

## Activities Supported by the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

**Minnesota Public Radio's Fiscal Year 2017  
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**



*Top photo: The early years*

*Bottom photo: MPR headquarters 50 years later*

*Both photos are courtesy of MPR*

**Dear Legislative Leaders and fellow Minnesotans,**

The Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund helps to enrich the lives of all Minnesotans and strengthens the vibrant culture that makes our state such a great place for our diverse residents to live, work and play. Through our innovative public service and programming, **Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR") delivers the Legacy Amendment's mandate "to support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."**



Reaching more than one million listeners each week, MPR and its three regional services—MPR News, Classical MPR and The Current®—produce programming for radio, digital and live audiences. Forty-five MPR stations provide our statewide reach. Through this robust broadcast network, **MPR exudes the principle of the Legacy Amendment's public broadcasting priority to expand Minnesotans' "knowledge, information, and access to arts, and Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."** This Legacy Amendment principle is tied directly to MPR's mission "to enrich the mind and nourish the spirit, thereby enhancing the lives and expanding the perspectives of our audiences, and assisting them in strengthening their communities."

MPR's exemplary Minnesota arts programming is possible, in large part, by support from Legacy funds which are dedicated by Minnesotans and approved by Legislators to preserve and promote the state's arts and cultural heritage. We feature talented Minnesota artists of many disciplines across all three of MPR's regional services. MPR weaves our arts, culture and history into the fabric of daily Minnesota life, and works to ensure that the arts continue to thrive. In addition to broadcast and digital services, MPR's in-person events and services offer a unique educational experience that provides students direct exposure to professional performing arts and artists.

Highlights of MPR's activities in the 2017 fiscal year include:

- **Classical MPR's signature education program Class Notes Artists** received rave reviews from students and educators alike. During the 2017 school year, Class Notes Artists engaged more than 18,500 students statewide. This year's Artists traveled across Minnesota to schools in Bemidji, East Grand Forks, Proctor, and Winona, among others, and visited selected schools in the metropolitan area.
- **MPR News covered arts events of both national and local significance.** Euan Kerr covered the national conversation generated by the Scaffold sculpture initially planned for the Walker Art Center's renovated sculpture garden. Marianne Combs' Art Hounds highlighted Minnesota Artists from communities including Brainerd, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Benton, Madison, Silver Creek, and Willmar.
- **The Current took its show on the road to Duluth and Winona** to support Minnesota music and local musicians. In Duluth, we hosted six free events in the days leading up to the All Pints North festival, which draws 3,500 attendees annually. In Winona, The Current hosted a free concert at the Marine Art Museum to kick off Mid West Music Fest, which had more than 1,800 attendees this year.

MPR marked its first half century as an essential public service for Minnesotans on January 22, 2017. Throughout the year, we'll engage citizens and communities across the state and across all three of our services—on air, online, and in person—to show our appreciation for what we've achieved together. We'll share highlights from our 50-year archive of local arts and culture coverage, made possible in part by Minnesota's Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. **We appreciate your continued support and look forward to our next 50 years as MPR expands our commitment to inform, inspire, entertain, and energize audiences across Minnesota.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon".

Jon McTaggart  
President and CEO  
Minnesota Public Radio

# Table of Contents

<b>Overview</b> .....	5
<b>Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Activities</b>	
Minnesota Public Radio 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – MPR50.....	7
Highlighting Minnesota Artists.....	14
Supporting Music Education.....	23
Live Events Arts Experiences.....	25
Preserving Minnesota’s Cultural History.....	31
<b>Appendices</b>	
Financial Report.....	32
Work Plan and Outcomes.....	33
MPR Board of Trustees.....	34

To alleviate printing costs, this report will be submitted online and available at [MPR’s website](#).  
The estimated cost of preparing this report (as required by Minn. Stat. § 3.197) is \$917.00.

Minnesota is a culturally rich and diverse state. MPR’s programs are aligned with the goals of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to create and showcase “arts, history and cultural heritage programs that will bolster Minnesota’s reputation as a center for creativity, innovation and imagination, supporting the long-term vitality of our state.” MPR achieves the state of Minnesota’s goals through MPR News, Classical MPR, The Current, and live events programming.

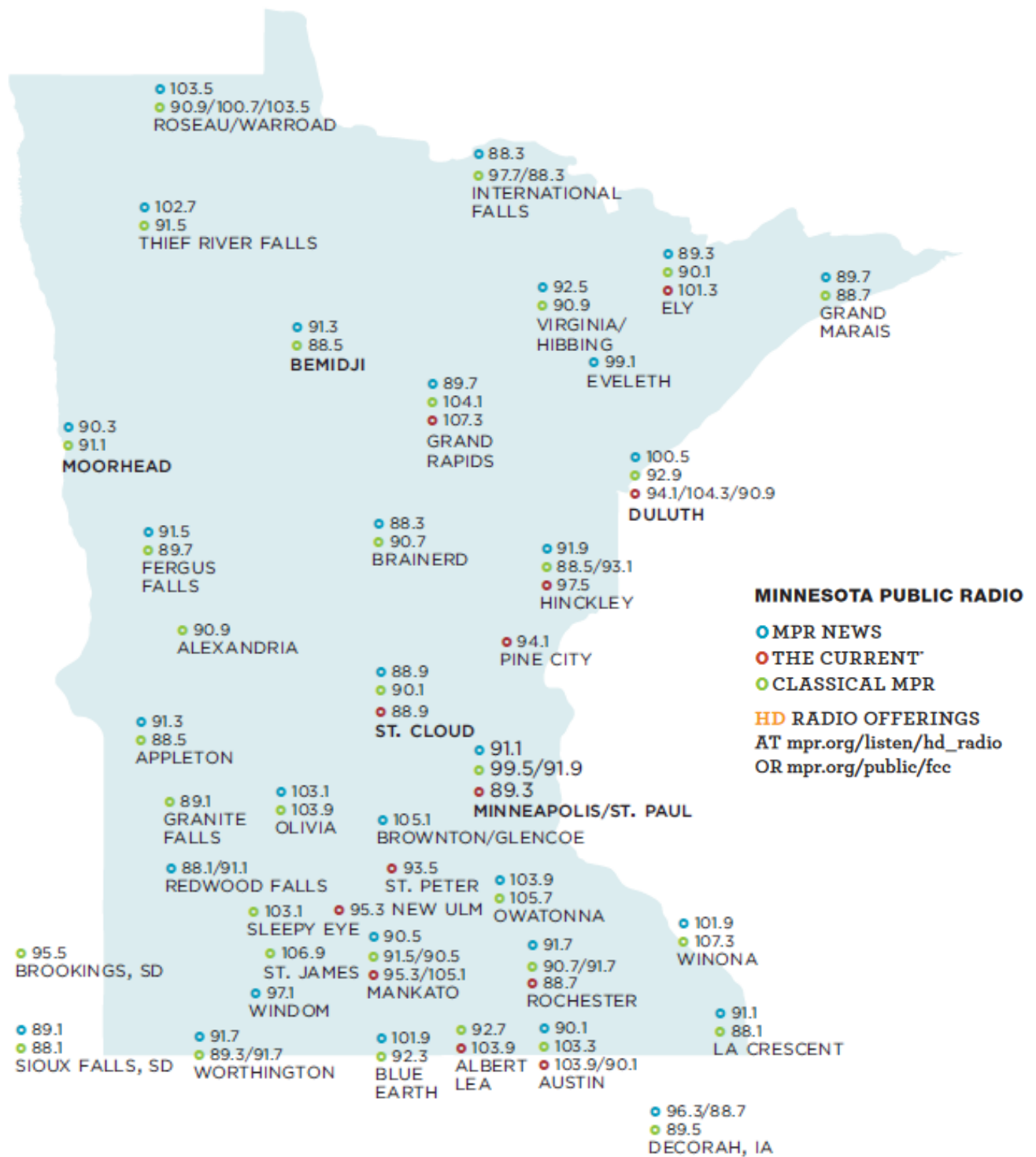
---

In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution. The amendment created four funds, one of which is the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (“ACHF”). The ACHF receives 19.75 percent of the sales tax revenue resulting from the Legacy amendment to support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.

Minnesota Public Radio is proud that the Minnesota Legislature has chosen to allocate ACHF funds for our work across Minnesota. Following each fiscal year, MPR is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing its ACHF activities and expenditures. This report covers MPR’s programs and projects conducted in our 2017 fiscal year and supported by the following ACHF Grant:

- MPR Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) – \$1,520,960 total award
  - ACHF Grant administered by the Department of Administration (*Minnesota Laws, 2013 Regular Session, Chapter 137, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6*)

# Minnesota Public Radio Stations



# Minnesota Public Radio Overview



**Minnesota Public Radio** operates a 46-station radio network serving nearly all of Minnesota and parts of surrounding states. Reaching more than 1 million listeners each week, MPR and its three regional services—[MPR News](#), [Classical MPR](#) and [The Current](#)—produce programming for radio, digital and live audiences. MPR marks 50 years of public service in 2017 with a full year of new conversations, taking place new programming and special events on air, online and in person at locations throughout the state. Details at [MPR50.org](#). For more information on MPR, visit [minnesotapublicradio.org](#).

## MPRnews

**MPR News** has long been recognized as one of the foremost journalistic organizations in the Upper Midwest, available to news consumers on multiple platforms (broadcast, online, mobile, On Demand, etc.). Reaching more than 500,000 listeners each week, the MPR News radio signal can be heard by 95 percent of Minnesotans, and is the only news station with bureaus located throughout the state. MPR News partners with one of the largest TV stations in the region, KARE 11, and with more than 30 newspapers in Minnesota. MPR News has received numerous awards for its reporting and, in 2017, received a George Foster Peabody Award, Alfred I. DuPont Award and RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Award for its investigative reporting. Visit [mprnews.org](#) for the latest regional, national and international headlines.

## classicalMPR

**Classical MPR** provides lively music and good company to listeners throughout the day. With weekly concert broadcasts from our region's world-class musical ensembles and national programs like *Performance Today*, *SymphonyCast*, and *Pipedreams*, Classical MPR offers its audience the best in classical music programming. Classical MPR can be heard at 99.5 KSJN in the Twin Cities and at various frequencies throughout Minnesota. In addition to a growing digital presence on [YourClassical.org](#), and [ClassicalMPR.org](#), we've deepened our impact for the communities we serve via a variety of music education initiatives for children, students, teachers and lifelong learners. These resources are available at no cost on MPR's [Music for Learning](#) web page.

## the current

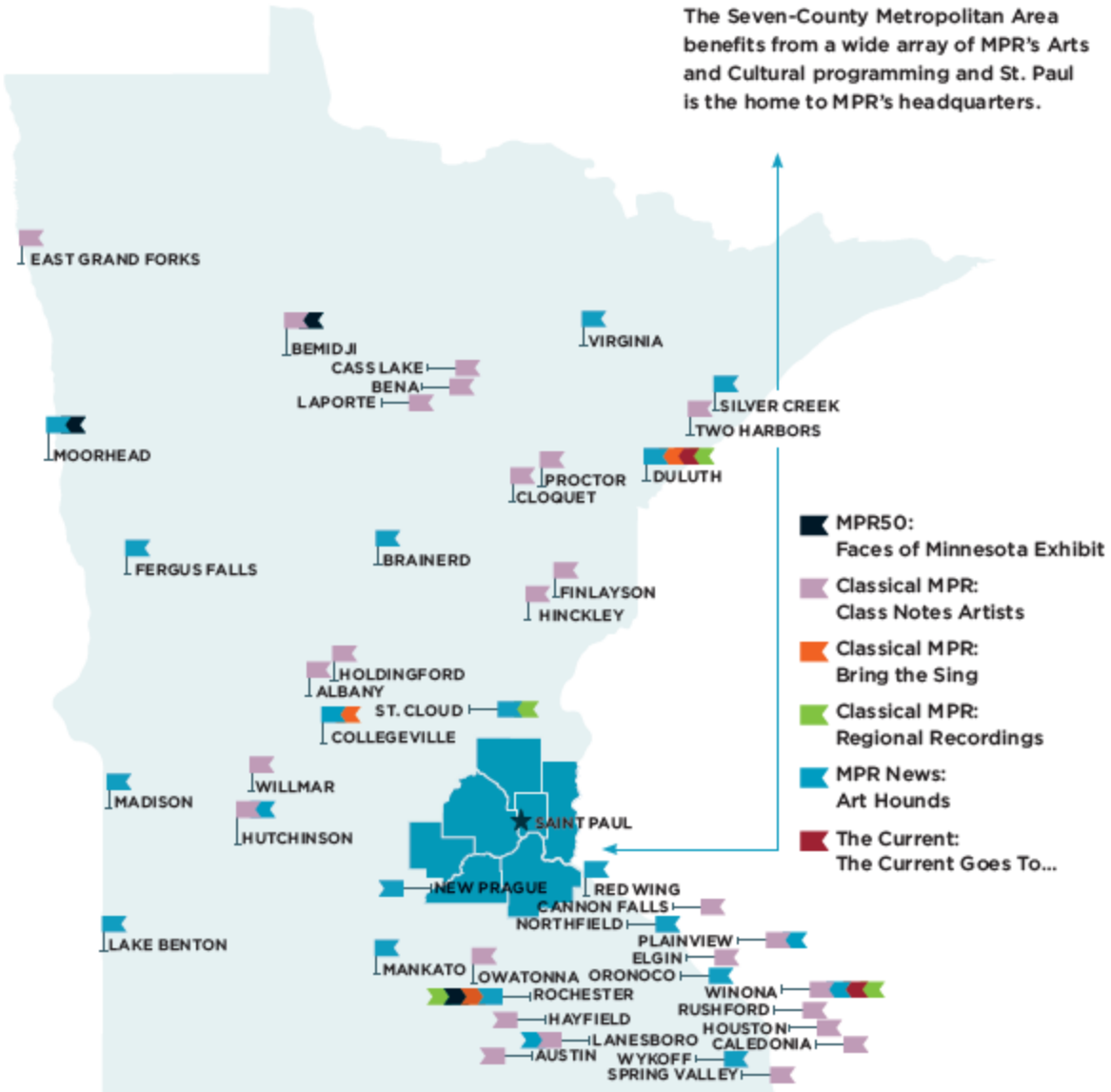
**The Current** brings listeners the best authentic new music alongside the music that inspired it, from local to legendary, indie to influential, new to nostalgic. A non-commercial, listener-supported radio station, The Current has helped launch and support more than 600 Minnesota Artists during its eleven-year history. *City Pages* readers have named The Current "Best Radio Station" in its annual "Best of the Twin Cities" awards every year since the station began. The station's online music coverage has also been honored with two Page One Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists.

*Data are copyright Nielsen Audio. Data references are estimates only.*

**ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED  
BY THE MINNESOTA LEGACY  
ARTS AND CULTURAL  
HERITAGE FUND  
JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017**

Minnesota is a culturally rich and diverse state. MPR's goal is aligned with that of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to create and showcase "arts, history and cultural heritage programs (that) will bolster Minnesota's reputation as a center for creativity, innovation and imagination, supporting the long-term vitality of our state." MPR provides programming via special events, Classical MPR, MPR News, and The Current®.

The Seven-County Metropolitan Area benefits from a wide array of MPR's Arts and Cultural programming and St. Paul is the home to MPR's headquarters.





# Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Activities

## Minnesota Public Radio 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – MPR50

On January 22, 1967, Minnesota Public Radio went live for the first time with a broadcast of the Cleveland Orchestra. Ever since, MPR has informed, inspired, entertained and energized Minnesotans. Throughout 2017, we are sharing highlights from MPR's 50-year archive of local, regional and national arts and culture coverage as well as engaging Minnesotans in arts activities across the state. MPR is proud to share these highlights that align with the goals of the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

### **MPR News: *Faces of Minnesota* Photo Exhibit and Digital Montage**

In celebration of MPR's 50th Anniversary, MPR News created a photo exhibit with an accompanying digital montage to highlight peoples' activities who make Minnesota unique. The exhibit and montage feature images of Minnesota arts and cultural activities as captured by Minnesota-based photographers. Our "Digital First" strategy is an important component of MPR's focus to connect with new audiences in unexpected and resonant ways that includes not just exceptional content but images. **MPR depends upon Minnesota photographers to capture representative, artistic images to pair online with stories by our journalists.**

*Faces of Minnesota* displays the work of twenty-five photographers, each of whom was based in Minnesota at the time they worked with MPR. We have one photographer on staff and regularly hire freelancers. In keeping with MPR's commitment to employing artists statewide, **the exhibit includes work by photographers from a range of Minnesota communities, including Bemidji, Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, and Rochester.** When the exhibit has completed its tour, MPR News will create an online gallery of approximately 100 photos from both the exhibit and the montage.

### *Faces of Minnesota* tour cities and dates in 2017:

**Rochester:** Forager Brewing from June 17 through July 1 including a June 23 public reception.

**Bemidji:** Watermark Gallery and Dunn Bros. from July 7 through August 1.

**Moorhead:** Hjemkomst Center from September 8 through October 13.

**Minneapolis:** Mill City Museum from October 18 through November 12 (reception on October 26).



Exhibit photos of Minnesota arts and cultural activities include:

- *At the Twin Cities Hmong festival, athletes, artists and food share top bill*, by Ackerman + Gruber
- *Artist Brother Ali on being Muslim in America*, by Nate Ryan
- *Bassist TianYang Liu, artist in residence*, by Nate Ryan
- *Bringing the heart of the craftsman to the stone of the Capitol*, by Jeffrey Thompson
- *Celebrating the spud, in all its forms at Barnesville's Potato Days*, by Jeffrey Thompson
- *Classical MPR's Minnesota Varsity Showcase Concert*, by Courtney Perry
- *The Current's 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party*, by Nate Ryan
- *Dancing with the Spin Collective*, by Derek Montgomery
- *Holy, SpringCon, Batman! Comic book lovers come out to play*, by Nikki Tundel
- *Lizzo talks about self-acceptance*, by Nate Ryan
- *A look back at the orchestra's trip to Cuba*, by Nate Ryan
- *Powwow season kicks off in Minneapolis*, by Nikki Tundel
- *St. Paul City Ballet challenges body image*, by Caroline Yang



This project was funded in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund from the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment.



*Rain can't dampen Cinco de Mayo*  
by Nikki Tundel



*Waiting for dad*  
by Jeffrey Thompson



*TU Dance seeks to inspire more dancers of color*  
by Jeffrey Thompson

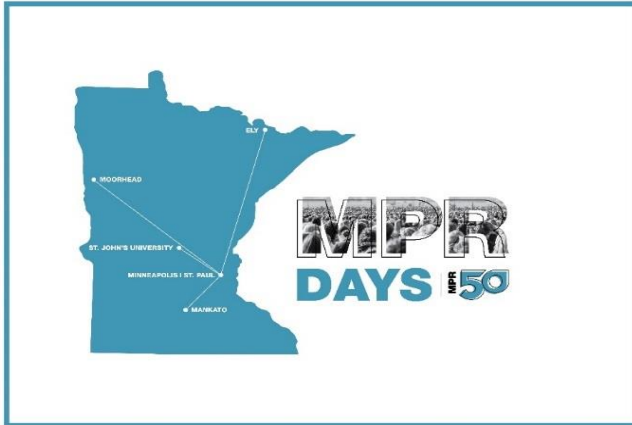


*Tall Ships Festival returns to Duluth*  
by Paul Walsh



## MPR50: MPR Days

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, MPR went on the road for MPR Days across the state. **Legacy funding helped us bring MPR News, Classical MPR, and The Current to Mankato** on May 10 for one of the four MPR Days during 2017. The day featured live broadcasts from the Kato Ballroom with beloved MPR personalities including retired MPR News journalist and on-air talent Gary Eichten in addition to a special performance by The Suburbs.



### The Current Presents: The Suburbs

The Current presents The Suburbs in concert at the Kato Ballroom in Mankato, Minn., hosted by Mark Wheat. May 10, 7 p.m.

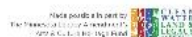


The Suburbs. Courtesy of the artist

SHARE  
 Kato Ballroom  
 Mankato, Minn.  
 May 10, 2017  
 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Host Mark Wheat welcomes The Suburbs for a special free concert with live check-ins on The Current. Admission is free but [registration is requested](#). Mark will talk to the band then welcome them to the stage for a 60 minute performance.

See the [MPR Days: Mankato schedule](#).



Minnesota Arts and Culture Legacy Amendment. State of Minnesota

SHARE  
 twitter  
 facebook

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, Minnesota Public Radio goes on the road for 4 MPR Days across the state. Our second event took place May 10th at the historic Kato Ballroom and featured live performances with Classical MPR, a walk down Gary Eichten's memory lane, conversations about the changing demographics in the Mankato region and a free, live concert by one of Minnesota's most enduring legendary bands, The Suburbs.



May 11 2017 10:55 AM



Tom Crann, MPR News  
 Producer @sam\_choo explains how ATC gets on the air to our Mankato crowd. #mpr50  
 3:34 PM - May 10, 2017

May 11 2017 10:55 AM



Jen Keavy  
 @BrianArolaMFP interviews @MPRnews legend Gary Eichten about his time growing up in Mankato. #MPR50  
 3:38 PM - May 10, 2017

## Classical MPR: *Bring the Sing*

On April 26, 2017, *Bring the Sing* brought its community choir magic to the birthplace of Classical MPR, Saint John's University in Collegeville, as part of a two-day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. *Bring the Sing* had a festive atmosphere as it brought together Minnesotans to celebrate the state's choral tradition with a performance in the magnificent Saint John's Abbey. All voices were included and the ability to read music was not required. Singers who registered in advance received sheet music prior to the event and walk-ins were enthusiastically welcomed. The evening kicked off with a light buffet, allowing participants to get to know their neighbors before raising their voices together in song. Minnesota-based Somali-indie-pop band *Ambassadors of Culture* performed during dinner.

G. Phillip Shoultz, III, Associate Conductor and Education Program Director for *VocalEssence*, conducted the joyful mass choir, which drew nearly 400 singers from central Minnesota and from around the state. Choirs from Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict, led by Axel Theimer, and the St. John's Boys' Choir, led by Andre Heywood, participated. Central Minnesota's Amadeus Chamber Symphony, also led by Axel Theimer, added to the majesty of the performance. *Bring the Sing* will be broadcast on Classical MPR's *Choral Stream*, which relies, in part, on Legacy funding.

### Song List

*I Dream a World* by David Brunner (based on poetry by Langston Hughes)

*Come and Sing* by Wallace Hornady

South African Freedom Song

*Requiem—IV. Agnus Dei* by Gabriel Fauré

*Draw the Circle Wide* by Mark A. Miller



Photos by Bill Hickey

classicalMPR | Sections ▾ Members ▾ More ▾



Prelude and Fugue "St Anne" – Johann Sebastian Bach – Boston Symphony Orchestra

## Highlights from *Bring the Sing* in Collegeville

Vaughn Ormseth - Jun 22, 2017

Classical Music Features



Bring the Sing in Collegeville, Minn., on April 26, 2017. Bill Hickey for MPR



LISTEN *Bring the Sing* - Collegeville, Minn.

Apr 26, 2017

30min 41sec

In April, *Bring the Sing* brought its community-choir magic to the birthplace of Classical MPR, Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn., capping a two-day celebration there of MPR's 50th anniversary and its long association with St. John's and its sister institution, the College of St. Benedict.

G. Phillip Shoultz, III led choirs from both colleges as well as nearly 400 singers drawn from central Minnesota and from around the state. The event, which took place in the architecturally famed St. John's Abbey, also capped this year's *Bring the Sing* season; earlier gatherings took place in [Rochester](#) and in [Duluth](#).

Minnesotans are discovering the joy and community of singing together in large numbers through *Bring the Sing* and will be able to do so throughout the coming year, too. On August 13, as part of a weekend-long celebration of the newly restored State Capitol, *Bring the Sing* teams up with *VocalEssence* for a come-one-come-all community sing that will include familiar folksongs, hymns and other pieces. Special guests will be announced.



## PRINCE: Commemorating the First Anniversary of His Death

The first anniversary of Prince's death saw local, national, and international media focus on MPR's rock station, The Current, and other Minnesota landmarks like First Avenue and Paisley Park. The Current featured on-air coverage, special digital segments and live events to give the widest array of fans access to Prince's legacy.

- **On Friday, April 21, 2017**, the anniversary of Prince's death, The Current played the music of Prince for 24 hours. Hour-long playlists curated by The Current hosts and special guests like local musicians were interspersed among the programming. Playlists featured Prince's best guitar solos, chart hits, B-sides, family tree, and more. Of special note was an exclusive *Theft of the Dial* session hosted by Andrea Swensson which was curated by Prince's band The Revolution. The station also aired live on-air check-ins from Paisley Park, where The Current's Andrea Swensson, Jim McGuinn, Brian Oake, Jill Riley, and Mark Wheat, along with MPR News' Tom Weber, took part in panels and commemorations.

### Theft of the Dial: The Revolution

by Andrea Swensson, Lillian Speakman  
April 21, 2017

DISCOVER MUSIC

THEFT OF THE DIAL



Andrea Swensson of The Local Show and The Revolution. (Evan Frost | MPR News)



LISTEN:  
Theft of the Dial: The Revolution

The Revolution are in town to perform this weekend at Celebration 2017, the four-day long event taking place at Paisley Park to honor the life of Prince on the anniversary of his passing. Ahead of their highly anticipated weekend performance and ensuing tour, the Revolution stopped by The Current to flood our airwaves with their favorite Prince songs and to share the stories of how these songs became so dear to them.

- **On Saturday, April 22**, The Current counted down the Top 89 Prince songs as selected by fans using an online voting system. As the countdown wound down, The Current began live reporting from the Prince Memorial Street Party at First Avenue which is the club where Prince got his start and was featured prominently in his film *Purple Rain*. The party then moved inside for a dance party until 4:00 a.m.
- **On Sunday, April 23**, The Current partnered with First Avenue to host *I Would Dance 4 U: A Kids Dance Party* for all-ages featuring the music of Prince.

The Prince Memorial Street Party in front of First Avenue was made possible in part by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, **allowing The Current to hire seventeen Minnesota solo artists and bands and to provide free tickets to a capacity crowd of 2,500 attendees.** Artists who performed: Kerry Alexander of Bad Bad Hats, Taiyon J. Coleman, Julius Collins, Curtiss A, Claire de Lune, deM atlaS, Maria Isa, Jack Brass Band, Prairie Fire Lady Choir, Ed Bok Lee, Adam Levy of The Honeydogs, Mark Mallman, OneGunn & Tony Christian of Mazerati, PaviElle, Dave Pirner of Soul Asylum, Prairie Fire Lady Choir, and Proper-T of ZULUZULUU.



*Claire de Lune and members of the Prairie Fire Lady Choir*



*Dave Pirner of Soul Asylum*



*Proper-T of ZULUZULUU*



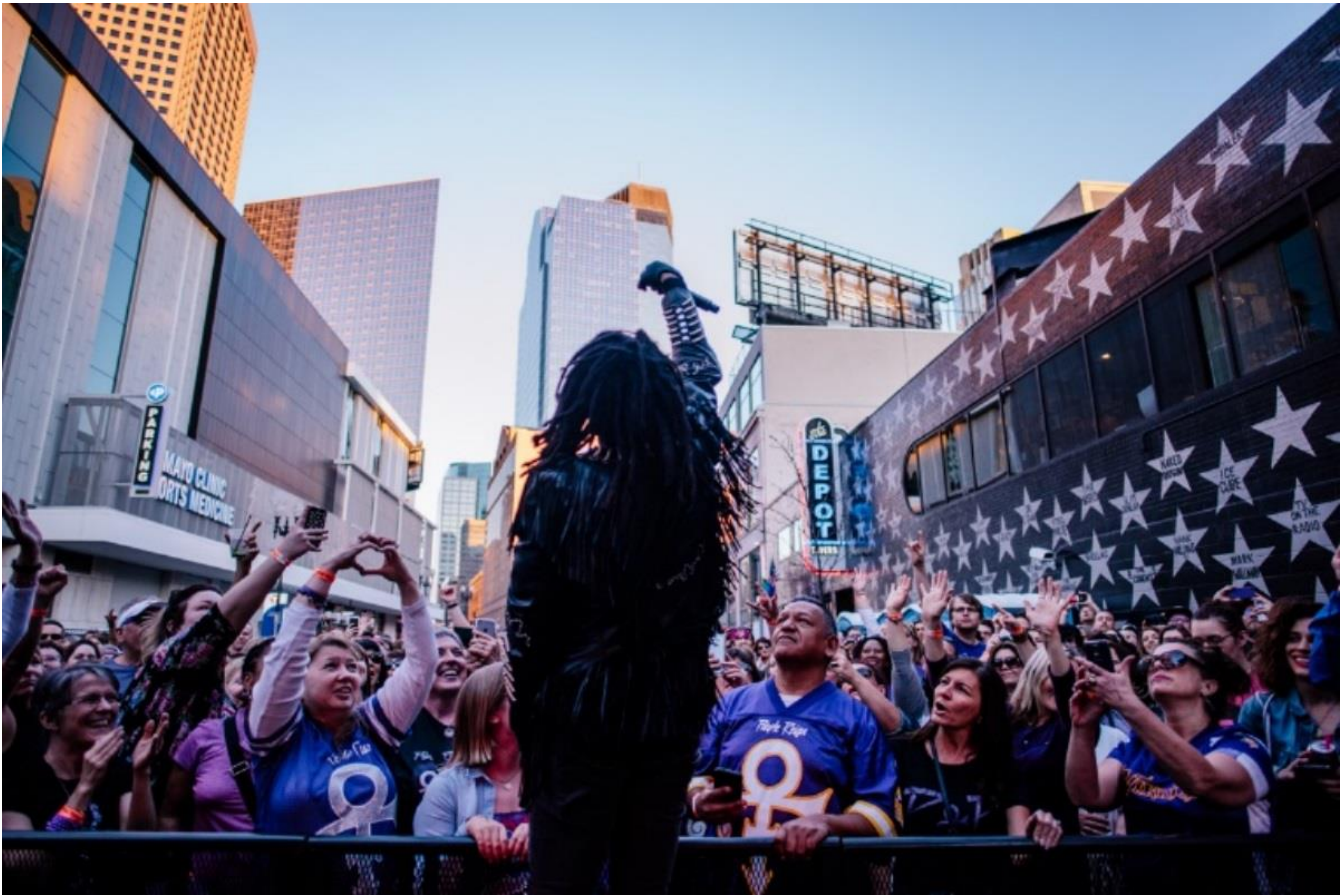
*deM atlaS*



A special element of this year’s Prince coverage was the inclusion of Hanna Bubser who is part of **The Current’s College Contributors** program. Hanna was a sophomore at Hamline University, studying English with a focus on writing and Digital Media Arts with a focus on audio mixing.

**In Hanna’s own words:** *“I really enjoy working with radio, so my time with the College Contributors program has greatly influenced that. My favorite experience with College Contributors thus far was when I visited Paisley Park earlier this year. What an incredible experience! I learned so much about Prince and his legacy. I feel like I know all about Prince now because I have worked on tons of projects about him during my time here. I think that’s wonderful.”*





deM atlaS performing at the Prince Memorial Street Party

Excerpts from a note by Andrea Swensson, host of *The Local Show*, to her colleagues at MPR following the first anniversary commemorations of Prince’s death:

*From the first moment I stepped on stage at Paisley Park to lead my first panel discussion, it was immediately clear that people not only knew what The Current was but that they loved us. Keep in mind that only about 10 percent of the attendees at Celebration (note: event series hosted at and by Paisley Park) were from the Twin Cities – still, every time I said, “I’m from 89.3 The Current,” people would start clapping, whooping and hollering, screaming at me, “We love the Current!” “We listen from Chicago!” “We listen from Australia!” “We listen from Germany!”*

...

*I know we talk a lot around here about “impact” and “reach” [in] our community of listeners, and sometimes I feel disconnected from these sentiments because we’re just here at work in our cubes, focusing on the day to day. But man, this weekend was an incredible reminder not just of how wide our network of listeners stretches, but how significant our work around Prince has been to the people who loved his music the most. Many of the people I met had tears in their eyes as they thanked me, and a few were even able to express that they felt we were intricately woven into their grieving process and helped them to come to terms with this loss. I have no words to add to that – just wow. What an honor and responsibility.*

*By the end of this weekend it was so clear that we have now become part of the lexicon of what people talk about when they talk about Prince and Minneapolis.*

*I thought you’d like to know. Thank you. I’m so proud to be here with you.*

*Andrea*

## Highlighting Minnesota Artists

### **MPR News: Art Hounds**

*Art Hounds* is a weekly feature produced by MPR News arts reporter Marianne Combs. Each *Art Hounds* installment features three members of the Minnesota arts community who each share an upcoming performance, opening, or event. To build and strengthen relationships among our local artisans, *Art Hounds* commentators cannot self-promote but instead talk about the work of others.

Ideas are suggested via MPR's Public Insight Network online portal, reviewed by Ms. Combs, and each week's show is produced based on the slate of upcoming events. Diversity across art forms, *Art Hounds* voices, and geographic location are all considered when producing each week's show. ***Art Hounds* features at least one activity in Greater Minnesota each week, comprising 33% of the total content produced annually.**

During fiscal year 2017, ***Art Hounds* included 136 different community-nominated events** in its programming. Arts events in the seven-county metropolitan area took place in Minneapolis, Osseo, Plymouth, and St. Paul. The Arrowhead and Southeastern regions were well-represented during *Art Hounds*, represented respectively by the thriving arts communities of Duluth and Lanesboro, Northfield, and Red Wing.

### **Greater Minnesota communities represented were:**

Brainerd	Fergus Falls	Lanesboro	Moorhead	Oronoco	Rochester	Virginia
Collegeville	Hutchinson	Madison	New Prague	Plainview	Silver Creek	Winona
Duluth	Lake Benton	Mankato	Northfield	Red Wing	St. Cloud	Wykoff



*Mixed Precipitation on Art Hounds: The company's current season performances take place on farms, in community gardens, in orchards and elsewhere. The show is also going on tour to communities in Wykoff, Virginia and Oronoco. Photo courtesy of Mixed Precipitation*



## MPR News: Minnesota Arts Coverage

MPR News reports on Minnesota arts as part of its regular programming, weaving it into daily coverage as stories of both local and national significance emerge. Marianne Combs and Euan Kerr are MPR News' lead arts reporters with each employing their own strategies and perspectives to ensure coverage is comprehensive, thoughtful, and geographically representative of arts across the state. Marianne Combs has been with MPR for more than twenty years, with fifteen years dedicated to forging relationships and covering the local arts and culture scene. Mr. Kerr is a native of Scotland who came to MPR in 1985 and, in addition to serving as a reporter, editor, and producer for the organization, also served as part of BBC News and BBC Radio Scotland in the 1990s.

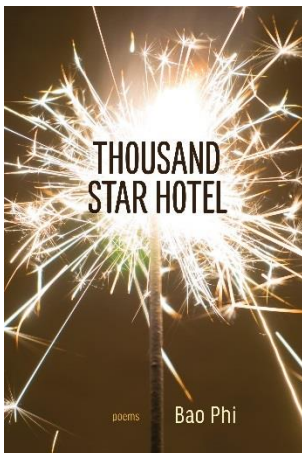
**Marianne Combs focused on bringing diverse voices to the forefront** during her coverage of the Minnesota arts and culture scene in fiscal year 2017. Her approach was sensitive to the inclusion of artists regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, or ability. The result was a **robust representation of Minnesota's artists, their talents and the impacts generated by their works.**



**David Stewart and the Guthrie Theater:** David Stewart is a rarity in theater, a mixed-race member of the production team. As the new Director of Production for the Guthrie, he is working to advance the conversation about the need for diversity of staff at all levels of the theater, not just on stage. Marianne Combs produced this story in July 2016 and it had a very personal impact on a listener: *"A father contacted me saying that his black daughter [Olivia] was very interested in costume design – did he think David would be willing to talk to her? I connected them, and they set up a day for her to tour the Guthrie, including a visit to the costume shop."*

*Photo of David Stewart and Olivia  
Courtesy of David Stewart*

**Kevin Kling and Interact Center's Theater Company:** Beloved Minnesota storyteller and performer Kevin Kling has worked with Interact since a motorcycle accident left him with a brain injury several years ago. Interact is comprised of artists with physical and cognitive disabilities, and this year Kling co-wrote a show specifically for the company. *What Fools These Mortals Be* weaves together Shakespeare's works and Kling's signature humor to create a piece that is challenging in part due to the large amount of text, which is atypical of an Interact show. Matt Dahlstrom, a company member with Down syndrome, brought the character of Hamlet to life during the show's run in December 2016.



**Bao Phi and Thousand Star Hotel:** Poet Bao Phi arrived in the United States as an infant with his family in the 1970s as they fled Vietnam. His work reflects his life, beginning as a young immigrant in Minneapolis' Phillips neighborhood and continuing through his co-parenting of a now, seven-year old. The force of his poetry comes from his voice as a person who has been marginalized, using his creativity to tell the forgotten and or underrepresented story of his community. In addition to being a nationally-recognized poet, Bao Phi is a Program Director at the Loft Literary Center, where he has fostered a vibrant and diverse spoken word and poetry scene. His most recent book *Thousand Star Hotel* was released in May 2017.

*Book cover image courtesy of Coffee House Press*

MPRnews Sections Members More

### 'What Fools' looks at Shakespeare from a new angle

Marianne Combs Nov 28, 2016

Arts & Culture



Interact's Matt Dahlstrom during rehearsals in the role of Hamlet in "What Fools These Mortals Be" at The Theater Lab in Minneapolis. Marianne Combs | MPR News

LISTEN Story audio  
4min 3sec

Interact Center's theater company, made up of artists with physical and cognitive disabilities, has always embraced challenges. "What Fools These Mortals Be," a celebration of the works of William Shakespeare, may be its most ambitious production yet.

During MPR's fiscal year 2017, **Euan Kerr covered stories which had national resonance in addition to local significance.** His reporting of these stories involved both delving into MPR's archives to provide context for current arts events as well as producing successive follow-up stories over the course of several weeks. Highlights from his sixty-plus stories over the year:

### Theater and Film

Mr. Kerr has undertaken an ongoing examination of how local theater and film arts have been addressing issues facing underserved communities.

**August Wilson and Lou Bellamy:** One of Mr. Kerr's stories focused on Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson, who lived in St. Paul for many years, and his friendship and collaborative relationship with the Founder of St. Paul's Penumbra Theatre, Lou Bellamy. Mr. Wilson wrote the play *Fences* while living in St. Paul and Penumbra has previously produced the work. The film adaptation of *Fences* featuring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis opened nationwide in 2016, garnering critical praise and an Academy Award for Ms. Davis. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Bellamy saw a special screening and had a conversation about August Wilson's work and life in St. Paul. This story included links to MPR Archive material featuring coverage of Mr. Wilson over the years.

**Underserved Communities and Local Theater:** The year included ongoing examination of how members of the local theater community are addressing issues facing underserved communities. Highlights covered were: Wonderlust Theater's "crowd-sourced" production about the myriad issues surrounding adoption; Mixed Blood's site-specific play at the Saints Stadium about the racial and immigration issues in baseball; and a profile of Prime Productions, a new theater company telling the stories of, and featuring performers, who are women over 50 years old.

**Sundance Film Festival:** A short Minnesota film was chosen from thousands of entries to be shown at the Sundance Film Festival. The eight-minute film is the story of a black mother's quest to keep her sons safe by marching them door to door to introduce them to their white neighbors. Actor Sha Cage and her husband E.G. Bailey were the driving forces behind the film.

### A witch, a baby and a grown-up tale for kids

Euan Kerr · Aug 8, 2016 The Thread



Kelly Barnhill, author of "The Girl who Drank the Moon," and reader Bea Tortorello at the MPR studios. Euan Kerr | MPR News

### Authors

**Noted and New:** Minnesota authors covered this year included Kelly Barnhill and first-time author Emily Fridlund. Ms. Barnhill's *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* won a Newbery Award. Ms. Fridlund's *History of Wolves* achieved the distinction of being short-listed for the Man Booker Prize, which recognizes outstanding fiction and is a remarkable accolade for a first-time writer.

### Before 'Fences,' August Wilson was a poet -- and a St. Paulite

Euan Kerr, MPR News Staff · Dec 23, 2016 Issues



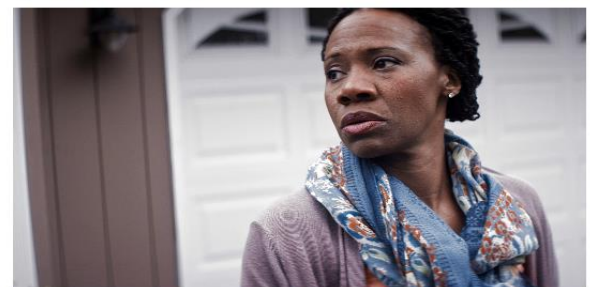
Playwright August Wilson discusses "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at the Yale Repertory Theater in New Haven, Conn., in May 1985. Bob Child | Associated Press file 1985

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Listen](#) **August Wilson: 'I have come to make a testimony, of sorts' | From the archives, 1991**  
 57min 25sec

[Listen](#) **Penumbra Theatre founder talks August Wilson ahead of 'Fences' movie release**  
 27min 59sec

### Local pair's short film makes it to Sundance

Euan Kerr · Jan 16, 2017 Arts & Culture



Sha Cage as a determined mother going door-to-door with pictures of her family soon after they move into a white neighborhood. Courtesy: E.G. Bailey

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Listen](#) **Story audio**  
 4min 23sec

Two well-known figures in the Minnesota theater world jump toward the silver screen this week as they take their short movie to the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. Actor Sha Cage and writer-director E.G. Bailey's film "New Neighbors" was selected from tens of thousands of entries for Sundance.



## Dance

### James Sewell Ballet and Fred Wiseman:

Nationally renowned Minneapolis-based James Sewell Ballet premiered a work based on the film *Titicut Follies*. Created in collaboration with the film's director Fred Wiseman, the ballet garnered national attention. The source material created great controversy when filmmaker Wiseman first attempted its release in 1967. He created a documentary capturing the inhumane conditions at a Massachusetts mental hospital, setting off a chain of events that prevented the film's initial release. In 2014, Mr. Wiseman received a grant to translate one of his films into a dance piece. He seized the opportunity to revisit *Titicut Follies* and selected Minneapolis-based James Sewell Ballet as collaborator for the work which premiered in March 2017. Mr. Kerr followed the progress of the *Titicut Follies* collaboration for a series of pieces over three years, which is an unusually long-term commitment to a single story.

**Minnesota and Dance:** Mr. Kerr also covered *Merce Cunningham: Common Time*, the huge exhibit about the dance legend at the Walker Art Center; the creation and premier of *Soft Goods*, a production by Karen Sherman about suicide and depression amongst stage hands; and a collaboration between a neighboring ballet company and boxing gym, which has changed how both go about their daily routines, garnered respect for each other's art forms, and provided inspiration for new work.

## Visual Art

**Scaffold and the Walker Art Center:** The controversy around Sam Durant's installation *Scaffold* at the revitalized Walker Art Center Sculpture Garden erupted just before Memorial Day weekend in 2017. The story quickly received national attention as local Native Americans and their allies objected to the gallows sculpture being installed on previously Native-owned land. Not only was MPR News reporting from the site almost daily, Euan Kerr had a conversation with artist Sam Durant and Walker Art Center director Olga Viso to reflect on the experience following its resolution.

## Fifty years on, the disturbing 'Titicut Follies' movie becomes a ballet

 Euan Kerr - Mar 29, 2017

Arts & Culture



"Titicut Follies: The Ballet" is based on the classic 1967 documentary about a hospital for the criminally insane in Massachusetts. Sara Rubinstein | James Sewell B

### Future unknown, Ojibwe writer Jim Northrup recalls life well-lived

 Euan Kerr · Sawyer, Minn. · Jul 19, 2016

Arts & Culture



Now 73 and facing grave illness, Jim Northrup says traditional Ojibwe beliefs and practices combined with a sense of humor help him and his family. Euan Kerr | MPR News

**Native Artists:** Mr. Kerr covered local Native artists throughout fiscal year 2017, with *Scaffold* being an unexpected feature. Among the most meaningful was his conversation with Ojibwe writer Jim Northrup which took place just months before he died, with Mr. Northrup looking back on his life. Additionally, Mr. Kerr spoke with novelist Gerald Vizenor about his novel *Treaty Shirts* and produced a profile of the artist Frank Big Bear, who was working with native youth as he prepared to install his massive new collage at the Walker Art Center.

### Classical MPR: Regional Recordings

Classical MPR's regional recordings team travels to venues throughout the state to record live ensembles in the seven-county metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota. The regional recordings team is responsible for more than day-of-performance recordings and is occasionally called to produce live broadcasts and attend rehearsals to prepare for recordings. **During fiscal year 2017, the team supported 159 regional recordings activities.**

The seven-county metropolitan area recordings are largely of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, and the Schubert Club's Music in the Park Series. Regional recordings provide opportunities for ensemble to be heard on Classical MPR and enhance their ability to serve as cultural ambassadors when touring outside of Minnesota. Ensembles may request that MPR provide recordings to radio stations in the cities of national or international tour stops to increase local audience interest.

Greater Minnesota regional recordings comprise **performances by the Duluth Symphony Orchestra and the St. Olaf Choir Festival in Northfield, as well as performances by a variety of artists presented by Matinee Musicale (Duluth), Minnesota Beethoven Fest (Winona), and Chamber Music St. Cloud.** A highlight is traveling to Winona to share live broadcasts from the Minnesota Beethoven Festival featuring world-renowned performers like violinist Joshua Bell, the Boston Brass quintet, and Minnesota's own Dale Warland with the Festival Chorale. This is a signature Greater Minnesota event and Classical MPR enables audiences throughout Minnesota to hear the performances.


New to regional recordings in fiscal year 2017 was the inclusion of *Bring the Sing*, a Legacy-funded Classical MPR community choir event series, which was recorded for digital broadcast on Classical MPR's Choral Stream.

### Classical MPR: Choral Stream

The Choral Stream is part of Classical MPR's Choral Works Initiative, which also includes regular coverage of the contemporary choral industry. For five years, the Choral Stream has provided audiences 24/7 access to choral music via the Internet and it is one of the only classical music streams dedicated solely to choral music. In celebration of the Choral Stream's fifth anniversary, Classical MPR featured choral highlights throughout each day during the month of April.

Capitalizing on Minnesota's rich tradition of choral singing, performance, and composition, **Classical MPR has committed to devoting 50% of the Choral Stream's content hours to Minnesota choral ensembles, conductors, and composers.** Choirs include professional and college ensembles as well as mixed voice, men's, women's, and youth choirs. Minnesota's National Lutheran Choir, Cantus, and the St. Olaf Choir are regularly heard alongside the Robert Shaw Festival Singers, Boston Camerata, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, among many others.

classicalMPR | Sections ▾ Members ▾ More ▾

 LISTEN Slavonic Dance No. 16 - Antonin Dvorak - Cleveland Orchestra

## Joshua Bell and Alessio Bax at the Minnesota Beethoven Festival

Winona, Minn. · Jul 21, 2016

Classical Music Features



Violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Alessio Bax perform at Harriet Johnson Auditorium in Winona State University's Somsen Hall as part of the Minnesota Beethoven Festival in Winona, Minn. Kirk Fratzke/Minnesota Beethoven Festival

# THE CURRENT® EFFECT



The Minnesota Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund gives Minnesota musicians the opportunity to reach listeners through MPR's station The Current.

In addition to curated programming that places local musicians next to nationally recognized performers, The Current discovers, promotes, and hires Minnesota artists.

## EMERGING ARTISTS ●●●●●●

### Local Current

#### Feature on Local Current® blog

(1.3M+ page views in FY17<sup>1</sup>)

### Plays and mentions on Local Current stream

(13,460 stream requests<sup>2</sup> per month,

940+ local artists featured in FY17)

1 DWYNNEL ROLAND - FEATURED IN APRIL 2017 ON THE LOCAL SHOW.

## BUZZING ●●●●●●

### The Local Show®

#### Feature or in-studio performance on The Local Show

(3,000 stream requests and 32 separate features on local artists in FY17<sup>3</sup>)

### Regular rotation on The Current

(300,000+ weekly listeners)

### The Current Goes to ...

(4,800+ attendees total at events featuring local artists in Duluth & Winona)

2 J.S. ONDARA - PERFORMED IN APRIL 2017 DURING THE CURRENT GOES TO WINONA.

## GROWING ●●●●●●

### Local Performances Promoted by The Current

#### The Current's 12th Birthday Party

(3,400 attendees over 2 nights)

Local performers included: Black Market Brass, HALEY, Jay Smart, Jeremy Messersmith, Monica LaPlante, and ZULUZULUU

### Prince Memorial Street Party - First Anniversary

(2,500 attendees for one night)

Minnesota artists featured included: Curtiss A, deM atlaS, Prairie Fire Lady Choir, Adam Levy of The Honeydogs, Mark Mallman, PaviElla, and Dave Pirner of Soul Asylum

### Heavy rotation on The Current

3 ACTUAL WOLF - JANUARY 12, 2017, WORLD PREMIERE OF SINGLE "BABY PLEASE" ON THE CURRENT

## MAJOR EXPOSURE ●●●●●●

Toured 30 states with performances at SXSW and New York's famed Knitting Factory

Maintained regular gigs in Duluth at Bulldog Pizza and The Red Herring Lounge

Served as a Class Notes Artist for Classical MPR

4 GAELYNN LEA - PERFORMED AT THE KENNEDY CENTER.



1



2



3



4

“Listened to @TheCurrent during our entire 5 hour drive today & it dawned on me that we should obvs become members. 🎸 🎸 #893EssentialArtists”

- Gaelynn Lea on Twitter 6:15 PM - 22 May 2017 from St Louis, MO

1 Google Analytics, 2017 | 2 Ando Media, 2017 | 3 Nielsen Audio, July 2016 - June 2017



## The Current: The Local Show®

Andrea Swensson explores Minnesota's local music scene, both past and present every Sunday night from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and again on Local Current Mondays at noon on 89.3. Following the broadcast, The Local Show is available via the Internet on-demand at no charge to listeners. Ms. Swensson features the work of and interviews Minnesota artists each week, embracing a commitment to discovering the up-and-comers as much as finding past gems and giving them new airplay.

In December 2016, The Local Show found itself in the midst of a national story. **Local songwriters Lydia Liza and Josiah Lemanski** reimagined *Baby It's Cold Outside* and updated the lyrics to be more reflective of contemporary perspectives. The unexpected viral success **included coverage by National Public Radio and CNN**. As soon as Ms. Swensson realized that the cover was turning into a national story, the singer-songwriters were invited into the studio for an interview and performance.



**LOCAL CURRENT BLOG**

### Video: Lydia Liza and Josiah Lemanski sing their new 'Baby It's Cold Outside' in The Current studio

by Jay Gabler · December 9, 2016

JOSIAH LEMANSKI LYDIA LIZA FEATURE 28



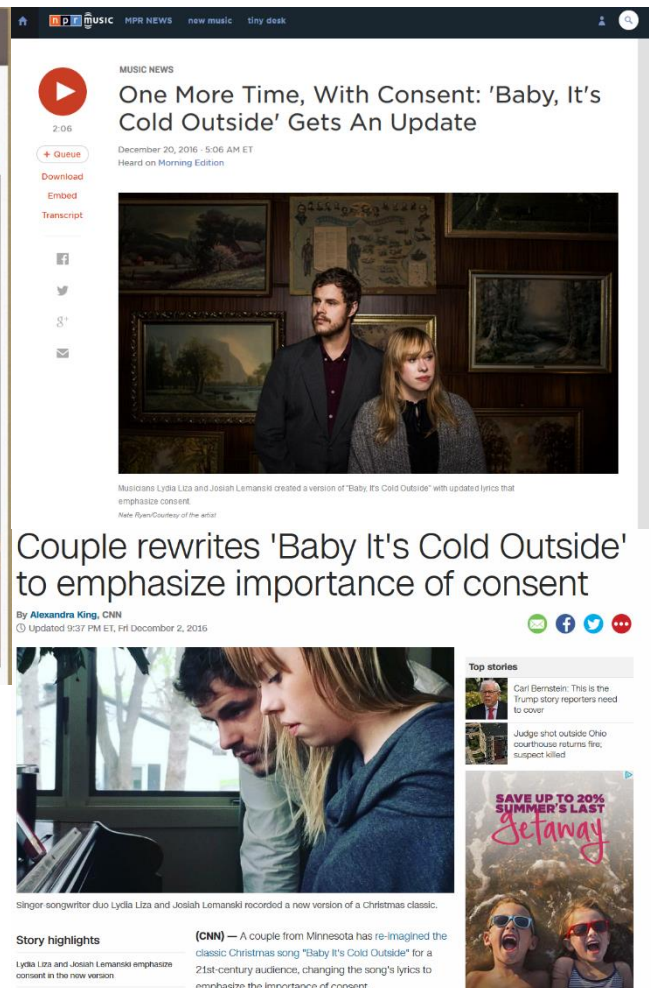
Josiah Lemanski and Lydia Liza at The Current (Nate Ryan/MPR)

Additional 2017 artist highlights from *The Local Show*:

**Dwynell Roland**, a Minneapolis native who is launching his music career. (*The Current Effect: Emerging*) He still works a full-time job while pursuing music but had his first show as a headliner at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Entry in April 2017. During April, he was also featured on *The Local Show* and performed live in The Current's Studios.

**J.S Ondara**, formerly known as Jay Smart, moved to the Twin Cities from Nairobi, Kenya about three years ago, in large part to pursue music. He came to the attention of Andrea Swensson through his SoundCloud online music page. 2017 has been a very active year for J.S. Ondara. (*The Current Effect: Buzzing*)


- Opening act for The Current Presents: Mavis Staples at The Fitzgerald Theater on June 17, 2017
- The Current Goes to Winona – performed as part of Mid West Music Fest in April 2017
- Performed on the first night of The Current's 12th Birthday Party at First Avenue on January 27, 2017
- *Without My Baby* song of the day on January 19, 2017



MUSIC NEWS

### One More Time, With Consent: 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' Gets An Update

December 20, 2016 - 5:06 AM ET  
Heard on Morning Edition




Musicians Lydia Liza and Josiah Lemanski created a version of "Baby, It's Cold Outside" with updated lyrics that emphasize consent.

Note: Photo courtesy of the artist.

### Couple rewrites 'Baby It's Cold Outside' to emphasize importance of consent

By Alexandra King, CNN  
Updated 9:37 PM ET, Fri December 2, 2016



Singer-songwriter duo Lydia Liza and Josiah Lemanski recorded a new version of a Christmas classic.

**Story highlights**


Lydia Liza and Josiah Lemanski emphasize consent in the new version.

**(CNN)** — A couple from Minnesota has re-imagined the classic Christmas song "Baby It's Cold Outside" for a 21st-century audience, changing the song's lyrics to emphasize the importance of consent.

**Top stories**

- Carl Bernstein: This is the Trump story reporters need to cover
- Judge shot outside Ohio courthouse returns fire, suspect killed

SAVE UP TO 20% SUMMER'S LAST  
*Jetaway*





**The Current: The Local Current Stream:**

Local Current stream is a **24/7 stream of music dedicated entirely to musicians from Minnesota**, available via our web stream, mobile apps and HD Radio in the Twin Cities at 89.3 HD2. During fiscal year 2017, **the Local Current stream had more than 161,000 requests.**

The stream includes iconic artists Bob Dylan and Prince, family-centric band Koo Koo Kanga Roo, up-and-comer Maria Isa, and favorite Duluth band Trampled by Turtles, among hundreds of other artists.

In addition to providing Minnesota music free of charge available from any device, the stream lets listeners do a deeper-dive into each day's playlist to explore the work of the musicians featured.

The screenshot shows the 'The Current Playlist' page. The top section features a search bar and a date selector for Monday, Jan 02, 2017. The playlist includes tracks like 'Swimming Pools' by We Became Actors, 'Video Games' by Stereo Confession, 'Fever' by Mystery Palace, '2:44AM' by Sean Anonymous and DJ Name, 'Fanny Pack' by Koo Koo Kanga Roo, 'Can't Keep Up (feat. TEK)' by Maria Isa, 'In Need prod. Prophis' by Sophia Eris, and 'Hollow' by Trampled By Turtles. A red arrow points from the 'Hollow' track in the playlist to a detailed view of the album 'Hollow by Trampled By Turtles'. This view includes the album cover, a list of other songs on the album, and a list of other songs by the artist.

*Deep-dive for Trampled by Turtles*

**The Current: Duluth Local Music**

The Duluth Local Show, hosted by Mike Novitzki, can be heard live on The Current 90.9 in Duluth every Sunday at 8:00 PM. The show is available on The Local Current stream beginning at on Mondays at 2:00 PM and is available on-demand from any device. The Current 90.9 celebrated its first full year broadcasting on May 1, 2017. In addition to garnering broadcast listeners from the Duluth region, **the Duluth Local Show had more than 2,000 page views for those listening online.**

## The Current: The Local Current Blog and College Contributors

The Local Current Blog is a packed with latest news, music, interviews, videos, and info about Minnesota's local music scene. In addition to being a go-to source for local music coverage, **The Local Current Blog provides an important opportunity for the College Contributors program** which is managed by Jay Gabler. Students work with The Current staff, partners at First Avenue and other organizations, and regularly have their writing featured on The Local Current Blog. The program has evolved over the years to provide the most robust experience possible for the college participants. Typically, students come from Minnesota and go to school to a Minnesota school, however occasionally Minnesotans attending college elsewhere also participate.

**College Contributors finished fiscal year 2017 with a cohort of sixteen from eight Minnesota schools:** Carleton College (Northfield), Hamline University, McNally Smith College of Music, Normandale Community College, St. Mary's University, Saint Paul College, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, and University of St. Thomas.

## College Contributors Profiles: Jackie Renzetti and Ibad Jafri



**Jackie Renzetti** recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science and Journalism. In addition to serving as a College Contributor for two years, Jackie worked at the Minnesota Daily and the U of M's college station Radio K. Her experience in media at the U of M positioned her well to be a College Contributor and in turn, Jackie's experience at The Current informed her scholastic work.

*Photo from LinkedIn*

Jackie's work at The Current took on a higher profile in January 2016, when program manager Jay Gabler asked her to do some music history research for Andrea Swensson to embed in The Local Show. Because of the quality of Jackie's initial work, she came to "own" the History Spotlight and work closely to support Ms. Swensson. Jackie has found that having a woman role model (Ms. Swensson) in journalism is helpful and inspiring.

### **In her own words:**

The experience has *"given me the foundational skills I need and builds skills I can use as a journalist. For example, interviewing people for stories, getting feedback for how to be a better writer. I've also learned a bunch about Minnesota which has given me more contextual information on Minnesota arts and culture as I continue to work as a journalist."*

**Ibad Jafri** was a senior at Carleton College when he served as a College Contributor. Ibad has graduated with a double-major in International Relations and Cinema and Media Studies.



*Photo from Carleton College*

### **In his own words:**

*"As a College Contributor I've been able to represent a respected institution in the Twin Cities and have a range of experiences uncommon for people my age. I'm particularly proud of an experience I had writing a piece on an event I covered in Red Wing. There, I was able to communicate with musicians of varying degrees of fame and experience while also emphasizing the community aspect of the event I was covering. Doing that allowed me to provide a meaningful connection between The Current's work in the Twin Cities, my work at school in Northfield, and community initiatives elsewhere in greater Minnesota. Bridging those gaps has been a privilege."*

### **And more recently:**

*"In related news, I now work for Senator Klobuchar in Minneapolis! I'm a caseworker, and also handle some duties on the press side. I had asked you to be a reference for this position when I originally applied several months ago, and I know that part of the reason they've entrusted me with press work is because of my prior experience at The Current, so I can't thank you enough for having taken me on."*

## Supporting Music Education

*Class Notes Artists* is part of Classical MPR's *Music for Learning* portfolio of programs, which are designed to foster students' passion for classical music. *Class Notes Artists* delivers programming in-person to elementary and middle school students across Minnesota. **Class Notes served more than 17,900 Minnesota students who attended 69 schools in 25 counties throughout the 2016-2017 school year.**

During 2016-2017, *Class Notes Artists* made a commitment to engage more students in Greater Minnesota. As a result, **60% of the schools were in Greater Minnesota and 40% were in the seven-county metropolitan area.** Our program goals also focus on reaching underserved populations. **An average of 46% of participating students in the most recent school year benefit from the free and reduced lunch program** and an average of 14% are English learners.

*Class Notes Artists* materials are available online at <http://www.classicalmpr.org/topic/>. These materials are available at no charge to anyone and meet Minnesota K-12 music education standards regardless of whether the school participates in the current school year's *Class Notes Artists* program.



In addition to serving Minnesota students, *Class Notes Artists* provides employment opportunities for Minnesota artists to deliver the program in schools across the state. During the school year, **a total of 19 professional artists from seven performing groups were selected to provide *Class Notes Artists* programming.** MPR has a rigorous process for selecting artists each year to determine the best fit for the program. While there are returning artists from time to time, diversity of instruments, musical styles, and classroom approach are sought each year.

*Class Notes Artists* for the 2016-2017 were:



**Gaelynn Lea** is a classically-trained violinist and songwriter who has developed her unique style over the past twenty years. She won NPR's 2016 Tiny Desk Contest, garnering national attention. Gaelynn traveled to schools in the Bemidji area and to Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School. Students at the school on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation performed a traditional dance for her in a serendipitous cultural exchange as Gaelynn played her Irish and folk-influenced fiddle compositions for the students.





**The Cedarwood Duo** (Hannah Peterson Green, flute and Joseph Trucano, piano) have been performing since 2013. Dancers Leah Gallas and Blake Nellis joined them this year as *Class Notes Artists*.

*Class Notes Artists* consistently receives feedback that may be summed in one word: **MORE**. Even one visit each year, supported by the free online curriculum, has been reported by teachers to make an incredible impact. The program is typically at capacity with a waiting list of schools that wish to participate.



**Mill City String Quartet** performs throughout Minnesota. The quartet has participated in the *Class Notes Artists* before. During 2016-2017, MCSQ visited Washington Elementary in Owatonna, which had the highest percentage of both free and reduced lunch (98%) and English learners (69%) served for the school year.



**Dolce Wind Quintet** was founded in 1995 and has been performing across Minnesota ever since. To engage students, they deliver program notes from the stage, talking about composers' backgrounds, the cultural context of the pieces, and musical elements for which the audience can listen.



**The OK Factor** is cellist Olivia Diercks (the "O") and violinist Karla Dietmeyer (the "K") who met in the music program at Luther College.



**The Dream Songs Project** is mezzo-soprano Alyssa Anderson and classical guitarist Joseph Spoelstra. TDSP visited eight schools, performing throughout the day at each one.

**Sara Pajunen** is a violinist, composer, and creator known as one of the "notable practitioners of Finnish folk music outside of Finland."



In addition to feedback from teachers, *Class Notes Artists* receives feedback from its most important community group: students. A student wrote the following note, misspellings included, and enclosed a drawing of Sara Pajunen with her violin.

*Dear Sara, your violin made me feel...like a dancieing rose in the moonlight cruse on the midnight water. Your pitch was lovely and like ruby sunset like pettles from sun set in Finlinds Beachs with lit candles. From tuelia (Student at Churchill Elementary in Cloquet)*



## Live Events Arts Experiences

### **Bring the Sing**

Classical MPR's glorious community choral event series returned in fiscal year 2017. In addition to the MPR50 *Bring the Sing – Collegeville*, the program hosted its first event in Rochester and returned to Duluth. Part sing-along and part choral workshop, hundreds of attendees gathered at each event to raise their voices together. The event included an extended refreshment break so that everyone had the chance to get to know their singing neighbors. **The event was free for participants and no previous singing experience was required.** For singers who wished to prepare prior to *Bring the Sing*, Classical MPR provided sheet music in advance.

Classical MPR has learned that *Bring the Sing* not only draws small groups of friends as participants, but also singers who attend alone who simply wish to enjoy the experience of choral singing. **Our registration lists have reflected participants driving several hours to be part of *Bring the Sing*, demonstrating the special appeal of choral singing to Minnesotans statewide.**

*Bring the Sing – Rochester* took place on January 14, 2017, at Lourdes High School's Fine Arts Auditorium under the direction of Conductor Joseph Osowski who is the Director of Choirs at St. Michael Albertville High School and Artistic Director of the East Central Minnesota Chorale.

### Song List

*Ave verum corpus* by W. A. Mozart

*Gamaya* by Paul John Rudoi

*Set Down Servant* arr. by Robert Shaw

*Draw the Circle Wide* by Mark A. Miller



*Bring the Sing – Rochester photos by Jerry Olson*

*Bring the Sing – Duluth* took place on March 25, 2017, at The College of St. Scholastica. Conductors Bret Amundson and Sarah Cohen of The College of St. Scholastica faculty led the one-time only choir through rehearsal and a performance. The College of St. Scholastica is one of MPR's valued educational sponsors.

### Song List

*How Lovely Are the Messengers* by Felix Mendelssohn

*Gamaya* by Paul John Rudoi

*Let Everything That Hath Breath* by Jeffrey L. Ames

*Draw the Circle Wide* by Mark A. Miller

## The Current Goes to Duluth

In July *The Current Goes to Duluth*, a series of events occurring in tandem with the *All Pints North Summer Brew Fest*, took place a few months after The Current - Duluth signal launched. The Current - Duluth DJ Mike Novitzki and The Current talent Brian Oake, Jill Riley, and Jade all participated in events that took place over four days.

While The Current was at more events than ever before, the live broadcast by Oake & Riley in the Morning was hampered by a very bad storm that had come through the night before. Power was out all over the city and streets were blocked by debris. As a matter of fact, the Duluth station was not on air because the power was out at the transmitter site. Despite this weather change that created challenges beyond our control, **the entire event series was well-attended and well-received.**

Events included:

- Concerts on the Pier: Haley Bonar
- MicroShow: P.O.S
- All Pints Eve Bent Paddle Hootenanny
- The Current: Showcases at the Red Herring Lounge
- This Is a Cool Party at Pizza Luce



Mike Novitzki of The Current - Duluth



Duluth band Murder of Crows comprising Gaelynn Lea and Alan Sparhawk at Lake Avenue with The Current



The Red Herring Lounge where The Current – Duluth hosted several events with Legacy support



Duluth band The Social Disaster at The Red Herring Lounge

All photos by Jay Gabler



### The Current Goes to Winona

The Current returned to Winona as part of Mid West Music Fest during fiscal year 2017 and, in the words of The Current’s Andrea Swensson, “the city has responded so kindly to our support.”

The Current hosted an all ages, festival kick-off concert at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum on Friday, April 28, 2017. **Winona band *Sleeping Jesus (right)* was the featured act, fresh off winning The Current’s Local Music Exchange contest in late 2016.** Additional DJ entertainment was provided by The Current’s own Oake & Riley in the Morning, who remained in town to emcee other events throughout the city.



The Current’s presence at Mid West Music Fest has expanded year-over-year, providing us the opportunity to share our talent and support local musicians. The 2017 Mid West Music Fest had more than 1,800 attendees from nine states and three countries (including the United States).

### J.S. Ondara (*The Current Effect: Buzzing*) and Gaelynn Lea (*The Current Effect: Major Exposure*) both performed during the festival.

J.S. Ondara is relative newcomer to the Minnesota music scene and not well-known yet, particularly outside of the Twin Cities. “By the end of his set he had filled the room with his magnetic performance and you could hear a pin drop,” Andrea Swensson shared. Ms. Swensson was one of his early champions, featuring his work on *The Local Show* and inviting him for an in-studio recording session. (*right*)



Another highlight was Gaelynn Lea, who drew a big crowd to Winona’s Masonic Temple and likewise held the audience in rapt attention. Gaelynn has received a lot of very well-deserved attention after winning the NPR Music Tiny Desk contest. The Current has continued to support her and amplify that coverage, watching her fan base continue to grow. (*left*)

### Winona band *The Ultrasounds* returned to Mid West Music Fest this year, performing at Ed’s No Name Bar. (*right*)



All photos except *Sleeping Jesus* by Nate Ryan  
*Sleeping Jesus* photo courtesy of band



## The Current's Rock the Cradle



**Rock the Cradle** is an annual event for kids and their grown-ups co-presented by The Current and Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. On April 9, 2017, *Rock the Cradle* took place at long-time hosts Mia and Children's Theatre Company, featuring musical performances, hands-on activities, and engaging experiences with DJs from The Current. **Hundreds of families attended this free event.**

With funding from the Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund made it possible for **The Current** hired the following Minnesota-based musicians to perform and lead activities: Dosh Martin, Holidae, House of Dance, Aaron Mader (Lazerbeak), McNasty Brass Band, and Heart and Soul Drum.

*All photos by Nate Ryan*



*McNasty Brass Band: collective of horn players and percussionists that fuse the Minneapolis sound with the spirit of New Orleans*



*Aaron Mader, also known as Lazerbeak: Minneapolis artist and producer part of Doomtree collective (which includes Dessa)*



## The Current: A Candid Conversation on Race and Music

On June 15, 2017, The Current presented a conversation featuring Twin Cities scholars, media personalities, and musicians talking about race and music. Ka Vang, MPR's Director of Engagement, introduced **the panel of guests who took the stage at Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) in North Minneapolis**. Ms. Vang also coordinated an outreach campaign to invite community members via Intermedia Arts, Juxtaposition Arts, Asian Media Access, Springboard for the Arts, Black Music America, National Association of Black Journalists, and Community Artists Leadership Initiative. In addition to the panel discussion, **the event included musical performances** by singer PaviElle and jazz drummer Eric Gravatt and his band *Source Code*. The conversation concluded with the panel fielding questions from the audience. This event was recorded and replayed on 89.3 The Current.

### Panelists:

- **Mahmoud El-Kati** is a lecturer, writer, and commentator on the African American experience. He holds the title Professor Emeritus of History at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota which has established the Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies in recognition of his scholarly and community work. He participated as a panelist in MPR's *Human Potential* series in late 2016.
- **Eric Gravatt** is a jazz drummer currently living in Minneapolis. He has played with many of the greatest musicians and bands of jazz including Weather Report, Woody Shaw, Howard Roberts, Albert Ayler, Sonny Fortune, Kenny Dorham, Gary Batz, and more.
- **Andre McNeal** is an entrepreneur, music promoter and the CEO of Bachelor Boy Entertainment. He is also a social activist who operates Den Brothers and the Doorstep Foundation, nonprofits which provide mentoring for young African American men in Minneapolis.
- **PaviElle** is a vocalist, singer-songwriter, and spoken word artist. Her album *Fear Not* was released in January 2015 to high critical acclaim and she has been regularly featured on The Current.
- **Pete Rhodes** has been involved in broadcasting for over 30 years, including as the founder of the MN Black Music Awards and the cable channel BMA (aka Black Music America). He is currently President of the Urban Mass Media Group (UMMG) is a leading urban media service.
- **Derrick Stevens** is the Production Manager at The Current, where he has worked since the station's founding in 2005. A longtime radio veteran, he has worked at various stations, including KMOJ and at the former B96.
- **Sarah White** is a South Minneapolis-born musician who has independently released two solo albums, songs from which are played on The Current.



Veteran civil rights leader and educator Dr. Josie R. Johnson greets Derrick Stevens and PaviElle  
Photo by Ashley Rick

## A Candid Conversation on Race and Music

by Simone Cazares  
July 23, 2017



Panelists at A Candid Conversation on Race and Music, left to right: Pete Rhodes, Andre McNeal, Derrick Stevens, Mahmoud El-Kati, Sarah White, PaviElle. (Ashley Rick/St. Paul Photo Co.)



LISTEN:  
A Candid Conversation on Race and Music

Throughout the history of popular music, African American artists have faced challenges unknown to their white peers in the music industry. Even though many people in Minnesota may mean well, the state is no exception to this. This summer, The Current brought together some of the Twin Cities' well-known scholars, radio personalities and musicians to present a conversation centering on race and music in Minnesota.



### The Current: Twin Cities 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Parade

The Current regularly has a float and staff presence in the Twin Cities Pride Parade, which took place on June 25, 2017. Our float featured *Parade Karaoke* along the parade route through downtown Minneapolis. Legacy funds allowed The Current to hire numerous local performers including:

- **Har Mar Superstar:** singer-songwriter who grew up as Sean Tillmann in Owatonna and who tours nationally and internationally, performing locally as his schedule allows.
- **Lisa Berman:** hip hop/breakdancer and recipient of a 2016 McKnight Foundation Dancer Fellowship.
- **Cheng Xiong:** hip hop/breakdancer and member of Black Label Movement, In New Company, and Strong Movement.
- **Wealthy Phonseya and Jurza Lee:** members of hip hop collective House of Dance.

### Minnesota Music at the Fitzgerald Theater (“Fitz”)

Three concerts comprised Minnesota Music at the Fitz during fiscal year 2017. Each concert featured the premier of a new work by a Minnesota artist or ensemble. More than 2,600 attendees took in these shows.

- **Polica:** Hometown favorites Polica partnered with Berlin’s *s t a r g a z e* to create *Music for The Long Emergency*. This unparalleled transatlantic partnership culminated with the work’s premier a performance at The Fitz, marking the United States debut of *s t a r g a z e*. Legacy funding supported Polica’s performance as part of this landmark event.
- **Romantica with Jayanthi Kyle:** After an extended hiatus, Romantica released their fourth and long-anticipated album, *Shadowlands*. The album was released on February 10, but MPR and The Fitz hosted an album pre-release party on February 4. Twin Cities-based artist Jayanthi Kyle was the opening act.
- **Chastity Brown with Seaberg:** Chastity Brown performed to a sold-out Fitz crowd as she celebrated her Red House Records debut, *Silhouette of Sirens*. “I’m so touched to see y’all here,” Brown said during the encore, clearly inspired by the energy of the adoring audience. The band Seaberg was the opener.



Chastity Brown at The Fitz  
Photo by Nate Ryan

### Local Music for Films at the Fitz

In honor of MPR celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, *Films at the Fitz* featured a film from each of the past five decades. A local band performed prior to each screening. Legacy funding allowed MPR to hire five local bands to perform. ***Films at the Fitz* has been noted as one of the City Pages best things to do for free.** The fiscal year 2017 season **distributed nearly 4,500 free tickets across five shows.**

#### Films and Bands

- *West Side Story* (1961) with Farewell Milwaukee and guest host Lynne Warfel from Classical MPR
- *Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory* (1971) with Holidae
- *Back to the Future* (1985) with Sarah White
- *Groundhog Day* (1993) with Bruise Violet
- *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001) with ZULUZULUU



Lynne Warfel and Farewell Milwaukee  
Photos courtesy of artists

# Preserving Minnesota History

## MPR Archive

The Minnesota Cultural Leaders Collection was established to preserve Minnesota’s cultural heritage by creating digital copies of historic news stories about Minnesota political, business, and cultural leaders. These newly digitized pieces are freely accessible to the public online and available to partners such as the Minnesota Historical Society and Minnesota Digital Library.

The initial goal was to digitize 2,200 stories in fiscal year 2017, but the archive team **exceeded that goal by completing 17,000 stories**. This success continued to capitalize on process efficiencies developed during fiscal year 2016. In addition to digitizing 17,000 stories, the archive team made significant process in publishing newly digitized stories to the online archive. **Digitized stories have been made available to the public and no charge via our online portal**. The MPR Newsroom also has depended up on the archive for access to features from the early 1970s to the late 1990s. These newly digitized features are easily accessible and inform contemporaneous reporting by providing investigative coverage and resources going back decades.



Topic areas represented in the newly digitized Minnesota Cultural Leaders Collection were:

- Minnesota Arts and Culture
- Minnesota Economy
- Minnesota Education
- Minnesota Environment
- Minnesota Immigration
- Minnesota Police
- Minnesota Politicians
- *The Jazz Image* program

### FEATURED COLLECTIONS

Events from Minnesota's past



#### Minnesota Books and Authors

Over the past 50 years, MPR has been a conduit for regional authors to connect with their readers.



#### Greg Barron Collection

Greg Barron is a Peabody award winning reporter who worked in the MPR newsroom in the early 1970s.

The Minnesota Cultural Leaders Collection has added the following stories and story arcs during fiscal year 2017:

- Al Quie’s term as governor, including coverage of his work to bring refugees from the Killing Fields to Minnesota
- Paul Wellstone’s political career
- Mayoral races and candidates
- Energy discussions throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s
- The American Indian Movement trial
- Health care debates in the 1990s



**Appendix 1 – Financial Report UPDATE**  
**Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>	<b>Total Expended</b>
<b>Highlighting MN Artists</b>	\$ 910,986	\$ 189,887	\$ 199,940	\$ 199,356	\$ 289,205	<b>\$ 878,388</b>
<b>Live Event Art Experiences</b>	286,099	22,257	38,530	88,917	126,279	<b>275,983</b>
<b>Preserving Minnesota History</b>	71,841	18,112	15,966	17,930	46,520	<b>98,528</b>
<b>Supporting Music Education</b>	252,034	114,255	53,025	60,136	44,773	<b>272,189</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,520,960</b>	<b>\$ 344,511</b>	<b>\$ 307,461</b>	<b>\$ 366,339</b>	<b>\$ 506,778</b>	<b>\$ 1,525,088</b>

**Appendix 2 – Details and Outcomes**  
**Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Measurable Outcomes</b>
Highlighting Minnesota Artists	10.28 (FY17)	Stream Requests	Projected: 410,000 Actual: 537,358
		Minnesota Artists Featured On-Air	Projected: 2,300 Actual: 4,109
		Radio and Digital Minnesota Arts Features	Projected: 1,700 Actual: 1,000
		Page Views	Projected: 1,720,000 Actual: 1,720,000
		On-Air Listeners (estimated weekly come for broadcast only – does not include streaming)	Projected: 50,000 Actual: 42,000
		Performances Produced for Broadcast	Projected: 120 Actual: 122
Supporting Music Education	1.48 (FY17)	Students Reached <i>*Note: Greater Minnesota focus served more schools but with smaller student populations.</i>	Projected: 24,000 Actual: 18,576
		Minnesota Artist Participants	Projected: 15 Actual: 19
		Schools Participating	Projected: 45 Actual: 65
		Minnesota Counties Served	Projected: 16 Actual: 25
Live Events Arts Experiences	1.27 (FY17)	Live Events	Projected: 17 Actual: 20
		Local Performers	Projected: 150 Actual: 146
		Event Attendees	Projected: 7,200 Actual: 7,096
Preserving Minnesota History	1 (FY17)	Stories Digitized	Projected: 2,200 Actual: 17,000

**Sources for outcomes listed above and cited throughout report:**

- Listenership data © Nielsen Audio, July 2016-June 2017, Persons 12+.
- Page view data from Google Analytics, 2017.
- Stream request data from Ando Media, 2017.



**Board of Trustees**  
as of June 27, 2017

**Officers of the Board**  
David D. Murphy, Chair  
Bradbury H. Anderson, Vice Chair  
Jon R. McTaggart, President  
Mary Brainerd, Secretary  
Emery Koenig, Treasurer

**Bradbury H. Anderson** (2003)  
Retired CEO & Vice Chairman  
Best Buy, Inc.  
Naples, Florida

**Wendy Bennett** (2015)  
Consultant to Foundations  
in Global Health  
Golden Valley, Minnesota

**Dr. Larry L. Berger** (2014)  
EVP & Chief Technical Officer  
Ecolab  
Eagan, Minnesota

**Mary Brainerd** (2014)  
Former CEO  
HealthPartners Inc.  
Bloomington, Minnesota

**Dr. Paula J. Carlson** (2016)  
President  
Luther College  
Decorah, Iowa

**Julie Causey** (2017)  
Chairman Emeritus  
Western Bank  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Patrick J. Denzer** (2006)  
Partner  
TigerRisk Partners  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Jim Dwyer** (2013)  
Chairman & CEO  
Michael Foods, Inc.  
Minnetonka, Minnesota

**Ivan Fong** (2014)  
Senior VP  
Legal Affairs & General Counsel  
3M Corporation  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Ian R. Friendly** (2007)  
CEO  
Recombinetics, Inc.  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Sima Griffith** (2017)  
Managing Principal  
Aethlon Capital, LLC  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Libby Hlavka** (2017)  
President  
Driscoll Foundation  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Omar Ishrak** (2016)  
CEO & Chairman  
Medtronic Inc.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Rick King** (2011)  
EVP & Chief Information Officer  
Thomson Reuters  
Eagan, Minnesota

**Emery Koenig** (2010)  
Retired Vice Chairman & CRO  
Cargill Inc.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Jonathan Low** (2014)  
Predictiv Consulting  
West Palm Beach, Florida

**Nancy Lyons** (2014)  
President & CEO  
Clockwork Active Media  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Jon R. McTaggart** (2011)  
President & CEO  
Minnesota Public Radio &  
American Public Media  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Kate Mortenson** (2012)  
President & CEO  
2019 Minneapolis Final Four Local  
Organizing Committee  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**David D. Murphy** (2012)  
Retired President & CEO  
Red Wing Shoe Company  
Edina, Minnesota

**Dr. Mary Nichols** (2007)  
Dean, College of Cont. Education  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Liwanag Ojala** (2016)  
CEO  
CaringBridge  
Eagan, Minnesota

**Julian W. Poon** (2017)  
Attorney at Law  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
Los Angeles, California

**Nii-Ayite Quaye** (2016)  
Vice President,  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
Pentair PLC  
Golden Valley, Minnesota

**Kate Quinn** (2016)  
Vice Chairman  
Chief Administrative Officer  
U.S. Bancorp  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Steven M. Rothschild**  
(1987-2005) (2006)  
President  
Invest in Outcomes  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Marianne D. Short** (2017)  
Executive Vice President & Chief Legal  
Officer  
UnitedHealth Group  
Minnetonka, Minnesota

**Patricia S. Simmons, MD** (2014)  
Executive Medical Director  
Health Policy Emeritus  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Jean Taylor** (2013)  
President  
Life is Now  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Rodney Young** (2016)  
CEO & President  
Delta Dental of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Active Life Trustees**

**Susan Boren** (1985-1998)  
(1999-2008)  
Retired Partner, SpencerStuart  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Randall J. Hogan** (2002-2014)  
Chairman & CEO, Pentair Ltd.  
Golden Valley, Minnesota

**Karin L. Larson** (2002-2014)  
Retired Chair, Capital International  
Research, Inc.  
Pacific Palisades, California

**Addison (Tad) Piper** (1986-1995)  
(1999-2008)  
Retired Chairman & CEO  
Piper Jaffray Companies, Inc.  
Hamel, Minnesota

**Honorary Life Trustees**

**William Pearce** (1988-2007)  
Community Leader  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Robert J. Sivertsen** (1968-2005)  
Community Leader  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Joanne Von Blon** (1975-1985) (1986-  
1996)  
Community Leader  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**President Emeritus**

**William H. Kling** (1973-2011)  
Green Island Group LLC  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Year denotes beginning of current term or current consecutive terms.*