ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE MINNESOTA LEGACY ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

Minnesota Public Radio's Fiscal Year 2020
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO®

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

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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, Classical MPR, The Current, and live events programming. Information about 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 2020 fiscal year and supported by the following ACHF Grant:

MPR Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) – $1,649,000 total award

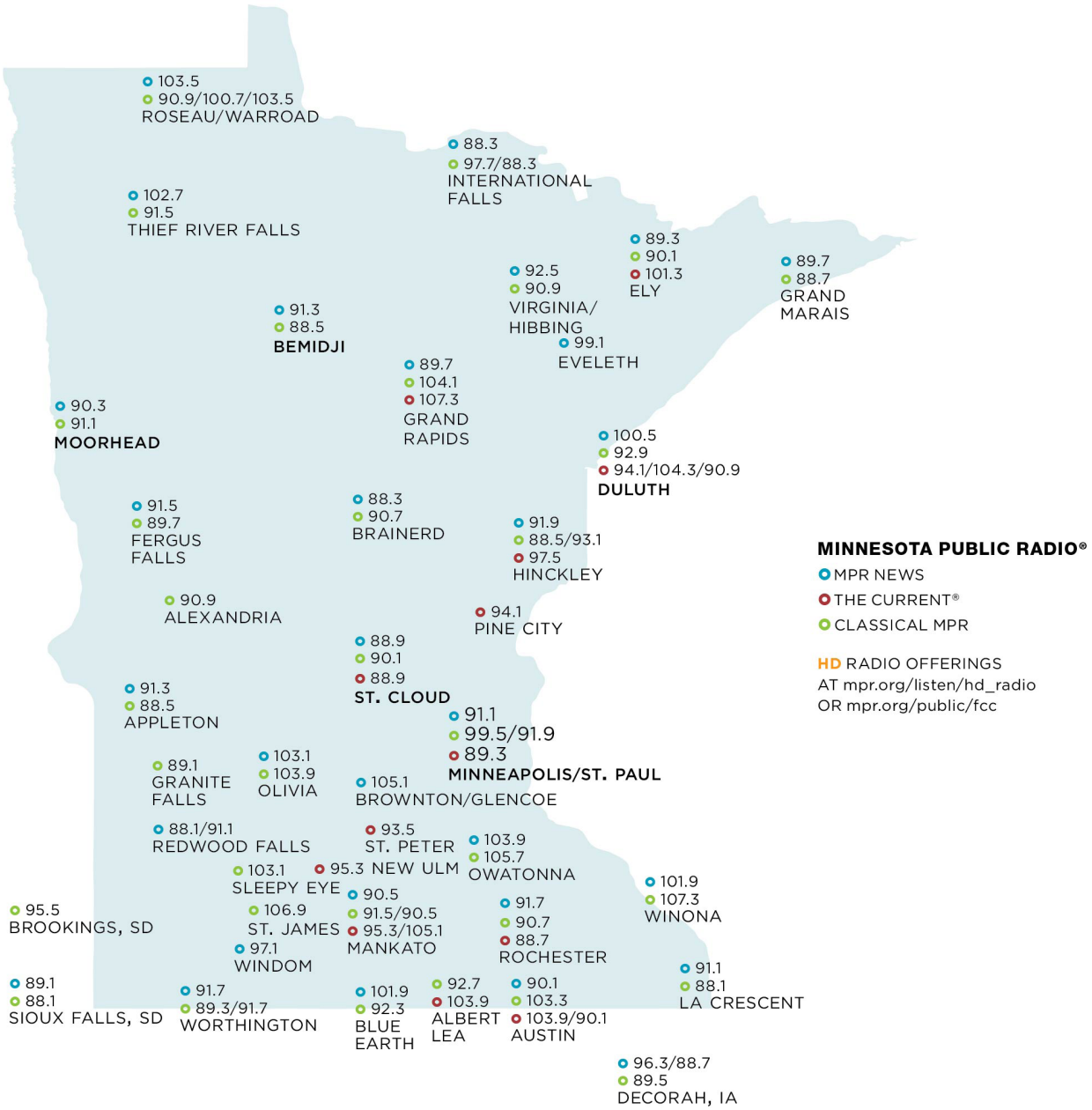
- ACHF Grant administered by the Department of Administration (Minnesota Laws, 2013 Regular Session, Chapter 137, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 6)

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for Minnesota Public Radio to prepare this report was approximately $1,030. 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,

If ever there was a time where Minnesotans needed to draw on our arts and cultural community to find delight, solace, meaning, and connection, the past year has been that time. Minnesota Public Radio ("MPR") is grateful to The Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for providing a source of stability to Minnesota's vibrant arts and cultural organizations that made it possible for MPR and many others to continue to meet this need for Minnesotans.

Serving nearly one million listeners each week, MPR and its three regional services—MPR News, Classical MPR and The Current—produce and present programming for radio, digital on-demand and live audiences. MPR broadcasts on 46 stations that serve Minnesota, with 41 translators providing additional local coverage. Through this robust broadcast network, MPR advances the Legacy Amendment's public broadcasting priority to expand Minnesotans' *"knowledge, information, and access to arts, and Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."*

Fiscal Year 2020 was an extraordinary year. For the first eight months, our programming included the normal mix of celebrated favorites, including in-school visits for K-12 students and live events such as Rock the Cradle. It also included experimental new projects such as a behind-the-scenes look at local hip hop artist Dessa's collaboration with the Minnesota Orchestra, *Sound the Bells.*

Although the final months of the fiscal year were entirely unexpected and incredibly challenging, they were also inspiring. Through a global pandemic and social unrest, we saw our arts and cultural community's perseverance and ingenuity come through as never before. We are proud of how MPR adapted to continue to serve our State, using our broadcast and digital reach to help provide a bridge between Minnesotans and our arts and cultural ecosystem.

Here are some of the ways MPR met this moment:

- Our **Classical Music Education** initiative, including our **Class Notes** program which brings musicians into schools across Minnesota, quickly created videos and curriculum for virtual learning. Instead of reaching one school at a time, that content was used by schools and families across the state and by people around the world, raising the profile of Minnesota's vibrant music scene. This rich content was accessed more than 260,000 times.
- **MPR News** focused its arts coverage on stories that revealed the creativity and resilience of artists around the state while not shying away from the very real economic and personal crises so many were facing. MPR News also continued to help audiences find art performances in the new virtual space.
- **The Current** connected Minnesota musicians, who could no longer play live concerts, to their fans statewide and beyond through a virtual festival, **Sounds Like Home**, which featured 40 musicians and had more than 80,000 views.
- All three services came together to create **Bring the Sing Home** events, which broadcast a unifying song that people across the state could join in singing at a designated time on Friday nights throughout the stay-at-home period, reaching more than 200,000 people.

MPR's ability to pivot to meet Minnesotans' shifting needs would not have been possible without the generous support of our Legacy Amendment grant. Your support allowed us to help shine a light on the extraordinary ways that Minnesota's artistic and cultural community provides inspiration even in the most challenging of times.

Thank you for investing in programming and community engagement activities that helped bring Minnesotans together when we needed it most.

Sincerely,

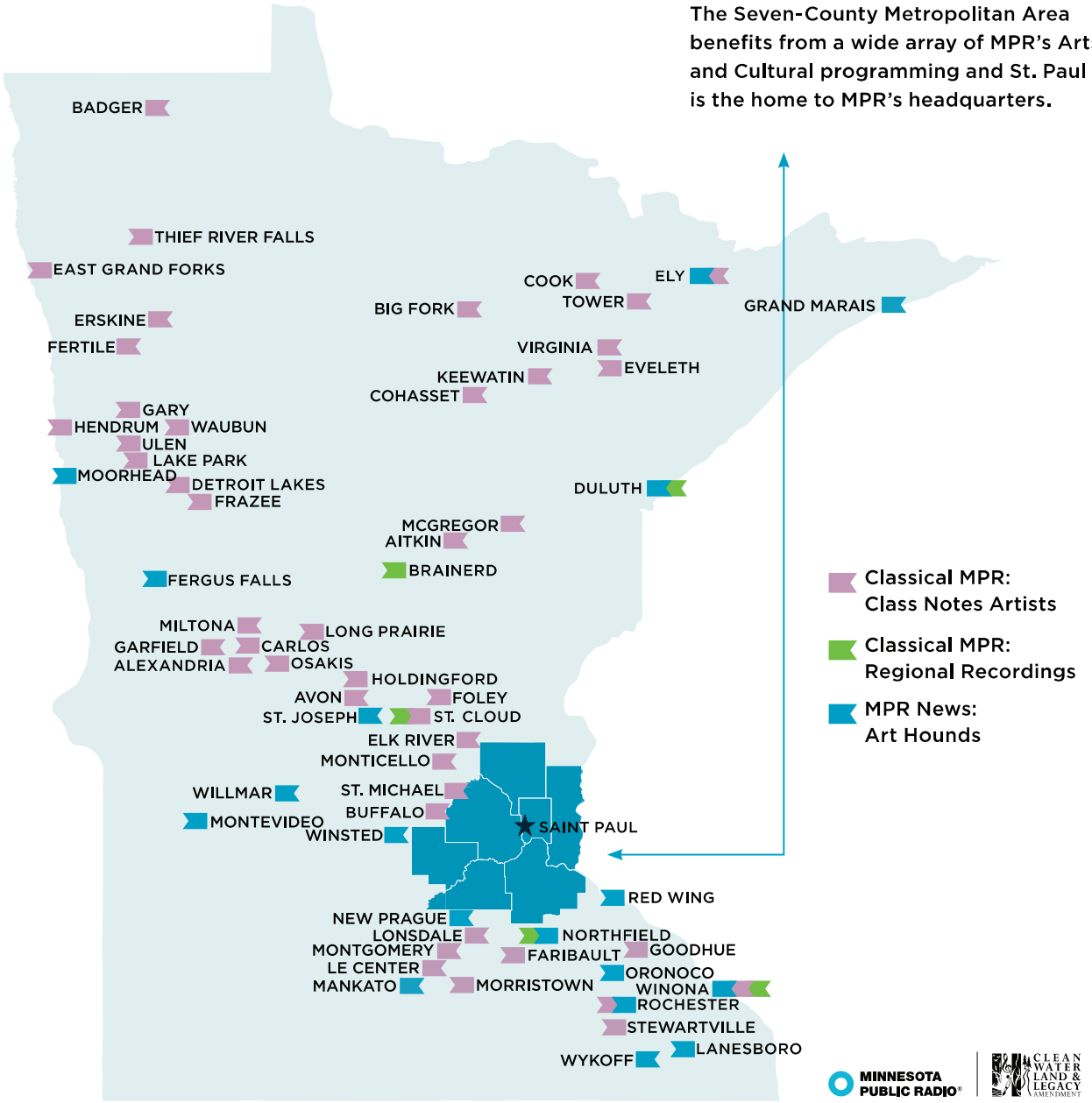
Duchesne Drew
MPR President

651.290.1207 | ddrew@mpr.org

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE MINNESOTA LEGACY ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

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.



MINNESOTA ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND LEGACY

HIGHLIGHTING MINNESOTA ARTISTS

MPR News: Arts Coverage

MPR News reports on Minnesota's arts and culture ecosystem as part of its regular programming, weaving it into daily coverage as stories of both local and national significance emerge. FY20 was a particularly eventful year for Minnesota arts, beginning with the breaking of a major story, having plans interrupted by a global pandemic and ending with civil unrest in response to the killing of George Floyd. As MPR News' lead arts reporters, Marianne Combs and Euan Kerr, each employed their own strategies and perspectives to ensure coverage was comprehensive, thoughtful, and geographically representative of arts across the state as communities responded to these challenges.

MPR News: Arts Coverage by Marianne Combs

Marianne Combs was with MPR for more than twenty years, with three quarters of that time dedicated to forging relationships and covering the local arts and culture scene. This year her extraordinary reporting was recognized when the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists Awards Page One Awards named her Journalist of the Year.

This award recognized her multi-part series "Innocence Lost" for its investigation into a pattern of abuse at the Children's Theatre Company: "Ms. Combs' work on the decades-old sexual abuse that occurred at the children's theater was like revealing a piece of history that had been buried. It was obvious that she put a ton of work and compassion into finding and interviewing her subjects and asking them to talk about a sensitive subject. This journalism was a service to the community and to sexual assault survivors everywhere. Well done."

The series can be found here: mprnews.org/story/2019/10/07/innocence-lost-explained

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM HER REPORTING INCLUDE:

Remembering Marion McClinton: Family and friends gathered at the Pillsbury House Theatre to remember playwright, director and actor Marion McClinton, an important contributor to the Twin Cities theater scene who was one of the founders of Penumbra Theatre.
mprnews.org/story/2020/02/28/colleagues-remember-mcclinton-as-a-director-who-inspired-trust-in-his-actors

Coronavirus shutdowns deal heavy blow to the arts: The stay-at-home order forced theater companies, museums and performance venues across Minnesota to shut their doors, resulting in an immediate end to incomes for artists.
mprnews.org/story/2020/03/19/coronavirus-shutdowns-deal-heavy-blow-to-the-arts

Artists' Dilemma: Performing artists have been among the people hardest hit by COVID-19's economic blows. Many had pieced together a living from several different jobs, and now they're figuring out how to replace that income.
mprnews.org/story/2020/06/05/artists-dilemma-wait-for-things-to-reopen-or-change-careers

Twin Cities' Black-led Arts Organizations List: As the Twin Cities wrestled with the police killing of George Floyd, structural racism and community devastation, MPR News published a list of Twin Cities' Black-led arts organizations to help bring awareness and foster support.
mprnews.org/story/2020/06/03/twin-cities-black-artists-need-broad-community-support-more-than-ever

MPR News: Arts Coverage by Euan Kerr

Euan Kerr 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.

Minnesota Musicians Collaborate with Venezuelan Performers: Members of the Minnesota Chorale and Border CrosSing collaborated with alumni of the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela to perform "La Pasión según San Marcos," which was part of the 2019 Sommerfest program by the Minnesota Orchestra.
mprnews.org/story/2019/08/02/sommerfest-pasion

Photographer Returns to Moorhead: Photographer Keri Pickett worked with her alma mater, Minnesota State University Moorhead, to mount a 40-year retrospective of her work, featuring images from rock stars and Native American activists to terminally ill children.
mprnews.org/story/2019/09/16/keri-picketts-photographic-journey-returns-to-moorhead

Young Curators Help Put Together MIA Show: A show at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, called "Just Kids," had almost 200 images, including Lewis Hine's pictures of child laborers shot in the early 20th century, and other objects. The exhibition was put together with the help of a team of young curators from Minneapolis high schools.
mprnews.org/story/2020/01/20/youthful-curators-present-a-younger-world-in-just-kids

Artists' Support for Frontline Workers: This story showed how Minnesota's arts community came together to support front-line workers. Sixty electronic billboards around the Twin Cities metro area displayed artist-designed messages of love and gratitude for medical workers and other carers battling the coronavirus by 11 Minnesota artists.
mprnews.org/story/2020/04/15/mn-artists-create-messages-of-love-hope-for-frontline-workers-on-metro-billboards

The Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival Goes Virtual: When the pandemic forced the cancellation of the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival in April 2020, organizers pivoted to create "MSPIFF39 Redefined," a virtual event that retained many trappings of live film festivals.
mprnews.org/story/2020/05/14/mspiff-redefined

New Novel Relates Ojibwe History: A new novel from Ojibwe author Tom Peacock, *The Wolf's Trail*, relates Ojibwe history from the mouth of a wolf. Mr. Peacock previously wrote Native American history books for school students and adults.
mprnews.org/story/2020/06/19/new-novel-relates-ojibwe-history-from-the-mouth-of-a-wolf

LEFT: Members of the Minnesota Chorale and Border CrosSing, and alumni of the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela rehearse "La Pasión según San Marcos," which rounded out the 2019 Sommerfest program by the Minnesota Orchestra. (Euan Kerr | MPR News) **MIDDLE:** Keri Pickett holds up a portrait of Village Voice director of photography Fred W. McDarrah, one of the many people she credits with helping her hone her craft. (Euan Kerr | MPR News) **RIGHT:** Reggie LeFlore uses techniques developed in street art and illustration to develop portraits. His image is one of 10 which rotated through 60 electronic billboards in the Twin Cities with messages of gratitude and love for people on the front-line of the coronavirus pandemic. (Courtesy of Hennepin Theatre Trust)

ART HOUNDS COMMUNITY IMPACT

In addition to its regular arts coverage, MPR News' Morning Edition reached out to Minnesota musicians during the stay-at-home order to share how they were doing and to play their pandemic songs for its weekly music segment. More than 40 musicians shared their thoughts and a song with us, which can be found here: mprnews.org/story/2020/05/07/sounds-of-self-quarantine-minnesota-musicians-share-how-theyre-doing-and-a-song

MPR News: Art Hounds

Art Hounds is a weekly segment on MPR News in which three people talk about arts events in Minnesota they think our listeners should check out. This serves as a way to amplify the diversity of Minnesota's rich cultural scene throughout the state. Artists and listeners tell us that Art Hounds fosters engagement, builds community, and inspires enthusiasm for the arts.

In addition to her arts reporting, Marianne Combs also produced our weekly Art Hounds segment. Her work has been enhanced by Art Hounds Ambassador Denzel Belin who helped assure that we could reach more potential Art Hounds contributors as well as engage audiences in the wider Minnesota arts scene. Belin partnered with the MN Theater Celebration Event and Four Humors to reach artists, as well as collected on-the-street Art Hounds contributions at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. He was also instrumental in the development of the new Art Hounds logo.

ART HOUNDS BY THE NUMBERS:

- Highlighted 123 different community-nominated Minnesota artists or ensembles including:

  Seven-county metropolitan area: Afton, Burnsville, Hastings, Lakeville, Minneapolis, Osseo, Roseville, St. Paul, and Stillwater.

  Greater Minnesota: Avon, Duluth, Ely, Fergus Falls, Grand Marais, Lanesboro, Mankato, Montevideo, Moorhead, New Prague, New York Mills, Northfield, Oronoco, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Joseph, Winona, Winsted, and Wykoff.

- Represented more than a dozen different arts disciplines including dance, film, improv, mixed media and multidisciplinary arts, music, opera, painting, photography, pottery, puppetry, sculpture, storytelling, theater, and writing, plus highlighted a couple of art festivals

- Maintained its commitment to statewide reach with more than one-third of artists or ensembles featured from Greater Minnesota

- Featured work in 7 of the 11 Regional Arts Council Districts as defined by the Minnesota State Arts Board

LEFT: Walking Shadow Theatre Company's John Heimbuch performs the one-man show "Beowulf" in his South Minneapolis living room. Art Hound Stephanie Richards says the ancient tale of a monster that silently attacks people in groups feels timely amidst coronavirus contamination fears. (Courtesy of John Heimbuch) **MIDDLE:** Artist-activist Seitu Jones has created a downloadable stencil kit that anyone can use to memorialize George Floyd. Art Hound Tina Tavera says she loves how Jones not only creates art, but welcomes others into the process. (Photo by Chris Larson, Second Shift Studio Space) **RIGHT:** Ashwini Ramaswamy brings her performance "Let the Crows Come" to the St. Mane Theatre in Lanesboro on Friday, March 6.

MPR Art Hounds
May 21, 2020 ·

Thanks to this week's Art Hounds!

MPRNEWS.ORG

Art Hounds: Labor Camp's daily COVID-19 reports

Plus, Art Hounds recommend two very different songs by Minnesot...

20 2 Comments 13 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant

Write a comment...

Labor Camp
Thank you MPR Art Hounds Marianne Combs and Camille J. Gage for this lovely shoutout! 👊🖤🙏

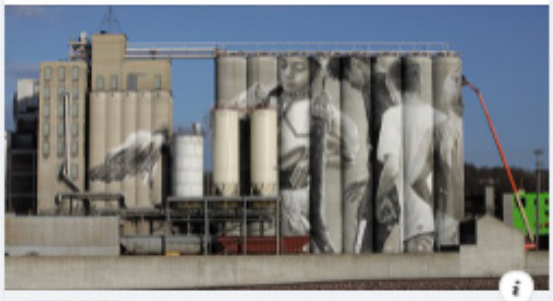
Like · Reply · 32w 1

Fires of Denmark
Thanks again for including my music!!!

Like · Reply · 32w

MPR Art Hounds
May 14, 2020 ·

Thanks to this week's Art Hounds!



MPRNEWS.ORG

Art Hounds: Mankato silos come alive in public art project

Plus, Art Hounds recommend Dakota Dave Hull's livestreamed con...

79 2 Comments 71 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant

Write a comment...

Ultan Duggan
Someone has vision,talent ,skill and a joyful imagination.

Like · Reply · 33w 1

Robyne Robinson
December 12, 2019 ·

If you didn't get your Art Hounds fix today because of the Impeachment hearings, you can listen to me talk to Marianne Combs about talk about Rosedale Mall's venture into the brave new world of Art here. Enjoy!
#fivexfivepublicartconsultants #arthounds #npr #bishopiverson #rosevillemall #emotionalequity #visualarts

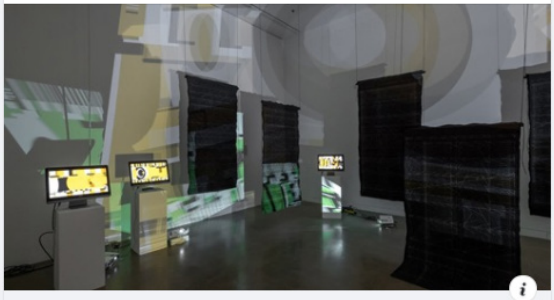
https://www.mprnews.org/.../art-hounds-who-you-are-takes...

40 10 Comments 1 Share

Like Share

Rochester Art Center
December 19, 2019 ·

Thank you MPR Art Hounds and Heather Wright from Gallery 24 for featuring current exhibiting artist Kathy McTavish and Art(ists) On The Verge 10, produced by Northern Lights.mn. Don't miss your chance to experience this innovative exhibition on view through Febraury 8, 2020!
https://www.mprnews.org/.../art-hounds-an-algorithm...



MPRNEWS.ORG

Art Hounds: An algorithm becomes sound, light — and quilts

This week on Art Hounds: Art and tech combine in "Artists on the Verge" and a zi...

24

Like Comment Share

MPR Art Hounds
April 23, 2020 ·

Thanks to this week's Art Hounds! https://www.mprnews.org/.../art-hounds-portraits-of...

MPRNEWS.ORG

Art Hounds: Portraits of essential workers

Plus, Art Hounds recommend Benjamin Percy's "Wolverine" podcas...

29 3 Comments 6 Shares

Like Comment Share

The Current

MPR's contemporary and indie rock music station, The Current, continued to support and promote Minnesota artists across its broadcast and digital services. In FY20, The Current featured 700 Minnesota artists, who received 16,541 spins for over 1,000 hours of MN music.

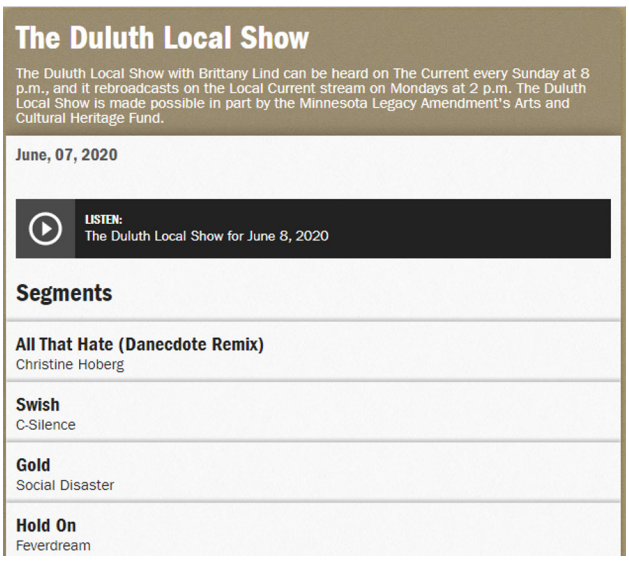
> *"The Current is one of the best radio stations in the country. They have introduced me to so many local and national artists I probably wouldn't have discovered on my own. I love supporting local artists and greatly appreciate The Current's support of local talent, both "on air" and through their 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."*

The Current: Duluth Local Show

The Duluth Local Show can be heard every Sunday at 8 p.m. and also rebroadcasts on the Local Current stream on Mondays at 2 p.m. The Duluth Local Show adheres to the same commitment as the Local Show, highlighting Minnesota-based artists but aspiring to be even more geographically focused by highlighting artists from the Arrowhead region and Greater Minnesota.

Under host Brittany Lind, who also leads operations and audience engagement efforts at our northern Minnesota stations in Ely, Grand Marais, Hibbing, Hinckley and Duluth, over the past year the Duluth Local Show played 40+ new songs from Duluth artists! A number of those songs were contributed by hip hop artist C-Silence, who was especially prolific during the stay-at-home order, both with his solo work and also with LOWH1FUNK and Boog3ym3n.

Although in-person events in the Arrowhead were not nearly what we are used to seeing, The Duluth Local Show was there to continue to promote not only the outdoor performances that did happen, but also the live-streaming events.



The Current: The Local Show

Every Sunday night from 6 to 8 p.m., listeners join host and Minnesota music powerhouse Andrea Swensson to delve into the local music scene, through songs and interviews with the artists. Musicians often share with us that they appreciate this coverage.

Among the highlights this year was The Local Show's annual back-to-school episode comprised of middle and high school artists. Loki's Folly, sisters Annie and Nissa, was featured this year. The sisters chatted about their musical beginnings and what it's like to play a 21+ show when you're under 18.

Loki's Folly at The Current (Peter Ecklund | MPR Photo)

In fall 2019, we also celebrated three artists who stopped by The Local Show to play and talk with Swensson. These studio sessions included video filmed by our multi-media associates Helen Teague and Mary Mathis.

Reina Del Cid: On the heels of releasing her album, *Morse Code*, the Minneapolis singer-songwriter stopped by the studio to play and talk about her tour with the Minnesota Music Coalition's Caravan du Nord.
thecurrent.org/feature/2019/10/29/reina-del-cid-in-studio

MaLLy: MaLLy (Malik Watkins) and DJ Last Word (Andrew Erickson) visited The Local Show to perform songs from MaLLy's new album, *The Journey To A Smile*, and talk about the rapper's own journey to living a more intentional lifestyle.
thecurrent.org/feature/2019/10/22/mally-performs-on-the-local-show

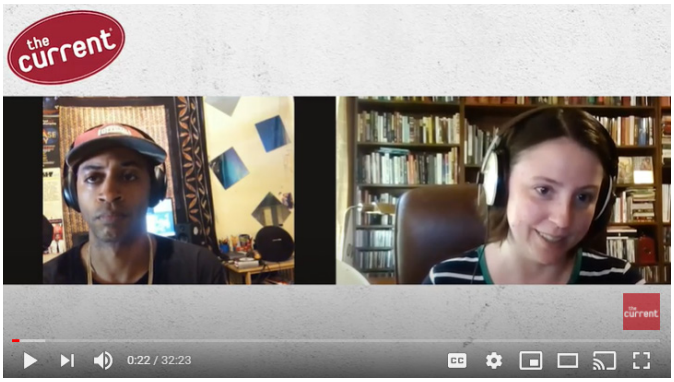
Kara Laudon: Shortly after the release of her album, *Old Lives*, Twin Cities-based singer-songwriter and her band — Steve Bosmans, guitar; Ian Allison, bass; and Reese Kling, drums — joined Swensson to chat and play music.
thecurrent.org/feature/2019/10/14/kara-laudon-performs-songs-from-old-lives-on-the-local-show

LEFT: MaLLy performs in The Current studio. (MPR Photo | Mary Mathis) **MIDDLE:** Reina Del Cid performing in The Current studio in a session for The Local Show with Andrea Swensson. (Nate Ryan | MPR) **RIGHT:** Kara Laudon - portrait at The Current (Nate Ryan | MPR)

Beginning in March 2020, listeners were looking for ways to decompress and for a soundtrack to their days during shelter-in-place. The Local Show shifted to a virtual format which had a silver lining - it opened the opportunity for Swensson to have timely, responsive interviews with members of the community during the shutdown and the Minneapolis Uprising. A few memorable ones include:

André Cymone: Minneapolis Sound legend André Cymone shared his thoughts and experiences of being black in Minnesota, particularly in light of the murder of George Floyd, as well as his hopes for the future. youtube.com/watch?v=2ny6TN81lCg

MC Longshot: Longshot talked about his participation in the first night of the protests and demonstrations throughout Minneapolis, and about how he funneled all of his subsequent emotions into a new EP, "I'm Saying." youtube.com/watch?v=t6MjrCxzrkU&t=1s



Andrea Swensson with MC Longshot.

Bob Mould: Mould, of Hüsker Dü and Sugar fame, discussed his single, "American Crisis," and his upcoming album, *Blue Hearts*, along with his thoughts about the killing of George Floyd. youtube.com/watch?v=1Ruw6SHR2NA

Andrea Swensson with Bob Mould.

Dayna Frank: Frank, First Avenue owner and longtime leader in the Minnesota music community, connected with Swensson to talk about spearheading the founding of a new association advocating for suddenly vulnerable clubs and theaters across the country in crisis as a result of the pandemic. youtube.com/watch?v=FAmRTbGczEU

Sounds Like Home

When the pandemic caused a mass shutdown of concert venues in Minnesota, The Current pivoted toward figuring out how we could continue connecting with and showcasing artists online. Our response—the Virtual Gig List and Sounds Like Home.

In March 2020, The Current began 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/genre/145/Live%20stream

Sounds Like Home was launched as a virtual multi-day festival on May 15-17. This first program featured musicians performing from their homes and talking about the effect the pandemic was having on their lives and careers. The first festival received more than 60,000 views. Participating artists included:

GULLY BOYS	DAVE SIMONETT	NUR-D	LADY LARK
FAITH BOBLETT	KARA LAUDON	DAVID HUCKFELT	CHARLIE PARR
DWYNELL ROLAND	26 BATS!	REMO DRIVE	HAR MAR SUPERSTAR
REINA DEL CID	KISS THE TIGER	SOPHIA ERIS	YAM HAUS

Sounds Like Home proved so popular that we offered a second performance on June 24, including:

MAE SIMPSON	ASHLEY DUBOSE	MAYDA	LADY MIDNIGHT
MALLY	MOLLY MAHER	BAD BAD HATS	

Together these two festivals received more than 80,000 views. Sounds Like Home sessions are archived on our YouTube channel:
youtube.com/watch?v=4HcehL4vtsw&list=PLYClJc3TpV5Jv4Kl_MTyk1Sc2X0fkj6Hu

Har Mar Superstar shared with us that participating in Sounds Like Home was the impetus for equipping himself with the audio gear needed to stream live performances from home.

The Current: Local Current featuring Digital and Multimedia Associates

Local Current is the online place for local music coverage from upcoming events to in-depth profiles and in-studio performances. Digital and multimedia associates provide content and support staff in their work for Local Current, with associates being a critical element allowing for the depth and breadth of coverage featured.

This year, The Current was able to expand the kinds of stories of Minnesota's music scene it was able to share with audiences through the work of ten different digital and multi-media associates who worked with us for parts of the year. Colleen Cowie and Simone Cazares were with us the longest. Together with Marla Khan-Schwartz, Kayla Song and Lydia Moran, they moved on to other projects in fall 2019, but not before producing several of The Current's most popular stories of 2019.

Marla Khan-Schwartz conducted a sensitive and illuminating interview with Mayte Garcia about the child she and Prince lost shortly after his birth, a story that reached over 25,000 readers. Marla also wrote a companion piece about another Minnesota couple who took solace in Prince's music during their own healing process after a pregnancy loss.
blog.thecurrent.org/2019/10/he-was-loved-and-i-still-think-about-him-mayte-garcia-reflects-on-child-loss-relaunches-charity-she-founded-with-prince/

Lydia Moran took our audience inside the highly-anticipated new Fillmore Minneapolis venue, a piece that earned nearly 10,000 readers.
blog.thecurrent.org/2019/08/take-a-look-inside-the-fillmore-minneapolis-opening-2020-in-the-north-loop/

Kayla Song uncovered the story behind a mysterious Prince mural that appeared on the Midtown Greenway in summer 2019.
blog.thecurrent.org/2019/09/where-did-that-prince-mural-on-the-midtown-greenway-come-from/

Mayte Garcia Longshot. (Photo by Fabian Benmahou)

Prince mural on the Midtown Greenway. (Jay Gabler | MPR)

Three new writers joined us at the beginning of the fiscal year: Iman Jafri, Emma Manley, Caleb Brennan. As with so many workers across the country, in the second half of the year, the pandemic created disruptions and opportunities to do things differently. While Caleb Brennan was able to continue his work with us uninterrupted, Iman Jafri slowed her involvement for a few months to attend to other responsibilities. Unfortunately, Emma Manley was unable to continue after the shift to work-from-home. This allowed us to tap the talents of another intern, Sylvia Jennings, and part-time staff member, Darby Ottoson, both of whom served in associate-like capacity.

During the spring and summer of 2020, the work of the digital associates was absolutely invaluable to be able to share information and inspiration with our audience at this extraordinarily challenging time. Hosts on The Current were interviewing artists and community members about their experiences and perspectives - first due to the pandemic and then in the wake of George Floyd's killing. Most of those interviews were able to archived and transcribed on our blog, work that was largely done by our associates. Our bloggers made it possible to reflect these essential voices on our website.

Digital associates were also instrumental in sharing information and resources with our audience around topics including supporting Black artists, community aid efforts, supporting Black-owned businesses, learning how local musicians are persevering through the pandemic, independent music venues' existential crisis, community efforts to support furloughed music venue staff, local record store closures, what a Minnesotan cruise-ship musician does when the cruises stop, and more.

In addition, they continued to blog about "normal" subjects like celebrating Prince's birthday, counting the Minnesota stars on First Avenue, discovering new local artists, the history of techno music in Minnesota, and the next Minnesota musician who might blow up nationally.

Beyond blog posts with their bylines, associates have provided key behind-the-scenes support for projects including our Sounds Like Home virtual Minnesota music festivals and our other virtual sessions.

In addition, MPR hired freelancers to supplement and cover important stories like Transgender Day of Visibility, how Minnesota musicians transitioned to virtual gigs, the storied history of a Minneapolis club that closed in the pandemic, and what it looks like when every music venue closes its doors.

The Current's multi-media associates program shifted this fiscal year, keeping on one associate through this year. Helen Teague provided essential support to projects like The Current Music News video series and social media communications from the Rock the Garden brand accounts. Teague, along with Mary Mathis, provided support for in-studio sessions for The Local Show outlined above as well as for "Dessa: The Making of Sound the Bells," described later in this report.

Microshows and Concerts

In FY20, The Current continued to sponsor live shows with local musicians, including:

Chastity Brown Microshow: Performing in August at the Fine Line in Minneapolis, Chastity Brown enthralled a small group with four new songs, plus a fan-favorite from her 2017 album *Silhouette of Sirens*.
thecurrent.org/feature/2019/11/04/watch-chastity-brown-debut-new-music-at-a-microshow-in-minneapolis

The Cactus Blossoms Microshow: Amidst festive holiday lights, a small audience gathered inside St. Paul's Virginia Street Church to be serenaded by Minneapolis-based brothers Page Burkum and Jack Torrey, along with bandmate Jacob Hanson, with songs from their 2019 album, *Easy Way*.
thecurrent.org/feature/2019/12/23/the-cactus-blossoms-microshow-performance

The Jayhawks Live In Concert at the Palace: The Current livestreamed a homecoming concert by the Jayhawks at the Palace Theatre in St. Paul, which included fan favorites from their nearly 35-year-long career, as well as outstanding music from their more recent releases, *Back Roads*, *Abandoned Motels*, and *Paging Mr. Proust*.
thecurrent.org/feature/2019/12/21/watch-the-jayhawks-live-in-concert-at-the-palace-theatre

Chastity Brown microshow.

The Cactus Blossoms perform a Microshow at St. Paul's Virginia Street Church. (Nate Ryan | MPR)

The Current: Associate Blogger Cohort Feedback

Caleb Brennan: *"My time as an associate blogger with The Current and MPR was everything as billed: great conversations with talented musicians, editorial insight from experienced colleagues, a flexible schedule, and a space to hone my craft. This opportunity not only allowed me to grow as a journalist but also granted me some pertinent credentials for future employment.*

I want to highlight the environment at The Current. It is perfect for young writers. The staff was incredibly welcoming, and being included in the MPR community makes you feel like you're on the right track—that all the work you've put towards your writing career has finally paid off. The Current is a respected source in the Twin Cities, and whenever I was out reporting, people were immediately excited to speak with me because of my association with the station. This is so important to up-and-coming journalists who may feel like they don't belong, that they're still a novice, that their voice does not matter...Thank you for including me in the MPR community!"

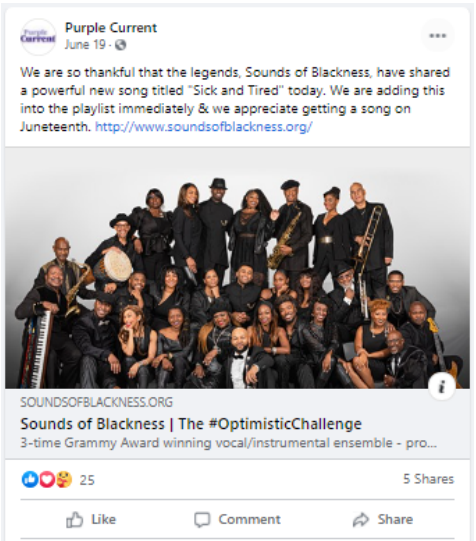
Iman Jafri: *"In this hellish year, this has really been a bright spot. I didn't know a lot about music journalism or covering music before going in [to the job], and I was kind of intimidated because I was like, 'Well, it's The Current and I grew up listening to The Current.' I feel really lucky that the space was a great environment in terms of being able to ask questions. I learned that this is something I would want to continue doing in some capacity - in terms of journalism, or music journalism, or public media...I was glad that I was able to be here and work with everybody and understand how this service is something that in normal situations, people really appreciate and rely on to add something to their lives - and especially now, during a pandemic, that we can be of service to people in a substantive capacity. Thank you so much!"*

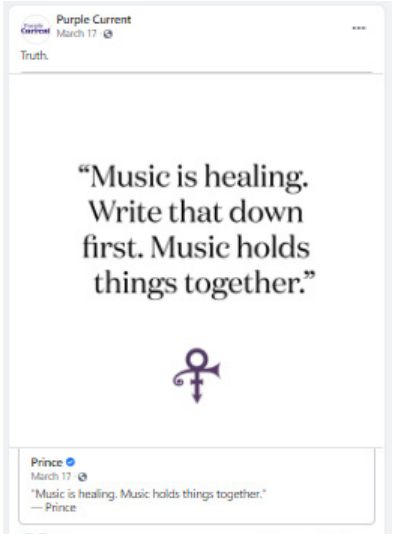
The Current Streams

Legacy support for The Current Streams provides additional opportunities to highlight the music of Minnesota musicians.

The Local Current: For those who cannot get enough of our local music scene on-air, The Local Current is a 24/7 stream dedicated entirely to musicians from Minnesota. thecurrent.org/local

The Purple Current: The Purple Current, which shares the music of Prince, those who influenced him, and those he influenced, continues to be one of our most popular streams with an engaged fan base – more than 34K listening sessions monthly. thecurrent.org/purple-current





Radio Heartland: Radio Heartland is a 24-hour stream featuring acoustic, Americana and roots music. This past year, Radio Heartland highlighted local musicians with new releases including Humbird, Barbaro, Kind Country and Jack Klatt who was signed by Yep Roc Records. thecurrent.org/heartland

Podcasts

The Current Rewind Podcast: Launched in May 2019, this podcast continued to bring listeners original reporting on Minnesota music, putting unsung stories on the map. This fiscal year included a look at: the Peters Brothers, evangelical crusaders who preached against rock throughout the 1980s; Bonnie Raitt's recording of her debut album on Lake Minnetonka; Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker, married founding members of Low, who live in northern Minnesota; and musicians combining folk traditions and newer sounds across generations.
thecurrent.org/collection/rewind/

Tou SaiK Lee (right) performs with his grandma Youa Chang. (Courtesy of Tou SaiK Lee)

The Prince Remembered Podcast: This podcast focuses on conversations The Current team has had with musicians, critics, reporters and others about Prince: his life, his music and his legacy. Across 15 new episodes this past year the podcast included interviews with legendary drummer Bobby Z of The Revolution, who talked about working for Prince and what made the 1982 album *1999* an essential masterpiece, and Sheila E., iconic drummer, singer songwriter and performer, who had a close relationship with the Purple One.
thecurrent.org/feature/2016/04/22/prince-remembered-podcast

Classical MPR: Digital Features

Digital features bring to life stories about classical music and the artists who create it from communities across the state. The Land of 10,000 Lakes has a rich tapestry of musical cultures and traditions which we highlight here: classicalmpr.org/topic/classicalminnesota

Stories produced in FY20 include:

- Leap Ensemble highlights female composers for September concerts
- For New Ulm's Morgan Creek Vineyards, classical music is the perfect wine pairing
- Mankato Symphony Orchestra celebrates legacy of 'Betsy-Tacy' stories
- Marshall High School Marching Band hits all the right notes
- African Children's Choir provides life-changing experience for performers and audiences alike
- Celebrating the legacy of Minnesota's real-life 'Music Man'
- Minnesota composer Tensae Fayise goes back to her Ethiopian roots for Cedar Commissions
- Israeli-American composer Anat Spiegel's 'My Four Mothers' premieres at Cedar Commissions
- Minnesota musicians embrace new musical ventures and adventures amid pandemic
- Virtual studio classes bring University of Minnesota percussion students together
- Virtual unison: Capri Glee! carries on(line) with a community of voices

One of our features this year highlighted the Marshall High School Marching Band, where 20 percent of the students are in marching band. We timed this story to run before the state marching band championship.

LEFT: Students in Marshall High School's Marching Band perform and practice. (Marshall Independent) **RIGHT:** Composer Tensae Fayise's work was performed as part of the Cedar Commissions. (Hector E. Roberts)

New this year, Classical MPR also produced videos as part of Classical Digital Features, focusing on Cantus, Minnesota' internationally-renowned men's vocal ensemble. Videos produced included "She's Leaving Home" by the Beatles and "You Will be Found" from the hit Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

"You Will Be Found": youtube.com/watch?v=xdJz6XCRmYw

In October, Classical MPR also launched a new broadcast project, Project DJ. Classical host Steve Staruch welcomes young performers, 14 to 24, to join him as co-host on Friday Favorites. Participants are interviewed on-air, introduce a few requests and share their favorite performances.

Choral Works Initiative and Regional Recordiings

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.

In addition, Classical MPR's broadcast operations team is able to make performances around the state available to music lovers. In FY20, they recorded performances in Brainerd, Duluth, Northfield, St. Michael, Winona, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. This year's recordings included Winona's nationally renowned Minnesota Beethoven Festival as well as the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra Beethoven project, Voces 8 in St. Michael, Lakes Area Music Fest in Brainerd, the nationally broadcast St. Olaf Christmas Festival, as well as regional and national broadcasts of the Minnesota Orchestra and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO).

> *"This evening March 13th 2020, I've been so delighted to listen to the live broadcast of the Minnesota Orchestra. Knowing they had only about 12 people in the physical audience, I want all of them to know how much their music has brightened my own self-imposed isolation during this time of Covid19 virus fear. Thank you, thank you!"*

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA MUSIC EDUCATION

Class Notes Artists

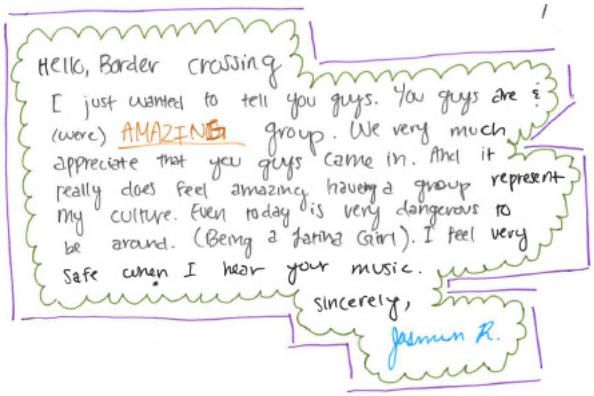
Class Notes is a music education program of Classical MPR designed to engage and inspire elementary students through live musical performance. The program partners with Minnesota musicians who go into K-12 schools across the state to perform and deliver curricula tied to Minnesota's state standards.

We were able to complete most of our Class Notes visits as planned, quickly adapting for robust digital experiences in March 2020. From September 2019 through June 2020, Class Notes Artists made 353 visits to 163 Minnesota elementary and middle schools representing 27 counties, for a total audience of approximately 28,400 students.

Twelve ensembles/musicians worked with us this year. Additional information can be found here: classicalmpr.org/story/2019/09/22/2019-20-class-notes-artists

Artu Duo's program featured music for cello and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven in honor of the 250th anniversary of his birth.

Border CrosSing presented music from all over Latin America, spanning 400 years of history.



Border CrosSing Students make the sign for "amo" ("I love") in a song from Venezuela called "Alma Llanera," about cowboys loving, crying, singing and dreaming about their cowboy land. (Courtney Perry)

Concordia Wind Quintet presented "Let's Dance Around the World," a lively program of dance music featuring flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn which introduces how the instruments sound, and how they produce their sounds.

Flying Forms performed baroque music from Italy, France, Germany and England on original instruments.

Gaelynn Lea demonstrated her unique style of playing that she invented with the help of her middle school orchestra teacher. Lea was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, and so she performs holding her violin upright like a tiny cello.

Lux String Quartet provided students with a snapshot view of a "rehearsal" and dramatized the ideas of teamwork and collaboration as they occur naturally in practice.

Mestifonía is a four-person ensemble, composed of voice, guitar, cello and percussion. They create awareness of the cultural significance of Ibero-American music.

Mill City String Quartet, which focuses on classic and new chamber music, worked with high school orchestras.

Mirandola Ensemble, a professional choral ensemble dedicated to the idea of choral music as 'high art' in the Western tradition, worked with high school choirs.

OK Factor empowered general music students to explore their musical voices as a classroom, and how each of them individually has the creative power to improvise and compose.

Siama's Congo Roots' energetic and highly interactive program exemplifies the joyful, participatory nature of African music and culture.

Sprig of That combined fiddle-folk flavors, classical virtuosity and world rhythmic textures in a naturally acoustic blend by introducing tempo, balance, and musical imagery.

LEFT: Border CrosSing performs at a school. (Courtney Perry | MPR) **MIDDLE:** Gaelynn Lea. (Monika Lawrence) **RIGHT:** Siama's Congo Roots. (MPR | Courtney Perry)

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

"Class Notes provides music educators with another tool in the classroom to make music alive and real outside of the classroom experience. Many students do not see much as a part of their lives after school…Class Notes allows students of all cultures, income levels, and abilities to experience a hands-on musical performance. My students absolutely loved it!"
- Music teacher from Centerville Elementary in Blaine

"I was filled with joy to watch my students faces - wide eyed, mouths open…This group held their attention for the full 55 minutes. The kids are rushing up to me in groups to talk about how much they loved them."
- Music teacher from Whittier Elementary in south Minneapolis

"Students AND staff really loved the concert. I loved that we were provided guided lesson plans to familiarize the students with what exactly the concert would be about. We are so appreciative that this high-quality, free concert was available - thank you!"
- Music teacher from Bonner Elementary in Stewartville

Class Notes Videos and Curricula

For many years, the Classical MPR web site has offered supporting videos and curricula, which includes lesson plans and activities, free of charge, to increase resources for teachers and parents. Every year, our team strives to add one or two videos to increase resources for teachers and parents. With the stay-at-home order in March, we quickly pivoted to putting many additional resources online. A silver lining was a significant uptick in nationwide (and even global) access to this free, online programming. These two virtual Class Notes virtual concerts showcase the breadth of what we were able to offer:

Siama's Congo Roots: classicalmpr.org/story/2020/04/25/classical-kids-music-lessons-class-notes-concert-featuring-siamas-congo-roots

Concordia Wind Quintet: classicalmpr.org/story/2020/04/21/classical-kids-music-lessons-class-notes-concert-featuring-concordia-wind-quintet

Class Notes Residencies

Class Notes residencies differ from concerts in that they are series of repeat visits. Residencies are the "next step" from the Class Notes concerts. Designed for middle or high school students participating in orchestra or choir, each residency develops skills and is customized to the unique needs of the partner program. FY20 residencies include:

Mirandola Ensemble partnered with St. Paul Highland Park and Mound Westonka high school vocal groups.

Border CrosSing coached Minneapolis South and St. Paul Harding high school vocal groups.

Mill City String Quartet coached students at Park Center and Washburn high schools on string quartet projects. The Quartet also created our first virtual residency program for Buffalo Middle School in partnership with MPR's education team and the Buffalo middle school string director. Each member of the quartet made a set of six sequential customized videos for their instrument, so there are 24 videos total.

LIVE EVENTS EXPERIENCES

Classical MPR: Bring the Sing

Now in its fourth year, Classical MPR's Bring the Sing is a popular and joyous community choral event series. Bring the Sing events have harmonized around the state — from Moorhead to Minneapolis, Duluth to Rochester, and points in between — attracting voices of all abilities for an experience that is part sing-along and part choral workshop.

Bring the Sing State Fair: Bring the Sing made its second annual appearance at the Minnesota State Fair. Minnesota-based vocal ensemble Cantus lead this year's sing-along, performing several of its own pieces and leading hundreds of fairgoers in songs from favorite musicals (*The Sound of Music* and *Oklahoma!*), traditional American songs, and a number of familiar pop tunes including hits by David Bowie, Joni Mitchell and John Lennon.

Classical MPR and The Current

Bring the Sing Solstice

Classical MPR and The Current teamed up for our second Bring the Sing Solstice on December 21, 2019, partnering with the Loppet Foundation. More than 1,000 music lovers gathered at Theo Wirth Park in Minneapolis to sing carols of the season and celebrate the longest night of the year with their fellow singers. Performers included Cameron Kinghorn and his band, Jerry Rubino, Dan Newton, Kith & Kin Chorus, and the Twin Cities Beer Choir.

People of all ages enjoyed activities indoors and out, including bonfire, stories from Classical Kids Storytime with Scott Blankenship, dancing and of course lots of holiday singing to spread joy and light.

Bring the Sing was held on the winter solstice in 2019 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis, Minn. (James Napoli | APM)

Classical MPR, The Current and MPR News

Bring the Sing Home

The Stay-at-Home order inspired a new Bring the Sing collaboration across all three MPR Services. At the suggestion of Jane Ramseyer, Artistic Director of One Voice Mixed Chorus, MPR organized Bring the Sing Home, a series of statewide virtual sing-alongs of unifying songs which aired simultaneously on Friday evenings across Classical MPR, The Current, and MPR News. Songs were also accessible through streaming.

Bring the Sing Home inspired families and neighbors to join with their peers across Minnesota in five group sings over two months reaching a broadcast listenership of more than 13,000 each week and more than 200,000 through social media.

SONGS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

April 17: “You’ve Got a Friend”

April 24: “Lean on Me” Bill Withers

May 1: “Here Comes the Sun” by the Beatles.

May 8: “What a Wonderful World”

May 15: “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”

Here's what one participant had to say about her experience:

> *"I was ready when it was time to sing with my Minnesota neighbors today at 5:57 PM. My husband and I live up on Sturgeon Lake, about 40 miles south of Duluth, and it is very quiet at this time of year, and especially while we obeyed the Stay Home order…Steve Staruch told us it was time, and then Carol King's music filled our living room, and echoed out over the silvery lake, newly freed from ice. This song is the soundtrack of my youth and I know every word and inflection. My voice sounded stronger than I expected, and I lost my inhibitions and sang my heart out. The wood ducks, dabbling at the mouth of our little creek, paddled closer to the house as I sang! The words filled my heart with emotions and my mind with happy and poignant memories, and for a moment, I could not make any sound come out of my mouth. But I wanted to sing with everyone, so I took a deep breath, and gave in to the music. It was over so quickly, but it felt so important. And the tears came to my eyes and I ran into the kitchen and had a good cry. I had not shed one tear since this whole pandemic engulfed our lives, but this helped me to do it, in a good way… MPR is my constant companion when I sew or cook or write letters. But today, it let me know I've got a real friend in it, too. This was perfect medicine, MPR…Thank you so very much for bringing us together with music and caring. We needed it!"*

The Current

Rock the Cradle

Our 15th annual Rock the Cradle event brought together nearly 7,000 kids and their grownups for a day of exploring music, arts and culture on Sunday, March 8. Activities take place across The Minneapolis Institute of Art and Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

Rock the Cradle offers a mix of fun activities for people of all ages to inspire creativity. It's hard to choose from yearly favorites like Kids' Disco Dance Party with Twinkle the mascot or Pop Up Story Time featuring read alouds from The Current's DJs. But there is always something for everyone. FY20 activities included: art-making with Mia; scratching, mixing, beat-making with DJ Kool Akiem; identifying bird feathers with the Bell Museum; baseball with the Saint Paul Saints; hands-on music and movement with MacPhail Center for Music; building paper houses with SALA Architects; or pop-up performances from 123 Balloonz. Of course, the main attraction is always live music, which this year was provided by The Jolly Pops, a group of dads who play child-friendly rock, Siama's Congo Roots, which features African music and culture, and Katy Vernon, known as the Ukelele songbird.

LEFT: Dancing in the kids' disco at Rock the Cradle 2020. **MIDDLE:** Making crafts at Rock the Cradle 2020. **RIGHT:** The Jolly Pops perform at Rock the Cradle 2020. (All photos Helen Teague | MPR)

Staff from Classical MPR and Call to Mind, MPR's mental health initiative, were also on hand to join in the fun. In addition to sponsoring Siama Congo Roots, Classical MPR hosted Classical Kids Storytime, classic tales read live and animated with beautiful illustrations by Nancy Carlson. Call to Mind offered CalmConnect, is a sensorimotor multimedia program designed to calm the mind and body.

This year's event was co-presented by Children's Minnesota and many other sponsors in addition to those named above —Pizza Luce, the YWCA Minneapolis, and All Energy Solar — which offered a range of activities designed to get kids actively learning, moving and creating.

We were particularly happy to be able to share Rock the Cradle 2020 as it marked MPR's final FY20 live event, occurring just weeks before Minnesota's official stay at home order. The first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in Minnesota two days before the event.

The Making of Sound the Bells

MPR collaborated with Dessa, Minnesota Orchestra artists, and a handful of local vocal talent to produce “Dessa: The Making of Sound the Bells” as an event, radio program (episode of The Local Show) and video series: thecurrent.org/feature/2019/11/05/dessa--the-making-of-sound-the-bells

In spring 2019, Dessa and the Grammy-winning Minnesota Orchestra joined forces to record *Sound the Bells*, an epic album (and live show) full of rap bangers, infectious pop songs, tragic ballads, costume changes, and a little Bach.

Dessa - The Making of ‘Sound The Bells’ (MPR Graphic)

This was an ambitious project and MPR jumped at the chance to collaborate with Dessa and the Minnesota Orchestra to help pull back the curtain on how it was put together.

On September 18, 2019, MPR partnered to host a live event/recording at Orchestra Hall that helped reveal the process through stories, images, and live performance. The recording is a fascinating view into the creative process featuring conversations between the collaborators, live demos from a keyboard and beat machine and a handful of live performances featuring a string quartet of Minnesota Orchestra players, Dessa, and four vocalists.

The distribution of this content through our social media channels resulted in wide acclaim, including a retweet and praise by Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of *Hamilton*.

PRESERVING MINNESOTA'S HISTORY

MPR Archive

Legacy funds continue to play an invaluable role in preserving Minnesota's history, through MPR's audio files from the last 50+ years. While FY20 presented unique challenges, our advanced technology and talented audio engineers allowed us to keep working on digitizing and presenting our broadcast audio archives after outfitting our team with at-home studios and connectivity.

In FY20, 2,092 new audio files were added to our archive database. This includes more than 500 files from George Floyd's killing and protest coverage from late spring 2020. We also greatly enhanced our Archive public portal, improving site design, adding metadata updates behind the scenes, as well as context and contributor information. These improvements to make the site more easily searchable, together with social outreach, is part of our effort to increase the reach of Archive content to a broader audience.

Here are some of the diverse stories published to our Archive portal this year that represent Minnesota's rich history:

Al's Breakfast in Dinkytown is a twenty year institution - 1973

Interview with Paul Stark, co-founder of Twin/Tone Records - 1985

Minnesota Twins fans and their superstitions - 1987

Fish Herding - 1986

The Kato Ballroom turns 50 years old - 2004

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis's Flyte Tyme moving to Los Angeles - 2004

John Camp wins Pulitzer Prize - 1986

Welfare of J.E.C. v. State - 1975

First Friday: Stepin Fetchet / Trend-watching / Can poetry matter? / Barn poetry / Stress of racism / Who music serves / Snowboarding terms / Thank You, M'am / Minor league baseball stadiums - 1993

Profile of Minnesota Twin's 1978 Opening Day - 1978

LEFT: Paul Stark, founder of Twin Tone Records in Minneapolis, the Mats' first label. (MPR Photo | Chris Roberts) **MIDDLE:** Jimmy Jam, right, laughs next to his musical partner Terry Lewis. (Evan Frost | MPR News) **RIGHT:** Seitu Jones, performance artist featured on First Friday.(Lisa Oyolu)

The MPR Archive provides audio to the MPR Newsroom on a regular basis; much of it is broadcast as a whole program – for MPR News Presents, primarily – but much of it is used as reference for programs they are preparing, interviews they are conducting and fact-checking. For example, early in FY20 the Newsroom ran a series on misinformation and propaganda that they relied on archival content to showcase the history of propaganda in politics.

The MPR Archives also provide reference points for the Classical and Current teams when they are looking for audio (or photo) documentation when significant events occur, specifically anniversaries or deaths. Below is just a small sampling of occasions when archival content appeared on our airwaves:

Audio from "Postcards from a Lynching" featured in a discussion of the **100th anniversary of the Duluth lynching on MPR News with Angela Davis**.

A 2002 documentary by former MPR reporter Dan Olson, "Sister Kenny and the Polio Epidemic."

Eric Holder and John Lewis keynote addresses on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with archival audio of John Lewis in 2006.

The MPR Archive is also contacted – often weekly – by outside researchers, authors, performers and others for access to our archival content for work they are doing, including recent requests for content related to The Minnesota History Theater, protests in the skyway regarding handicap accessibility in 1974, and Penumbra Theater's long running *Black Nativity*.

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA'S PUBLIC MEDIA ECOSYSTEM

Low Power FM Training and Outreach Initiative

Legacy funding helped support a collaborative training project to help build new skills and knowledge for low power and community radio so we can have a more vibrant open media community. Originally planned as an in-person training, participants were appreciative of our pivot to virtual trainings, which took place over five sessions in June. Providing this training through webinars meant we were able to record all of the sessions so folks can go back and watch or share with staff who were not able to attend.

Sessions included "Hosting Your Show," "Adapting to COVID-19," "Audio Editing" (with both beginner and advanced tracks), and "LPFM Financial Management." Trainers represented a mix of MPR and LPFM and AMPERS staff. We had 65 participants from 22 low power FM and AMPERS community radio stations. This demonstrated great engagement given that most of the low power FM stations only have one full-time permanent staff and the rest of the station staff are volunteers.

Brendan Kelly, former Station Manager for KRSM 98.9 LPFM and independent Low Power FM Media Consultant, who served as a trainer.

Feedback from participants and trainers was overwhelmingly positive:

> *"The support you are providing to your local LPFMs is really wonderful and deeply impactful. I know that there are so many LPFM stations around the country that yearn for the kind of support and interconnection between stations that you all are enjoying in Minnesota."*
> - Will Floyd, Board Member, Prometheus Radio Project

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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VICE-CHAIR Dave Murphy
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TREASURER Larry Berger
SECRETARY Liwanag Ojala

TRUSTEES

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Senior Partner, McKinsey & Co.

Wendy Bennett (2015)
Consultant to Foundations in Global Health

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

Mary Brainerd (2014)
Former CEO, HealthPartners Inc.

Julie Causey (2017)
Chairman Emeritus, Western Bank

Jim Dwyer (2013)
President & CEO, 8th Ave Food & Provisions

Ivan Fong (2014)
Senior VP, Legal Affairs &
General Counsel 3M Corporation

Sid Gandhi (2019)
SVP, Chief Strategy & Ent. Tech. Officer,
Securian Financial Group

Sima Griffith (2017)
Managing Principal, Aethlon Capital LLC

Shawntera Hardy (2019)
Founder & Chief Strategy Officer
PolicyGrounds Consulting

Kandace Heck (2020)
EVP, Chief Audit Executive, U.S. Bank

Libby Hlavka (2017)
President, Driscoll Foundation

Kenneth Holmen, MD (2018)
President & CEO, CentraCare Health

Omar Ishrak (2016)
Executive Chairman &
Chairman of the Board, Medtronic Inc

Rick King (2011)
Managing Director, Thomson Reuters

Jonathan Low (2014)
Predictiv Consulting

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

Jon R. McTaggart (2011)
President & CEO, American Public Media Group

Dave Murphy (2012)
Retired President & CEO, Red Wing Shoe Co.,Inc.

Drew Murphy (2020)
SVP, Strategy & Corporate Development
Edison International

Liwanag Ojala (2016)
CEO, CaringBridge

Nii-Ayite Quaye (2016)
VP, Vermilion Group, M.A. Mortenson Companies

Marianne D.Short (2017)
EVP & Chief Legal Officer, UnitedHealth Group

Patricia S. Simmons, M.D. (2014)
Executive Medical Director &
Health Policy Emeritus, Mayo Clinic

Jean Taylor (2013)
Board Chair, StarTribune

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)

Karin L. Larson (2002-2014)
Ret. Chair, Capital International Research, Inc.

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

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

HONORARY LIFE TRUSTEES

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

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Bill H. Kling (1973-2011)

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

Minnesota Public Radio Financial Report Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)					
FY20	**1st Quarter**	**2nd Quarter**	**3rd Quarter**	**4th Quarter**	**Total**
Salary & Benefits	268,537.14	302,724.69	271,728.87	296,958.46	1,139,949.16
Contracted Services	24,258.64	67,760.16	47,240.62	74,782.80	214,042.22
Marketing & Advertising	7,170.53	17,117.20	17,121.83	62,849.07	104,258.63
Production & Supplies	885.14	8,441.76	4,774.06	11,832.82	25,933.78
Digital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	230.78	243.60	32.46	10.00	516.84
	301,082.23	396,287.41	340,897.84	446,433.15	1,484,700.63

Details and Outcomes
Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

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
Highlighting Minnesota Artists *Please see detailed breakdown for MPR News, The Current, Classical MPR, and Real Time Program Opportunities appended to this chart.* *Achieved all of the outcomes*	10.69 (FY20)	Stream Requests Web Page Views On-Air Listeners (estimated weekly cume for Legacy-funded shows only)	Actual FY19: 727,031 Actual FY20: 1,743,700 Actual FY19: 1,023,725 Actual FY20: 1,488,341 Actual FY19: 50,000 (combined number)* Actual FY20: 40,000+ (MPR News)* 13,000+ (Classical MPR)* 12,000+ (The Current) * *Approximate
Supporting Music Education for Minnesota Students *Achieved all of the outcomes*	1.075 (FY20)	Students Reached Minnesota Artists Engaged Schools/Districts Participating Minnesota Counties Served Classroom Hours Digital Impressions	Projected: 26,500 Actual FY20: 28,492 Projected: 11 (groups) Actual FY20: 13 groups with 46 artists Projected: 125/70 Actual FY20: 163/75 Projected: 35 Actual FY20: 27 documented (additional geographic digital reach after March was not able to be tracked by county) Projected: 250 Actual FY20: 353 Web Page Views: 125,000 Video Views: 261,000 Unique visitors: 97,000
Live Events/Arts Access Includes Bring the Sing and Rock the Cradle *Achieved all of the outcomes*	1.443 (FY20)	Live Events Minnesota Artists Engaged *(NOTE: This does not include Class Notes Artists.)* Event Attendees	Projected (rev. for Covid-19): 2 Actual FY20: 2 Projected (rev. for Covid-19): 20 Actual FY20: 58 Projected (rev. for Covid-19): 5,500 Actual FY20: 8,800 (Bring the Sing State Fair and Solstice as well as Rock the Cradle)
Preserving MN History *Achieved all of the outcomes*	1.125 (FY20)	Stories Digitized Stories Accessible via Public Portal	Actual FY18-19: 2,006 (total biennium) Actual FY20: 2,092 new audio files added to Archive database 40+ stories added,100+ existing stories updated with additional metadata, etc.
Supporting Minnesota's Public Media Ecosystem Low Power FM Training and Outreach Initiative (New) *Achieved all of the outcomes*	0.125 (FY20)	Training Attendees Digital Access	Actual FY20: 65 (22 low power FM and AMPERS community radio stations) 6 Virtual Trainings created

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MPR News: The Changing Face of Minnesota: Told through Arts and Culture Workplan Details Includes MPR News Arts Coverage and Art Hounds *Achieved all of the outcomes*	2.04 (FY20) Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists	Number of Broadcasts Number of Digital Stories Number of Minnesota Artists/ Ensembles/Arts Organizations Covered Number of Cities Featured **Art Hounds:** % of Greater MN Communities On-Air Listenership Downloads Web Page Views Social Media Followers	102 stories/143 with repeat broadcasts 109 (many broadcast stories are also digital) 207 31 39% 40,700/week 2,380/month (Art Hounds podcast) 8.170/month 9,200 followers (Facebook, Twitter)
Classical MPR Workplan Details Includes Regional Recordings, Classical Digital Features, and the Choral Works initiative (with the Choral Stream and Bring the Sing) *Achieved all of the outcomes*	2.51 (FY20) Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists	**Regional Recordings:** On-Air Listeners **Classical MPR Online:** Web Page Views: Diversity in Stories (Geographic and Communities Represented) **Choral Works Initiative:** Streaming Requests (Choral Stream): Live Event Participants (Bring the Sing State Fair, Solstice) **Bring the Sing Home** (all 3 services) On-Air Listeners Web Page Views Social Media Reach	 12,900/week (Minnesota Orchestra) 8,600/week (SPCO) 13,500/week (Project DJ) In addition, Weekend Picks was woven into John Birge's regular CMPR broadcast, which reached 63,000/week 740/month (Digital Features) 520/month (Weekend Picks ran October 2019 through March 2020) Of 12 Digital Features published, 25% were from Greater Minnesota and 40% featured BIPOC and/or women musicians 38,600/month 2,000 (also represented in Live Events) 6,800 (Classical MPR), 13,400 (MPR News), 11,200 (The Current) 107,000+ (overall Bring the Sing) 200,000

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The Current Workplan Details 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 *Achieved all of the outcomes*	6.14 (FY20) Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists	**The Local Shows:** On-Air Listeners Podcast Downloads Video Views % Devoted to New/Emerging MN Artists **The Current Streams**: Local Current Stream Requests Video Views Purple Current Stream Requests Video Views Radio Heartland Stream Request Video Views **Digital Current:** The Current Blog Web Page Views The Current Podcasts The Current Rewind Downloads Prince Remembered Downloads Sounds Like Home Video Views Web Page Views Social Media Reach **Digital Associates:** Each Associate Led One Larger Project	Overall, in FY20 The Current played 700 Minnesota artists who received 16,541 spins for over 1,000 hours of music. 12,800/week (The Local Show) 400/week (The Local Show Duluth) 534 (total) 1,360/month 60% 9,430/month 4,218/month 34,254/month 7,388/month 63,068/month 21,728/month 76,296/month 7,057 (total) 40,166 (total) 84,000 (total) 17,886 (total) 183,081(total) Yes. Digital Associates contributed writing and/or photo/videography to 175+ Local Current Blog posts and other projects
Real-Time Program Opportunities Workplan Details "Dessa: The Making of Sound the Bells" *Achieved all of the outcomes*	0 (FY20) Reflected above under Highlighting MN Artists	Number of Events Artists Employed Geographies Represented Services Supported Audience Live Event Attendees On-Air (aired on The Current's Local Show) Downloads Video Views	1 8 Minneapolis Classical MPR/The Current 200 3,700 (aired on The Local Show) 437 (total) 12,921 (total)

Sources for outcomes listed above and cited throughout report:

- Listenership data © Nielsen Audio, 2019-2020, Persons 6+.
- Page view data from Google Analytics, 2019-2020.
- Stream request data from Triton Digital, 2019-2020.
- Video views from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube, 2019-2020.