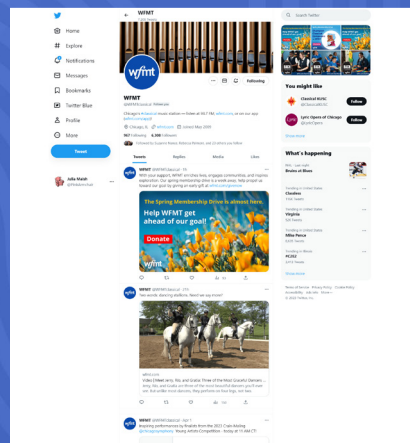
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Photo: David Finleyson / Ravinia

Clarinetist Anthony McGill



Photo: Mainstreet Pictures, Ltd.

Unforgotten, Sanjeev Bhaskar and Nicola Walker



Photo: Todd Rosenberg

Jorge Federico Osorio, Ravinia Festival

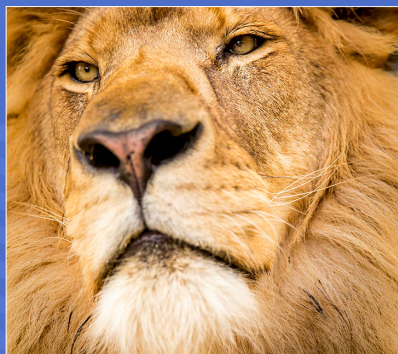


Photo: BEC / Paul Williams

Big Cats: A Nature Miniseries



Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase the Blues Away - American Masters



Photo: Lisa Rowira

Latino Experience

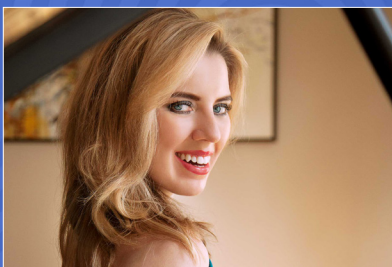


Photo: Andrea Joynt

Pianist Natasha Paremski at Grant Park



Photo: Capitol Concerts

A Capitol Fourth, conductor Jack Everly

JULY

Chicago occupies a well-known place in music history, launching artists from many genres. As fiscal 2022 began, WTTW brought viewers a new *American Masters* profile of the iconic blues guitarist Buddy Guy, who turned 85 that month. His music helped to define Chicago's West Side sound, and throughout his career, he has influenced everyone from Jimi Hendrix to John Mayer.

WTTW's other highlights in July included the launch of the new bi-weekly newsletter *Dramalogue*; the annual Independence Day concert *A Capitol Fourth*; the return of the British whodunit *Unforgotten*; a taut reality series, *The 1900 Island*, in which four contemporary families traveled back in time to fight for survival in a rural fishing village; a new English-language adaptation of the detective series *Professor T*; four new *POV* films; *Nature's* exposé of the planet's *Super Cats*; and a three-part exploration of *The Latino Experience*. Stories on wttw.com traced the history of Alligator Records, a label that has been carrying on the legacy of Chicago blues; and introduced The Chosen Few DJs, who helped popularize the made-in-Chicago genre of dance music.

Listeners to WFMT heard music from the [Ravinia Festival](#) and the [Grant Park Music Festival](#), starting off with its Independence Day Salute. And because the world of classical music has long been infused and enriched with the styles of jazz, blues, pop, and folk music, throughout the month WFMT featured works by Gershwin, Still, Russo, and Ellington – plus Shostakovich, Vaughan Williams, Piazzolla, and more. *Listening to Singers* featured an ensemble that combines Monteverdi's Baroque sounds with modern-day swing and tango, and *Introductions* welcomed back Chicago's own Mariachi Herencia de Mexico. wfmt.com featured an in-depth list of classical music inspired by the blues, and recordings by the late Chicago singer Valerie Wellington, who showcased her artistry in opera before switching over to blues.



AUGUST



Photo: Decca Classics

Birgit Nilsson, *Elektra* on WFMT



Photo: WNET PBS

Underground Railroad: The William Still Story, Dion Johnstone



Photo: American Public Television

Midsomer Murders



Photo: POV

POV: The Song of the Butterflies



Photo: Eagle Rock Entertainment

The Dark Side of the Moon, Roger Waters



Photo: Edwin Cobaj, Nouveau Productions LLC

Wicked in Concert, Idina Menzel



Photo: Gregor Hohenberg Sony Music Entertainment LLC

Pretty Yende, *Manon* on WFMT



Photo: Norman Timonera

Christopher Bell conducting the Independence Day Concert at Grant Park

AUGUST

Drama and mystery abounded on WTTW in August, with new episodes of the long-running series *Midsomer Murders*; specials that looked back at *All Creatures Great and Small* and Ken Burns's *Hemingway*; the story of Underground Railroad icon William Still; historian Lucy Worsley's inside look at Henry VIII's Reformation; and two programming exploring different aspects of the 9/11 attacks two decades after the event. There was fun and music, too, with *Wicked in Concert*, the annual *Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert* and a *Salute to Budapest and Vienna*, and an in-depth look at a classic rock album with the band who made it: Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon*. WTTW also explored *Hawaii: Islands of Wonder*, and brought you more Super Cats, courtesy of *Nature*. On wttw.com, stories included a look at some of Chicago's most unusual unsolved mysteries, from murders to the mundane; and took viewers behind the scenes of *Unforgotten*, *Professor T*, and the upcoming series *Guilt*.

On WFMT, there was also plenty of top-flight drama to enjoy: the Saturday afternoon *Opera Series* brought listeners Richard Strauss' *Elektra*, based on a tragic tale from ancient Greek mythology; Jules Massenet's *Manon*, a bittersweet love story originally set in 18th-century Paris; *The Demon* by Russia's Anton Rubinstein, supernatural terror mixed with human tragedy; and Richard Wagner's *Parsifal*, a tale of medieval knights guarding the Holy Grail. wfmt.com delved into some of the enduring mysteries of classical music, such as the real relationship between Mozart and Salieri – how did it compare with its portrayal in the play and film *Amadeus*? WFMT also shared an interview with an accomplished film and TV composer who shared how they amplify mysteries with music; and a conversation with bestselling author Sara Paretsky, who shared her thoughts on classical music with an air of mystery.



SEPTEMBER



Frontline: America After 9/11



Photo: Lisa Marie Mazzucco

Violinist Itzhak Perlman



Photo: Lance Ozler

Lindsay Ohse in *Tancredi*, Opera Southwest

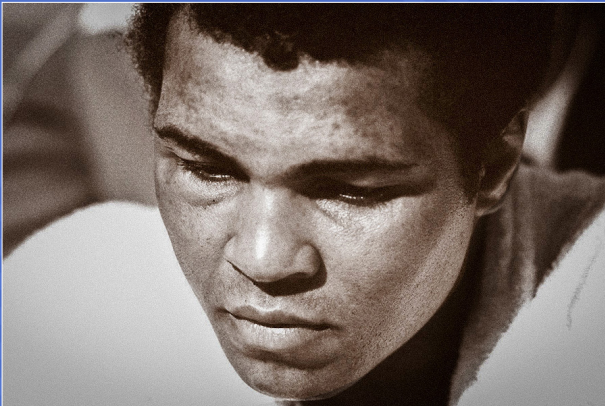


Photo: Michael Gaffney

Muhammad Ali



Photo: Carter Center

In Their Own Words: Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter



Photo: Elliott Mandel

Music of the Baroque, Dame Jane Glover

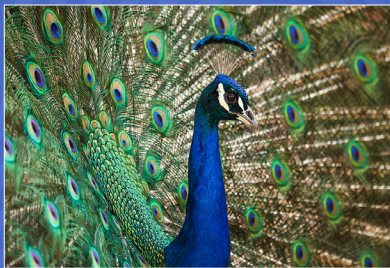


Photo: Stuart Dunn

Natural Born Rebels



Photo: LPE

Voces on PBS, Dr. Victor Rios

SEPTEMBER

WTTW was excited to premiere [Muhammad Ali](#), a comprehensive four-part film from Ken Burns about the iconic heavyweight boxing champion and outspoken proponent of civil rights. As viewers discovered, Ali had numerous meaningful ties to Chicago, as the athlete lived in the city during some of the most important – and turbulent – years of his life and career. WTTW’s [companion website](#) included an episode guide, a photo gallery, relevant videos and stories, and a community screening and conversation about the film.

Other highlights on WTTW in September included new treatises on Sandra Day O’Connor, America’s first female Supreme Court Justice; media mogul William Randolph Hearst; and animals as *Natural Born Rebels*. Also premiering were a three-part series, *The Future of Work*; a backstage profile of Canadian-born conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin; NOVA’s examination of *The Cannabis Question*; Frontline’s look at *America After 9/11* on the 20th anniversary of the attacks; the ballet *The Red Shoes* on *Great Performances*; the stories of President Jimmy Carter and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk *In Their Own Words*; and a lineup of timely content for [Hispanic Heritage Month](#).

WFMT also paid tribute to Muhammad Ali this month with music composed and/or performed by Black musicians. The station also convened a [WFMT Classical Conversation](#) with D. J. Sparr, composer of the opera *Approaching Ali*; and talked with Jahlil Beats, who wrote the score for the Ken Burns series. WFMT also aired excerpts from the 2021 BBC Proms; celebrated the 50th anniversary of Music of the Baroque; recalled September 11 with music; shared notable operas including Rossini’s *Tancredi* and Bottesini’s *Ali Baba* from Opera Southwest and Rameau’s *Hippolyte et Aricle* from the Paris Opera-Comique. Finally, WFMT look listeners to [Carnegie Hall](#) for a new season of programs, and aired special content for the Jewish High Holidays that featured [violinist Itzhak Perlman](#).





Photo: Beth Ross Buckley

Ken-David Masur, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra



Photo: Artist website

Introductions on WFMT: Mariachi Herencia de Mexico

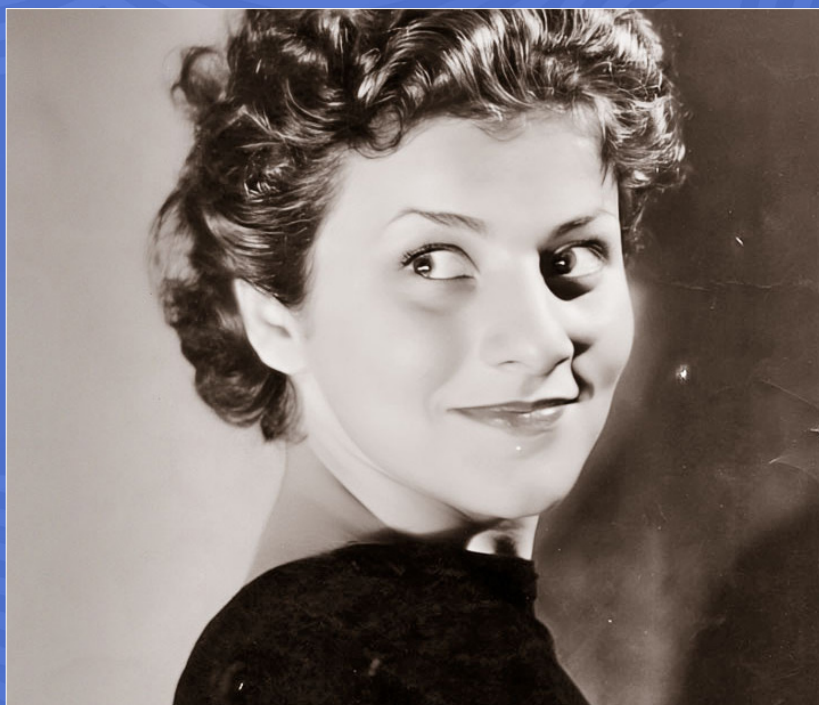


Photo: Estate of Viola Spolin

Chicago Stories: Inventing Improv, Viola Spolin



Photo: Arcos Film + Music

Great Performances: Now Hear This, Scott Yoo



Photo: Grant Leighton

Conductor Marin Alsop



Photo: Two Brothers Pictures

Baptiste, Tcheky Karyo



Photo: Kudos TV Masterpiece

Grantchester, Robson Green, Tom Brittney



Photo: Najib Joe Hakim / Patchwork Films

Los Hermanos: The Brothers

OCTOBER

October brought a new special and website in the *Chicago Stories* series: the story of trailblazing Chicago social worker-turned-theatre guru Viola Spolin, charged with *Inventing Improv*, arguably the city's most lasting cultural export. Though reminiscences of some of its most well-known alumni and practitioners, the film explained why the art form's original intent wasn't comedy and the vital role that Jane Addams's Hull House played in the city's designation as the birthplace of improv. The [website](#) included additional stories, improv demonstrations, a current map of Chicago's improv theatres, and an essay on the healing power of improv that surely would have pleased Spolin.

Also that month, WTTW explored *Hidden Turkey*; celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; welcomed new seasons of the drama series *Grantchester*, *Baptiste*, and *Call the Midwife*; highlighted the life of Helen Keller with *American Masters*; chased *Beethoven's Ghost* with Scott Yoo on *Great Performances*; looked at bees with *Nature* and edible insects with *NOVA*, and celebrated [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and Polish Heritage Month with a variety relevant content.

WFMT shared a new season of concerts from [Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra](#), including its live season opener conducted by Ken-David Masur at the MSO's new home at the Bradley Symphony Center. WFMT also brought listeners several concerts from the Chicago Symphony that saluted [CSO founder and conductor Margaret Hillis](#), along with a world premiere conducted by Marin Alsop and a special performance in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month; *Introductions* also paid tribute with a special. Saturday afternoon operas in October included Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, and Britten's *Billy Budd* from Los Angeles Opera, and Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment* from the Maribor Opera. On the local front, WFMT aired [Handel's Orlando](#), performed by the city's own Haymarket Opera Company.



NOVEMBER



Photo: Valenzuela Brothers

Voces on PBS: American Exile



Photo: © Todd Rosenberg Photography

Riccardo Muti, Chicago Symphony Orchestra



Photo: Kristen Loken

Great Performances: San Francisco Symphony



Independent Lens: Home from School

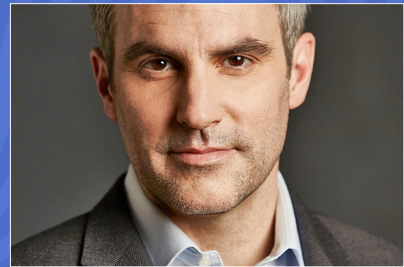


Photo: David White

Composer Kevin Puts



Photo: Neal Street Productions

Call the Midwife

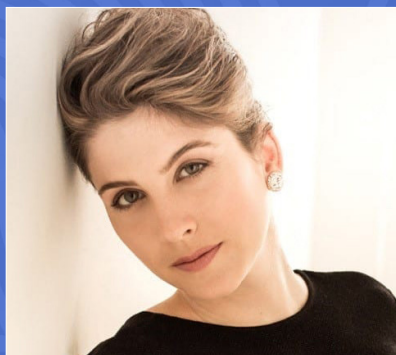


Photo: Dario Acosta

Mezzo-soprano Virginie Verrez



Photo: Dennis Stogsdill

Nature: Born in the Rockies

NOVEMBER

WTTW marked [Native American Heritage Month](#) with special content that included *Searching for Sequoyah*, the story of the famed Cherokee visionary; several films in which Native American combat veterans reflect on their service in U.S. wars; and *Independent Lens: Home from School – The Children of Carlisle*, following a delegation of Northern Arapaho tribal members on a quest to retrieve remains of children who died at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in the 1880s. Stories on wttw.com included a profile of Chris Pappan, an artist who updates 19th century Native American art to dispel negative stereotypes. And WTTW hosted a virtual conversation with Métis author [Toni Jensen](#), whose books include *Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land* and *From the Hilltop*. Separately, WTTW took viewers behind the scenes of the popular series *Call the Midwife* with a program titled, fittingly, *Special Delivery*, and aired new episodes of *Nature*, *NOVA*, and *Secrets of the Dead*, plus two insightful documentaries from *Independent Lens – Storm Lake* and *Duty Free*.

WFMT brought opera lovers Bizet's *Carmen*, Britten's *Peter Grimes*, Verdi's *Luisa Miller*, and Kevin Puts' *Silent Night*; and observed Native American Heritage Month with a Thanksgiving night special, [Healing Ceremony](#), a work by Marc Neikrug that combined Native American rituals with music to induce a state of tranquility and equilibrium. The evening included a brief documentary followed by the performance featuring mezzo-soprano Susan Graham. Also, WFMT revisited a 1975 Studs Terkel conversation with [Vine Deloria, Jr.](#), known to many as the leading American Indian intellectual of the 20th century. wfmt.com highlighted notable Native American composers and musicmakers, including Brent Michael Davids, Joy Harjo, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, and Raven Chacon, plus a few from the Chicago area. Also, an expert on the Potawatomi Indians informed website visitors about their musical traditions and history in our region.



DECEMBER



Photo: Hedi Turzyn

Lidia Celebrates America



Photo: BEC-Nealestreet Productions-Sally Mais

Call the Midwife Holiday Special 2021



WFMT pioneers Norm Pellegrini and Ray Nordstrand, early 1960s



Photo: Burning Bright Productions

Lucy Worsley's 12 Days of Tudor Christmas



Photo: Liz Farina Markel

Haymarket Opera's Brandon Acker celebrates WFMT's 70th



Photo: Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir



Photo: Liz Farina Markel

Steans Piano Trio violinist Eunice Kim

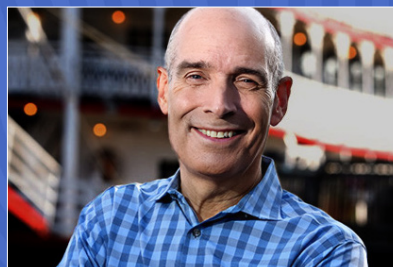


Photo: WTTW and Ken Carl

Beyond Chicago from the Air, Geoffrey Baer

DECEMBER

WFMT marked an impressive milestone this month: on December 13, the station celebrated 70 years on the air with a [nine-hour Day of Music](#) that aired and streamed live from Northeastern Illinois University's "Jewel Box" Recital Hall on 98.7FM, wfmt.com, and the WFMT app, with video on Facebook and wfmt.com. [Performers](#) included Ravinia's Steams Piano Trio, instrumentalists from Haymarket Opera Company, students and faculty from Music Institute of Chicago, Chicago Sinfonietta Wind Quintet, members of Music of the Baroque Chorus, CSO's Lincoln Quartet, singers from Lyric Opera's Ryan Opera Center, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative String Quartet, and roots and blues singer-songwriter and fiddle player **Anne Harris**.

WFMT also presented its usual eclectic lineup of [holiday music and related content for Christmas and Hanukkah](#), including a new series, *Christmas Around the World*, hosted weeknights by Candice Agree. Happily, new performances from the [Metropolitan Opera](#) returned with productions of Puccini's *Tosca*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Verdi's *Aida*.

WTTW kicked off December with an all-new special narrated by Geoffrey Baer: [Beyond Chicago from the Air](#), in which he embarked on a breathtaking exploration via drone to regions beyond the city in summer, fall, and winter – including the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Cahokia Mounds, Starved Rock, Morton Arboretum, and many more. [The program's companion website](#) took viewers behind the scenes of production and offered numerous stunning images and web extra content. In addition, December included [new specials](#) featuring Natalie Cole and Il Volo, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and new holiday specials from *Call the Midwife*, the Tabernacle Choir (celebrating its 20th annual Christmas concert), DePaul University, Wheaton College, historian Lucy Worsley, and the Metropolitan Opera's gala New Year's concert with sopranos Angel Blue and Pretty Yende and tenors Matthew Polenzani and Javier Camarena – an event that helped viewers see out 2021 in style.



JANUARY



Ryan Opera Center: Leroy Davis, Donald Lee III

Photo: Ryan Opera Center



The Midnight Special, Lilli Lewis

Photo: Liv Piskadlo-Jones



Antiques Roadshow, Sands Point Preserve

Photo: Katherine Nelson Hall / WBGH



Arthur

Photo: WBH Educational Foundation



Around the World in 80 Days, David Tennant



All Creatures Great and Small

Photo: Masterpiece



Apollo's Fire: Jeannette Sorrell



Alvin Ailey: American Masters

Photo: Jacob's Pillow licensed from Harvard, John Lindquist rights

JANUARY

In January, many of WTTW's popular series returned with new seasons, including *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *Finding Your Roots*, *The Indian Doctor*, *Vienna Blood*, *Mallorca Files*, and *Wild Travels*. These programs were joined by a new and fantastical eight-part adaptation of Jules Verne's classic adventure novel *Around the World in 80 Days*, starring David Tennant (*Doctor Who*) as Phileas Fogg as the intrepid Englishman who attempts to circumnavigate the globe in record time (for 1872, anyway). Also, *American Masters* profiled the legendary choreographer Alvin Ailey and *POV* Ady Barkan, an activist for people with disabilities; *NOVA* examined the science behind *High-Risk High Rises*; and *Nature* followed *Animals with Cameras* into the secret lives of sharks, elephant seals, turtles, and gannets. Finally, *Independent Lens* explored the mystery of disappearing immigrants in rural South Texas in *Missing in Brooks County*.

WFMT commenced 2022 with the annual *New Year's Day in Vienna* concert by the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by Daniel Barenboim, which also aired on WTTW that evening. Also this month, WFMT aired a *Ryan Opera Center Recital* by pianist Donald Lee III and baritone Leroy Davis, and paid tribute to the recently departed *Broadway legend Stephen Sondheim* with a new special curated by *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips. January also brought the debut of a new series, *This Week from China's National Centre for the Performing Arts*; a celebration of Martin Luther King Day; and the return of live operas from the Metropolitan Opera with an exciting premiere soon to come to Lyric Opera of Chicago: Charles M. Blow's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, followed later in the month by Puccini's *La Bohème*. Finally, *Introductions* featured the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's Fall Concert, and Argus Quartet headlined a *Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert*.





Photo: Ken Carl

FIRSTHAND: Segregation, Karen and Enrique León



Photo: Miguel Zuno, Jr

FIRSTHAND: Segregation, Lolly Soul Love



Photo: Davon Clark

FIRSTHAND: Segregation, Chris Javier



Photo: Davon Clark

FIRSTHAND: Segregation, Courtney Jones



Photo: Michel Zuno, Jr.

FIRSTHAND: Segregation, Chris and Nan Parson



Photo: World History Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands

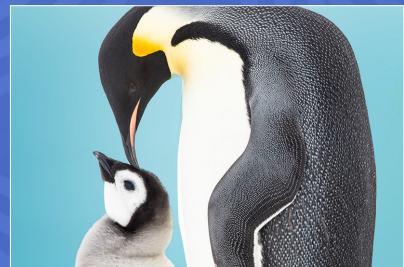


Photo: Shutterstock / Samantha Crimin

Nature: Penguins



Photo: Classic Stock-Alamy

Riveted: The History of Jeans

FEBRUARY

This month, WTTW was excited to unveil the 2022 installment in its award-winning [FIRSTHAND initiative](#), [this year focusing on segregation](#). WTTW's exploration of the topic included a documentary series sharing the firsthand perspectives of 15 impacted Chicagoans, multiplatform journalism and news coverage, expert talks, a discussion guide, and community conversations. Visitors to [the website](#) discovered how racial divisions take a toll on individuals, impact the city and region at large, and compel change.

Also in February, WTTW marked [Black History Month](#) with specials on soprano Marian Anderson, civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, and orchestra conductor Thomas Wilkins; and an *Independent Lens* film on the history of homeownership and segregation. In addition, *American Experience* traced the history of blue jeans; *Nature* focused on penguins; *NOVA* investigated arctic sinkholes; Lucy Worsley told the story of *Elizabeth I, the Warrior Queen*; and Rick Steves illustrated *Why We Travel*.

WFMT too marked [Black History Month](#) with a new series highlighting the contributions of Black classical artists and composers – including [I Too Sing America](#) focusing on Langston Hughes and hosted by Terrence McKnight; the BBC Proms premiere of 19-year-old pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason with Chineke! Orchestra playing Florence Price's *Concerto in One Movement*; and a rebroadcast of Scott Joplin's opera *Tremonisha*. Also, LaRob K. Rafael presented [Black Music Spotlight](#), a weekday morning series of music by a variety of traditional and contemporary Black composers – some of whom had never before been heard on WFMT. Visitors to wfmt.com met 11 Black contemporary composers reimagining and redefining classical music today, plus a rundown of Black performers – including Andre Watt and Shirley Verrett – who have left their mark on the genre. Finally, WFMT cast some light on Black 18th-century composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, in an interview with the writer and director of a play about the iconoclastic artist.



MARCH



Photo: Special Collections, U of Arkansas Libraries

Composer Florence Price

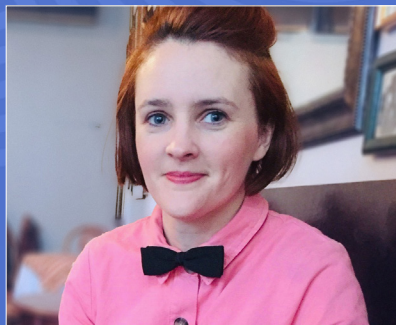


Photo: Amy Pollard

Composer and instrumentalist Claire Cowan



Photo: Adriane White

Great Performances: The Conductor, Marin Alsop



Photo: Rik Keller

Pianist Lara Downes



Photo: ITVS

Independent Lens: Writing with Fire



Photo: Sofie Gheysens

Before We Die, Lesley Sharp



Photo: Red Planet Pictures

Death in Paradise, Ralf Little



Photo: Joss Barratt Red Planet, Ltd

Sanditon on Masterpiece

MARCH

March is [Women's History Month](#), and WTTW celebrated with a *Great Performances* special, *The Conductor*, that focuses on Ravinia Festival's chief conductor and curator Marin Alsop. Also this month, WTTW also welcomed back two popular women-centric series – the eagerly anticipated second season of *Sanditon*, based on Jane Austen's unfinished novel; and perennial favorite *Call the Midwife*, with the nuns and midwives continuing to navigate the swinging '60s. And to round out Sunday nights, WTTW was pleased to present a new British adaptation of the hit Swedish detective series *Before We Die*, with Lesley Sharp in the leading role of DI Hannah Laing. Also, a new *Independent Lens* film, the Oscar-nominated *Writing with Fire*, followed the intrepid journalists of India's all-female newspaper. Local Women's History Month content on wttw.com included a portrait of Lee Godie, an eccentric and prolific outsider artist who lived much of her life outdoors in Chicago and created an acclaimed body of work; and the story of the Chicago Women's Liberation Union, which included noted psychologist Naomi Weisstein, political activist and organizer Heather Booth, and others.

On WFMT, the new weekly series *WFMT Presents* premiered with *The Price of Admission: A Musical Biography of Florence Price*, and programs focusing on trumpeter/entrepreneur Mary Elizabeth Bowden, trailblazing pianist and activist Lara Downes, composer and multi-instrumentalist Claire Cowan, and singer-conductor Barbara Hannigan. Candice Agree shared five favorite recordings led by Marin Alsop including works by Brahms, Weill, James P. Johnson, and Alsop's mentor, Leonard Bernstein; in addition, wfmt.com explored Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*, revealing why it was dedicated to Alsop; spotlighted 11 conductors who strive to make the podium a more equitable place; and told the stories of Teresa Carreño, Clara Schumann, and nine other women instrumentalists of the past who succeeded in spite of rampant sexism.





Photo: Chicago History Museum, ICH-037841 / Richard T. Kaner

Chicago Stories: Jane Byrne



Photo: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Benjamin Franklin



Photo: Ken Howard

Metropolitan Opera: Porgy and Bess



Photo: Ken Howard

Great Performances at the Met: Fire Shut Up in My Bones

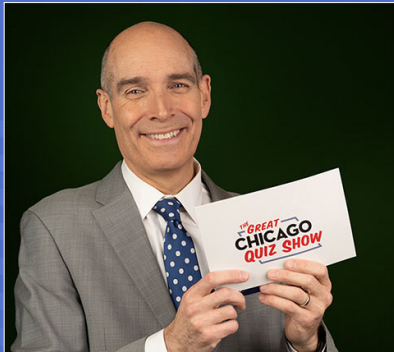


Photo: WTTW / Ken Carl

Great Chicago Quiz Show with Geoffrey Baer



Photo: Georgia Public Broadcasting

The Fall, Gillian Anderson



Photo: BBC

Father Brown, Mark Williams



Musician and activist Mark Ludvig

APRIL

In April, WTTW was excited to premiere a new season of *Chicago Stories*, the only weekly documentary program dedicated to uncovering the history, diversity, and breadth of human experience that shaped our city. Five new episodes told the stories of Chicago's trailblazing first woman mayor; two "downtown disasters" – a devastating theater fire and a mysterious underground flood; the creative genius of some of the city's advertising legends; Chicago's Union Stockyards, which revolutionized meatpacking in America while also bringing to light labor issues and food safety; and a Mexican-American parish that lost 12 young men during the Vietnam War and the disillusionment that followed. On wttw.com, viewers discovered the history of Chicago's first Mexican church; examined some Black churches integral to the development of gospel music; and learned about the life and career of Tom Burrell, a pioneering Black advertising executive.

WTTW also launched a new season of *The Great Chicago Quiz Show*, in which quizmaster Geoffrey Baer put many more intrepid local contestants to the test on all things Chicago, and shared more heartwarming local stories in a new season of *Jay's Chicago*. Also, WTTW brought viewers a Ken Burns profile of *Benjamin Franklin*, a new season of *Midsomer Murders*, and a gripping new detective series, *The Fall*.

WFMT Presents featured a conversation with Chicago's *Music of the Baroque* music director Dame Jane Glover; a program with Angele Dubeau, violinist and founder of the femme-forward Canadian chamber orchestra La Pietà; and for Holocaust Remembrance Day, a Studs Terkel interview with *Mark Ludwig* using Hawthorne String Quartet's recordings of music by composers of Terezin. WFMT brought listeners *Porgy and Bess* from the Metropolitan Opera, pianist Tom Hicks in a Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert, and the young Czech conductor Jakub Hruša leading the CSO in Dvorák's Sixth Symphony.





Photo: Russell Lee, LOC Prints and Photographs Division

Chicago Stories: The Birth of Gospel



Photo: Zenith Richards / Metropolitan Opera

Opera star Nadine Sierra



Photo: The Paragon Agency

American Masters: Duke in Hollywood

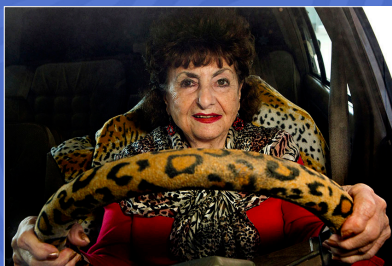


Photo: Gloria Baker Feinstein

Big Sonia, Sonia Warshawski



Photo: Red Productions / Ben Blackall

Ridley Road, Agnes O'Casey



Photo: Lou Nakasako

Independent Lens: Try Harder

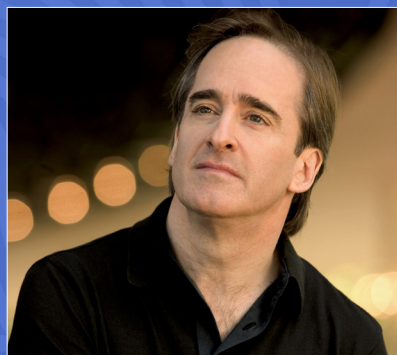


Photo: Todd Rosenberg / Ravinia Festival

Conductor James Conlon



Photo: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

John Brancy and Peter Dugan

MAY

As May commenced, the new season of WTTW's *Chicago Stories* concluded by tracing the city's role as [the birthplace of gospel music](#) through the story of its creator, Thomas Dorsey. The companion website shared a story tracing the African roots and origins of the form, a video extra of a performance by Trinity United Church of Christ Ensemble, and another highlighting gospel singer Mahalia Jackson and her connection to the civil rights movement.

Also in May, WTTW highlighted Jewish American Heritage Month as well as [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#) (AAPI) with dedicated content. Along with the premiere of the drama series *Ridley Road* about a young Jewish woman fighting fascism in 1960s London, a day of documentaries recalled the Holocaust. Among new AAPI programs were *Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp*; *Plague at the Golden Gate: American Experience*; and an *American Masters* profile of five-time Olympic medalist surfer Duke Kahanamoku. As WTTW launched its new [Deep Dish newsletter](#), foodies could try a Filipino fusion recipe from Chicagoland-based author Mia P. Manansala; and learn about Humboldt Park deli Jeff and Jude's.

WFMT celebrated these cultures as well on [WFMT Presents](#), including programs focusing on the life and work of the prolific Japanese-American composer Paul Chihara and the Israeli native and mandolin virtuoso Avi Avital; the special [Kababayan: A Celebration of Filipino Identity](#) from Hearing in Color; and a revealing conversation with influential composer Philip Glass, son of Lithuanian-Jewish immigrants, about his life in music. On wfmt.com, users could get to know 11 influential, trailblazing AAPI artists such as Yo-Yo Ma and Bejun Mehta; enjoy a playlist of eight favorite recordings by legendary Jewish American soprano Beverly Sills; and marvel at the creative genius of Chinese American composer Tan Dun, whose work spans opera, film, the symphony hall, and more.





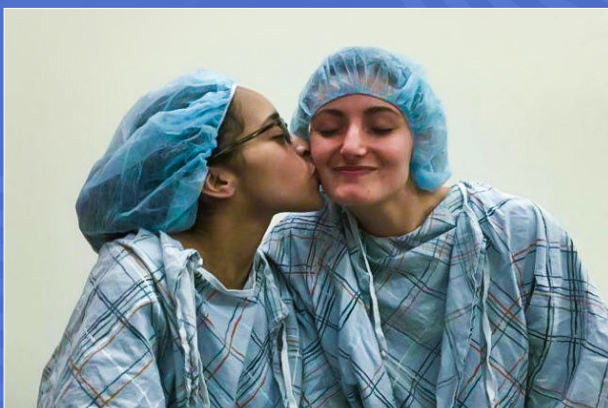
True Colors, Andre de Shields



Revolution of Steve Jobs



Marin Alsop, *Breaking Barriers Festival*



It's a Match, Alana and Lori



San Francisco Symphony's Michael Tilson Thomas



Endeavour, Roger Allam, Shaun Evans



The Great American Recipe



Hotel Portofino, Cecil Ainsworth

JUNE

As the fiscal year neared its end and summer arrived, WTTW premiered *The Great American Recipe*, an uplifting new eight-part cooking competition highlighting the multiculturalism that makes American food so exceptional. Each week, talented home cooks from all over the country showcased their beloved signature dishes and competed to win the national search for “The Great American Recipe.” Viewers could try their hand at more recipes from local chefs on WTTW’s [companion website](#).

Also in June, WTTW celebrated [LGBTQ+ Pride Month](#) with new content, including *True Colors: LGBTQ+ Our Stories, Our Songs*, tracing the history of the LGBTQ+ community through stories and music; *Queer Silicon Valley*, exploring the challenges of coming out in the high-tech industry; and *It’s a Match*, the story of two young LGBT women who discover a miraculous connection. [wttw.com](#) featured a recipe from Chicago’s acclaimed chef Erick Williams of Hyde Park restaurant Virtue for Juneteenth, and celebrated Pride Month with a festive drink recipe from the popular female-owned, queer-friendly bar Nobody’s Darling.

WFMT also marked LGBTQ+ Pride Month via the *WFMT Presents* series, which included an introduction to Ravinia’s new *Breaking Barriers Festival* with Marin Alsop and Craig Hella Johnson’s oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard*. [wfmt.com](#) curated a list of seven LGBTQ+ books that would make great operas; and from a Pride-themed cabaret to an orchestral piece of music about writer and activist James Baldwin, a rundown of events for the perfect Pride Month calendar.

Also, on a separate note, WFMT shared a new season of live performances from the [Grant Park Music Festival](#) which this month included Franz Schubert’s “Unfinished” Symphony No. 8. And in connection with *The Great American Recipe*, WFMT compiled a multi-course playlist with selections from Italy (Puccini), France (Debussy), China (Chen Yi), and Mexico (Ponce) that will go perfectly with any meal.



JUNE



The Voices of Trinity Mass Choir



Brandis Friedman and Amna Nawaz



Jazz vocalist Kurt Elling



Virgina and Norm Bobins with Amna Nawaz



Brandis Friedman, Renée Crown, Carole Segal



Tim Russell, Monica and Otis Moss, Larry Irving



Geoffrey Baer, Phil Ponce, Alexandra Nichols



Gordon and Carole Segal with Dave Blowers

CELEBRATION 2022

OUR CITY, OUR STORIES

Chaired by Renée and Lester Crown, the Celebration 2022 gala, *Our City, Our Stories*, celebrated the power of storytelling, and WTTW and WFMT's essential role to tell the unique and compelling stories of our region. On May 4, 2022, the organization welcomed 300 guests to an in-person event held at Venue SIX10 at the Spertus Institute.

The evening included a cocktail hour, dynamic program, and seated dinner. Highlights from the program included stirring musical performances from The Voices of Trinity Choir and jazz legend Kurt Elling; a lively conversation between *Chicago Tonight* co-anchor Brandis Friedman and *PBS NewsHour* chief correspondent Amna Nawaz; and the presentation of the inaugural WTTW|WFMT Renée Crown Leadership Award to Carole and Gordon Segal for their dedication to our mission and philanthropic work throughout the community.





WTTW Kids Learn & Play host Miguel de León



Daniel Tiger and friends at Be My Neighbor Day



FIRSTHAND: Living in Poverty event



Rev. Jesse Jackson at FIRSTHAND event



WFMT Classical Conversations



Nature Cat at Rolling Knolls



The Birth of Gospel Community Conversation



Nature Cat and friends at WTTW Kids Learn & Play

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WTTW and WFMT have a unique opportunity to [reach beyond our platforms](#) to build personal connections with Chicago's many communities. We do this by working in direct partnership with local organizations and residents to enrich lives, engage communities, and inspire exploration. In FY2022, WTTW hosted 35 virtual screenings and panel discussions that explored poverty, racial inequality, religion, Chicago and world history, and much more. These events attracted almost 101,000 participants across all categories, including kids and families. Many of the screenings featured films focusing on Black, Latino, Asian, Jewish, or Native American people and their stories, including *For The Left Hand, Apart*, *Benjamin Franklin*, *The Great Muslim American Road Trip*, *Hiding in Plain Sight*, *Muhammad Ali*, *Three Chinatowns*, and original multiplatform productions *Our Soldiers: Our Lady of Guadalupe*, *The Birth of Gospel.*, and *FIRSTHAND: Segregation*.

WTTW also strengthened its partnership with PBS Books by co-hosting four [live Facebook events](#) that attracted more than 36,000 viewers. For kids and families, WTTW continued to offer its free [WTTW Kids Learn & Play](#) series, which was featured at Chicago Learning Days, which included meet-and-greets with Nature Cat and his pal Daisy, and with Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittycat at Rockford's *Be My Neighbor Day*. WTTW also rolled out a newly expanded online Explore the Outdoors *Nature Cat* summer camp, and WTTW Kids monthly activity calendars. Finally, WTTW's *Nature Cat* Road Trip engaged kids and families in Utah, Wyoming, and Massachusetts.

WFMT launched [Classical Conversations](#) – in-depth interviews with renowned classical music composers and performers. Guests included composer D. J. Sparr and lead Soloman Howard of the opera *Approaching Ali*; pianist Norman Malone, subject of the documentary *For the Left Hand*; scholar Ellen Cohn and actor Mitchell Kramer on *Benjamin Franklin and Music*; and music educator-author Dr. C. Charles Clency, final accompanist of Mahalia Jackson.





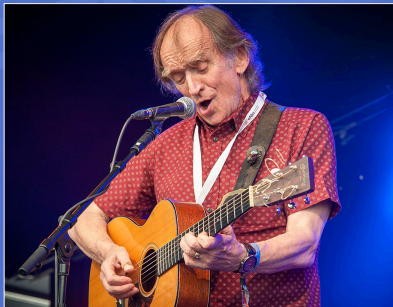
Photo: Element 8 Entertainment; Masterpiece / Slobodan Pikula

Miss Scarlet and the Duke, Kate Phillips



Photo: Mark Allen

BBC Proms on WFMT, Jeneba Kanneh-Mason



The Midnight Special, Martin Carthy



Photo: Tristram Kenton

Great Performances: Anything Goes



Photo: Liz Farina Markel

George Preston, Sandra Cordova Micek, and Ravinia's Jeffrey Haydon at WFMT's 70th



Photo: Fred Rogers Productions

Donkey Hodge



Photo: Meredith Nerman / GBH 2022

Antiques Roadshow



Photo: Steve Ewert / WTTW

Paris Schutz and Brandis Friedman

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FISCAL 2022 JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

(in thousands)

Assets

Cash and investments	\$53,442
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	6,663
Property and equipment, net	21,225
Other assets	3,363
Total Assets	\$84,693

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$3,760
Long-term loans payable	8,150
Other liabilities	1,444
Total Liabilities	\$13,355

Net assets

Without donor restrictions	\$32,724
With donor restrictions	38,614
Total Net Assets	\$71,338
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$84,693

Revenue

Direct Public Support and Development	\$25,501
Underwriting and production sponsorship	6,088
Program Licensing and Facility Rental	1,480
Federal and state grants	3,731
Other	6,569
Total Revenue	\$43,369

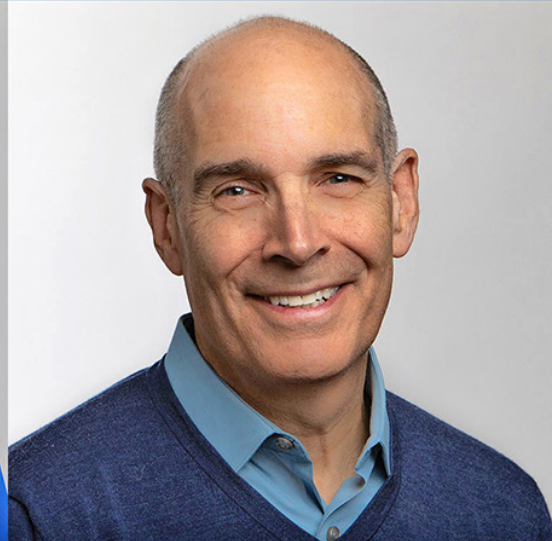
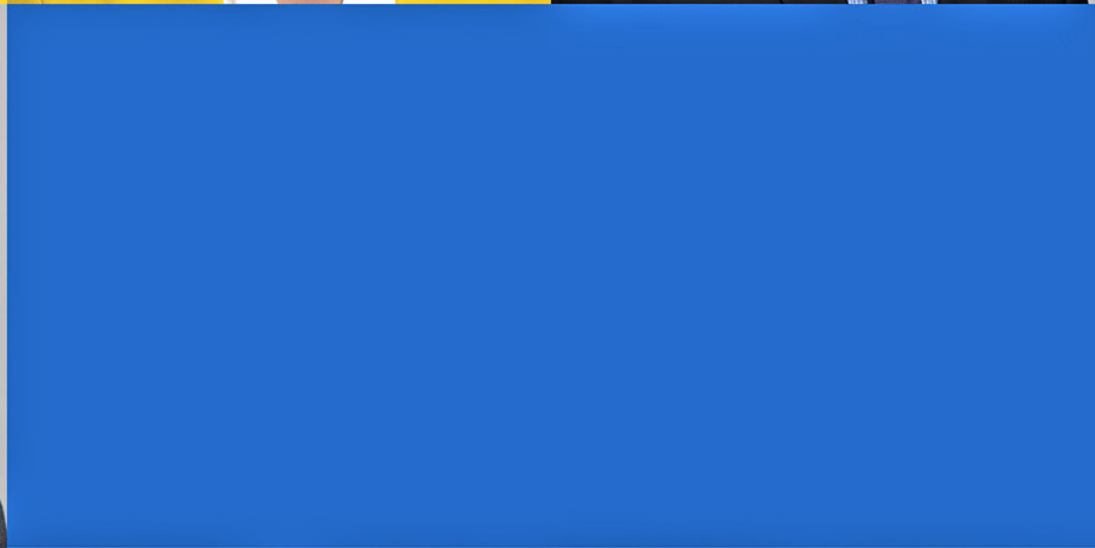
Expenses

Programming and production	\$29,554
Fundraising	8,722
Business Support	4,544
Total Expenses	\$42,820

Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities	\$549
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Statement of Activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022; figures subject to rounding.

CHICAGO
TONIGHT



wttw 
NEWS

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(as of June 30, 2022)

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Senior Vice President

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WFMT

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(as of June 30, 2022)

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