Patterns

DECEMBER 2026

Friends of WILL Membership Magazine

Happy Holidays



SEE PAGE 1

ILLINOIS PUBLIC MEDIA

College of Media
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Membership Hotline: 800-898-1065
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Patterns
Friends of WILL Membership Magazine
Editor & Designer: Doris Dahl
Art Director: Kurt Bielema

RADIO

90.9 FM
Illinois Classical is a mix of classical and other music and NPR information programs, including local news. Also with live streaming on will.illinois.edu. *See pages 4–6.*

101.1 FM
Illinois Soul is a mix of Black-hosted NPR and local news programs, smooth jazz, neo soul, R&B, and throwback jams. 101.1 FM is available in the Champaign-Urbana area. It is also heard on 90.9 FM HD2 with live streaming on illinoissoul.org. *See pages 6–7.*

580 AM
News and information, NPR, BBC, agriculture, talk shows. Also heard on 90.9 FM HD3 with live streaming on will.illinois.edu. *See page 8.*

TELEVISION

WILL-HD
All your favorite PBS and local programs, in high definition when available. 12.1: Contact your cable or satellite provider for channel information. Also live streaming at will.illinois.edu. *See pages 1–3 and 9–16.*

WILL Kids 24/7
Around the clock, award-winning children's programming. 12.2: also available on Comcast and Mediacom. Stream at will.illinois.edu.

WILL Create
Cooking, travel, home improvement, arts and crafts, and gardening.12.3: also on Comcast and Mediacom. Stream at video.will.illinois.edu/livestream/.

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Patterns

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The past 18 months have brought drastic changes to the public media landscape, prompting us to consider where Illinois Public Media is headed and how we can best serve central Illinois. One thing has become clear: Our Future Is Local.

We're putting renewed energy into local journalism, programming, and community engagement. The two regional Emmy Awards **Prairie Fire** recently received recognize the talent behind our programming. We're building on this achievement as we create distinctive local content and tell stories you won't find anywhere else. That work includes **Dialogue: Next Gen**, a video podcast that gives high school students a platform to discuss the issues shaping their lives, and our revamped **Prairie Performances**, which shares regional classical and jazz performances and showcases musicians from our region.

Our connections to PBS and NPR will always remain core to who we are, bringing journalism, educational resources, and entertainment to our audiences. But what will continue to distinguish IPM is the work we do locally through IPM News, WILL-TV, WILL-AM, Illinois Classical, Illinois Soul, and our engagement activities.

Building this new future requires resources. Illinois Public Media continues to operate without the $1.5 million in federal funding eliminated last year. That loss impacts our operations and requires choices about how we use available resources.

An additional year-end gift from you would help us close that gap and continue building a future centered on local journalism, programming, and community connections. You can make your gift at willgive.org or use the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for continuing to be part of Illinois Public Media. We're proud of what we're building in central Illinois and grateful to have you with us.

With warm wishes for the holiday season,
John Steinbacher, executive director for advancement and administration

P.S. I hope you'll join us on Dec. 17 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum for a screening of the premiere episode of season 7 of **All Creatures Great and Small**. See page 19.



At right, licensed psychologist Dr. Dynesha Grissom discusses issues of interest to teen cast members in the 'Dialogue: Next Gen' podcast studio.

Local teens take the mic

HOW 'DIALOGUE: NEXT GEN' CAME TO LIFE

A new video podcast seeks to bring more young voices to central Illinois audiences by providing them a platform to discuss issues that are important to them. **Dialogue: Next Gen** is hosted and largely shaped by teenagers. The program premieres on Illinois Soul and WILL-AM 580 this month with segments also airing on WILL-TV and our YouTube channel (see schedule below).

"At its core, **Dialogue: Next Gen** is an investment in the next generation," said Bridget Lewis, supervising producer. "We want teens to feel heard, valued, and empowered to contribute to conversations about their communities and the world around them. By connecting students with experienced journalists, educators, and mentors, we are helping cultivate curiosity, confidence, and social responsibility that can last a lifetime."

WATCH or LISTEN

WILL-TV 7 pm Thursday, Dec. 10, 17 & 24

Illinois Soul FM 101.1

- 11 am Saturday, Dec. 12, 19, & 26
- 6 pm Tuesday, Dec. 15, 22, and 29

WILL-AM 580

- 9 pm on Saturday, Dec. 12, 19, & 26
- 8 pm Wednesday, Dec. 16, 23, & 30

STREAM

Illinois Public Media YouTube channel, IllinoisSoul.org, and Illinois Soul's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Sheila Johnson

The idea came about when University of Illinois distinguished alumna Sheila Johnson visited Illinois Public Media in April 2024. The 1970 music education graduate cofounded BET network, where she created "Teen Summit," a weekly program that featured teens interviewing news makers such as then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and discussing topics like teen pregnancy and HIV. Johnson also is CEO of Salamander Collection, a portfolio of luxury hotels and resorts, and owner/partner of several professional sports teams. She met with Jill Clements, Illinois Soul station cofounder and manager; Reginald Hardwick, IPM director of news and public affairs; and other IPM staff members.



From left, Bridget Sims Lewis, 'Dialogue: Next Gen' supervising producer; Reginald Hardwick, IPM director of news and public affairs; and Jill Clements, Illinois Soul co-founder and station manager, are creating a space for teens to discuss topics that are important to their generation.

The result of that collaboration was **Dialogue: Next Gen**, which is an extension of Illinois Soul's news and public affairs program called **Dialogue**. With a generous gift from Johnson, IPM hired Lewis as supervising producer and transformed an existing studio into a modern podcast studio with lighting, cameras, and sound equipment. Local partners Champaign County Community Coalition and Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation helped find eight teens from Central, Centennial, and Urbana high schools for timely and relevant discussions. Topics have included endless phone scrolling, excellence in competitive sports, youth violence, excellence in musicianship, and what parents don't understand about their generation.

Exploring Kwanzaa, Black history, and African American culture



■ Honoring the heritage, unity, culture, and rich contributions of African Americans, Kwanzaa is more than just a celebration. It's a way of life. **Cultural Expressions: Kwanzaa** explores the seven principles that are the foundation of Kwanzaa by sharing seven real-life stories of impact. These stories reveal how each principle plays a role in the Black community, and are enhanced by cultural elements of dance, storytelling, music, and spoken word. **Cultural Expressions: Kwanzaa** airs at 10:30 pm Friday, Dec. 11.

■ Presented by Henry Louis Gates Jr., **Gospel Live!** is a one-of-a-kind musical celebration that honors the legacy and influence of gospel music in America. Contemporary artists join celebrated gospel singers to perform their favorite gospel classics. A companion to the series **GOSPEL**, it includes secular and gospel artists singing their favorite gospel classics. **Gospel Live! presented by Henry Louis Gates Jr.** airs at 9:30 pm Friday, Dec. 11.

■ There are few historical figures whose life and work speak to the current moment more than Ida B. Wells, the 19th-century crusading investigative journalist, civil rights leader, and passionate suffragist. **Ida B. Wells: American Stories**, a revealing biography by her great-granddaughter, airs at 3 pm Wednesday, Dec. 16.

■ After the American Civil War, more than four million formerly enslaved people were set free, but most had no place to go. Many formed Freedom Colonies in an endeavor to live as far away from the racism of Jim Crow as possible. **Raise Your Head Up: Freedom Colonies in America** is the culmination of a decades-long project that followed the descendants of four of these communities. The film airs at 3 pm Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Celebrating and exploring Hanukkah and other Jewish traditions



■ Join us for a heartwarming, nostalgic, and humorous exploration of Hanukkah. **A Celebration of Hanukkah** explores the time-honored traditions of this joyous Jewish holiday as host Geoffrey Baer shares the holiday's origin, the significance of its cherished dishes, and how families celebrate together across generations. In addition, Baer provides an overview of Hanukkah in popular culture, weaving in personal memories. He also tries his hand at creating seasonal culinary delights while connecting the dishes to Hanukkah's history. **A Celebration of Hanukkah** airs at 3:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 6 and at 8 pm Monday, Dec. 7.

■ Direct from kitchens across America, **Family Recipe: Jewish American Style** uncovers the personal stories and the history behind the mouthwatering home-cooked meals. From the tang of Iraqi kubbeh soup to the richness of Ethiopian red lentil stew to the comfort of Eastern European blintzes, Jewish American food is as varied as it is tasty. Enjoy a feast for the senses and the soul as we embark on a historical, genealogical, and culinary journey through the Jewish American diaspora. **Family Recipe: Jewish American Style** airs at 2 pm Sunday, Dec. 6 and at 9:30 pm Monday, Dec. 7.

Celebrate with the Tabernacle Choir



A treasured annual special returns for its 23rd year. The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square join Tony Award-winner Stephanie J. Block and stage and screen star Sebastian Arcelus for a memorable Christmas celebration. Featuring beloved holiday music and the inspiring true story of Apollo 8's 1968 mission to the moon, this timely special brings messages of peace, hope, and wonder to life through music, storytelling, and tradition. **Peace on Earth with the Tabernacle Choir** airs at 8 pm Monday, Dec. 14

Contemporary and classic holiday songs

Concordia University Irvine presents its seventh annual made-for-TV Christmas special, which includes vocal and instrumental performances of contemporary and classic holiday songs, along with original works by Concordia alumni and students to celebrate the Christmas season. **Emmanuel: A Concordia Christmas** airs at 9:30 pm Monday, Dec. 14.

Joyful sounds from the Bach Festival Society



From the beautiful Knowles Memorial Chapel on the campus of Rollins College, the Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra, along with guest soloists Mary Wilson and Stephen Mumbert as well as the Bach Festival Children's Choir, performs custom arrangements of treasured holiday classics created specifically for this joyous celebration. **A Classic Christmas with the Bach Festival Society: Joyful Sounds**, airing at 8 pm Thursday, Dec. 17, captures this exciting performance.

Purdue hosts annual Christmas show



This one-hour version of the **Purdue 92nd Anniversary Christmas Show** features highlights from the two-hour program. The first act of this fast-paced, high-energy production features holiday favorites from University Choir, Purdue Bells, Heart & Soul, the Purduettes, and the Purdue Varsity Glee Club. The second half features selections performed by the combined ensembles of Purdue Musical Organizations. **Purdue 92nd Anniversary Christmas Show** airs at 3:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 20.

'Call the Midwife' holiday special airs Dec. 25



In the **Call the Midwife Holiday Special** that premiered last year, senior members of the convent embark on a mercy mission, swapping the snowy East End of London for the sun-drenched terrain of Hong Kong and facing landslides and other dangers. The Nonnatus team on the ground aids displaced children and nuns as the Turners embark on a heartfelt search for a mother who has been missing for over a year. **Call the Midwife Holiday Special (2025)** airs at 8 pm Friday, Dec. 25.

See page 6 for holiday programs on our radio stations.

WEEKDAYS

6 am

NPR Morning Edition with Leila Fadel, Steve Inskeep, A Martínez, and Michel Martin

9 am

Classic Mornings with Vic Di Geronimo
Vic makes each morning a classic morning!

Noon

Performance Today

2 pm

Classical Music

5 pm

NPR All Things Considered with Ailsa Chang, Scott Detrow, Mary Louise Kelly, and Juana Summers

6 pm

The 21st Show with Brian Mackey

7 pm Monday-Wednesday

The Evening Concert
Monday–Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm and 6 and 7 pm Sundays. Listings may change.

Monday:
The New York Philharmonic This Week
12/7 David Lang: The Wealth of Nations
12/14 Noriko Koide: Swaddling Silk and Gossamer Rain
Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor
Prokofiev: Selections from Cinderella
12/21 ***The Christmas Revels: In Celebration of the Winter Solstice 2026**
12/28 ***Winter Holiday**
Bernard: Winter Wonderland
Suessdorf: Moonlight in Vermont
Anderson: Sleigh Ride
Vivaldi: "Winter" from The Four Seasons
Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Greensleeves
Prokofiev: Lt. Kijé Suite, Op. 60: "Troika"
Prokofiev: Selections from Winter Bonfire "Children's Suite", Op. 122
Tchaikovsky: Selections from The Nutcracker

Tuesday:
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Radio Broadcast
12/1 Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 88 in G Major
Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 4 in G Major
12/8 Gustav Mahler: Totenfeier
Bedřich Smetana: Má vlast (Complete Symphonic Cycle)
12/15 Paul Hindemith: Symphony, Mathis der Maler
Antonín Dvořák: Symphony No. 9 in E Minor
Isaac Albéniz: Navarra
Isaac Albéniz: Fête-Dieu à Séville from Ibéria
Isaac Albéniz: Triana from Ibéria
12/22 **Handel's Messiah & Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker*
Handel: Part One of Messiah
Tchaikovsky: Selections from The Nutcracker
12/29 Dvořák: Cello Concerto in B Minor
Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G Major
Ottorino Respighi: Fountains of Rome

** Special holiday programming. See page 6.*

Illinois ARTS Council

Programs on WILL Radio are partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Wednesday:
WFMT Orchestra Series: Los Angeles Philharmonic
12/2 Maurice Ravel: Le tombeau de Couperin
Béla Bartók: Dance Suite
Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 4 in G Major
12/9 Ricardo Lorenz: Humboldt's Nature
Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92
12/16 Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68, "Pastoral"
Thomas Adès: "Inferno" from Dante
12/23 ***St. Olaf Christmas Festival 2026**
12/30 John Adams: Harmonium and Antonio Estévez: Cantata Criolla

7 pm Thursday

Prairie Performances with Mel Miller
The best of classical and jazz music in central Illinois.
12/24 **Christmas on the Prairie*

8 pm Thursday

The Middle with Jeremy Hobson
This nonpartisan live call-in talk show focuses on elevating the voices of the people in the middle of the country.

7 pm Friday

Heifetz On Air
12/4 ***Heifetz Holiday Homecoming**
Irving Berlin, arr. Jascha Heifetz, arr. Nate Sabat: White Christmas
Tchaikovsky, arr. Lynne Latham: Nutcracker Suite: Overture; March; Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy; Arabian Dance; Trepak
Amy Beach: Romance in A Major, Op. 23
Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane, arr. Wendy Hellmann: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
12/11 ***Candles Burning Brightly 202***6*
12/18 ***Jonathan Winters' "A Christmas Carol"**
12/25 ***Heifetz Holiday Homecoming 2025**
World Holiday Songs, arr. Nicholas Kitchen:
I. Dreidel, Dreidel (Hanukkah)
II. Twinkle, Twinkle (Kwanzaa)
III. O Come, All Ye Faithful (Christmas)
Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Nicholas Kitchen: Suite for Viola & Small Orchestra: Carol, Andante con moto; Christmas Dance. Allegro

8 pm Friday

Atomic Age Cocktail Party with Jason Croft
12/4 **RCA Victor Stereo Action** (encore)
The spotlight is on the way-out stereo series that came out in the 1960s.
12/11 **Iconic Voices**
The timeless singers that helped define the hi-fi era.
12/18 **Irving Berlin at the Movies**
Film favorites from one of the biggest names in the Great American Songbook.
12/25 ***Hi-Fi Christmas 2026**
Swinging holiday favorites to make your yule cool!

9 pm Friday

Classical Music

SATURDAYS

7 am

NPR Weekend Edition
with Scott Simon

9 am

Classics By Request

Send requests to Vincent Trauth at **classreq@illinois.edu** or leave a message at **217-265-5064**.

11 am

Classics of the Phonograph

John Frayne's weekly exploration of memorable recordings from the 20th century.

12/5 **Leopold Stokowski's Bach Transcriptions**
12/12 **Stars of the Opera Sing Holiday Music**
12/19 **Memorable Recordings of Handel's "Messiah"**
12/26 **J.S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio"**

Noon

Afternoon at the Opera

The Metropolitan Opera broadcast season begins. All performances are with the Met Ensemble.

12/ 5 **Samson et Dalila** (Saint Saëns). Giacomo Sagripanti, cond., with Clay Hilley (Samson), Aigul Akmetshina (Dalila), and Quinn Kelsey (High Priest).

12/12 **Maria Stuarda** (Donizetti). Ernique Mazzola, cond., with Lisette Oropesa (Maria), Angela Meade (Elisabetta), and René Barbera (Leicester).

12/19 **The Magic Flute** (Mozart), abridged English-language holiday presentation. Nicholas Carter, cond., with David Portillo (Tamino), Emma Marhefka (Pamina), Gordon Bintner (Papageno), Jeni Houser (Queen of the Night), In Sung Sim (Sarastro).

12/26 **Hansel and Gretel** (Humperdinck), English. Vladimir Jurowski, cond., with Christine Schaefer (Gretel), Alice Coote (Hansel), and Philip Langridge (Witch). Performance from January 1, 2008.

4 pm

Classical Guitar Alive! with Tony Morris

5 pm

Performance Today Weekend with Valerie Kahler
Classical music in concert from American Public Media studios and sites across the nation and around the world, as well as classical music news, interviews, and features.

7 pm

The Midnight Special with Marilyn Rea Beyer
A lively potpourri of folk, Celtic and bluegrass, show and novelty tunes, and hilarious comedy routines.

9 pm

Tiny Desk Radio
with Bobby Carter and Anamaria Sayre
Performances, interviews, and behind-the-scenes stories made exclusively for public radio stations.

NPR News Headlines at 9:01.

10 pm

Atomic Age Cocktail Party (See 8 pm Friday) with Jason Croft

11 pm

Atomic Age Double Shot with Jason Croft
An episode from our archives.

12/5 **Crooners 2**
12/12 **Bossa Nova Beats**
12/19 **Classical Lounge**
12/26 **Making A Splash**

Midnight

Classical Music

SUNDAYS

6 am

Classical Music

7 am

NPR Weekend Edition with Ayesha Rascoe

9 am

Sunday Baroque with Suzanne Bona
NPR News Headlines at 9:01 and 10:01

1 pm

Pipedreams with Michael Barone

3 pm

Performance Today Weekend

5 pm

Reel Music with Matt Rogers
Music from the movies each week with an hour of orchestral themes from cinema's best film scores.

6 pm

The Evening Concert
The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

12/6 Carl Nielsen: Underlige aftenlufte arranged for String Quartet
Carl Nielsen: Quartet in F Minor for Strings
Edvard Grieg: Holberg Suite, Op. 40
12/13 Tomaso Albinoni: Concerto in D Minor for Oboe, Strings, and Continuo, Op. 9, No. 2
Johann Sebastian Bach: Trio Sonata in G Major for Two Flutes and Continuo, BWV 1039
François Couperin: Concert Royal No. 4 in E Minor for Oboe d'Amore and Continuo
Jean-Marie Leclair: Concerto in B-flat Major for Violin, Strings, and Continuo, Op. 10, No. 1
12/20 **A Chanticleer Christmas*
12/27 Giovanni Battista Viotti: Duo for Two Violins
Giuseppe Tartini: Cello Concerto in A Major
Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata Ich habe genug

7 pm

Fiesta! with Elbio Barilari

12/6 **Tango as Classical**
Host Elbio Barilari shares tangos by Igor Stravinsky, Astor Piazzolla, Lalo Schifrin, and Eric Satie.
12/13 **From the Pacific Coast**
Composers from Latin American and US Latinos continue the tradition of Latin-tinged classical coming from the shores of the Pacific.
12/20 ***Feliz Navidad**
Celebrate the Christmas season with a selection of villancicos and Christmas carols from Spain and Latin America.
12/27 **Woodwinds of Latin America**
Host Elbio Barilari shares some of his favorite woodwind music in chamber, solo, and orchestral settings.

8 pm

Prairie Performances (encore)

9 pm

Jazz Night In America with Christian McBride

10 pm

Classical Music

NPR News Headlines at 11:01

Overnight

Classical Music

Holiday specials on WILL radio

Celebrate with a variety of music throughout the holiday season.

- **Illinois Soul** (FM 101.1) will air uninterrupted holiday music 8 am-7 pm on Dec. 25, with new and classic holiday songs from your favorite R&B artists.
- **Illinois Classical** (FM 90.9) will air holiday specials throughout the month, with a few highlighted below.
- **WILL-AM (580)** is included with a special on Christmas Day.



'A Chanticleer Christmas' airs at 6 pm Sunday, Dec. 20 on Illinois Classical.

Candles Burning Brightly (7 pm Friday, Dec. 11) celebrates the Jewish Festival of Lights.

A Chanticleer Christmas (6 pm Sunday, Dec. 20) features San Francisco's men's vocal ensemble, with a new three-part choral song cycle.

The Christmas Revels: In Celebration of the Winter Solstice 2026 (7 pm Monday, Dec. 21) includes a range of music from stage productions across the country.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Radio Broadcast series presents **Handel's Messiah & Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker** (7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 22).

2026 St. Olaf Christmas Festival (7 pm Wednesday, Dec. 23) includes hymns, carols, choral works, as well as orchestral selections celebrating the Nativity and featuring student musicians and the St. Olaf Orchestra.

WILL-AM 580 will air a 1960 recording of English professor Paul Landis reading Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**. This was his last reading, which took place in Lincoln Hall Theater.

Artistic Director Nicholas Kitchen leads a troupe of Heifetz alums in **Heifetz Holiday Homecoming 2025** (7 pm Friday, Dec. 25), featuring music of the season and much more including a Heifetz holiday sing-a-along. Benjamin Roe hosts.

Host Jason Croft presents swinging holiday favorites to make your yule cool on **Atomic Age Cocktail Party** (8 pm Friday, Dec. 25).



ILLINOIS Soul

Share your love for Illinois Soul!
Email us at Illinois-Soul@illinois.edu
or leave a voicemail at 217-244-1989.

Monday - Friday		Saturday	Sunday
Neo + SMJ	**5:00**	Neo + SMJ	Jazz Network
NPR Morning Edition with Alex Barton	**6:00**	R&B/Throwbacks	
	7:00		NPR Weekend Edition
R&B Smooth Jazz Neo-Soul	**8:00**		
	9:00		Illinois Soul Gospel
	10:00		
Funky Fridays Funk Ride (Fridays at 5 pm)	**11:00**	Dialogue (12/5 only) Dialogue: Next Gen (see page 1)	
	Noon	R&B/Throwbacks	R&B Dusties
	1:00		
	2:00		
	3:00		
	4:00		
	5:00		
Code Switch/Life Kit (M), Dialogue/Dialogue: Next Gen (Tu), Reveal (W), Throughline (Th), Funky Fridays continues (F)	**6:00**	The Wind Down with Will Downing	
The Quiet Storm	**7:00**	Catch the Flo	Soul of Jazz
	8:00		
	9:00	New Urban Jazz Lounge	Overnight: Neo + SMJ
	10:00		
	11:00	Jazz Night in America	
Overnight: Neo + SMJ	**midnight to 6 am**	Overnight: Jazz Network	

facebook.com/IllinoisSoul @illinoissoul @illinois_soul

Jill Clements, Illinois Soul Manager



Celebrate the season with new & old-school holiday classics, every hour, weekdays.

willam580

WILL-AM 580 and 90.9 FM HD3 · streaming at will.illinois.edu

Monday - Friday			Saturday	Sunday
NPR Morning Edition with Alex Barton		**5:00**	The Middle (encore)	Thoroughline
		6:00	Commodity Week	Inside Europe
		6:30	State Week in Review	
		7:00	**NPR Weekend Edition**	**NPR Weekend Edition**
		8:00		
1A		**9:00**	The Splendid Table	
		10:00	Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!	It's Been a Minute/ Wild Card
The 21st Show with Brian Mackey	Statewide (F)	**11:00**	Weather Realness	Code Switch/Life Kit
Here & Now with Jason Croft		**Noon**	The Moth Radio Hour	Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me! (repeat)
	The Middle (F repeat	**1:00**	This American Life	The Treatment
		1:30		State Week in Review
The Closing Market Report I 2:06 pm		**2:00**	Radiolab	Reveal
BBC Newshour	Commodity Week (F)	**2:30**		
Fresh Air with Terry Gross & Tonya Mosley		**3:00**	TED Radio Hour	On the Media
All Things Considered		**4:00**	**All Things Considered**	**All Things Considered**
		5:00	Hidden Brain	The New Yorker Radio Hour
		6:00	Left, Right & Center	Travel with Rick Steves
The 21st Show (repeat) I Statewide (F)		**7:00**	Ezra Klein	This Old House Radio
On the Media (M), Ezra Klein (Tu), Dialogue/Dialogue: Next Gen (W), The Middle (Th), Science Friday (F)		**8:00**	Latino USA	Weather Realness
The Daily/Today Explained		**9:00**	Dialogue (12/5) Dialogue: Next Gen	Tiny Desk Radio
On Point		**10:00**	Embodied	Sports in America
BBC World Service		**11:00**	Sam Sanders Show	Not By the Playbook
		Midnight	**BBC World Service**	Le Show
		1 am to 5 am		**BBC World Service**

Bold Listing = National/International News

Lillie Duncanson, Director of Broadcast Operations & Content

AGRICULTURE • www.willag.org

Todd Gleason, host, **Closing Market Report** and **Commodity Week**:

Opening Market Report: 8:49 am; **Market Update**: 10:58 am; **Midday Market Report**: 12:58; **Closing Market Report**: 2:06. **Fridays: Commodity Week**: 2:30; **Grain Market Summary**: 4:32.

To listen to archived Ag reports, sign up for the Illinois Public Media Ag e-newsletter, or download our agricultural podcasts.

IPM NEWS • IPMnewsroom.org

Reginald Hardwick, news and public affairs director, Illinois Public Media

The news from Illinois Public Media's award-winning staff of reporters, hosts, and producers can be heard during **Morning Edition**, **The 21st Show**, **Here & Now**, and **All Things Considered**:
Alex Barton, Abigail Bottar, Jason Croft, Christine Hatfield, Emily Hays, Kulsoom Khan, Brian Mackey, Steve Morck, Stephanie Mosqueda, Tinisha Spain, Arjun Thakkar, and Jose Zepeda.

Yale Climate Connections: Monday–Friday at 5:34 and 9:30 pm

WILL Call: Wednesdays at 6:45 and 9:45 am and Thursdays at 5:44 pm on AM 580 and FM 90.9

WEATHER

Monday-Friday: Forecasts from meteorologists Andrew Pritchard and Ed Kieser throughout the day.

will tv PBS daytime

Monday - Friday		Saturday	Sunday
Newsline	**5:00**	Mister Rogers' Neighborhood	Mister Rogers' Neighborhood
Classical Stretch (M,W,F) Sit and Be Fit (Tu, Th)	**5:30**	Cyberchase	Cyberchase
Wild Kratts	**6:00**	Wild Kratts	Wild Kratts
Weather Hunters	**6:30**	Weather Hunters	Weather Hunters
Lyla in the Loop	**7:00**	Lyla in the Loop	Lyla in the Loop
Carl the Collector	**7:30**	Carl the Collector	Carl the Collector
Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood	**8:00**	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood
Super Why's Comic Book Adventures	**8:30**	Super Why's Comic Book Adventures	Super Why's Comic Book Adventures
Phoebe & Jay	**9:00**	Phoebe & Jay	Phoebe & Jay
Sesame Street	**9:30**	Skillsville	Homegrown History
Work It Out Wombats	**10:00**	MotorWeek	Live from the LBJ Library
Donkey Hodie	**10:30**	12/5 Cooking with Legends (see page 10) Garden SMART	To the Contrary with Bonnie Erbe
Rosie's Rules	**11:00**	Mid American Gardener	Start Up 12/20 Prairie Fire
Elinor Wonders Why	**11:30**	Follow the Blooms 12/19 Prairie Fire	Market to Market
Alma's Way	**Noon**	America's Test Kitchen	**Dec. 6** Noon Deconstructing The Beatles 12:30 Andrea Doria: Are the Passengers Saved? 2:00 Family Recipe: Jewish American Style 3:30 A Celebration of Hanukkah 5:00 Dolly Parton: Here I Am **Dec. 13** Noon Remember Pearl Harbor 1:30 Gene Hackman: Star of the Silver Screen 2:30 American Masters: Starring Dick Van Dyke 4:30 Destination London: Preparing for the Parade 5:00 Compass Points from PBS News **Dec. 20** Noon Home for the Holidays: The Texas Tenors 1:00 Great Performances: Nutcracker from English National Ballet 2:30 Artistry & Innovation: Reimagining The Nutcracker 3:30 Purdue 92nd Anniversary Christmas Show 4:30 Christmas on the Danube 5:00 Compass Points from PBS News **Dec. 27** Noon Frozen Frames: Murphy's Yellowstone 12:30 Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle (see page 11) 5:00 Compass Points from PBS News
Molly of Denali	**12:30**	Cook's Country	
Arthur	**1:00**	Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television	
Odd Squad	**1:30**	Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey 12/6 Mary Berry's Ultimate Christmas	
M 12/7 Rick Steves Mighty Alps All Creatures Great & Small 12/7 Worsley: Keys to Castle (2:30) **Tu** 12/1 Easy Yoga (strength & balance) Antiques Roadshow **W** 12/2 Easy Yoga for Arthritis Finding Your Roots **Th** 12/3 Aging Backwards 4 Nature **F** 12/4 Rick Steves Why We Travel NOVA	**2:00**	Pati's Mexican Table	
	2:30	food. curated.	
M 12/2 Thomas Jefferson Worsley's Keys to the Castle **Tu** 12/1 Carpenters: Close to You Celebrity Antiques Road Trip **W** 12/9 A Celebration of Hanukkah 12/16 Ida B. Wells: Am. Stories 12/23 Raise Your Head Up 12/30 Cultural Expressions: Kwanzaa **Th** 12/3 Thomas Jefferson 12/10 Rick Steves Iceland Real Rail Adventures **F** 12/4 '60s Pop, Rock & Soul Secret Planet with Gulnaz Khan	**3:00**	To Dine For with Kate Sullivan 12/5 Magic Moments: '50s Pop	
	3:30	Les Stroud's Survivorman	
Antiques Roadshow	**4:00**	This Old House	
	4:30	Ask This Old House	
DW News	**5:00**	Horizons from PBS News	
BBC World News America	**5:30**	Antiques Roadshow 12/5 Johnny Mathis: 50th Anniversary	Rick Steves' Europe
PBS News Hour	**6:00**		Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries
	6:30	As Time Goes By	

During pledge programming, start and end times may vary.

Lillie Duncanson, Director of Broadcast Operations & Content

WILL Kids 24/7 on 12.2
For the full WILL Kids 24/7 schedule, go to will.illinois.edu/tv/schedule

Create 24/7 on 12.3
View the Create schedule, at will.illinois.edu/tv/schedule

Worsley unlocks the secrets of iconic palaces



After more than two decades as chief curator of Britain's Historic Palaces, historian Lucy Worsley knows her way around a castle. Armed with the keys to four famous palaces, Worsley guides viewers through the architecture, design, art, personal treasures, and artifacts found in spaces the public rarely gets to see, using the castles to offer a fascinating take on some of history's most important events and the people who lived them. From Marie Antoinette to Winston Churchill, the doges of Venice to "Mad" King Ludwig, the residents of these palaces not only shaped these castles but were shaped by them. The four-part series **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** airs Sundays at 7 pm beginning Dec. 6 (with a nightly repeat at 11:30 pm). Each episode is available to stream with WILL Passport on the day of its broadcast premiere.

The legacy of Gene Wilder



Follow the journey of actor Gene Wilder, known for his performances in "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" and "Young Frankenstein," from his collaborative relationship with Mel Brooks to his rise as a Hollywood leading man and comedic visionary. The film includes intimate interviews, performance archives, previously lost footage, and perspectives from family members — including his nephew Jordan Walker-Pearlman — as well as collaborators like Mel Brooks. ***Wilder*** airs on **American Masters** at 8 pm and 9:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 29. The special is available to stream on the same day with WILL Passport.

In addition, two central Illinois natives are featured in notable encores. **Gene Hackman: Star of the Silver Screen** airs at 8 pm Thursday, Dec. 10, and **American Masters** features ***Starring Dick Van Dyke*** at 9 pm Monday, Dec. 28.

It's time for more 'Happiness' (season 2)



Season 2 of the New Zealand quirky, musical comedy, **Happiness**, premieres on Sunday, Dec. 13. Two episodes will air weekly beginning at 9:30 pm. In season 1, Broadway director and golden boy Charlie Summers is back home, working at the local theater. In season 2, he tries to compete with Jacqui's new one-woman show, but Norma the Theater Ghost returns. Binge all six episodes of season 2 with WILL Passport on Dec. 13.

Cooking with legendary chefs



Photo by Armando Rafael

Cooking legends and James Beard Award–winning chefs Lidia Bastianich, left, and Pati Jinich meet in New York to cook up their favorite brunch, Sunday dinners, and dessert recipes in a new special. Between courses they swap stories about their culinary heritage and the personal journeys that shaped them into the celebrated chefs they are today. The pair also stop by two of their favorite spots in the city. **Cooking with Legends Lidia Bastianich and Pati Jinich** airs at 10:30 am Saturday, Dec. 5.

‘Prairie Fire’ airs monthly episode plus bonus episode with Emmy winners



Prairie Fire features more local stories this month with an additional episode featuring segments that recently were honored with regional Mid-America Emmy Awards.

Its regular monthly episode (7:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 17) will explore the Wildlife Medical Clinic at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The clinic is run by student volunteers and provides care and treatment to sick, injured, and orphaned native Illinois wildlife. While training the next generation of veterinarians and educating the public about these vital species, the clinic rehabilitates more than 2,000 patients each year.

The bonus episode that honors the team’s recent win of two regional Emmy awards will feature ***Bill & Bob Odenkirk*** and ***Brian Dettmer: Reading With a Knife*** (7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 1). See page 19 for more on the Emmy wins.

An evening with a certified guitar player



Join acclaimed acoustic guitar virtuoso Tommy Emmanuel, considered to be one of the greatest living guitarists, for a magical concert at the Sydney Opera House in his native Australia recorded in May 2023.

Tommy Emmanuel (CGP): Live at the Sydney Opera House premieres at 7:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 1 and at 10:30 pm Saturday, Dec. 5. The set list showcases his most beloved songs like “Tall Fiddler,” “Mombasa,” and “Country Wide,” plus an iconic arrangement of “Classical Gas,” and a thrilling Beatles medley.

Exploring America’s creative spirit

The award-winning documentary series **Craft in America** brings a year of celebrating American craft to a close on Friday, Dec. 18 with two new episodes: ***North*** (8 pm) and ***South*** (9 pm). Now in its 18th season, the series explores America’s creative spirit through the language and traditions of the handmade. ***North*** investigates the impact of the northern landscape on craft artists. Indigenous canoe practices, reclaimed materials, a craft school in the forest, and more demonstrate how natural and urban environments inspire the handmade in the Great North. ***South*** explores craft artists who are building an inclusive and hopeful future. From elaborate costumes of New Orleans masking societies to mosaic stained glass in Miami and the vibrant artist community rebuilding after Hurricane Helene, the episode demonstrates the resilience and creativity of the American South. Both episodes are now streaming with WILL Passport.



Photo by Adam Parsons



Photo by Denise Kang

1 Tuesday

7:00 **Prairie Fire Emmy Special**
See pages 11 and 19.

7:30 **Tommy Emmanuel (CGP): Live at the Sydney Opera House** (TV-G)
See page 11. *Repeated 12:30 am 12/3 & 10:30 pm 12/5.*

9:00 **Billy Joel: The 100th: Live at Madison Square Garden** (TV-PG)
Recorded in 2024, this film celebrates Joel's record-breaking 100th consecutive residency performance at Madison Square Garden. *Repeated 2 am 12/3.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

2 Wednesday

7:00 **Rick Steves European Christmas** (TV-PG)
From manger scenes and mistletoe to wintry wonderlands, this special celebrates the Christmas season throughout the European continent.

8:30 **Ken Burns: The National Parks** (TV-G)
Explore the beauty and grandeur of our nation's magnificent parks, from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon. Filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan vividly reveal fascinating behind-the-scenes stories about the making of the series.

10:00 **Deconstructing The Beatles** (TV-PG)
Acclaimed 'Beatle-ologist' Scott Freiman guides you, step by step, on an educational journey through several of The Beatles' milestone albums and the fascinating stories that accompanied them. *Repeated 8 pm 12/4 & 12 am 12/6.*

11:30 **Amanpour and Company**

3 Thursday

7:00 **Mid American Gardener**

7:30 **Dick Durbin: The Exit Interview**
As Dick Durbin leaves the Senate, Brian Mackey, host of "The 21st Show," sat down with him to reflect on his long legislative career and what's to come.

8:00 **'60s and '70s Soul Celebration (My Music Presents)** (TV-G)
The legends of 1960s and '70s soul music return to perform their biggest hits, including The Temptations, James Brown, Patti LaBelle, The Chi-Lites, The Spinners, Sam Moore and more in this first classic R&B and soul compilation from 30 years of the TJL archive. *Repeated 12 am 12/5 & 8:30 pm 12/6.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

4 Friday

7:00 **Washington Week with The Atlantic**

7:30 **Firing Line with Margaret Hoover**

8:00 **Deconstructing The Beatles** (TV-PG)
See 10 pm 12/2.

9:30 **David Gilmour: Live at the Circus Maximus, Rome** (TV-PG)
David Gilmour's 2024 sold-out return to Rome's historic venue during his Luck and Strange tour, blending new solo work with classic Pink Floyd anthems against ancient Roman ruins. *Repeated 1:30 am 12/6.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

5 Saturday

7:00 **50 Years with Peter, Paul and Mary** (TV-G)
Celebrate the impact of the trio that provided America's soundtrack for generations and combined artistry with activism for five decades. *Repeated 3 am 12/7.*

9:00 **John Denver's Rocky Mountain High** (TV-G)
Filmed in 1974 at Colorado's Red Rocks Amphitheater, the concert features Denver performing in his prime at this stunning outdoor venue. With a career spanning four decades, Denver earned international acclaim as a songwriter, performer, actor, environmentalist, and humanitarian.

10:30 **Tommy Emmanuel (CGP): Live at the Sydney Opera House** (TV-G)
See 7:30 pm 12/1.

6 Sunday

7:00 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Versailles. Part 1 of 4. See page 10. *Repeated 11:30 pm 12/6, 2:30 pm 12/7, 1:30 am 12/8 & 12:30 pm 12/27.*

8:30 **'60s and '70s Soul Celebration (My Music Presents)** (TV-G)
See 8 pm 12/3.

11:30 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Versailles. Part 1 of 4. See 7 pm 12/6.

7 Monday

7:00 **Antiques Roadshow** (TV-G)
Junk in the Trunk 12. Repeated 2 pm 12/8, 4 pm 12/11 & 5:30 pm 12/12.

8:00 **A Celebration of Hanukkah**
See page 2. *Repeated 3 pm 12/9.*

9:30 **Family Recipe: Jewish American Style** (TV-G)
See page 2.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

8 Tuesday

7:00 **Finding Your Roots** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Hidden Kin. Henry Louis Gates Jr. helps actors Julia Roberts and Edward Norton discover their hidden connections to history and each other. *Repeated 2 pm 12/9, 3 am 12/10 & 4 am 12/12.*

8:00 **Finding Your Roots** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Salems Lot. Henry Louis Gates Jr. takes guests Claire Danes and Jeff Daniels on a journey all the way back to an infamous witch hunt. *Repeated 4 am 12/10.*

9:00 **Frontline**
Scammed. See at right.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

Illinois ARTS Council

Programs on WILL-TV are partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

9 Wednesday

7:00 **Nature** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Walrus: Life On Thin Ice. Discover the hidden lives of these lumbering giants, their cultural significance to the native peoples of the North, and the threats they face. *Repeated 2 pm 12/10 & 3 am 12/13.*

8:00 **NOVA** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Can Dogs Talk? A growing number of dog owners claim their best friends are communicating directly through word buttons. Scientists are conducting the largest animal communication study in history, analyzing millions of button presses from thousands of dogs. *Repeated 2 pm 12/11 & 4 am 12/13.*

9:00 **Sacred Planet with Gulnaz Khan** (TV-PG)
The Heart of the World. Part 1 of 4. Join Gulnaz Khan in the sacred mountains of Colombia with the Arhuaco people, one of the few Indigenous groups to preserve their spiritual traditions after colonization. *Repeated 1 am 12/10, 3 pm 12/11 & 1 am 12/13.*

10:00 **The Green Planet** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Tropical Worlds. Part 1 of 5. Sir David Attenborough takes a plant's-eye view of life in a rainforest. *Repeated 2 am 12/13.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

10 Thursday

7:00 **Dialogue: Next Gen** (TV-14)
See page 1.

7:30 **Dialogue: Next Gen**
See page 1.

8:00 **Gene Hackman: Star of the Silver Screen** (TV-PG)
The remarkable career of legendary actor Gene Hackman (1930-2025), a two-time Academy Award winner and native son of Danville, Illinois. *Repeated 1:30 pm 12/13.*

9:00 **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** (TV-14)
Marked for Murder. Season 2, episode 6 of 13. While investigating the football coach's missing lucky cap, Phryne discovers a murder. *Repeated 2 am 12/11 & 6 pm 12/13.*

10:00 **Grantchester on MASTERPIECE** (TV-14) (DVS)
Season 3, episode 2 of 7. A mysterious death and the unsettling appearance of a dead bird at the vicarage lead Sidney and Geordie down a dark path. *Repeated 3 am 12/11.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

11 Friday

7:00 **Washington Week with The Atlantic**

7:30 **Firing Line with Margaret Hoover**

8:00 **American Masters** (TV-14) (DVS)
Roberta Flack. Discover music icon Roberta Flack's rise to stardom and triumphs over racism and sexism. *Repeated 1 am 12/12 & 3:30 am 12/14.*

9:30 **Gospel Live! Presented by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** (TV-G) (DVS)
See page 2.

10:30 **Cultural Expressions: Kwanzaa** (TV-PG)
See page 2. *Repeated 3 pm 12/30.*

11:30 **Amanpour and Company**

12 Saturday

7:00 **Midsomer Murders**
The Straw Woman, parts 1 & 2 of 2. Season 7, episodes 11 & 12 of 14. The revival of a traditional festival ends in tragedy when the curate is burned alive inside a straw effigy.

8:55 **Sherlock on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
A Study in Pink. Season 1, episode 1 of 3. Sherlock Holmes stalks again in a thrilling contemporary version of the Victorian-era whodunits, starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

10:30 **The Caverns Sessions** (TV-PG)
Warren Haynes.

11:00 **Austin City Limits** (TV-PG)
Marcus King Band/Wyatt Flores.

13 Sunday

7:00 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Doge's Palace. Part 2 of 4. See page 10. *Repeated 11:45 pm 12/13, 3 pm 12/14, 2:30 am 12/15 & 2 pm 12/27.*

8:30 **All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Gathering The Flock. Season 6, episode 1 of 7. James is struggling with a wild and chaotic Siegfried. *Repeated 1:15 am 12/14, 2 pm 12/14 & 4 am 12/15.*

9:45 **Happiness** (TV-14)
Season 2, episodes 1 & 2 of 6. See page 10. *Repeated 2:30 am 12/14.*

10:45 **Downton Abbey on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Season 5, episode 3 of 9. The Crawley family and the staff are struggling as they adjust to life in the Roaring Twenties.

11:45 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Doge's Palace. Part 2 of 4. See 7 pm 12/13.



Frontline presents a report on how online scams steal billions of dollars and ruin victims' lives when ***Scammed*** airs at 9 pm Tuesday, Dec. 8. The investigation — part of an ongoing collaboration with The Associated Press -— tracks the rise of a global criminal industry from sextortation to crypto crime, the people and technology enabling it, and the efforts to shut it down. In addition, a companion segment continues the conversation providing viewers with information about protecting themselves from scams.

14 Monday

7:00 **Antiques Roadshow** (TV-G)
Out of This World. Repeated 2 pm 12/15, 4 am 12/16, 4 pm 12/18 & 5:30 pm 12/19.

8:00 **Peace On Earth: Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir** (TV-G)
See page 3. *Repeated 1 am 12/15, 2:30 am 12/16 & 3 am 12/26.*

9:30 **Emmanuel: A Concordia Christmas** (TV-G)
See page 3. *Repeated 4 am 12/18.*

10:30 **Christmas on the Danube** (TV-G)
Travel the majestic Danube river as it passes through stunning European landscape, history and culture. *Repeated 4:30 pm 12/20.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

15 Tuesday

7:00 **Finding Your Roots** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Rising from the Ashes. Henry Louis Gates traces the roots of actors Brian Cox and Viola Davis, uncovering records from Scotland and South Carolina. *Repeated 2 pm 12/16, 4 am 12/17 & 4 am 12/21.*

8:00 **American Masters** (TV-PG) (DVS)
HOPPER: An American Love Story. Combined with expert interviews, diaries and a startling visual reflection of American life, this film brings to life America's arguably most influential artist. *Repeated 3 am 12/17.*

9:00 **Frontline**

10:00 **To Be Announced**

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

16 Wednesday

7:00 **Nature** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Christmas in the Alps. Catch a glimpse into the Alps' most enchanting time of year. *Repeated 2 pm 12/17 & 3 am 12/20.*

8:00 **NOVA** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Universe In Motion. High on a mountaintop in northern Chile, the groundbreaking Vera Rubin Observatory is poised to transform our understanding of the universe with the largest digital camera on Earth. *Repeated 2 pm 12/18.*

9:00 **Sacred Planet with Gulnaz Khan** (TV-G)
Stopping The Desert. Part 2 of 4. Khan travels across Africa's Sahel, where desertification threatens entire communities. *Repeated 1 am 12/17, 3 pm 12/18 & 1 am 12/20.*

10:00 **The Green Planet** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Water Worlds. Part 2 of 5. Sir David Attenborough discovers bizarre and beautiful water plants. *Repeated 2 am 12/20.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

17 Thursday

7:00 **Dialogue: Next Gen** (TV-14)
See page 1.

7:30 **Prairie Fire** (TV-G)
See page 11. *Repeated 11:30 am 12/19 & 11 am 12/20.*

8:00 **A Classic Christmas with the Bach Festival Society: Joyful Sounds** (TV-G)
See page 3. *Repeated 4 am 12/19.*

9:00 **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** (TV-14)
Blood at the Wheel. Season 2, episode 7 of 13. While preparing for an annual rally at an all-women's motorcar garage, the driver for the ladies' team is found dead in her roadster. *Repeated 2 am 12/18 & 6 pm 12/20.*

10:00 **Grantchester on MASTERPIECE** (TV-14) (DVS)
Season 3, episode 3 of 7. When several villagers become ill at the local cricket match, Geordie and Sidney must determine if it was an accident or something more sinister. *Repeated 3 am 12/18.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

18 Friday

7:00 **Washington Week with The Atlantic**

7:30 **Firing Line with Margaret Hoover**

8:00 **Craft In America** (TV-PG)
North. See page 11. *Repeated 1 am 12/19.*

9:00 **Craft In America** (TV-PG)
South. See page 11. *Repeated 2 am 12/19 & 3 am 12/21.*

10:00 **An Irish Christmas with Michael Londra (A Studio 3 Live Special Presentation)** (TV-G)
Experience the magic of an Irish Christmas with Michael Londra, the host of "Ireland With Michael." *Repeated 3 am 12/19.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

19 Saturday

7:00 **Midsomer Murders**
Ghosts of Christmas Past, parts 1 & 2 of 2. Season 7, episodes 13 & 14 of 14. Barnaby looks forward, with reservations, to entertaining his in-laws for Christmas.

8:55 **Sherlock on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
The Blind Banker. Season 1, episode 2 of 3. When a banker is found dead inside his locked apartment, Sherlock and Watson must follow the clues that lead to an underground crime gang.

10:30 **The Caverns Sessions** (TV-PG)
Taylor Hunnicutt.

11:00 **Austin City Limits** (TV-PG)
Maggie Rogers/Gracie Abrams.



Return to 'ACGS' season 6

In anticipation of the premiere of season 7 of **All Creatures Great and Small** in January, fans can watch season 6 this month Sundays at 8:30 pm beginning Dec. 13. Or binge all seven episodes with WILL Passport. Pictured, Nicholas Ralph as James Herriot and Patricia Hodge as Mrs. Pumphrey with her pampered Pekingese, Tricki Woo.

Spend New Year's Eve with us

Hollywood legend John Williams made his conducting debut with the internationally renowned Berliner Philharmoniker in 2021. **John Williams: The Berlin Concert** (7 pm) captures this magical performance with a range of music from some of his best-known film scores.



Barbra Streisand: Timeless Live in Concert (8:30 pm) features some of Streisand's career-defining classics accompanied by a 70-piece orchestra and conducted by Oscar and Tony winner Marvin Hamlisch. Recognized with four Primetime Emmy Awards in 2001, the concert was shortened for broadcast; the full version is available with WILL Passport.





Directed and choreographed by Christopher Gattelli, **Great Performances** celebrates **Rodgers & Hammerstein's 80th Anniversary** (10:30 pm) with an all-star cast at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane, including Michael Ball, Daniel Dae Kim, Maria Friedman, Audra McDonald, Julian Ovenden, and more.

20 Sunday

7:00 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Blenheim Palace. Part 3 of 4. See page 10. *Repeated 11:30 pm 12/20, 3 pm 12/21, 2:30 am 12/22 & 3:30 pm 12/27.*

8:30 **All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Old Dog, New Tricks. Season 6, episode 2 of 7. Tension sparks when James buys an X-ray machine for the vet practice. *Repeated 1 am 12/21, 2 pm 12/21 & 4 am 12/22.*

9:30 **Happiness** (TV-14)
Season 2, episode 3 & 4 of 6. See page 10. *Repeated 2 am 12/21.*

10:30 **Downton Abbey on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Season 5, episode 4 of 9. Thomas returns.

11:30 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Blenheim Palace. Part 3 of 4. See 7 pm 12/20.

21 Monday

7:00 **Antiques Roadshow** (TV-G)
Modern Icons. Repeated 2 pm 12/22, 4 am 12/23, 4 pm 12/25 & 5:30 pm 12/26.

8:00 **Great Performances** (TV-PG)
Nutcracker from English National Ballet. Enjoy Tchaikovsky's holiday classic set in Edwardian-era London. *Repeated 1 am 12/22 & 3 am 12/24.*

9:30 **The St. Olaf Christmas Festival: Our Hope for Years to Come** (TV-G)
St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota presents music for the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Season. *Repeated 3 am 12/23 & 4 am 12/25.*

10:30 **European Christmas Markets** (TV-G)
Join us on our discovery of Europe's Christmas Markets, where the town center, market square or just the narrow, cobblestone streets of the cities and towns of Europe come alive in winter. *Repeated 4:30 am 12/26.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

22 Tuesday

7:00 **Finding Your Roots** (TV-PG) (DVS)
And Still I Rise. Henry Louis Gates reveals the unexpected family trees of activist Angela Y. Davis and statesman Jeh Johnson. *Repeated 2 pm 12/23.*

8:00 **American Masters** (TV-14) (DVS)
Brenda Lee: Rockin' Around. Discover the story behind singer Brenda Lee's iconic songs and explore how her early fame and life of poverty shaped her artistry across pop, rock 'n' roll and country. *Repeated 2 am 12/24.*

9:00 **Frontline**

10:00 **To Be Announced**

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

23 Wednesday

7:00 **Nature** (TV-G) (DVS)
Santa's Wild Home. Get an intimate look into life in Lapland, fabled land of Santa Claus and actual home of tenacious wildlife such as reindeer, wolverines, Brown bears and more. *Repeated 2 pm 12/24, 1 am 12/25 & 3 am 12/27.*

8:00 **NOVA** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Lost Tombs of Notre Dame. During restoration work after the devastating 2019 fire at Notre Dame de Paris, two lead sarcophaguses were discovered. Follow a team of archaeologists and historians as they attempt to solve centuries-old mysteries. *Repeated 2 pm 12/25.*

9:00 **Sacred Planet with Gulnaz Khan** (TV-G)
Saving The World's Forests. Part 3 of 4. Venture to Japan, where global warming is upending centuries-old Shinto and Buddhist traditions. *Repeated 1 am 12/24, 3 pm 12/25 & 1 am 12/27.*

10:00 **The Green Planet** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Seasonal Worlds. Part 3 of 5. Sir David Attenborough reveals the surprising and dramatic effects of the four seasons on plant life. *Repeated 2 am 12/27.*

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

24 Thursday

7:00 **Dialogue: Next Gen** (TV-14)
See page 1.

8:00 **Home for the Holidays: The Texas Tenors (A Studio 3 Live Special Presentation)** (TV-G)
The Texas Tenors, finalists on America's Got Talent in 2009, take the stage for a special holiday performance.

9:00 **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries** (TV-14)
The Blood of Juana The Mad. Season 2, episode 8 of 13. The fresh corpse of Professor Katz turns up in place of a cadaver in an anatomy lecture. *Repeated 2 am 12/25 & 6 pm 12/27.*

10:00 **Grantchester on MASTERPIECE** (TV-14) (DVS)
Season 3, episode 4 of 7. Sidney and Geordie must determine the connection between a murder and a number of post office robberies.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

25 Friday

7:00 **Washington Week with The Atlantic**

7:30 **Firing Line with Margaret Hoover**

8:00 **Call The Midwife Holiday Special** (TV-14)
See page 3. *Repeated 1 am 12/26 & 3 am 12/28.*

10:00 **Hope College Christmas Vespers** (TV-G)
Student musicians participate in Christmas Vespers in various ensembles. A tradition at Hope College since 1941, Christmas Vespers is the perfect way to ring in your holiday season.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

26 Saturday

7:00 **Midsomer Murders** (TV-PG)
A Talent for Life, parts 1 & 2 of 2. Season 6, episodes 1 & 2 of 10. The corpses of a man and woman are discovered together.

8:55 **Sherlock on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
The Great Game. Season 1, episode 3 of 3.

10:30 **The Caverns Sessions** (TV-PG)
Slay & Stinson.

11:00 **Austin City Limits** (TV-PG)
The Avett Brothers.

27 Sunday

7:00 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Neuschwanstein. Part 4 of 4. See page 10. *Repeated 11:30 pm 12/27, 3 pm 12/28 & 2:30 am 12/29.*

8:30 **All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Captain Farnon? Season 6, episode 3 of 7. Tristan and Siegfried find themselves in a competition. *Repeated 1 am 12/28, 2 pm 12/28 & 4 am 12/29.*

9:30 **Happiness** (TV-14)
Season 2, episode 5 & 6 of 6. See page 10. *Repeated 2 am 12/28.*

10:30 **Downton Abbey on MASTERPIECE** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Season 5, episode 5 of 9. Rosamund is suspicious.

11:30 **Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle** (TV-14)
Neuschwanstein. Part 4 of 4. See 7 pm 12/27.

28 Monday

7:00 **Antiques Roadshow** (TV-G)
Best Bargains. Repeated 2 pm 12/29.

8:00 **Antiques Roadshow** (TV-G)
Best of 25. Repeated 1 m 12/29, 4 am 12/30 & 4 pm 12/31.

9:00 **American Masters** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Starring Dick Van Dyke. Celebrate the life and career of legendary actor and Danville native Dick Van Dyke.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

29 Tuesday

7:00 **Finding Your Roots** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Anchormen. Henry Louis Gates introduces trail-blazing journalists Jim Acosta and Van Jones to the ancestors who blazed a trail for them, meeting runaway slaves and immigrant settlers who took enormous chances so that their descendants might thrive. *Repeated 2 pm 12/20 & 4 am 12/31.*

8:00 **American Masters** (TV-14) (DVS)
Wilder. See page 10. *Repeated 9:30 pm 12/29, 12:30 am 12/30 & 2:30 am 12/31.*

9:30 **American Masters** (TV-14) (DVS)
Wilder. See 8 pm 12/29.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

30 Wednesday

7:00 **Nature** (TV-G) (DVS)
American Arctic. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has long protected survivors of the Ice Age, but this once remote and frozen fortress is on the brink of change. Now, for the caribou, musk oxen, polar bears, and Arctic foxes, the ice age is slipping away. *Repeated 2 pm 12/31.*

8:00 **NOVA** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Ancient Maya Metropolis. The ancient Maya built large complex cities with towering pyramids and temples that served as centers for a thriving civilization. Follow archaeologists exploring new evidence into the mystery of why after hundreds of years the cities were abandoned.

9:00 **Sacred Planet with Gulnaz** Khan (TV-PG)
Reclaiming Peru's Glaciers. Part 4 of 4. Gulnaz follows the ancient Inca and modern Catholic paths, confronting the Andes deglaciation. *Repeated 1 am 12/31.*

10:00 **The Green Planet** (TV-PG) (DVS)
Desert Worlds. Part 4 of 5. Sir David Attenborough explores the hostile world of the desert, where plants can spend decades waiting for rain or travel to find it. Survival tactics include using weapons, camouflage and forming surprising alliances with animals.

11:00 **Amanpour and Company**

31 Thursday

7:00 **John Williams: The Berlin Concert** (TV-G)
See page 15.

8:30 **Barbra Streisand: Timeless — Live In Concert** (TV-PG)
See page 15.

10:30 **Great Performances** (TV-PG)
Rodgers & Hammerstein's 80th Anniversary: My Favorite Things. See page 15.

‘Velvet Collection’ finale, ‘Paradise’ season 13



Watch the final episode of **Velvet Collection** on Dec. 4 with WILL Passport. The special, **The Grand Finale (Christmas Special)**, marks the end of the popular Spanish romantic drama series, a spinoff from the original hit series, **Velvet**. The finale takes place in December 1969 as the Velvet family reunites for one final farewell as the Galleries prepare to be sold. Clara gathers old friends in Madrid for an exhibition celebrating the store where their dreams came true. The Walter Presents series is presented in Spanish with English subtitles. Seasons 1–2 of **Velvet Collection** are streaming now. Plus, watch all four seasons of **Velvet**.

In addition, last month we noted that season 13 of **Paradise** was coming to WILL Passport. The premiere has been moved to this month. Seasons 1–12 are available now with Passport. You can binge the 10-episode season 13 beginning Dec. 4. This drama portrays tight-knit relationships between workers at a store amid the societal expectations of the 1950s. From Walter Presents, the series is in Italian with English subtitles.



« COMING AND GOING THIS MONTH TO WILL Passport



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Ages of Ice, 3 parts, 12/16, 12/23 & 12/30

After Action
- A Salute to Veterans, 12/1

American Creed: Citizen Power
- The American Fabric, 12/9

Anthem to America: Ken Burns Celebrates 50 Years, 12/25

Bad Press, 12/1

Crime and Punishment in America, 12/15
- The Criminal Type (1800–1929)
- Public Enemies (1929–1969)
- Tough on Crime (1970–Onward)

Great Performances, 12/12
- Romeo & Juliet

Happiness, season 2, 12/13

Nature
- Christmas in the Alps, 12/24
- HumanLike: The Chimps of Fongoli, 12/10

NOVA: Evolution, 12/12

Pati Jinich Explores PanAmericana, 12/10

VOCES
- **Paquito D’Rivera: From Carne y Frijol to Carnegie Hall**, 12/11

LEAVING SOON

5 Minute Yoga Fix with Peggy Cappy, 12/25

Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir, 12/13

In A Different Key, 12/13

Lookingglass Alice, 12/15

Lovejoy, seasons 1–6, 12/31

Made With Love
- Mexico Made With Love, 12/29

Nature
- A Conversation with Koko, 12/31

Rumpole of the Bailey, seasons 1–7, 12/31

Salute to Service: A Veterans Day Celebration, 12/10

Unbroken, 12/1

Go to **will.illinois.edu/passport**, your TV’s app menu, or your preferred streaming device, to access more shows with WILL Passport via the PBS App.



Supporting our LGBTQ+ community

Illinois Public Media staff members were excited to be part of this year's CU Pride Fest parade and fair on Oct. 17. Many community members stopped by our tent during the vendor fair to learn more about public media, talk about IPM's programs and services, and pick up fun stickers and notebooks. A group of IPM staff members with some of their family as well as community advisers also walked in the parade tossing candy to the crowd. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect fall day for the event. We are always proud to be part of the festivities and to support our LGBTQ+ community.

Hays recognized as one of Forty Under 40

FORTY UNDER 40 2026



Emily Hays, education reporter for IPM News, was among the Forty Under 40 Class of 2026 announced by The News-Gazette's Central Illinois Business magazine. The annual list celebrates outstanding young professionals in the Champaign-Urbana area.

"We're so proud of Emily. As the region's premier education reporter, central Illinois students, parents, and educators have come to expect well-researched stories from her," said Reginald Hardwick, IPM director of news and public affairs. "Whether it's a late-night school board decision, a feature about racially inclusive classrooms, or education behind prison walls, Emily takes the time to include multiple viewpoints, document the research, and present it in an easily digestible format for the public.

"On a personal note, Emily is a consummate team member who shows empathy to all around her. Being around her energy has made me a better journalist and better leader at Illinois Public Media."

"It was very sweet of Reginald to nominate me," Hays said. "I appreciate having a boss who sees my hard work and says that it is having an impact worth celebrating."

The award honors people under the age of 40 for their achievements, experience, innovation, leadership, and community involvement, with two honorees named Man and Woman of the Year. This year's cohort was celebrated at a luncheon last month.

‘Prairie Fire’ wins two regional Emmys



Illinois Public Media picked up two more Emmy awards from the Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in late October in Kansas City, Missouri. IPM’s popular magazine show **Prairie Fire** was nominated four times and brought home Emmy awards for the third consecutive season. Since its reboot, **Prairie Fire** has won 11 Mid-America Emmy Awards, including “Best Magazine Program” in 2024 and 2025 for its first and second seasons. **Prairie Fire** is currently in its fourth season on WILL-TV and also can be seen on YouTube and the PBS App. New episodes air on the third Thursday of the month.



Taylor Plantan represented Illinois Public Media at the awards ceremony and accepted the awards for the ‘Prairie Fire’ team.

These **Prairie Fire** segments were recognized with regional Emmys and also will be featured in a special bonus episode this month airing at 7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 1.

- **Bill & Bob Odenkirk**
  Interview/Discussion — Short Or Long Form
  Hollywood action star and writer Bob Odenkirk and his brother Bill — a top Hollywood comedy writer himself — talk about their Illinois roots, their professional relationship, and their latest work.
  Sarah Edwards, DJ Roach, Taylor Plantan, and Daniel Clarke
  Watch at go.illinois.edu/PF-odenkirks
- **Brian Dettmer: Reading With a Knife**
  Arts/Entertainment — Short Form Content
  In a quiet Chicago studio, surrounded by stacks of vintage books, artist Brian Dettmer transforms one of our most familiar cultural objects — the book — into intricate works of sculpture. His work invites viewers to reconsider not only the physicality of the book itself, but also the ways we consume and interpret knowledge in a rapidly changing digital world.
  Taylor Plantan, DJ Roach
  Watch at go.illinois.edu/PF-brian-dettmer

IPM to host preview of ‘All Creatures’ season 7



Illinois Public Media and TEAM LINCOLN invite you to an exclusive preview of the first episode of season 7 of **All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE** at 6:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 17 in the Union Theater at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum located at 212 N. Sixth St., Springfield.

The event is free but advance registration is required at presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/events. Before the screening, stop and visit Illinois Public Media staff and the TEAM LINCOLN crew in the museum lobby to pick up free swag and register for door prizes. We can’t wait to see you there!

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL IS A PLAYGROUND PRODUCTION FOR MASTERPIECE AND CHANNEL 5 IN ASSOCIATION WITH ALL3MEDIA.

WELCOMING NEW STAFF TO ILLINOIS PUBLIC MEDIA

Barton is new Morning Edition host



There's a new voice for your morning commute. Alex Barton has joined Illinois Public Media as host of **Morning Edition**, anchoring newscasts and breaks weekdays 6 to 9 am on WILL-AM 580 and Illinois Classical FM 90.9, and weekdays 6 to 8 am on Illinois Soul FM 101.1.

In addition, Barton will hit the road each week to meet our listeners, gather story ideas, and conduct interviews. He also will produce videos that supplement our coverage.

Barton earned a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University in multimedia journalism with a minor in integrated marketing communications.

He is not new to **Morning Edition**. From 2024-2025, he was **Morning Edition** cohost, reporter, and producer at KCRU, the NPR member station at SEMO in Cape Girardeau. After graduation, Barton worked as a digital producer at the FOX affiliate in his hometown of St. Louis.

Barton says that he is happy to return to public radio and looks forward to getting to know local community members.

"I love public radio because the levels of creative freedom and depth it allows you to go into are unlike anywhere else in news," Barton said. "I have missed it quite a lot so I'm happy to be able to get back into it and be surrounded by a team of talented people."

In his spare time, he likes to hang out with friends, play video games, go to the gym, and play softball.

"When I can I also try to pick up freelance voice acting work for various projects ranging from audiobook narration to roles in video games," he said.

OUR FUTURE IS LOCAL

Help build our local future with an additional gift

GIVING TUESDAY

As we enter the final month of the year, we hope you will consider an additional gift to Illinois Public Media on Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1). This year, a special matching fund will help make your contribution go even further. Stay tuned for details about this opportunity.

As Illinois Public Media continues its work without federal funding, your support helps sustain the local journalism, music, educational programming, and community connections that strengthen central Illinois. Your generosity helps ensure our region's stories are told, area voices are heard, and the programs and services our communities count on remain strong and accessible.

Together, we can build a future for IPM rooted in local stories, local voices, and local impact. Make your voice heard on Giving Tuesday!

Thank you, Program Underwriters!

Private support accounts for the largest single source of funds necessary to make Illinois Public Media and the WILL stations great resources for communities across central Illinois.

We appreciate the following organizations that have stepped forward to join the individuals and families who support award-winning public media services.

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Champaign-Urbana Symphony

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City of Champaign: Equity & Engagement Department

City of Urbana Arts & Culture

City of Urbana: Market @ The Square

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C-U Jazz Festival

C-U Reparations Coalition

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Danville Symphony Orchestra

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Dixon Graphics

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Farren's at the Inman

Friends of Dr. William Patterson Fund

The Gillette Group – Keller Williams

Housing Authority of Champaign County

Humanities Research Institute

Illini Mattress

Illinois Arts Council

Illinois Symphony Orchestra

The Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, & Memory Studies

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Institute for Genomic Biology

Iyengar Yoga Champaign-Urbana

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Jay Goldberg Events

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