

**ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE
MINNESOTA LEGACY ARTS AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND**

Minnesota Public Radio's Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



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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, YourClassical MPR, The Current, and live events programming. Information about MPR’s activities can be found on our website: mpr.org/public/legacy-amendment-projects.

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 a 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 2021 fiscal year and supported by the following ACHF Grant:

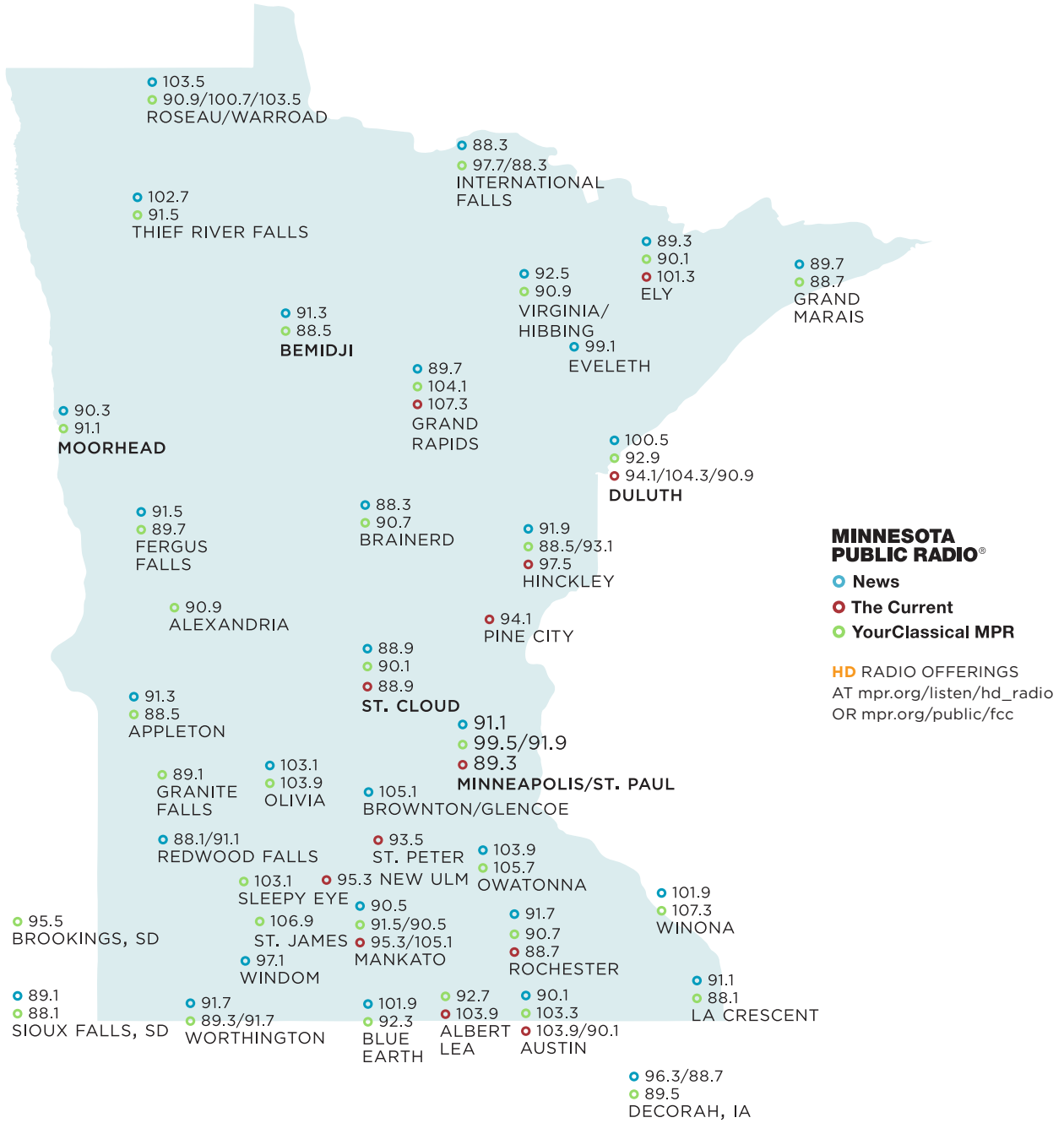
- MPR Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) - \$1,649,000 total award
 - ACHF Grant administered by the Department of Administration (Minnesota Laws, 2013 Regular Session, Chapter 137, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6)

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for Minnesota Public Radio to prepare this report was approximately \$1,240. These costs involved staff time in compiling and analyzing data, and preparing the written report.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 3.197 (2020), which mandates that the cost of preparing a required report must be provided at the beginning of all reports to the legislature.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS



DEAR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AND FELLOW MINNESOTANS,



A year ago, I don't think many of us imagined that we would still be in the midst of a pandemic that continues to shape our lives and decisions every day. Through this time, The Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has been a vital source of support that allowed us to be flexible and creative in adapting our programming to continue to serve Minnesotans. From all of us at Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR"), thank you!

MPR and its three regional services—MPR News, Classical MPR and The Current—serve nearly one million listeners weekly with programming for radio, digital on-demand and live audiences. MPR broadcasts on 46 stations that serve Minnesota, with 41 translators providing additional local coverage. With its reach to 95% of the state, MPR helps bring the richness of Minnesota's arts and cultural community into nearly every corner of the state, advancing the Legacy Amendment's public broadcasting priority to expand Minnesotans' "knowledge, information, and access to arts, and Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."

This work has never been more important. The past year has been a time of examination and reevaluation for so many of us. While it is our scientists who have been in the spotlight, it is our arts and cultural community - our artists, our writers, our musicians, our actors, our historians - who are helping us find context, meaning and even some measure of joy in what we are experiencing. MPR has been a partner to help amplify their efforts.

Necessity is the mother of invention and the limitations we've continued to live under opened our minds to how we could create and share content differently and engage more people than we had before.

- **The Current** launched The Minnesota Sessions, which pairs great local music with Minnesota's spectacular outdoor spaces through virtual concerts in parks throughout the state.
- We fielded a statewide survey - the **Minnesota's Diverse Communities Survey** - that helped document how Minnesotans across racial and ethnic groups are experiencing this moment in history.
- Through **virtual LineCheck events**, we brought together Minnesota musicians and other cultural leaders for frank conversations about how the sector is adapting and what they see coming next.
- We highlighted the importance of seeing events in their historical context by raising the profile of **MPR's rich archives**, tapping social media to reach people in new ways.
- Our **Classical music education program** provided increased flexibility for schools by producing video concerts and learning tools as well as virtual residencies in real time through Zoom.

While we wouldn't have chosen this, the restrictions around gathering in person last year were in many ways a great geographic leveler. Now even more of our content is available virtually and therefore more Minnesotans from throughout the state (as well as people throughout the world) have access to more programming than ever before.

The generosity of our Legacy Amendment grant provided the solid foundation of support that made it possible for us to discover new ways of doing things that we believe should stick around, allowing us to become more relevant to more Minnesotans. Your support has advanced our digital transformation and fueled our imagination for the possibilities to come.

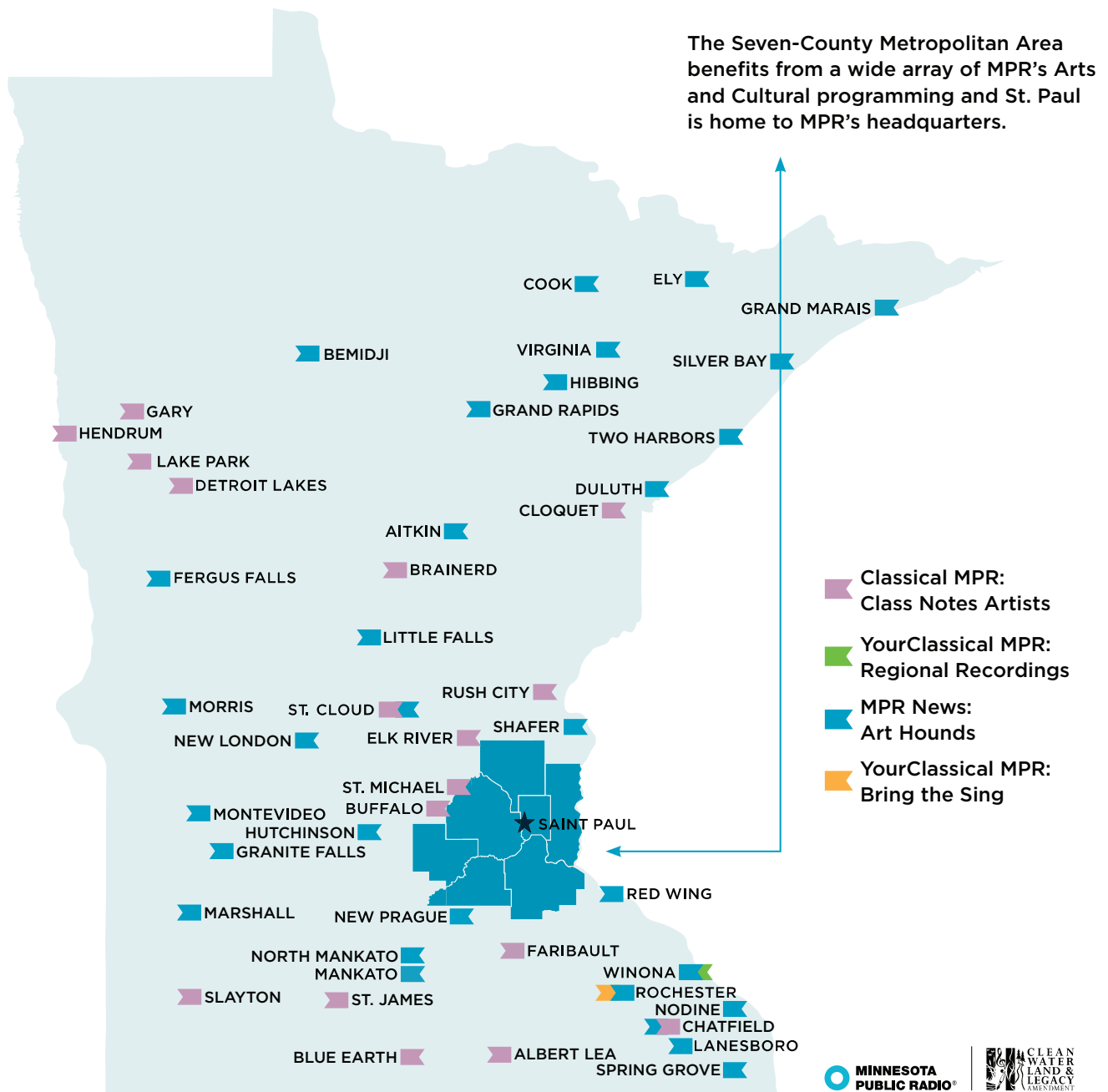
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duchesne Drew".

Duchesne Drew
MPR President

**ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY
THE MINNESOTA LEGACY
ARTS AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE FUND
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021**

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, YourClassical MPR, MPR News and The Current®.



MINNESOTA ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND LEGACY

HIGHLIGHTING MINNESOTA ARTISTS

MPR's arts and cultural coverage, made possible by the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, is vital to our regional news and information service. Often, art is a natural inroad to start conversations on the major societal topics (health, politics, race, etc.) MPR News strives to cover. So sometimes it serves as a bridge. On the other hand, our arts coverage can also serve as a respite, a space of joy during trying times.

FY21 continued to be a challenging one for Minnesota's arts and cultural ecosystem. It saw an ongoing global pandemic, a fraught national election, and continued racial reckoning following the murder of George Floyd.

Through all of it, Minnesotans continued to make art. And MPR News was able to highlight and amplify how our region's artists were creating and adapting as well as supporting each other. There were also some silver linings. Minnesotans who had previously been unable to attend live shows due to geography, mobility, transportation, or even busy schedules, have seen that barrier lowered by live-streamed performances and social media posts, making art more available to more people.



MPR News: Arts and Cultural Coverage by Euan Kerr

With the continued pandemic and limited public gatherings, Minnesota's arts community had to continually adjust in FY21. Euan Kerr's arts and cultural coverage highlighted the gamut of these responses, from the changing plans of some of the state's legacy arts institutions to the creativity of individual artists and smaller organizations.

Euan Kerr has been reporting arts and culture for MPR since the late 1980s, and has regularly fed stories on the Minnesota arts to the national audience on National Public Radio. Euan is a native of Scotland who came to MPR in 1985. In addition to working as a reporter, editor, and producer for the organization, Kerr also served as part of BBC News and BBC Radio Scotland in the 1990s. He also shares his passion for film each Friday as a co-host on Cube Critics.

HIGHLIGHTS OF EUAN'S REPORTING:

McKnight Foundation names Ojibwe author Marcie Rendon Distinguished Artist of the year: Rendon is the first Native American woman to receive the award in its 25-year history.

mprnews.org/story/2020/08/23/mcknight-foundation-names-ojibwe-author-marcie-rendon-distinguished-artist-of-the-year

How Minnesota arts community adapted during pandemic: What did 2020 look like for the performing arts?

mprnews.org/episode/2020/12/23/how-the-minnesota-arts-community-adapted-during-the-2020-pandemic

The Walker Art Center begins a run of a show without sets, lighting or even actors: It's called "A Thousand Ways." Each show involves just two audience members and a phone, offering something that's been missing from many people's pandemic lives — encounters with strangers.

mprnews.org/story/2021/03/01/600-highwaymen-create-theater-with-two-audience-members-and-a-phone

Minnesota artist uses ancient techniques to create portraits of 'Women of Faith': Minnesota artist Mark Balma is drawing on ancient techniques to create three huge frescoes of women from the Bible, the Koran and the Torah for a church in Italy. mprnews.org/story/2021/04/27/minnesota-artist-uses-ancient-techniques-to-create-portraits-of-women-of-faith

10 Minnesota cultural organizations led by people of color get \$500,000 each: The regional Cultural Treasures Program, funded by the Ford, McKnight, Bush and Jerome foundations, is born out of concern about the pandemic's impact on communities of color. mprnews.org/story/2021/05/18/foundations-award-10-mn-cultural-organizations-led-by-people-of-color-500000-each

Dessa stays busy even as pandemic changes her approach to work: Dessa adapted her work by releasing a series of singles, the "Ides" series, on the 15th of each month. mprnews.org/story/2021/05/27/dessas-pandemic-projects-ive-put-a-lot-of-miles-on-those-boots-walking-out-those-lyrics

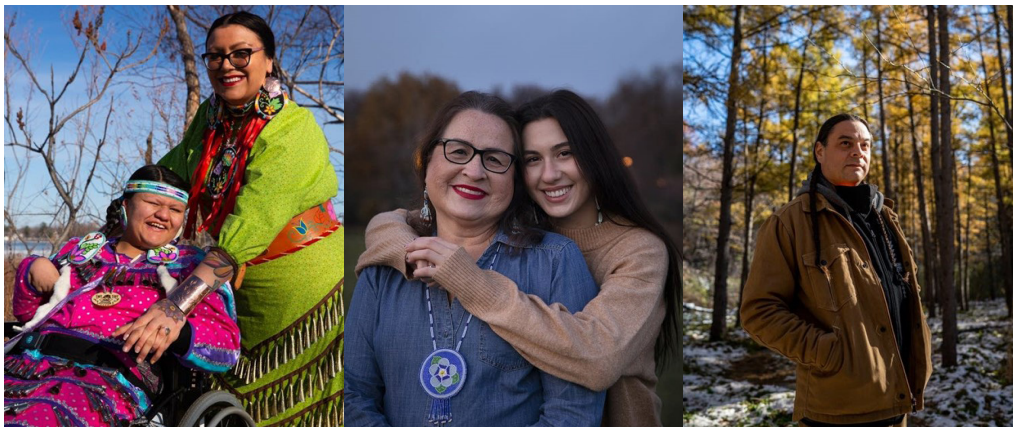


Left: Marcie Rendon. (Courtesy of Jaida Grey Eagle) **Middle:** Painter Mark Balma with two of his in-progress paintings from his Women of Faith project. (Evan Frost | MPR News) **Right:** Writer, singer and podcaster Dessa. (Euan Kerr | MPR News)

MPR News: Changemakers Series

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, in November 2020 MPR News introduced audiences to 17 Indigenous Minnesotans who are making history across the state. Each discussed what being Indigenous in Minnesota means to them, a bit about their background and their hopes for the future.

The features can be found here: mprnews.org/story/2020/10/30/changemakers-indigenous-minnesotans-making-history



Left: Adrienne Benjamin, 37, and daughter Bella, 17, are jingle dress dancers. Benjamin, a master dressmaker, created an adaptive jingle dress for Bella, who uses a wheelchair. (Kathryn Styer Martinez | MPR News) **Middle:** Brenda and Benay Child stand at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. (Christine T. Nguyen | MPR News) **Right:** Chef, educator, and cookbook author Sean Sherman at the Quaking Bog inside of Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. (Evan Frost | MPR News)

MPR News: Art Hounds

Art Hounds is a weekly segment on MPR News in which three Minnesotans share information on an arts happening in their community that they're excited about. Art Hounds holds a unique space on MPR News' statewide coverage, fostering engagement, building community, and inspiring enthusiasm for the arts.



Emily Bright took over Art Hounds production at the start of August 2020. Emily is a weekend host and newscaster at MPR News. In addition to Art Hounds, she also produces a weekly Ask a Bookseller feature, which offers a recommendation for one good book, recorded with independent booksellers from across the country. When not working in radio, Emily writes poetry and middle grade historical fiction.



Denzel Belin partners with Emily on Art Hounds for which he serves as ambassador, reaching out to help attract new potential Art Hounds and helping the program reach more people through social media. Denzel also serves as the MPR News newsroom coordinator. Denzel and Emily were also joined last year by producer Aron Woldeslassie, who is also assisting to help connect with artists across Minnesota and extend our pool of Art Hounds.

ART HOUNDS BY THE NUMBERS:

- Art Hounds featured 139 artists or performances, of which 38% were in Greater Minnesota, including:
 - Greater Minnesota: Aitkin, Bemidji, Chatfield, Cook, Duluth, Ely, Fergus Falls, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Granite Falls, Hibbing, Hutchinson, Lanesboro, Little Falls, Mankato, North Mankato, Montevideo, Morris, New London, New Prague, Nodine, Park Rapids, Red Wing, Rochester, Shafer, Silver Bay, Spring Grove, St. Cloud, Two Harbors, Virginia, and Winona.
 - Seven-county metropolitan area: Bloomington, Falcon Heights, Fridley, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Saint Louis Park, St. Paul, Stillwater, Wayzata, and White Bear Lake.
- Art Hounds highlighted at least 25 different kinds and styles of art including, but not limited to theater, public art, sculpture, 2-D art including various painting and drawing styles, opera, various forms of dance, ceramics, glass work, quilting, beadwork, jewelry, audio plays and podcasts, music of many genres, photography, improv, and film.
- Art Hounds included creative work by and for people of all ages and backgrounds, including work by high school and college students, by writers within Minnesota's prison system, and by artists with physical or cognitive disabilities, as well as several works specifically designed for young children.
- Art Hounds amplified work in 8 of the 11 Regional Arts Council Districts as defined by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

In an unusual year, where MPR News' staff was stretched, Art Hounds formed the foundation of MPR News' arts coverage, maintaining its weekly schedule despite the pandemic and continuing to tell the story of creative Minnesotans adapting to an ever-changing environment. Art Hounds covered out-stallations designed to be seen through windows, radio plays, outdoor events, and virtual performances whose production allowed creators to explore what was sometimes a brand-new medium.

This past year helped open up Art Hounds to highlight new platforms for viewing work, including some artists whose work was viewable only on Instagram, Facebook, and personal websites—sometimes using those formats to peel back the veil on their artistic process. By looking outside traditional venues, Art Hounds was able to highlight a wider array of emerging and mid-career artists whose work is of high quality.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE ART HOUNDS STORIES FROM FY21:

In July, Art Hounds featured a collaborative **Black Lives Matter street painting**, a new album by **Loud Mouth Brass** with a performance in Rochester, and a virtual **Fringe Festival fundraiser**.
mprnews.org/story/2020/07/30/art-hounds-black-lives-matter-street-painting-models-community-building

In September, Art Hounds highlighted the **Twin Cities Iranian Culture Festival**, **Spring Grove's first International Film Festival** and **"My Funny Quarantine"** a light-hearted comedy from Theater Unmasked about surviving quarantine with your spouse, performed on a roof top.
mprnews.org/story/2020/09/10/art-hounds-twin-cities-iranian-culture-festival-celebrates-with-music-art-and-food

In October, Art Hounds featured two different public art installations, **Tia Keobounpheng's "Unweaving,"** in Duluth and **Damien Wolf's "Rainflower Project"** in Plymouth, as well as **Rain Taxi's 20th annual Twin Cities Book Festival**, which was entirely online.
mprnews.org/story/2020/10/15/art-hounds-public-art-installations-address-historical-trauma-mental-health

In October, Art Hounds spotlighted the annual reading from the **Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop**, pastel portraits of **essential worker portraits by Duluth artist Carolyn Olson**, and an opera series focused on domestic abuse during quarantine by the **Decameron Opera Coalition**.
mprnews.org/story/2020/10/22/art-hounds-art-that-allows-people-to-be-seen-and-heard

In February, Art Hounds featured three photography exhibits, including **Winona native Tony Duran** at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, **Melissa Borman's photography** which features female bodies in nature, and **Steve Ozone bold photographs** of flowers and vegetables.
mprnews.org/story/2021/02/17/art-hounds-photography-three-ways

In May, Art Hounds looked at art that focused on healing, including a new improv soap opera, **"Duluth," "Wonderland,"** a reimagining of the Lewis Carroll classic by Collide Dance Theater Co., and an exhibit of paintings by physician **Semerit Strachan**.
mprnews.org/story/2021/05/27/art-hounds-recommend-art-that-heals

In June, Art Hounds "road trip edition" featured recommendations in Greater Minnesota, with an **exhibit by T.L. Solien at the Nemeth Art Center in Park Rapids** and **Big Yellow: Fire Fighting Superstar**, a children's book by Ely residents, Polly Carlson-Voiles and Consie Powell.
mprnews.org/story/2021/06/20/art-hounds-recommend-artbased-road-trips-in-minnesota



Left: People work to paint individual letters of the words "Black Lives Matter." (Evan Frost | MPR News) **Middle:** Grocery store cart disinfection worker, essential worker portrait No. 13, by Carolyn Olson. (Courtesy of Carolyn Olson) **Right:** "Unweaving." (Courtesy of Wolfskull Creative)

The Current

MPR's contemporary and indie rock music station, The Current, receives funding from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for its programming to support and promote Minnesota artists across its broadcast and digital services. Over the past year, The Current more than delivered on this goal. In FY21, The Current featured 800+ Minnesota artists, who received 15,355 spins for nearly 1,000 hours of MN music.

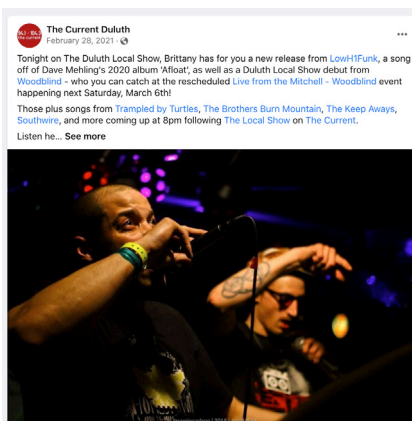
"The Current is one of the best radio stations in the country. They have introduced me to so many local and national artists I probably wouldn't have discovered on my own. I love supporting local artists and greatly appreciate The Current's support of local talent, both "on air" and through their social media outlets. Thank you for hosting so many great artists in your state-of-the-art studio, sponsoring so many local live concerts, and for streaming many live performances too! The Current is a music lover's best friend."

- Current Listener

The Duluth Local Show

The big news for the Duluth Local Show is that its broadcast went statewide for the first time on July 12, 2020, allowing it to reach more listeners. The Duluth Local Show can now be heard statewide every Sunday at 8 p.m. following The Local Show and also rebroadcasts on the Local Current stream on Mondays at 2 p.m. Like The Local Show, The Duluth Local Show highlights Minnesota-based artists but with an even more specific focus on amplifying artists from the Arrowhead region and Greater Minnesota.

The Duluth Local Show, led by Host Brittany Lind, helped amplify the work of artists across the Northern region of Minnesota through delivering a weekly playlist of new music while covering the ever-changing landscape of live events including supporting Caravan Du Nord and other events across the North Shore. Artists from this region received over 700 spins on The Current in 2021 from airplay on The Duluth Local Show.



The Local Show

Every Sunday night from 6 to 8 p.m., The Current promotes emerging metro and regional Minnesota as well as Minnesota musicians who've become legends through songs and interviews with the artists.

Local Show Host Andrea Swensson hosted over 50 sessions with local musicians on The Local Show in FY21, connecting with them from their homes. These sessions included a diverse cross-section of our local music community including from the entire state. Among the highlights this year were an interview in fall 2020 with the artists behind the #MeTooMPLS compilation - including Chastity Brown, Tina Schlieske, Lydia Liza, Mary Bue, Annie Mack, and a dozen more - and a conversation about how to move forward as a community. The Local Show also celebrated the career of one of Minnesota's oldest living icons when Cornbread Harris released a live record for his 93rd and a half birthday, *Live at the Hook & Ladder, Vol 2*.

"[I]t was really satisfying and affirming to hear [River City Holiday] tracks on the Current. It's wild to think that just a few months ago, I was referencing those mixes on my hifi speakers, and then, on Sunday night, we were hearing the tracks beaming through the airwaves from the Current studio. It was a really cool full-circle feeling. Thank you for valuing music from all over the state and giving local artists the chance to be heard in the same set as legends like Prince and Paul Westerberg!... We're very proud to be part of the music community in this state and to call Minnesota home."

-Good Night Gold Dust

A New Era for The Local Show



After nearly a decade with The Current, we said goodbye to Local Show Host Andrea Swensson in April 2021. Swensson helped launch the Local Current Blog and went on to become the host for the Local Show for the past five years. During her time at The Current, Swensson also closely followed Prince's work and even met the artist himself. This helped lead to her 2017 book *Got To Be Something Here: The Rise of the Minneapolis Sound*. Swensson moved on to her next chapter as a self-employed music writer, author, and podcaster. We are excited to welcome our new Local Show host, Diane Miller, who took the helm in August 2021.

"Andrea's contributions to The Current and Minnesota's music scene are too many to count...I want to thank her for her sharing her insights, creativity and passion for local music with our listeners and our community." - MPR President Duchesne Drew

Sounds Like Home



As part of our programming to help audiences connect to Minnesota musicians, Sounds Like Home was established in May 2020 as a virtual festival, a socially distanced substitute for our live micro show performances from years past. We held eight Sounds Like Home livestream/Facebook events in FY21, featuring 70 individuals and groups (118 individuals total). Sounds Like Home festivals received more than 77,000 views. Sounds Like Home sessions are archived on our YouTube channel.

ARTISTS FEATURED ON SOUNDS LIKE HOME INCLUDED:

Thomas Abban
Annie and the Bang Bang
Lewiee Blaze
Blood \$moke Body
Bugsy
Corey Medina & Brothers
Cornbread Harris
Double Grave
Fires of Denmark
Finnoh
Freaque
Good Night Gold Dust
Gowns

Guytano
Juliana Hatfield
Jae Havoc
Annie Humphrey
I Self Devine
Maria Isa
Dan Israel
JayGee
Kid Dakota
King Pari
Brianna KoDka
Lanue
Monica LaPlante

Gaelynn Lea
Rachel Lime
Longshot
Low Rats
Lupin
Annie Mack
Mark Mallman
MARGRET
Paul Metsa
Miloe
Mixtape for the Milky Way
Muja Messiah
Munson-Hicks Party Supplies

Products
Rich Mattson and
the Northstars
Rø
Tina Schlieske
The Slamming Doors
Strange Relations
Tufawon
Turn Turn Turn
The Ultrasounds
Under Violet
Jessica Vines



Left: Good Night Gold Dust. (Cecilia Johnson | MPR) **Middle:** Minneapolis band Turn Turn Turn are, left to right, Barb Brynstad (bass, vocals), Adam Levy (guitar, vocals), and Savannah Smith (guitar, vocals). (Ilia Stockert) **Right:** Annie Mack in The Current Studios. (Nate Ryan | MPR)

The Current Sounds Like Home III - August 13, 2020

youtube.com/watch?v=ZXPrnGmJ5fo

The Current Sounds Like Home IV - December 5 and 6, 2020

thecurrent.org/feature/2020/12/07/sounds-like-home-iv-virtual-performances-celebrating-minnesota-music

The Current Sounds Like Home V - January 23, 2021

youtube.com/watch?v=G9488MV_-U4

The Current Sounds Like Home VI - February 26, 2021

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/02/26/watch-sounds-like-home-vi

The Current Sounds Like Home VII - March 27, 2021

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/03/27/watch-sounds-like-home-vii

The Current Sounds Like Home VIII - April 24-25

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/04/24/watch-sounds-like-home-viii

The Current Sounds Like Home IX - May 22, 2021

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/05/22/watch-sounds-like-home-ix

The Current Sounds Like Home X - June 24, 2021

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/06/24/watch-sounds-like-home-x

"We felt fortunate to receive this opportunity, in this land of 10,000 bands. The Tremendous value starts by being able to include a link to the Sounds Like Home performance in our EPK that we use to book our band. Since our Sounds Like Home appearance, we have received many other great offers to perform, including shows outside of MN."

- Sounds Like Home artist

Additional Virtual Performances

The Current's offerings of virtual performances by Minnesota artists in FY21 was not limited to Sounds Like Home.

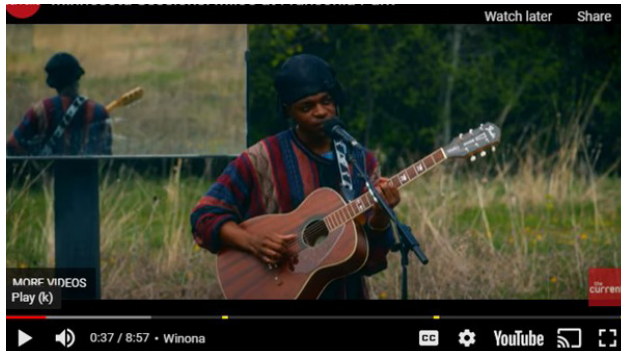
The Current held a **Live Virtual Session with The Jayhawks** as they celebrated the release of their XOXO album.

youtube.com/watch?v=K7e8GsPaH7Q -

We also launched an exciting new project, **The Minnesota Sessions**, which is pairing great Minnesota musicians with Minnesota's great outdoor spaces. This kicked off in June 2021 with a performance by **Miloe at Franconia Sculpture Park** and is continuing in across Minnesota in FY22.

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/06/28/watch-minnesota-sessions-performances-among-the-states-natural-wonders

We also shared several virtual performances with fans of the Minnesota music scene through the **LineCheck video series**, which opened up conversations with the local community around issues of mental health, safe spaces, activism, and more. More about this series under the Events section of this report.



Finally, The Current continued publishing the **virtual Gig List**, a calendar where Minnesota artists can share information about their upcoming digital concerts with Current audiences during the period of Covid-19. It can be found here: thecurrent.org/events

The Local Current Blog

The Current enhances its broadcast and digital performance offerings with digital articles highlighting Minnesota's most revered artists as well as the everyday stories of our rich music culture on The Local Current Blog. In FY21, highlights included:



Bob Dylan plays the Forum in Los Angeles in 1974.
(Jeff Robbins | AP)

Celebrating Bob Dylan's 80th Birthday: On May 24, 2021 Bob Dylan, our hometown/hometown boy who became the most acclaimed singer-songwriter of his generation, turned 80 years old. The Current was on hand to celebrate this landmark in style throughout the year, including with reviews by Current staff of every studio album and an extensive slate of digital features and playlists for fans to enjoy:

thecurrent.org/feature/2020/12/31/every-bob-dylan-studio-album-reviewed-by-the-current-staff

thecurrent.org/feature/2021/05/14/bob-dylan-80-birthday

The Current also marked the passing of several beloved Minnesota musicians in FY21, including:

Regal the Rare (Regal Anton-Chavez Francis Bragg, a Minneapolis musician and producer and Jellybean Johnson's son
thecurrent.org/feature/2021/04/29/remembering-regal-the-rare-minneapolis-musician-and-jellybean-johnsons-son

Max Graham, lead vocalist, mandolinist, and a co-songwriter for the Minneapolis band Kind Country
thecurrent.org/feature/2021/03/05/remembering-max-graham-singer-and-mandolinist-in-minneapolis-jam-grass-band-kind-country

Debbie Duncan, renowned jazz singer who was a fixture at Rupert's Nightclub, Crooners and the Dakota Jazz Club over the years
thecurrent.org/feature/2020/12/18/jazz-great-debbie-duncan-minnesotas-first-lady-of-song-dies-at-69



Debbie Duncan performed frequently at Crooners Supper Club.
(Helen Teague | MPR)

Leah Ottman, a violinist and vocalist who performed under the name LOTT, as well as with Dessa and Jeremy Messersmith
thecurrent.org/feature/2020/12/04/remembering-leah-ottman-minneapolis-violinist-and-vocalist

Our remembrances of Minnesota musicians included the **five-year anniversary of Prince's untimely death**, which we celebrated with a timeline since his death that included a trove of releases from the Vault, the opening of Paisley Park as a museum, countless tribute performances, and more.
thecurrent.org/feature/2021/04/20/five-years-without-prince-a-timeline



Left: A new Prince mural unveiled on the wall of the Chanhassen Cinema in 2016. (Youa Vang | MPR) **Middle:** First Avenue, shortly after Prince's death (Nate Ryan | MPR) **Right:** Outside First Avenue on April 21, 2016, the day of Prince's death (Nate Ryan | MPR).

The Current Streams

The Current streams make it possible to offer music highlighting Minnesota's contemporary musicians all day, every day. Combined the streams play local artists 150,000 times annually. Our streams include:

The Local Current, dedicated entirely to musicians from Minnesota. As a 24/7 (8,760 hours of programming) service that elevates the voices of Minnesota musicians, this stream has continued to serve as the first place local music reaches music fans.

thecurrent.org/playlist/local-current

The Purple Current, which shares the music of Prince, those who influenced him, and those he influenced. Purple Current provided over 15,000 spins to Minnesota artists in FY21. The stream also hosts special tributes to Prince throughout the year, including the programming campaign to mark the 5th Anniversary of his passing. The stream also serves as a beacon for the history of the Minneapolis Sound by sharing history highlights via the Purple Current Newsletter and social media.

thecurrent.org/playlist/purple-current

Radio Heartland, which features acoustic, Americana and roots music. This past year, Radio Heartland highlighted local musicians with new releases including Charlie Parr, Pert Near Sandstone, Sarah Morris, Brian Laidlaw, The Federales, Annie Fitzgerald, Dan Israel, Dave Simonett, Humbird, Molly Maher, Ondara, Turn Turn Turn, and more.

thecurrent.org/playlist/radio-heartland



Left: Charlie Parr performs songs from his new record "Dog" inside the Kling Center for Public Media in St. Paul, Minn. (Evan Frost | MPR News) **Middle:** J.S. Ondara (Nate Ryan | MPR) **Right:** APert Near Sandstone. (Courtesy the artists)

Podcasts

In FY21, The Current did deep dives into Minnesota music stories through our podcasts.

This included the second season of **The Current Rewind**, our podcast dedicated to putting music's unsung stories on the map. This season we examined the 50-year history of Minneapolis club First Avenue, using 10 pivotal dates to explore how a city, a scene, and popular music have evolved since the dawn of the '70s.

thecurrent.org/feature/2020/12/16/the-current-rewind-complete-first-avenue-season-two

Some Legacy funding also helped support **Prince: The Story of Sign of the Times**, the latest in a series of Prince audio documentaries. This podcast chronicles what went into the making of Prince's ninth studio album and the subsequent tour and received two Webby award nominations. The work was also supported by the Prince Estate and Warner Records.

thecurrent.org/feature/2020/10/19/prince-the-story-of-sign-o-the-times-the-complete-series

The Current: Digital and Associate Bloggers

Over the years, digital and multimedia associates have made it possible for The Current to cover the Minnesota music scene with unique depth and breadth, both by supporting staff and also by creating their own content. MPR ended the associate blogger program in October 2020 due to the challenges of the pandemic. To fill in, in FY21 The Current published Legacy-funded work by freelance contributors who weren't associate bloggers.

For the period from July to October 2020, our two associate bloggers were Iman Jafri and Caleb Brennan. In that period, both Iman and Caleb produced impactful stories about the Minnesota music community.

Caleb wrote about topics including how TikTok is changing music, the highlights of music acts featured at Target Center over the past 30 years in honor of its birthday, and how behind-the-scenes music pros were handling life in the pandemic.

blog.thecurrent.org/2020/10/tiktok-is-changing-the-way-we-interact-with-music-is-that-a-good-thing

blog.thecurrent.org/2020/10/target-center-at-30-ten-musical-highlights

blog.thecurrent.org/2020/07/im-completely-unsure-behind-the-scenes-music-pros-hang-in-pandemic-limbo-hope-for-change



Varsity Theater in Minneapolis, July 2020. (Lucy Hawthorne | MPR)

Iman wrote about a number of projects related to Minnesota's music history including plans to transform Minneapolis' historic White Castle into headquarters for the Diverse Emerging Music Organization (DEMO), which will include the Minnesota Music Archive Project, the sale of the land where Prince recorded *Sign of the Times*, and preservation of art works from the building that formerly housed Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis's Flyte Tyme Studios.

blog.thecurrent.org/2020/07/historic-minneapolis-white-castle-soon-to-house-minnesota-music-history

blog.thecurrent.org/2020/09/the-house-and-studio-are-gone-but-you-can-now-live-on-the-land-where-prince-recorded-some-of-sign-o-the-times

blog.thecurrent.org/2020/10/flyte-tymes-black-music-history-artwork-to-be-preserved-as-edina-studio-is-razed

The Current's freelance contributors this year included: Lydia Moran, who wrote about socially-distanced COVID-era concerts in Minnesota; and Maddie (who uses that mononym professionally), who wrote biweekly about the making of Minnesota music videos.

thecurrent.org/feature/2020/07/09/a-guy-can-only-take-so-many-walks-with-his-dog-minnesota-musicians-get-back-onstage-at-a

blog.thecurrent.org/category/behind-the-scenes

YourClassical MPR

MPR's classical music service, which was rebranded as YourClassical MPR in spring 2021, receives funding from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for its programming to highlight Minnesota artists across its digital services, including on The Choral Stream, videos on social media, feature articles on the Minnesota classical music scene on its website, as well as to create music education products and residencies for schools and families across the state. This funding helped MPR amplify classical music in a year where performances with live audiences were few and far between.

"I turned to Classical MPR this past year seeking solitude. What I received in return has been far beyond that. Being a tier one essential worker...has been far more taxing on mental wellbeing than one could ever imagine. Classical MPR has been there to help me calm my mind, educate me about some amazing music and artists, and opened a world of wonderment and awe. I will forever be a huge fan. Thank you, thank you, thank you".

YourClassical MPR: Digital Features

Our Digital Features are a chance to dig into a variety of topics across Minnesota's music scene, from our legacy music organizations to composers to student musicians. In FY21, we published total of 25 stories about local classical music makers, 40% of which featured women artists, nearly a quarter of which focused on BIPOC content or artists, and a third of which were about subjects beyond the Twin Cities.

Here are a few of our favorites from FY21:

[Lakes Area Music Festival puts world-class live performances online for free](#)

[Tamara Gonzalez brings expertise and passion to the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies' Concertino East orchestra](#)

[Eagan High School Theater's production of "Les Miserables" is a show for our time](#)

[Twin Cities jazz pianist Sanford Moore returns to his classical roots](#)

[Minnesota Orchestra adds some heavy metal to its percussion section](#)

[Minnesota choirs await return of live performances](#)

[Ella Harpstead's 'Darkroom' to be premiered by St. Olaf Band](#)



Left: Although this year's Lakes Area Music Festival will be online, all performances have been professionally captured to give listeners the best possible experience. (LAMF) **Middle:** Tamara Gonzalez conducts at MPR's Maud Moon Weyerhaeuser Studio.(Steven Cohen) **Right:** Composer, arranger and pianist Sanford Moore is getting back to his classical performance days. (Provided)

Choral Works Initiative and Regional Recordings

Legacy funds help support MPR's Choral Works Initiative which in turn supports Minnesota's rich choral tradition with our dedicated Choral Stream, local choral concerts, and our Bring the Sing public events.

While our website highlighted many music-related stories from throughout the state, not surprisingly two of our most popular stories this past year were connected to choral music. [A profile of how vocal ensemble Cantus coped with COVID](#) had more than 3,000 views.

"YourClassical MPR helped Cantus to reach new ears and to grow its local audience. YourClassical MPR was an important part of Cantus' development, as the ensemble evolved from a talented student group to an established professional ensemble. We are immensely grateful for all the times we have been able to partner with YourClassical MPR."



Cantus performs early-American hymns at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn. (MPR)

[And a story about a project by Professor Peter Mercer-Taylor to archive a few hundred rare early-American hymns at the University of Minnesota – the American Classical Hymns project](#) got such an enthusiastic reception from Choral Stream followers that YourClassical MPR later decided to use some Legacy funds to record a handful of the hymns with vocal ensembles Lumina, Cantus, and Border CrosSing. Recordings took place at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown St. Paul in spring 2021 and were shared with audiences on our website and social media. You can find the videos here: yourclassical.org/hymns



Border CrosSing performs early-American hymns at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn. (MPR)

Our Hymns Project was just one of a number of projects that YourClassical MPR helped make possible in FY21. Each year our broadcast operations team records music performances from across the state to share with Minnesota audiences. Not surprisingly, FY21 was less busy than in previous years but they were able to capture Winona's Minnesota Beethoven Festival and beautiful performances from Cantus and the Minnesota Opera, as well as the Minnesota Orchestra and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO). The team also recorded the Class Notes Artists concerts shared as part of YourClassical MPR's music education program that allowed classrooms throughout the state to have access to high-quality music education even in the midst of distance learning.

Project DJ

Project DJ is a new program added in 2019 to engage the next generation of classical music lovers. Project DJ brings young performers, 14 to 24, to join Classical Host Steve Staruch as co-hosts on Friday Favorites. Guest DJs are interviewed on-air, introduce a few requests and share their favorite performances. Thirty-six young DJs from a variety of musical backgrounds participated in FY21. For more on the young people who have participated, see: yourclassical.org/projectdj



Project DJ hosts have included, **Left:** Twins Aidan (left) and Julian (right) Robbins. **Middle:** Kathleen Thompson who wants to pursue a career in aviation. **Right:** Carmen Geiger-Schutz who when she is not studying, is composing.

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA MUSIC EDUCATION

Class Notes Artists

YourClassical MPR's Music Education programs provide a means for greater understanding of and enthusiasm for classical and other music. The ever-popular Class Notes program, which partners with Minnesota musicians who go into K-12 schools across the state to perform and deliver curricula tied to Minnesota's state standards, serves as a cornerstone of this work.

Due to the unpredictable schedules for in-person versus virtual learning for schools, MPR intentionally created a full virtual Class Notes program offering for the 2020-21 school year. Asynchronous virtual concerts allowed teachers to integrate music in whatever way made sense for their students (since platforms, schedules, and methods of delivery varied so widely.) Each virtual concert was designed with several standards-based learning objectives in mind. New concerts were rolled out from fall 2020 to spring 2021.



A number of teachers used this flexibility to customize our resources for an even wider age group, and tailor the content to their specific needs. As students started coming back to the classroom, we began to add "live" virtual visits (with an ensemble on one end of the camera and a classroom on the other). These experiences with Class Notes artists and schools in real time varied in focus according to need and might include performance, Q & A, or demonstration of musical concepts. You can find them here: yourclassical.org/story/2020/09/02/class-notes-concerts.

Nearly 50 Minnesota elementary and middle schools representing 26 counties and more than 22,000 Minnesota students (estimated based on digital participation and on average class size) participated in Class Notes in FY21. At the same time, our Class Notes video views swelled to 360,000+, which includes views of our FY21 Class Notes Concerts as well as our growing catalog of past work.

Class Notes featured 14 different ensembles representing 51 artists during the 2020-21 school year, two of which were new to Class Notes.

Bach Society of Minnesota features two singers, a violinist and a harpsichord player, a few of the many members of the ensemble which focuses on the music of Bach and other composers from the era.

e(L)ement, an ensemble featuring flute and harp focusing on music from the last 100 years, including contemporary composers.

Afoutayi Dance Music and Arts Company, a performing arts group that celebrates the history and culture of the country of Haiti.



Djenane Saint Juste, Artistic Director of Afoutayi Dance, Music and Arts Company (Venn Productions)

Border CrosSing presents music from all over Latin America, spanning 400 years of history. This year they are also offering a Spanish-language version of their programming.

Chione Woodwind Quintet features flute, clarinet, oboe, French horn, and bassoon, playing music by women and underrepresented composers while conveying musical and literary concepts.

Concordia Wind Quintet uses the flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn to help kids listen to how the instruments sound and learn how they produce their sounds.

The Dream Songs Project performs music for voice and guitar with a focus on composers from Minnesota.



The Dream Songs Project at Goodview Elementary, Goodview, MN right outside of Winona. (Jerry Olson | MPR)

Gaelynn Lea is a violinist and songwriter born with osteogenesis imperfecta who has a unique style of playing, holding her violin upright like a tiny cello.

Kroehm Duo touches on improvising while highlighting the music of the marimba and vibraphone.

Lux String Quartet, features violins, viola and cello, and highlights the elements that help them collaborate and play well together.



Lux String Quartet. (L-R) Eric Graf, cello; Kirsti Petraborg, viola; Stephanie Skor, violin; Marc Levine, violin (John Kaul)

Mill City String Quartet includes violins, violas, and a cello and plays the music of contemporary composer DBR (Daniel Bernard Roumain).

Mirandola Ensemble is focusing on choral music for grades K-8, highlighting the song, “El Grillo,” which means “the cricket” in Italian.

OK Factor writes and performs their own original music while teaching general music students to explore their own musical voices.

Robot Rickshaw is a music-making robot invented by composer and instrument maker, Troy Rogers. Rogers talks about pitched and unpitched instruments.

“I really enjoyed the getting to know the instrument part. I learned a few things today like the use of the mutes and the importance of looking at each other while performing...Thank you so much for sharing your time and passion with us. You are inspiring.”

“Thank you for playing your lovely music it was like dancing on the strings the wonderful sound just made me calm and relaxed and forget all the stress. I learned the different pitches you can make with these wonderful instruments, and the different names. Keep doing what you do and don't ever put your talent to waste.”

- Student responses to Lux String Quartet

Highlights from our FY21 Class Notes Concerts:

Since the ensemble Border CrosSing performs their live concert in either English or Spanish, depending on the school's preference, we created virtual concerts for that ensemble in both Spanish and English. We had great response from Spanish immersion schools and schools with a high percentage of Spanish-speaking students.

yourclassical.org/story/2020/11/05/virtual-class-notes-concerts-border-crossing-spanish-version

Border CrosSing's English-language virtual concert received the most views of any virtual Class Note Concert.

yourclassical.org/story/2020/10/29/virtual-class-notes-concerts-border-crossing

Afoutayi Dance Music and Arts Company received the second highest number of digital page views, and they did the most live virtual visits.

yourclassical.org/story/2021/01/21/virtual-class-notes-concerts-afoutayi-dance-music-and-arts-company

We always love to feature Class Notes Artist Gaelynn Lea because in addition to being a fantastic musician, she speaks so eloquently on disability and inclusion issues. Teachers and students consistently rave about her work.

yourclassical.org/story/2021/02/18/virtual-class-notes-concerts-gaelynn-lea

New this year, we added two Class Notes lessons focused on opera:

What is Opera?

yourclassical.org/story/2021/04/15/class-notes-opera-lesson-one-what-is-opera

I Can Express Myself Through Opera

yourclassical.org/story/2021/04/16/class-notes-opera-lesson-two--i-can-express-myself-through-opera

Value of Class Notes in the Classroom

Each year YourClassical MPR surveys students and teachers about their experiences with Class Notes. This year we included a link to a teacher/parent survey and a student survey at the end of each virtual lesson. While the response was much smaller than when we do live visits, it was overwhelmingly positive. Of teachers who responded, all of them answered “extremely agree” when asked “Virtual Class Notes Concert was a valuable learning experience for my students” and 100% also marked “extremely agree” when asked “Virtual Class Notes Concert provided me with a valuable resource for classroom use.” In addition to our broad survey, we worked with a few teachers to gather quantitative data around specific learning goals. We learned that even though the vehicle for delivery was quite different, learning outcomes remained consistent with the in-person experience.

HERE’S WHAT TEACHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT CLASS NOTES:

“Thank you SO much for making virtual concerts available this year! It’s wonderful to have this great resource to share with my students, especially in a year when we don’t get the excitement of actual field trips! Thank you also for the personalized introduction! The kids loved it!”

- Teacher from Christ Lutheran School in North St. Paul

“More of this! I love the great classical examples your provide, but I really appreciate having more programming such as this. I knew nothing about Haitian music, and for both myself and my students to learn from a culture bearer, it’s invaluable.”

- Teacher from Kenny Elementary in Minneapolis

“Thank you for putting your music out to students across the state! It isn’t usually possible for our kids in Bemidji to do a music field trip. You’re opening the world of different genres and professionalism to them.”

- Teacher from St. Phillip’s Catholic School in Bemidji

LIVE EVENTS EXPERIENCES

Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund helps support MPR's Live Events as a way to bring audiences together with our programs, local artists and leaders, and each other to celebrate Minnesota's rich arts and cultural scene. In FY21, "live events" took a different form, with people connecting digitally in real time to sing, to celebrate the season, and to process the impacts the past year may have on future.

YourClassical MPR Bring the Sing

YourClassical MPR's Bring the Sing is a community sing-a-long choral event series that brings people together through the joy of music. In previous years, Bring the Sing has been a live experience in locations throughout Minnesota. This year, Bring the Sing occurred virtually.

In August, a virtual Bring the Sing was hosted in Rochester in partnership with Rochester Downtown Alliance as part of the Alliance's Thursdays Downtown virtual festival series. The Rochester event included singers Antony Cook, Michael Garner, Dianna Parks and pianist Ralph Shornack leading favorites including "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "I Feel the Earth Move," and "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

"What a birthday present---yes my 83rd today. Can't believe it, don't feel it... I am so happy that I was available to see [the Rochester virtual Bring the Sing], and sing along!"

- Bring the Sing participant

YourClassical MPR and The Current

Bring the Sing Solstice

For the past several years, MPR has celebrated the longest day of the year with a special Bring the Sing event. This year, due to social distancing, we offered Bring the Sing Home Winter Solstice, a virtual event. Our virtual solstice celebration included playing "This Little Light of Mine" at 5 p.m. on December 21, 2020 on all three-services statewide - on MPR News, Classical MPR and The Current. Immediately following, Classical MPR and The Current each had special two-hour solstice programming. In addition, we created a video montage made of submissions from MPR listeners and prominent community members featuring a variety of ways our audience celebrates the season with light, also set to "This Little Light of Mine." The MPR Solstice video can be found here: yourclassical.org/story/2020/02/21/bring-the-sing



Left: Video shared by the Bemidji Visitor's Bureau for the MPR Solstice celebration. **Middle & Right:** Listeners who shared video of celebrating solstice.

The Current

Line Check Events

After a long year of shuttered venues, canceled gigs, civil unrest, and unearthed patterns of abuse, the Minnesota music scene has its eye on rebuilding — for right now and for the future.

In June 2021, The Current teamed up with Events for LineCheck, a series of four virtual conversations with Minnesota's music community to help answer the question, "how do we make sure we're coming back even better than before?" The topics ranged from making our community a safer space for artists and musicians to how activism has played a role in our scene since the murder of George Floyd. Performances from Minnesota musicians bookended each conversation.

You can find the events here: thecurrent.org/feature/2021/05/18/linecheck-series



June 8: Minnesota's Music Ecosystem

Featuring panelists Ashley Ryan of First Avenue, Sophia Eris of Auntie's, Molly Maher of Como Lakeside Pavilion and facilitated by Kristin Schwab of Marketplace Business News with performances by Charlie Parr.

June 15: Mental Health and Self Care for Creatives

Featuring panelists Annie Mack, Nazeem (Blood \$moke Body), Davina Lozier (Davina & the Vagabonds) and facilitated by mental health therapist and founder of Dissonance Sarah Souder Johnson with performances by Mary Bue.

June 22: Supporting Safe Music Spaces in Minnesota

Featuring panelists Kimmy Hull and Shannon Blowtorch of Sequeerity, rØ, Ryan Kroening of Events by Lady K and facilitated by musician and author of Making Spaces Safer Shawna Potter with performances by Mayda.

June 29: Minnesota's Music Activists

Featuring panelists Maria Isa, Muja Messiah, and Nur-D and facilitated by R&B singer-songwriter and co-founder of Voices in the Back, Anastasia Ellis, with performances by Sounds of Blackness.



Left: Melissa Belfry and Layce Dreamz from Sounds of Blackness performing as part of the Line Check series on June 29, 2021. **Right:** Mayda performing as part of the Line Check series on June 22, 2021.

PRESERVING MINNESOTA'S HISTORY

MPR Archive

Support from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund is vital to the MPR Archive, which centers its work on preserving and making accessible the substantial archival audio content at Minnesota Public Radio. In FY21, this included examining current catalog records for accuracy and depth, digitizing hundreds of hours of physical media, publishing newly digitized content to the MPR Archive Portal and curating new digital collections and finding innovative ways we could engage with our users and acquire new audiences. This year Legacy funding helped the MPR Archive to preserve, catalog, highlight and share stories and collections that focus on underrepresented and diverse communities throughout Minnesota.

A primary function of the MPR Archive is to preserve the daily broadcasts created by MPR News and create a permanent record of the stories that originate from our newsroom. In FY21, 60,897 new audio files were added to our archival collections and 1,915 transcripts were added to audio file records. This new audio included the 2020 presidential election coverage; the ongoing briefings on COVID-19 from Minnesota Department of Health as well as our original reporting on the pandemic in Minnesota; coverage of the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, Daunte Wright and Winston Smith, the social unrest that followed and the trial of Derek Chauvin; the impact on the small businesses and Fortune 500s that are located in Minnesota, and dozens of other topics that hold importance for future Minnesotans to gain insight into our lives today.

Additionally, on the MPR Archive Portal, 221 new audio files were published, 1,894 records were updated (metadata filled out and abstracts and transcriptions were added), and 10 new collections were curated.

Here is a small sampling of the diversity of stories published to our Archive Portal this year that showcase Minnesota's rich history:

[Learning The White Way: A Documentary on Indian Boarding Schools](#)

[Maya Lopez Santa Maria on Mexican Music in Minnesota](#)

[Profile of Jazz bassist Gordon Johnson](#)

[The Land Between: An Aural Portrait of the BWCA](#)

[Swearing in of Alan Page to Minnesota Supreme Court](#)

[New Theater Called Penumbra Opens in St Paul](#)



Left: Students at the White Earth Indian boarding school, circa 1924. These Indian children were forbidden from wearing traditional dress or hair, and from speaking their native language. (Photo courtesy of the Becker County Historical Society) **Middle:** From left, Sha' Cage, T. Mychael Rambo, Mikell Sapp, Darrick Mosley, H. Adam Harris in Penumbra's 2014 production of "The Ballad of Emmett Till" by Ifa Bayeza, a play based on the 1955 brutal murder of a 14-year-old boy in Mississippi who was accused of flirting with a white woman. (Allen Weeks | Courtesy Penumbra Theatre) **Right:** Canoes sit on the shore while the sun rises in the Boundary Waters. (Evan Frost | MPR News)

Two other trends for the archives team in FY21 were the launch of social media accounts for the Archive and increase in collaboration with the content producing teams and the use of archival materials in MPR programming and broadcasts.

The Archives now has Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts to share stories and grow our reach with new audiences. As a fun way to engage audiences, the Archives had its first interactive scavenger hunt. Using the MPR Archive portal as the base, clues were published to the MPR Twitter account for users to search and find in our vast trove of audio collections. This new focus helped the MPR Archive Portal see double digit Year-Over-Year growth in users and pageviews.

From capturing and preserving Minnesota Orchestra broadcasts for Classical to digitizing rare Prince recordings for the Purple Current, the Archives are in partnership with our content partners to protect and preserve Minnesota's cultural heritage every day. One notable example of this is a collaboration with MPR News during Black History Month, when Angela Davis' team referred to and shared our digital collection of Josie Johnson during a live broadcast interview with Dr. Johnson. That was simultaneously tweeted out by the MPR News account.

Josie Johnson Collection: archive.mpr.org/collections/people/joisejohnson



Civil rights activist and education advocate Josie Johnson is photographed at her home on March 18, 2019, in Minneapolis. (Christine T. Nguyen | MPR News)

Our historical digital collection on Walter Mondale after his passing in May 2021 was central to the newsroom's reporting on Mondale's legacy.

Walter Mondale Collection: archive.mpr.org/collections/special-collections/walter-mondale



A sign-waving crowd cheers Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale as he delivers a campaign address on Oct. 14, 1984, at Victory Hall in the Milwaukee suburb of Cudahy, Wis. (John Duricka | AP 1984)

Lastly, the Archive team was asked on a regular basis for archival content and to answer questions directly by our audience members, across all MPR programming and time periods. We provide the Member Audience Services team and the Communications team – both internal and external – with content on a regular basis, and our content is available to all of our reporters and producers as a source of truth and inspiration for show creation, fact checking and recognition of significant holidays, anniversaries and cultural events.

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA'S PUBLIC MEDIA ECOSYSTEM AND GROWING THE MEDIA LEADER'S OF TOMORROW

MPR uses a portion of its support from the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to help strengthen the public media ecosystem now and for the future through partnerships with local radio stations and other community partners. In FY21, this work included our Youth Radio Camp and Low Power FM and Community Radio Sessions.

Youth Radio Camp

MPR News teamed up with community partners to mentor the next generation of journalists through Radio Camp. The goal of the Radio Camp is to train diverse Minnesota youths to tell stories of their lives and communities. Two week-long camps were held in June 2021 bringing Black, Indigenous and youth of Color and mentors from MPR's three services together to develop storytelling, digital and audio skills that campers can one day translate into a journalism career.

Sixteen students from the Twin Cities metro area and Greater Minnesota attended this year's Radio Camp. MPR News - in partnership with ThreeSixty Journalism at the University of St. Thomas, MIGIZI, KRSM 98.9 LPFM (Pillsbury United Communities), and American Indian Family Center - hosted each camp in a virtual setting. The second of the two camps focused specifically on Indigenous youths.

Through mentorship with MPR News, YourClassical and The Current staff, campers got firsthand exposure to field recording, interviewing, writing stories and voicing their own scripts. By the end of Radio Camp, campers created an audio story. Each camper's story focused on this year's theme: youth interviewing youth about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest.

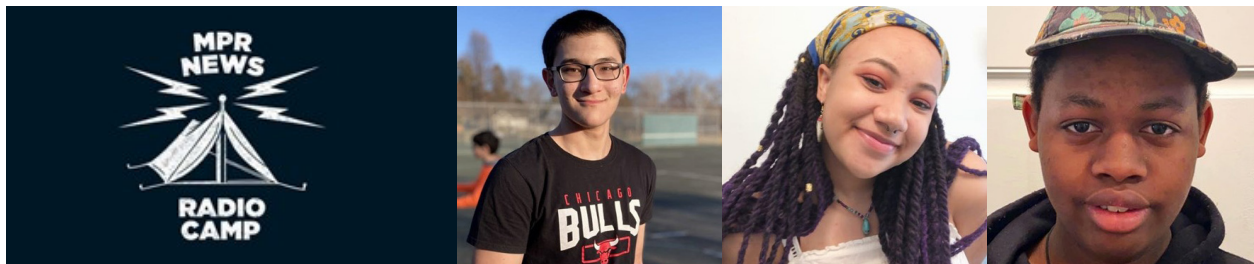
This year's stories highlighted, in part, Cole Stevens, student activist and co-founder of Bridgemakers, Nelsie Yang, the youngest council member in the history of the St. Paul City Council, and Jerome Treadwell, youth president of the St. Paul NAACP. See the full stories here: mprnews.org/story/2021/06/28/radio-camp-2021

The camps culminated in a virtual public celebration on June 28, 2021 that allowed students to share a bit of their stories and what they had learned, with remarks by Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.

What was your favorite part of Radio Camp?

"Everything, but if I had to give an answer. It would be the story assignment. It made me excited to wake up and hop on the meeting. And it was fun mixing together the story."

- Radio Camp participant



Radio Camp 2021 reporters Maximus Jennings, Zaraia Fabunmi and I-Am Tafari. (Photos courtesy of ThreeSixty Journalism)

LPFM & Community Radio Capacity Building Sessions

FY21 marked the third year of the Low Power FM & Community Radio Capacity Building Sessions presented by MPR. The sessions center on topics relevant to small and mid-sized media organizations while bridging new connections within the community-centered media landscape. A mix of panelists from MPR and other local radio stations deliver insightful professional development guidance and skill-building information for individuals working and volunteering in the LPFM and community radio space.

In June 2021, community broadcast media members from across the state came together to learn and share their knowledge about activating listeners and supporters, increasing underwriting and sponsorship sales, creative fundraising strategies, producing engaging content, and more across five virtual seminars. Over a dozen LPFM and community radio stations participated, and the 20 attendees represented a broad range of ages, cultural identities, metro and rural communities, and positions within their community station. We intentionally offer programming that fits a range of experience levels and positions within an organization.

You can see more about the FY21 virtual event here: mpr.org/lpfm-community-radio-capacity-building-sessions

MINNESOTA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES SURVEY

After a year of pandemic, social unrest, and political divides, MPR wanted to learn more about the perspectives and opinions of Minnesotans across the state, with a special focus on voices less often included in the mainstream narrative. Supported in part by the Minnesota Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and launched in spring 2021, the Minnesota's Diverse Communities survey reached more than 1,500 residents to gain valuable perspectives from racial and ethnic groups across the state. Led by APM Research Lab, this was the first survey of its kind in Minnesota that did intentional oversampling in order to gain adequate representation from five different BIPOC communities (Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Hmong and other Asian Minnesotans).

Questions on the survey provide insight and opinions on topics like quality of life, policing & the courts, COVID-19 access to information and vaccines, etc. that help document this moment in history. The survey asked specific questions about Minnesota's cultural amenities, including how respondents would rate them, how often people spend their free time taking advantage of them and how well they reflect individuals' heritage and culture.

The survey results are available here to the public with the goal of increasing awareness of perspectives across Minnesota's communities: apmresearchlab.org/blog/mdc-survey-intro.

Additionally, the data has been used by local news outlets across the state through reporting partnerships with MPR News. It is also being shared with the wider arts and cultural community in FY22 and beyond.

Minnesota's Diverse Communities is a three-phase initiative, including statewide community listening sessions, the statewide survey, and reporting on the findings, that is helping MPR accomplish the goal to closely listen, to build trust, to authentically serve new and diverse audiences, and to create content that represents and resonates with these audiences.

"It was an important survey to bring awareness to the subject of race and how it affects individuals who are of minority groups. I think it is important to share the results of this study to different communities, specifically white/middle-class communities who might not have the same experiences or education of the matter."

- Latinx survey respondent from Richfield

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Professor, Exec. & Trustee Emeritus, Mayo Clinic

Jean Taylor (2013)
President & CEO, American Public Media Group

Mandy Tuong (2021)
Pres. & CEO, Thrivent Char. Impact & Investing

ACTIVE LIFE TRUSTEES

Susan Boren King (1985-1998) (1999-2008)
Retired Partner, Spencer Stuart

Ian Friendly (2007-2019)
Retired COO, General Mills

Randall J. Hogan (2002-2014)

Addison (Tad) Piper (1986-1995, 1999-2008)
Ret. Chair & CEO, Piper Sandler Companies, Inc.

Steven M. Rothschild (1987-2005, 2006-2018)
Founder & Chair Emeritus, Twin Cities Rise

HONORARY LIFE TRUSTEES

William Pearce (1988-2007)
Joanne Von Blon (1975-1985, 1986-1996)

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Bill H. Kling (1973-2011)
Green Island Group, LLC

DATE: Denotes beginning of current term or
current consecutive terms.

Minnesota Public Radio Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

FY20	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Salary & Benefits	66,199.70	217,434.58	205,857.09	281,590.73	771,082.10
Contracted Services	13,946.00	65,458.94	84,654.30	317,932.94	481,992.18
Marketing & Advertising	4,645.44	21,552.34	27,928.93	54,336.25	108,462.96
Production & Supplies	1,611.88	10,295.34	1,193.61	7,180.14	20,280.97
Digital Equipment	-	-	-	1,009.95	1,009.95
Travel	-	276.00	-	699.29	975.29
	86,403.02	315,017.20	319,633.93	662,749.30	1,383,803.45

Details and Outcomes
Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Reporting per:

- Minn. Stat. [3.303, Subd. 10](#)
- Minn. Stat. [129D.17, Subd. 2 \(d\)](#)
- Minn. Stat. [129D.19, Subd. 5](#)

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Highlighting Minnesota Artists</p> <p><i>Please see detailed breakdown for MPR News, The Current, and Classical MPR.</i></p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	11.28 (FY21)	<p>Stream Requests</p> <p>Web Page Views</p> <p>On-Air Listeners (estimated weekly cume for Legacy-funded shows only)</p>	<p>Actual FY20: 1,743,700 Actual FY21: 1,679,375</p> <p>Actual FY20: 1,488,341 Actual FY21: 1,284,007</p> <p>Actual FY20: 40,000+ (MPR News) 13,000+ (Classical MPR) 12,000+ (The Current)</p> <p>Actual FY21: 33,000+ (MPR News)* 9,000+ (Classical MPR)* 12,000+ (The Current) *</p> <p>*Approximate</p>
<p>Supporting Music Education for Minnesota Students</p> <p>Class Notes Program</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	1.69 (FY21)	<p>Students Reached</p> <p>MN Artists Engaged</p> <p>Schools/Districts Participating</p> <p>Minnesota Counties Served</p> <p>Classroom Hours</p> <p>Digital Impressions</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> A 2-question survey was available to teachers/parents at the bottom of all Virtual Class Notes Concerts lessons to assist MPR in assessing if Class Notes content was valuable to their students/classroom.</p> <p>A 13-question survey was sent to 44 artists/groups to assist MPR in assessing if being featured on Class Notes had an impact on their growth as MN artists. 43% response rate.</p>	<p>Projected: 30,000 Actual FY21: 22,927</p> <p>Projected: 14 groups Actual FY21: 14 groups (51 artists)</p> <p>Projected: 75/130 Actual FY21: 35/48 documented (additional reach digitally)</p> <p>Projected: 45 Actual FY21: 26 documented (additional geographic reach digitally)</p> <p>Projected: 400 Actual FY21: 13,956 (calculated based on number of views of virtual content)</p> <p>Projected Web Page Views: 68,000 Projected Video Views: 290,000 Projected Unique visitors: 18,000 Actual Web Page Views: 156,458 Actual Video Views: 367,033 Actual Unique visitors: 129,624</p> <p>Of 32 respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 97% "extremely agreed" that Virtual Concerts provided a valuable learning experience for students. ● 94% "extremely agreed" that Virtual Concerts provided them with a valuable resource for classroom use. </p> <p>Of 19 respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overwhelmingly felt being featured as part of Class Notes caused more people to be aware of their music and led to new opportunities. ● 58% found tremendous value. 42% found some value. ● 90% replied that being featured benefited them as artists. </p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Live Events/Arts Access</p> <p>Includes Bring the Sing and Line Check</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>0.02 (FY21)</p>	<p>Live Events</p> <p>MN Artists Engaged <i>(NOTE: This does not include Class Notes Artists or artists for The Current or YourClassical.)</i></p> <p>Event Attendees</p> <p>Bring the Sing Solstice (2 services) On-Air Listeners</p> <p>Video Views</p>	<p>Projected (rev. for Covid-19): 6 virtual events FY21: 6</p> <p>Projected (rev. for Covid-19): 16 FY21: 27</p> <p>Projected (rev. for Covid-19): 6,800 FY21: 8,900+ (Bring the Sing Rochester and Line Check Series, includes Zoom and Facebook attendees as well as views after the event)</p> <p>FY21: 9,200 (YourClassical MPR), 22,000 (The Current)</p> <p>1,332 (Bring the Sing Solstice)</p>
<p>Supporting Minnesota's Public Media Ecosystem</p> <p>Low Power FM Training and Outreach Initiative and Radio Camp (New)</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>0.32 (FY21)</p>	<p>Low Power FM and Community Radio Outreach Initiative:</p> <p>Training Attendees</p> <p>Digital Access</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> An 11-question survey was sent to 16 LPFM Community Radio training participants to assist MPR in assessing if training content was valuable to them. 46% response rate.</p> <p>Radio Camp:</p> <p>Number of Camps</p> <p>Number of Community Partners</p> <p>High School Campers</p> <p>Number of Stories Created</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> A survey was sent to 16 Radio Camp participants to assist MPR in assessing if training content was valuable to them. 50% response rate.</p>	<p>FY20: 65 (22 Low Power FM and AMPERS community radio stations) FY21: 20 (12 Low Power FM and AMPERS community radio stations)</p> <p>FY20: 6 Virtual Trainings created FY21: 5 Virtual Trainings created</p> <p>Of 7 respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 71% of session rated the entire MPR series as "good" or "very good." ● 83% of respondents rated the Hosting & Producing session as "good" or "very good." ● 67% percent of respondents rated the Underwriting and Sponsorship Sales session as "good" or "very good." ● 50% of respondents rated the Member Drives and Fundraising Events session as "good" or "very good." </p> <p>FY21: 2 one-week camps</p> <p>FY21: 4</p> <p>FY21: 16 students</p> <p>FY21: 16 stories</p> <p>Of 8 respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 80% rated the camp with 5 out of 5 stars while 20% rated the camp 4 stars. ● Students expressed learning new skills and telling their stories were their favorite parts of Radio Camp. </p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
Preserving MN History <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	1.30 (FY21)	Stories Digitized Stories Accessible via Public Portal Web Page Views	FY20: 2,092 new audio files added to Archive database FY21: 60,897 new audio files and 1,915 transcripts added to Archive database FY20: 40+ stories added, 100+ existing stories updated with additional metadata, etc. FY21: 221 stories added, 1,894 records were updated with additional metadata, etc., 10 new collections were curated 8,565/month
Real-Time Program Opportunities Minnesota's Diverse Communities Survey <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	0.05 (FY21)	Survey Number of Events Geographies Represented Racial/Ethnic Communities Represented Services Supported Audience	Projected: 2,100 respondents Actual: 1,500 respondents Not Applicable. Events for this project will happen in FY22. Statewide Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Hmong, other Asian Minnesotans, and White MPR News, YourClassical MPR, The Current Not applicable. Audience for this work will be tracked in FY22.
Highlighting Minnesota Artists: Details across the 3 Services			
MPR News: The Changing Face of Minnesota: Told through Arts and Culture Workplan Details Includes MPR News Arts Coverage and Art Hounds <i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i>	2.59 (FY21) Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists	Number of Broadcasts Number of Digital Stories Number of MN Artists/Ensembles/Arts Orgs/Events Covered Number of Cities/Towns Featured Art Hounds: % of Greater MN Communities On-Air Listenership Downloads Web Page Views Social Media Followers <u>Evaluation:</u> A 13-question survey was sent out to 135 artists/groups featured on Art Hounds to assist MPR in understanding if being featured on Art Hounds had an impact on them as MN artists. 37% response rate.	66 stories/132 with repeat broadcasts 92 (many broadcast stories are also digital) 139+ (many Art Hounds mentions include multiple artists) 33 38% 33,200/week 1,534/month (Art Hounds podcast) 5,730/month 10,600 followers (Facebook, Twitter) Of 51 total respondents: ● Overwhelmingly would recommend Art Hounds to other artists and indicated the exposure benefited their careers. ● 78% answered that being featured on Arts Hounds had tremendous value. ● 27% highlighted that it led to new artistic opportunities. ● 22% highlighted that it made people more aware of their art.

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>YourClassical MPR Workplan Details continued</p> <p>Includes Regional Recordings, Digital Features, and the Choral Works initiative (Choral Stream and Bring the Sing)</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>1.23 (FY21)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>Regional Recordings: On-Air Listeners</p> <p>YourClassical MPR Online: Web Page Views</p> <p>Diversity in Stories (Geographic and Communities Represented)</p> <p>Choral Works Initiative: Streaming Requests (Choral Stream) Video Views (including Hymns Project)</p> <p>Hymns Project Number of Performances Created</p> <p>MN Artists Engaged</p> <p>Bring the Sing</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> A 13-question survey was sent out to 30 artists/groups to assist MPR in understanding if being featured as part of YourClassical's Digital Features had an impact on their growth as MN artists. 46% response rate.</p>	<p>6,600/week (MN Orchestra) 4,600/week (SPCO) 9,000/week (Project DJ)</p> <p>2,549/month (Digital Features) 590/month (Project DJ)</p> <p>Of 20 Digital Features published, 25% were from Greater Minnesota and 40% featured BIPOC and/or women musicians</p> <p>34,324/month 353,363 total (Facebook, YouTube)</p> <p>3 recordings of 3 songs each</p> <p>3 groups (17 individuals)</p> <p><i>See Events</i></p> <p>Of 14 respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overwhelmingly found the program useful in promoting their music to wider audiences. ● 93% responded that because of being featured, more people were aware of their music. ● 64% rated the value of being featured as tremendous. ● 71% said they would highly recommend being featured on YourClassical MPR.
<p>The Current Workplan Details</p> <p>Includes The Local Show and The Duluth Local Show, The Current Streams (Local Current, Purple Current, and Radio Heartland), The Current Digital Programming, The Current Digital Associates Program, and Sounds Like Home</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>6.74 (FY21)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>The Local Shows: On-Air Listeners</p> <p>% Devoted to New/Emerging MN Artists</p> <p>The Current Streams: Local Current Stream Requests Video Views</p> <p>Purple Current Stream Requests Video Views</p> <p>Radio Heartland Stream Request Video Views</p>	<p>Overall, in FY21 The Current aired 837 Minnesota artists who received 15,355 spins for nearly 1,000 hours of music. Minnesota artists received an additional 150,000 spins on The Current Streams.</p> <p>12,200/week (The Local Show) 200/week (The Local Show Duluth)</p> <p>60%</p> <p>30,969/month 32,521 total</p> <p>30,969/month 53,056 total</p> <p>65,960/month 12,268 total</p>

Project Title	FTE Positions	Assessment Method	Measurable Outcomes
<p>The Current Workplan Details continued</p> <p>Includes The Local Show and The Duluth Local Show, The Current Streams (Local Current, Purple Current, and Radio Heartland), The Current Digital Programming, The Current Digital Associates Program, and Sounds Like Home</p> <p><i>Achieved all of the outcomes</i></p>	<p>6.74 (FY21)</p> <p>Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists</p>	<p>Digital Current: The Current Blog Web Page Views</p> <p>The Current Podcasts The Current Rewind Downloads Prince Remembered Downloads</p> <p>Digital Associates: Each Associate Led One Larger Project</p> <p>Sounds Like Home: MN Artists Engaged</p> <p>Video Views Web Page Views</p> <p><u>Evaluation:</u> A survey was sent out to 100 artists/groups to assist MPR in understanding if being featured in Sounds Like Home had an impact on their growth as MN artists. 36% response rate.</p>	<p>52,471/month</p> <p>1,352/month 4,268/month</p> <p>Yes. Digital Associates contributed writing to 14 Local Current Blog posts and other projects before the program ended in October 2020 and Legacy-funded freelance writers and photographers contributed to 22 posts.</p> <p>70 individuals/groups (118 artists)</p> <p>77,840 total (Facebook, YouTube) 8,983 total</p> <p>Of 36 respondents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They were grateful for the opportunity to be part of the program. ● 100% are “likely” or “very likely” to recommend to other artists to be featured on Sounds Like Home. ● 64% indicated the stipend helped support their music during the time of Covid-19. ● 50% indicated participating helped to raise the visibility of their music. ● 33% indicated participating led to new artistic opportunities.

Sources for outcomes listed above and cited throughout report:

- Listenership data © Nielsen Audio, 2020-2021, Persons 6+.
- Page view data from Google Analytics, 2020-2021.
- Stream request data from Triton Digital, 2020-2021.
- Video views from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube, 2020-2021.