Celebrate the joy of the season

with Illinois Public Media
While it always seems like the years go by far too quickly, I’m heartened when I look back at 2023 and realize how much we accomplished at Illinois Public Media. I am proud of the programming we were able to offer to central Illinois thanks to your support.

Among the highlights:

- The (re)launch of our monthly news magazine show *Prairie Fire*.
- The *21st Show* expanding to five days a week and now airing on seven stations.
- Further expansion of our *News, Brews & Beatz* series, including a special edition with University of Illinois leadership.
- A new regular *WILL Call* feature and a full year of our *Clef Notes* e-newsletter and blog provide extensive local arts coverage.
- Our contributions to Jeremy Hobson’s national weekly radio show, *The Middle*.
- Local documentary screening events and panel discussions as part of our *Reel Midwest* series.

Plus, we continued to develop our local programs including *Commodity Week*, *Classic Mornings*, *Mid-American Gardener*, the third edition of *State of Change*, and many more. Our newsroom provided our region with relevant and factual news coverage. And, of course, we offered the best national and international drama, arts, documentary, and classical programs available.

Looking ahead, we have many remarkable things planned for the next 12 months, including big events, new local shows, and anniversaries to celebrate. If you are able to do so, I hope you’ll consider making a year-end gift to help ensure 2024 will be another enormous success. We’ve included an envelope in this issue or you can donate online at willgive.org. Stay tuned for a big announcement very soon that I will discuss further next month.

Moss Bresnahan, Executive Director
Twitter: @MossILMedia
Celebrate the season with word and song

This month, Prairie Fire gets into the holiday spirit with an in-studio performance and a reading by our own Charles Dickens.

The University of Illinois Black Chorus, conducted by Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, will perform holiday-themed music. We also continue our Charles Dickens series with a reading of passages from “A Christmas Carol.” The segment was taped at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington. Dickens is once again portrayed by Alan Parker, a U. of I. professor emeritus of veterinary medicine.

Parker, who is British, says he feels a sense of irony portraying Dickens because he didn’t enjoy his novels in school. But his new post-retirement gig portraying Dickens has given him a new appreciation for his works. “Dickens’ brilliant writing mixed with his very English sense of humor are timeless,” Parker says. “And so far, in these episodes, we’ve seen a rather grumpy side of that Dickensian sense of humor. In this episode, we’ll see a softer side.”

Finally, we visit Operation Wild Horse in Bull Valley, Illinois with a story originally scheduled for November. This nonprofit organization serves veterans, active-duty military, and family members.

Watch these central Illinois stories on Prairie Fire at 7:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 21 and 10 pm Friday, 12/22.

Westminster Choir College presents its yearly holiday music concert in Christmas at Westminster: An Evening of Readings and Carols. Recorded in the Princeton University Chapel, the program features more than 400 musicians in five different choirs. The musical numbers performed in the hourlong special encompass a variety of styles, including traditional Christmas carols with audience participation, beloved choral works, a diverse array of holiday standards, and contemporary arrangements that both surprise and delight. Together with a number of secular readings, the evening brings beauty and comfort to viewers at this festive time of year. Christmas at Westminster airs at 11 pm Sunday, Dec. 17.

This year’s Season of Light: Christmas With The Tabernacle Choir airs at 7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 12 and at 8 pm Friday, Dec. 22. The special weaves together inspirational music with a hope-filled story from World War II to welcome the spirit of the season. Tony Award-winning Disney and Broadway star Lea Salonga joins the choir at Temple Square singing holiday favorites as well as performing a World War II-era song. Renowned actor Sir David Suchet narrates. Combining timeless music with real-life examples of sharing light, it is a universally moving program that invites hope and welcomes the spirit of sharing goodness this holiday season.
‘Culinary Jubilee’ celebrates 25 years

Beloved chef Lidia Bastianich is celebrating 25 years on public television. With one of the longest running cooking shows on PBS, Lidia also is a lifelong restaurateur and bestselling cookbook author who has a compelling backstory as an immigrant personifying what it means to be living the American dream. In honor of her silver anniversary, join Lidia’s family and celebrity friends to roll back the years and get an intimate look at the memorable moments of her life — both on and off the screen. 25 Years with Lidia: A Culinary Jubilee will air at 10 pm Monday, Dec. 18.

Spend Christmas in the Highlands

English food writer, chef, and baker Mary Berry spends Christmas in her mother’s homeland of Scotland to enjoy a winter break soaking up her Scottish heritage and enjoying traditional festive delights with familiar faces. She also cooks up some of her own indulgent dishes. Mary Berry’s Highland Christmas airs at 8 pm Monday, Dec. 18.

‘Call the Midwife Holiday Special’

In addition to turkey and all the trimmings, a Call the Midwife Holiday Special has become a festive tradition for many. The 2023 special airs at 7 pm and 8:30 pm Monday, Dec. 25. It’s Christmas 1958 in Poplar with fairy lights lining the streets. However Nonnatus House residents are awoken by the police, who are evacuating the district. Nonnatus House staff reach out to those in need and keep spirits high. Friends also can watch Call the Midwife Holiday Specials from seasons 9-12, as well as full seasons 10 and 11, with your WILL Passport.

Enjoy ‘Christmas in the Dales’

Celebrate the heartwarming MASTERPIECE series All Creatures Great and Small with clips and behind-the-scenes memories of its Christmas finales. Experience the kindness, empathy, and love in the magical village of Darrowby and the stunning Yorkshire Dales during the holiday season in All Creatures Great and Small: Christmas in the Dales at 10 pm on Monday, Dec. 25. Also in anticipation of season 4 in January, enjoy all of season 3 with mini-marathons Dec. 10, 17, and 24. Plus season 1 and 2 are available with WILL Passport.
Don’t miss! New PBS KIDS holiday specials

Celebrate the holidays on Sesame Street with a new fantastical adventure filled with new music and friends. Follow Elmo and his puppy, Tango, as they try to retrieve a nutcracker toy. This 30-minute feature celebrates the greatest gift of all: friendship. Sesame Street The Nutcracker Starring Elmo and Tango airs at 9 am Monday, Dec. 2, and throughout the month.

Rocket Saves the Day debuts on PBS KIDS at 6 am Tuesday, Dec. 26. The fun, 2D-animated adventure tells the story of an enthusiastic young pup, Rocket, and his new best friend, Little Yellow Bird, as they try to save their town through the power of reading. The film is based on the “Rocket” books by Tad Hills. Check online at will.illinois.edu/tv/schedule for more airdates for these and other PBS KIDS holiday specials.

Celebrate with a variety of music throughout this holiday season on WILL-FM 90.9. See our FM listings, pages 4-6, for our full schedule.

Wednesday, Dec. 13
Hanukkah Lights 2023 (7 pm), an NPR favorite, returns with the best of the best Hanukkah Lights stories plus a special musical performance by The LeeVees. Hosted by Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz.

Candles Burning Brightly (8 pm) celebrates the Jewish Festival of Lights with lots of music from Jewish communities worldwide, a hilarious lesson on preparing a classic Hanukkah dish, and a timeless and touching holiday story that brings light into every home.

Monday, Dec. 18
An Afro Blue Christmas (8 pm) features a very special holiday concert with Howard University’s premiere vocal ensemble and special guest pianist Cyrus Chestnut. The a cappella group performs a variety of holiday songs including African-American spirituals, jazz and pop tunes, and classical repertoire.

Tuesday, Dec. 19
A Mexican Baroque Christmas with the Rose Ensemble (8 pm) features two centuries of festive Christmas dances and songs from the great cathedrals of Puebla and Mexico City.

Wednesday, Dec. 20
The Christmas Revels: In Celebration of the Winter Solstice 2023 (8 pm) is a musical celebration of the winter holidays with traditional carols, Wassails, hymns, ballads, children’s game-songs, and folk-dance tunes.

Thursday, Dec. 21
A Paul Winter Solstice (7 pm) warms up the longest night of the year with a taste of the tropics. This special brings a starry array of Brazilian guests, including Ivan Lins, Renato Braz, and Luciana Souza, with the Paul Winter Consort at the annual solstice concerts in New York’s Cathedral of St John the Divine. John Schaefer hosts.

Sunday, Dec. 24
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (8-10 pm) shares a live, worldwide Christmas Eve broadcast of a service of biblical readings, carols, and related seasonal classical music. It is presented by one of the world’s foremost choirs of men and boys and performed in the 500-year-old Chapel of King’s College, Cambridge, England.

Monday, Dec. 25
Masaaki Suzuki Conducts Handel’s Messiah (7-9 pm). Join the New York Philharmonic perform this holiday classic. Dazzling vocal solos, instrumental fireworks, and splendid choral writing combine to make this oratorio the musical crown of the season.

Tuesday, Dec. 26
The Sounds of Kwanzaa (7 pm), with Loki Karuna, offers the history of Kwanzaa and its guiding principles and musical selections that highlight the spirit of the celebration.

FM 90.9 brings you music of the season
WEEKDAYS

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

9 am
Classic Mornings with Vic Di Geronimo
Join Vic for music and companionship and make each morning a classic morning!

Noon
Afternoon Classics
NPR News Headlines at 12:01, 1:01, and 3:01.

5 pm
NPR All Things Considered
with Ailsa Chang, Mary Louise Kelly, Ari Shapiro, and Juana Summers

6 pm
The 21st Show
with Brian Mackey

7 pm Monday-Thursday
The Evening Concert
Great performances from the great concert venues. Monday-Thursday evenings at 7 pm. Also 6–9 pm Sundays. Listings may change.

Monday:
The New York Philharmonic This Week

12/4
Dvořák Times Two Plus …
Dvořák: Carnival Overture
Dvořák: Symphony No. 7
See page 3.

12/11
Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich
Tchaikovsky: Selections from Swan Lake
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 10

12/18
Holiday specials
Christmas with the Morehouse & Spelman Glee Clubs
The choirs of two of the most prestigious historically black institutions in the nation get together to present a spine-tingling concert program.
An Afro Blue Christmas
See page 3.

The New York Philharmonic This Week

12/25
Masaaki Suzuki Conducts Handel’s Messiah
See page 3.
Sherezaade Panthaki, soprano
Handel: Messiah

Tuesday:
Chicago Symphony Orchestra

12/5
Salonen Conducts, Kuusisto Plays
Bryce Dessner: Violin Concerto
Pekka Kuusisto, violin

12/12
Afkham Conducts, Gluzman Plays
Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No. 1
Claude Debussy: La mer

Holiday specials

12/19
A Latin American Christmas
Warm and sunny holiday music from many Latin-American locales.
A Mexican Baroque Christmas with the Rose Ensemble
See page 3.

12/26
The Sounds of Kwanzaa
Garrett McQueen hosts this program centered on the Kwanzaa celebration. See page 3.
The Ballad of the Brown King
With a libretto by Langston Hughes, this Christmas cantata focuses on Balthazar, the dark-skinned king who journeyed to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Jesus.

Wednesday:
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

12/6
Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24
Dvořák: In Nature’s Realm, Op. 91
Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 24, K. 491
Joyce Yang, piano

Holiday specials

12/13
Hanukkah Lights 2023
See page 3.
Candles Burning Brightly
See page 3.

12/20
A Winter’s Solstice
Hear modern classical sounds chosen especially to compliment the chilly, starry nights of the season.
The Christmas Revels: In Celebration of the Winter Solstice 2023
See page 3.

12/26
Wind & Rhythm Christmas Special
Leroy Anderson was working at the Pentagon one summer during World War II when he wrote Sleigh Ride.
Wind & Rhythm: Jingle Them
Julie Giroux worked in Hollywood, wrote Christmas carol arrangements that have become a Hollywood tradition.

Thursday:
Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival

12/7
They Lived in Leipzig
Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major
Schumann: Op. 44 Piano Quintet in E-flat Major

Holiday specials

12/14
A Hanukkah Celebration with Chicago a cappella
Choral music set to Hanukkah texts.

12/21
A Paul Winter Solstice

12/28
The Film Score: Music for the Winter Holidays
Beloved standards like “White Christmas” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” and more.

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
Prairie Performances
Concerts from central Illinois are featured. This month’s performances will be announced.

9 pm Friday
Atomic Age Cocktail Party
with Jason Croft

12/1
Evening Enchantment. Soft and light sounds for the end of the day.

12/8
Irving Berlin. Spotlight on one of the great figures from the Great American Songbook.

12/15
It’s A Blue World. (encore) Music for when you have the blues.

12/22
Hi-Fi Christmas 2023. Lots of swinging hi-fi fun for your holiday enjoyment!

12/29
Time After Time. (encore) Songs that deal with the passage of time.

10 pm
Night Music
Andrea Blain, Scott Blankenship, and Steve Seel keep you company through the night and into the morning.
**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.

12/2  
The Emerson Quartet Retires.
12/9  
Handel's "Messiah" Over the Decades.
12/16  
Bach's "Christmas Oratorio."
12/23  
Holiday Music of the Past.
12/30  
Looking Back at 2023.

**Noon**  
**Afternoon at the Opera**  
The Metropolitan Opera Radio Season begins on Saturday, Dec. 9.

12/2  
Omar (Giddens and Abel). Kazem Abdullah, cond., with James McCorkle (Omar), Amanda Lynn Bottoms (Fatima), Daniel Okulitch (Johnson/Owen), and the Los Angeles Opera Ensemble.

12/9  
Florencia en el Amazonas (Catán). Yannick Nézet-Séguin, cond., with Ailyn-Pérez (Florencia), Gabriella Reyes (Rosalba), Mario Chang (Arcadio), and the Met Opera Ensemble.

12/16  
The Magic Flute (Mozart). Patrick Furrer, cond., with Piotr Buszewski (Tamino), Janai Brugger (Pamina), Rolando Villazon (Papageno) Brindley Sherratt (Sarastro), and the Met Opera Ensemble.

12/23  
Tannhäuser (Wagner). Donald Runnicles, cond., with Andreas Schager (Tannhäuser), Elza van den Heever (Elizabeth), Ekaterina Gubanova (Venus), Christian Gerhaher (Wolfram), and the Met Opera Ensemble.

12/30  
Le Nozze di Figaro (Mozart). Performance from April 7, 1956. Max Rudolf, cond., with Cesare Siepi (Figaro), Victoria de los Angeles (Countess Almaviva), Nadine Conner (Susanna), Frank Guarerra (Count Almaviva), Mildred Miller (Cherubino), and the Met Opera Ensemble.

**4 pm**  
**NPR All Things Considered**

**5 pm**  
**Performance Today Weekend**  
Host Fred Child presents a two-hour weekly program that features 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. **[Also Sundays at 2 pm]**

**7 pm**  
**The Midnight Special**  
Marilyn Rea Beyer offers listeners a lively potpourri of folk, Celtic and bluegrass, show and novelty tunes, and hilarious comedy routines.

**9 pm**  
**American Parlor Songbook**  
JP Houston and Julie Van Dusen feature clever songs, charming stories, and hilarious sketches every week. **NPR News Headlines at 9:01.**

**10 pm**  
**Jazz Night In America**  
with Christian McBride

**11 pm**  
**Atomic Age Cocktail Party**  
with Jason Croft (See Friday at 9 pm.)

**midnight**  
**Classics All Night**

**SUNDAYS**

**7 am**  
**NPR Weekend Edition**  
with Ayesha Rascoe

**9 am**  
**Sunday Baroque**  
Hosted by Suzanne Bona. **NPR News Headlines at 9:01 and 10:01.**

**1 pm**  
**Feminine Fusion**  
Host Diane Jones highlights the influence of women in classical music.

**2 pm**  
**Performance Today Weekend**

**4 pm**  
**NPR All Things Considered**

**5 pm**  
**Classical Music**  
**Holiday special**

12/24  
St. Olaf Christmas Festival (Hour 1)  
The St. Olaf Christmas Festival has become one of the nation’s most cherished holiday celebrations.

**6 pm**  
**The Evening Concert**  
The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

12/3  
Piano Chamber Music  
Fauré: Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 120  
Dohnányi: Winds & Strings Sextet, Op. 37

12/10  
Handel’s Brilliance  
Handel: Trio Sonata, Op. 2, No. 1, HWV 386a  
Handel: Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 5

**Holiday specials**

12/17  
A Medieval Christmas  
A special holiday edition of Harmonia Christmas music of another age — the medieval!

12/24  
St. Olaf Christmas Festival (Hour 2)

**The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**

12/31  
Baroque Explorations  
Vivaldi: Cello Concerto, RV 413  
Bach: Violin Concerto in E major, BWV 1042
WEEKDAYS

6–9 am  
Classical Music

9 am–noon  
Classic Mornings  
with Vic Di Geronimo  
Join Vic for companionship and music, and make each morning a classic morning!

Noon–overnight  
Classical Music

Friday 7-9 pm  
Prairie Performances  
Concerts from central Illinois are featured. This month’s performances will be announced.

SATURDAYS

7–9 am  
Classical Music

9–11 am  
Classics by Request  
Vincent Trauth plays requests at this time each Saturday. Submit requests at classreq@illinois.edu or leave a message at 217-265-5064.

11 am–noon  
Classics of the Phonograph  
John Frayne’s weekly exploration of memorable recordings from the 20th century. See page 4 for listings.

Noon–overnight  
Classical Music

SUNDAYS

All day  
Classical Music

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

7 pm

The Evening Concert  
Fiesta! with Elbio Barilari

12/3  
Music from Catalonia  
Selections of pianist Mac McClure’s solo piano recordings of Mompou and other Catalanian composers.

12/10  
Argentine Composer Alberto Williams  
Alberto Williams was the first Argentine composer that reached international fame. Fiesta visits his symphonic and piano works.

Holiday special

12/17  
Montserrat Boy Choir  
For the first time in their 800-year history, the choir performed in the Midwest, bringing with them a message of peace.

Fiesta! With Elbio Barilari

12/24  
Classical Christmas in Latin America  
A brand-new recording of José Mauricio Nunes Garcia’s “Missa de Nossa Senhora da Conceição.”

Holiday special

12/31  
Minnesota Orchestra New Year’s Celebration (Hour 1)  
Ring in the new year with the Minnesota Orchestra Encore of 2022 live performance. Continues at 8 pm.

8 pm

The Evening Concert  
Gateways Radio with Garrett McQueen

12/3  
Hailstork’s “An American Port of Call”  
Carlos Simon: Amen  
Adolphus Hailstork: An American Port of Call

12/10  
Valerie Coleman’s “Afro”  
Valerie Coleman: Afro  
Fred Emory Smith: Suite No. 1

Holiday special

12/17  
Jonathan Winters’ A Christmas Carol  
This updated version of the public radio tradition presents Jonathan Winters’ distinctive reading of Dickens’ holiday classic from a special performing edition prepared by Dickens.

12/24  
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Hour 1)  
See page 3. Continues at 9 pm.

12/31  
Minnesota Orchestra New Year’s Celebration continues (Hour 2)

9 pm

Jazz Night In America  
with Christian McBride

Holiday special

12/24  
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols continues (Hour 2)

10 pm

 Classical Music

Holiday special

12/31  
Toast of the Nation (Hour 1)  
It’s an NPR tradition every New Year’s Eve since the 1970s. Toast of the Nation is festive jazz you can party to all night. Continues at 11 pm.

11 pm

Harmonia  
Angela Mariani presents Baroque and early music.

NPR News Headlines at 11:01

Holiday special

12/31  
Toast of the Nation (Hour 2) Continues at midnight.

overnight

Classical Music

Holiday special

1/1  
Toast of the Nation (Hours 3 & 4)
## Online Streaming
Online Streaming: will.illinois.edu
AM 580 Listener Comments: willamfm@illinois.edu
FM 90.9 · HD3

### Monday - Friday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00</td>
<td><strong>NPR Morning Edition</strong> with Kimberly Schofield</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Commodity Week</td>
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<td>6:30</td>
<td>State Week in Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td><strong>NPR Weekend Edition</strong></td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>The Splendid Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>The 21st Show</strong> with Brian Mackey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td><strong>Here &amp; Now</strong> with Jason Croft</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>The Moth Radio Hour</td>
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<td>1:30</td>
<td>State Week in Review</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
<td><strong>The Closing Market Report</strong></td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td><strong>BBC Newshour</strong></td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td><strong>Fresh Air</strong></td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td><strong>All Things Considered</strong> with Jim Meadows</td>
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<td>5:00</td>
<td>Hidden Brain</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>Big Picture Science</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td><strong>The 21st Show</strong> (repeat)</td>
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<td>8:00</td>
<td><strong>Fresh Air</strong> (repeat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td><strong>BBC World Service</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Science Friday (repeat)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td><strong>Fresh Air</strong> (Th &amp; F repeat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td><strong>BBC World Service</strong></td>
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### Saturday
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<tr>
<td>5:00</td>
<td><strong>BBC World Service</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Inside Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td><strong>State Week in Review</strong></td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td><strong>NPR Weekend Edition</strong></td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>The Splendid Table</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>It's Been A Minute</td>
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<td>Noon</td>
<td><strong>Here &amp; Now</strong> with Jason Croft</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>The Moth Radio Hour</td>
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<td>1:30</td>
<td>The Treatment</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
<td>Radiolab</td>
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<td><strong>Reveal</strong></td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td><strong>TED Radio Hour</strong></td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td><strong>All Things Considered</strong></td>
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<td>5:00</td>
<td>People’s Pharmacy</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>Travel with Rick Steves</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td><strong>Living on Earth</strong></td>
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<td>8:00</td>
<td><strong>Latino USA</strong></td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td><strong>Alternatively Radio</strong></td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>To the Best of Our Knowledge</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td><strong>Left, Right, and Center</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td><strong>BBC World Service</strong></td>
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### Sunday
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td><strong>BBC World Service</strong></td>
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**Bold Listing** = National/International News

### AGRICULTURE
Todd Gleason, host, Closing Market Report & Commodity Week


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

### IPM NEWS
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 — Mae Antar, Nick Boivin, Jason Croft, Christine Hatfield, Emily Hays, Owen Henderson, Linda Kenyon, Brian Mackey, Jim Meadows, Steve Morck, Stephanie Mosqueda, Kimberly Schofield, Tinisha Spain, Kennedy Vincent, and Jose Zepeda — can be heard during Morning Edition, The 21st Show, Here & Now, and All Things Considered.

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

### WEATHER
Monday-Friday

Weather forecasts from meteorologist Andrew Pritchard throughout the day.
Monday-Friday
9:00 PBS NewsHour
10:00 The Day
10:30 BBC World News

Mondays
7:00 12/11 Sabbath • 12/18 Chaplains
8:00 Films BYKIDS
8:30 Stories from the Stage
11:00 12/4 Inside the Vatican • 12/11 Sabbath • 12/18 Chaplains • 12/25 Buddha

Tuesdays
7:00 Expedition with Steve Backshall • 12/26 Searching: Our Quest for Meaning in the Age of Science
8:00 Expedition with Steve Backshall • 12/26 Searching: Our Quest for Meaning in the Age of Science
8:30 The Good Road
11:00 NOVA: 12/5 Mammoth Mystery, 12/12 Ghosts of Stonehenge, 12/19 The Next Pompeii • 12/26 Searching: Our Quest for Meaning in the Age of Science

Wednesdays
7:00 12/6 POV: An Act of Worship • 12/20 America at a Crossroads with Judy Woodruff • 12/27 Independent Lens: Mama Bears
8:00 Frontline: 12/13 The Discord Leaks, 12/20 Netanyahu, America & the Road to War In Gaza
8:30 12/6 POV Shorts • 12/27 In The Night I Remember Your Name
11:00 12/6 Independent Lens: Two Gods • 12/13 POV: How to Have An American Baby • 12/20 Love Wins Over Hate • 12/27 Reel South: Stay Prayed Up

Thursdays
7:00 America ReFramed
8:00 12/7 Absence/Presence
8:30 12/7 Our American Family: The Mays • 12/28 POV Shorts
11:00 America ReFramed

Fridays
7:00 12/8 American Experience: Billy Graham • 12/15 In Their Own Words: Pope Francis • 12/29 Earth’s Sacred Wonders
8:00 12/15 Holy Silence • 12/22 A Town Called Victoria • 12/29 Earth’s Sacred Wonders
11:00 12/1 The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song • 12/8 American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story • 12/15 Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story • 12/22 A Town Called Victoria • 12/29 Earth’s Sacred Wonders

Saturday
12/7 The Black Church, This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song • 12/9 American Masters: Tyrus Wong • 12/16 Independent Lens: The Picture Taker • 12/23 POV: He’s My Brother
8:00 12/23 POV: Love and Stuff
8:30 12/9, 12/16 POV Shorts
9:00 America ReFramed
10:00 12/9 Absence/Presence
10:30 12/2 Unadopted • 12/9 Our American Family: The Mays
11:00 See 7 pm.

Sundays
7:00 Nature: 12/3 Soul of the Ocean, 12/10 American Arctic, 12/17 Canada: Surviving The Wild North, 12/24 Santa’s Wild Home
8:00 12/10 Finding Your Roots • 12/17 & 12/24 Great Yellowstone Thaw
9:00 12/12 Your Health: A Sacred Matter • 12/17 & 12/24 Connected: A Search for Unity
10:00 12/17 & 12/24 Connected: A Search for Unity
10:30 11/19 Our American Family: The Kurowskis
11:00 See 7 pm.
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<td>Tu Antiques Roadshow, W 12/6 Remember Pearl Harbor, 12/13 Mary Berry’s Ultimate Christmas, 12/20 Mary Berry’s Highland Christmas, 12/27 Cultural Expressions: Kwanzaa Th 12/7 Great Polar Bear Feast, 12/14, 12/21&amp;12/28 Great Yellowstone Thaw F Ancient Invisible Cities 12/8 Secrets of the Dead</td>
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<td>Samantha Brown’s Places to Love</td>
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<td>M Grantchester on MASTERPIECE Tu Celebrity Antiques Road Trip W 12/13 Lucy Worsley’s 12 Days of Tudor Christmas, 12/20 Savoy at Christmas, 12/27 Karamu: Feast for the 7th Day Th 12/7 Operation Maneater: Polar Bear, 12/14 &amp; 12/21 Kingdoms of the Sky, 12/28 Mushver Th 12/7 Great Polar Bear Feast, 12/14, 12/21&amp;12/28 Great Yellowstone Thaw F 12/8 Power Trip: The Story of Energy, 12/15 &amp; 12/29 Adventures with a Purpose 12/22 Hidden Aegean</td>
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Note: The weekend daytime schedule will vary Dec. 2-3, and children’s holiday specials will air throughout the month (see page 3). For more details, see our full schedule online at will.illinois.edu/tv/schedule.
Secrets of the mystery queen revealed

In her new three-part series, popular British historian Lucy Worsley turns her powers of investigation to the mysterious figure of Agatha Christie, uncovering the story of one of the most famous, complex, and misunderstood women of the 20th century. How did this seemingly conventional British matron write so convincingly about the dark art of murder? As in the best of Christie’s novels, clues are hiding in plain sight, and Lucy uncovers surprising new evidence and some carefully concealed secrets that illuminate the life of a writer whose work continues to delight readers worldwide. Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen premieres Sundays at 7 pm beginning Dec. 3.

The Chinese birth tourism industry

POV explores the unsettling commercialization of birth and citizenship and its human cost in the brave and nuanced documentary How to Have an American Baby. The film journeys into the shadow economy catering to Chinese tourists who travel to the U.S. to give birth so their babies will be American citizens. With unprecedented access, the documentary recounts all sides of this often sensationalized issue, going beyond the headlines to provide a never-before-seen insider’s look at this phenomenon. How to Have an American Baby airs on POV at 9 pm Monday, Dec. 11.

The life of sled dogs and their racers

From the moment a newborn puppy begins its career as a sled dog, to the day a dog is retired from the sport, the lives of sled dogs (and mushers) resemble those of devoted athletes from other sports. Musher, airing at 10 pm Wednesday, Dec. 27, follows four female mushers and their sled dogs over the course of an exhilarating year as they prepare to compete in a March race in Michigan’s upper peninsula. The year is based around racing, and throughout it we see the challenges faced by the teams, focus on the bonds between the animals and their humans, and observe their everyday lives.
Steve and Eydie’s life in song

In an acclaimed career spanning over half a century of timeless entertainment, husband-and-wife Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme represented the very best in popular music. Steve and Eydie: Memories of My Mom And Dad is a joyful look back at the dazzling showmanship, enduring hit songs, beloved show tunes, and favorite standards by two of the greatest voices in popular music. Their musician son, David Lawrence, hosts the all-new My Music special that will debut at 7 pm Saturday, Dec. 2. Now, for the first time, their remarkable career is celebrated with musical performances drawn from classic television appearances not seen in years. Joining their son is Carol Burnett, with whom Steve and Eydie enjoyed a longtime personal and professional relationship, and vocalist Michael Feinstein.

December drama highlights

Fans of Midsomer Murders get behind-the-scenes access in Midsomer Murders: 25 Years of Mayhem airing at 9 pm Saturday, Dec. 9. The special features interviews with key cast members, tours of the show’s locations, and also pays tribute to on- and off-screen talent. Narrated by Celia Imerie, the documentary highlights those who have played a pivotal role in the series’ success for 25 years and spotlights early career appearances from actors such as Orlando Bloom, Olivia Colman, and Henry Cavill.

In response to fan feedback, we will again air the two-part episodes of Midsomer Murders back-to-back beginning at 8 pm Dec. 16.

Season 8 of Seaside Hotel premieres at 10 pm Sunday, Dec. 10. The regulars are back, and everything is looking promising until a communist painter, two German soldiers, and an orthopedic surgeon arrive. A plan is born in a bid to get rid of the unwanted guests. Meanwhile, Madsen gets involved in the fate of a young German solider.

And Sister Boniface Mysteries continues with season 2 premiering at 8 pm Thursday, Dec. 28 and repeated at 7 pm the following Saturday. Criminals, say your prayers. The crime-solving, Vespa-driving nun returns in this lighthearted Father Brown spin-off. This season, the sister forces a murderer into checkmate at a chess tournament, takes a spin at a pirate radio station, confronts a coven of witches, and defends her own reputation as the conviction of her greatest adversary, “The Good Samaritan,” comes into question.
‘America at a Crossroads’ premieres Dec. 19
Judy Woodruff set out on a two-year reporting project to explore the forces driving Americans apart and to ask people from all walks of life and all political persuasions what might be done to reverse these worrying trends. Now, to round out the first year, this special will revisit some of our most compelling stories with a combination of writers, policymakers, big thinkers, and everyday people to explain what we’ve learned about America's divisions, what we’re still grasping to better understand, and what might be done to move forward. America at a Crossroads with Judy Woodruff airs at 8 pm Tuesday, Dec. 19.

1 Friday
7:00 Washington Week with The Atlantic
7:30 Firing Line with Margaret Hoover
8:00 John Sebastian’s Folk Rewind (My Music Presents) (TV-G)
Presented by the lead singer of The Lovin’ Spoonful (“Do You Believe In Magic”), this special focuses on the greatest singers and songwriters of the ’50s and ’60s folk era. Repeated 1:30 am 12/3.
10:00 Creedence Clearwater Revival at the Royal Albert Hall (TV-PG)
This long-lost live recording of Creedence Clearwater Revival’s 1970 London show features previously unseen video and the only concert footage of the group’s original lineup to be released in its entirety. Repeated 3:30 am 12/3.
11:30 Amanpour and Company

2 Saturday
7:00 Steve & Eydie: Memories of My Mom and Dad (My Music Presents) (TV-G)
See page 11.
9:00 Everly Brothers — Harmonies from Heaven (TV-PG)
This film tells the story of Phil and Don Everly, two of the most important and influential early rock ‘n’ roll stars of the 1950s and ’60s, with new footage of surviving brother Don and archival interviews with Phil.
10:30 Cyndi Lauper Live … at Last (TV-PG)
Twenty years after “She’s So Unusual” made Cyndi Lauper an icon, this special captures an intimate night at New York’s Town Hall in 2004.

3 Sunday
7:00 Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen (TV-PG) (DVS)
8:30 Doo Wop, Pop and Soul Generations (My Music) (TV-G)
Celebrate the legacy of the music of the late 1950s and ’60s, following the birth of rock-and-roll and the explosion of rhythm and blues, with a new generation of artists.
11:00 Marvin Gaye: Greatest Hits Live (TV-PG)
This classic performance was recorded on Marvin Gaye’s first European Tour in 1976 and captures the legendary soul singer at his unparalleled best.

4 Monday
7:00 Antiques Roadshow (TV-G)
The Gen X Years.
8:00 Antiques Roadshow (TV-G)
Women's Work.
9:00 The Jewish Journey: America (TV-G)
This film explores Jewish life in the old country, the reasons behind leaving their respective homes and journeying to the U.S., and the establishment of communities and the great accomplishments made in the U.S.
10:00 European Christmas Markets (TV-G)
Discover the Christmas markets in Europe, where the town center, market square, or just the narrow, cobblestone streets of the cities and towns come alive in winter with festively decorated wooden stalls offering all sorts of treats and delights.
10:30 Christmas on the Danube (TV-G)
A companion to “European Christmas Market,” this holiday treat will fill your senses with warmth, touch your heart, and provide your mind with geography and history, as well.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

5 Tuesday
7:00 Finding Your Roots (TV-PG)
Laughing on the Inside. Henry Louis Gates Jr. provides comedians Lewis Black and Roy Wood Jr. with accounts of hardship in their family trees that may have led them to each find humor in adversity. Repeated 2 pm 12/6 & 4 am 12/11.
8:00 Remember Pearl Harbor (TV-PG)
Narrated by actor Tom Selleck, this film chronicles the personal stories of veterans and citizens who witnessed the surprise attack by the Japanese on the American Pacific Fleet on Dec. 7, 1941, launching the United States into World War II. Repeated 1 am 12/6, 3 pm 12/6 & 2 am 12/7.
9:30 Lifeline: Pearl Harbor’s Unknown Hero (TV-PG)
Narrated by actor Gary Sinise, this film tells the story of how U.S. Navy sailor Joe George became an unlikely hero when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, although he did not receive the Bronze Medal until 70 years later. Repeated 2:30 am 12/6 & 3:30 am 12/7.
11:00 Amanpour and Company
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 12/7, 3 am 12/8 & 12 am 12/10.

8:00  NOVA (TV-PG)
Ghost of Stonehenge. Who built Stonehenge and why? Discover how the last decade of groundbreaking archaeological digs has revealed major new clues to Britain’s enigmatic 5,000-year-old site and the people who constructed it. Repeated 4 am 12/8 & 2 pm 12/8.

9:00  Great Polar Bear Feast (TV-PG)
Investigate the problems facing a unique population of polar bears due to climate change. At the heart is an extraordinary event: the annual gathering of up to 80 polar bears on Barter Island in the Arctic Ocean each September. Repeated 1 am 12/7, 3 pm 12/7, 2 am 12/8 & 1 am 12/10.

10:00  Operation Maneater (TV-PG)
Polar Bear. Mark Evans travels to the shores of Canada’s Hudson Bay where polar bears are causing havoc in isolated communities. Repeated 4 pm 12/7.

11:00  Amanpour and Company

Thursday

7:00  Mid-American Gardener
Repeated 11 am 12/9.

7:30  Ask This Old House (TV-G)
Generator Hookup, Brick Lintel Repair.

8:00  Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
Queen of the Kitchen. Season 1, episode 8 of 10. A celebrity chef comes to St Vincent’s Convent to record an episode of Queen of the Kitchen, her TV cooking competition. Repeated 7 pm 12/9 & 2 pm 12/11.

9:00  Doc Martin (TV-PG)
Wild West Country. Season 9, episode 5 of 8. Martin investigates a shooting after local farmer Dennis Thorpe shoots Robert after he took some of his eggs. Repeated 6 pm 12/10.

10:00  Death In Paradise (TV-PG)
A Deadly Curse. Season 2, episode 4 of 8. DI Poole and the team are plunged into a mysterious plot of pirates and ancient myth when a treasure hunter is shot dead in the jungle.

11:00  Amanpour and Company

Friday

7:00  Washington Week with The Atlantic

7:30  Firing Line with Margaret Hoover

8:00  Best of WILL

10:00  Christmas at Depaul (TV-G)
Join Chicago’s DePaul University as the story of the birth of Christ is retold in word and song.

11:00  Amanpour and Company

Saturday

7:00  Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
See 8 pm 12/7. Repeated 2 pm 12/11.

8:00  Midsomer Murders (TV-PG)
Blood Will Out (part 2 of 2). Season 2, episode 4 of 4. An unpleasant and unpopular local magistrate is found dead.

9:00  Midsomer Murders: 25 Years of Mayhem (TV-PG)
See page 11.

10:00  Agatha Christie’s Poirot
The Mystery of the Spanish Chest. Season 3, episode 7 of 10. A woman who feared her husband is found dead. Repeated 3 pm 12/11.

11:00  Austin City Limits (TV-PG)
Allison Russell/The Weather Station.

Sunday

7:00  Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen (TV-PG) (DVS)

8:00  All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-PG) (DVS)

9:00  All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-PG) (DVS)

10:00  Seaside Hotel (TV-14)
We’re Not Talking About That. Season 8, episode 1 of 5.

11:00  Holidays at Murray State (TV-G)
Murray State University’s annual seasonal special.

Monday

7:00  Antiques Roadshow (TV-G)
Tearjerkers.

8:00  Antiques Roadshow (TV-G)
Body of Work.

9:00  POV (TV-14) (DVS)

11:00  Amanpour and Company

Tuesday

7:00  Season of Light: Christmas With The Tabernacle Choir (TV-G)
See page 1. Repeated 3:30 am 12/14, 8 pm 12/22, 1 am 12/23 & 2 am 12/25.

8:30  Debbie Gibson Holiday: A Soundcheck Special (TV-G)
Debbie Gibson discusses her first holiday album and performs. Repeated 9:30 pm 12/22, 5:30 pm 12/24 & 4:30 pm 12/10.

9:00  Frontline

10:00  Frontline
Inside The Uvalde Response. The real-time accounts of the response, missteps, and trauma in the Uvalde school shooting.

11:00  Amanpour and Company
13 Wednesday
7:00 Nature (TV-PG) (DVS)
Canada: Surviving The Wild North. Journey from Canada's high arctic to boreal forest and discover how polar bears, coastal wolves, lynx, and more survive in the North. Repeated 2 pm 12/14, 3 am 12/15 & 12 am 12/17.
8:00 NOVA (TV-PG)
9:00 Great Yellowstone Thaw (TV-PG) (DVS)
Part 1 of 3. A Yellowstone winter is a brutal one with temperatures that plunge down to -40 F. Cameraman Jeff Hogan captures the animals' strategies for survival. Repeated 1 am 12/14, 3 pm 12/14, 2 am 12/15 & 1 am 12/17.
10:00 Kingdoms of the Sky: Rockies (TV-PG)
Experience the amazing wildlife and remarkable people who live in this 3,000-mile mountain range, home to cougars, wolverines, wolves, and grizzlies. Repeated 4 pm 12/14.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

14 Thursday
7:00 Mid-American Gardener
Repeated 11 am 12/16.
7:30 Ask This Old House (TV-G)
Double Pane Window, Paint Bench.
8:00 Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
Sister Town. Season 1, episode 9 of 10. When a German mayor visits Great Slaughter to partake in a war memorial ceremony, tragedy strikes. Sister Boniface investigates whether it's a terrible accident or a malicious plan. Repeated 7 pm 12/9 & 2 pm 12/11.
9:00 Doc Martin (TV-PG)
Equilibrium. Season 9, episode 6 of 8. Martin and Louisa have their first fertility consultation with Dr Emma Ryder. Repeated 6 pm 12/17.
10:00 Death In Paradise (TV-PG)
Murder Onboard. Season 2, episode 5 of 8. Camille is devastated when her best friend, Aimee, a singer on a Caribbean party boat, collapses while on stage.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

15 Friday
7:00 Washington Week with The Atlantic
7:30 Firing Line with Margaret Hoover
8:00 Lookingglass Alice (TV-PG)
An exhilarating live theatrical adaptation of Alice In Wonderland, created and performed by Chicago's Tony-Award winning Lookingglass Theatre Company. Repeated 1 am 12/16 & 2 am 12/18.
10:00 Crane Candlelight Concert (TV-G)
Let It Shine! Hundreds of student musicians from SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music take to the stage in celebration of the 2022 holiday season.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

16 Saturday
7:00 Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
Sister Town. See 8 pm 12/14. Repeated 2 pm 12/11.
8:00 Midsomer Murders (TV-PG)
Dead Man's Eleven (parts 1 & 2 of 2). Season 3, episode 1 of 4. DCI Barnaby's plans to move to the village of Fletcher's Cross are disrupted when the wife of a landowner is killed while out walking her dog.
10:00 Agatha Christie's Poirot
The Theft of the Royal Ruby. Season 3, episode 8 of 10. Poirot prepares to spend a quiet Christmas on his own but gives up his plans when the British government asks for his urgent help. Repeated 3 pm 12/18.
11:00 Austin City Limits (TV-PG)
Brandy Clark/Charley Crockett.

17 Sunday
7:00 Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen (TV-PG) (DVS)
8:00 All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-14) (DVS)
Surviving Siegfried. Season 3, episode 3 of 7. Siegfried's World War I experiences resurface as he struggles to save a racehorse. Repeated 12 am 12/18 & 3 am 12/19.
9:00 All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-PG) (DVS)
10:00 Seaside Hotel (TV-14)
Chocolate and Whipped Cream. See page 11. Season 8, episode 2 of 5.
11:00 Christmas at Westminster: An Evening of Readings and Carols (TV-G)
See page 1.

18 Monday
7:00 Antiques Roadshow (TV-G)
Out of This World.
8:00 Mary Berry's Highland Christmas (TV-PG)
See page 2. Repeated 2 am 12/20, 3 pm 12/20, 3 am 12/23 & 4 am 12/28.
9:00 Savoy at Christmas (TV-PG)
Repeated 4 pm 12/20.
10:00 25 Years with Lidia: A Culinary Jubilee (TV-G)
See page 2. Repeated 3 am 12/20 & 3 pm 12/23.
11:00 Amanpour and Company
19 Tuesday
7:00 Finding Your Roots (TV-PG)
8:00 America at a Crossroads with Judy Woodruff (TV-14)
9:00 Frontline
Netanyahu, America and the Road to War In Gaza. The inside story of Netanyahu’s turbulent relationships with the U.S. and the Palestinians. Repeated 1 am 12/20.
10:00 Rick Steves Holy Land: Israelis and Palestinians Today (TV-G)
This special weaves together both the Israeli and the Palestinian narratives to better understand a place that is, for a third of humanity, literally holy land.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

20 Wednesday
7:00 Nature (TV-G) (DVS)
8:00 NOVA (TV-G)
Decoding The Great Pyramid. Stunning new archaeological evidence provides clues about the Egyptians who built the Great Pyramid of Giza — and how they did it. Repeated 4 am 12/22 & 2 pm 12/22.
9:00 Great Yellowstone Thaw (TV-PG) (DVS)
Part 2 of 3. Cameras continue to follow the wildlife dramas in Yellowstone, and spring brings many new challenges. Repeated 1 am 12/21, 3 pm 12/21, 2 am 12/22 & 1 am 12/24.
10:00 Kingdoms of the Sky: Himalaya (TV-G)
Witness the extraordinary wildlife and remarkable people of Earth’s highest mountain range, where Tibetan monks perform ancient rituals and snow leopards prowl the mountainsides. Repeated 4 pm 12/21.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

21 Thursday
7:00 Mid-American Gardener
See page 1. Repeated 10 pm 12/22, 10:30 am 12/23 & 11 am 12/24.
8:00 Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
Crimes and Miss Demeanours. Season 1, episode 10 of 10. One of the Miss United Kingdoms contestants is found dead in the pool. Repeated 7 pm 12/23 & 2 pm 12/25.
9:00 Doc Martin (TV-PG)
Single White Bevy. Season 9, episode 7 of 8. A local vet has a consult with the doc about a lump in her breast. Repeated 6 pm 12/24.
10:00 Death In Paradise (TV-PG)
A Dash of Sunshine. Season 2, episode 6 of 8. An English tourist is found dead in her luxury villa, strangled by her own scarf.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

22 Friday
7:00 Washington Week with The Atlantic
8:00 Season of Light: Christmas With The Tabernacle Choir (TV-G)
See page 1. Repeated 1 am 12/23 & 2 am 12/25.
9:30 Debbie Gibson Holiday: A Soundcheck Special (TV-G)
See 8:30 pm 12/12.
10:00 Prairie Fire
10:30 PBS Arts Talk (TV-PG)
Rhiannon Giddens with Elvis Costello. Repeated 5:30 pm 12/10.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

23 Saturday
7:00 Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
8:00 Midsomer Murders (TV-PG)
Blue Herrings (parts 1 & 2 of 2). Season 3, episode 2 of 4. DCI Barnaby investigates suspicious deaths at a nursing home.
10:00 Agatha Christie’s Poirot
The Affair at the Victory Ball. Season 3, episode 9 of 10. Poirot dresses as himself when he is invited to a celebrity masquerade ball. Repeated 3 pm 12/25.
11:00 Austin City Limits (TV-PG)
Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats/Adia Victoria.

24 Sunday
7:00 All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-PG) (DVS)
8:00 All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-PG) (DVS)
9:00 All Creatures Great and Small on MASTERPIECE (TV-PG) (DVS)
10:00 Seaside Hotel (TV-14)
See page 11. Season 8, episode 3 of 5.
11:00 St. Thomas Christmas: Reflections of Gratitude (TV-G)

25 Monday
7:00 Call the Midwife Holiday Special (TV-14)
See page 2. Repeated today at 8:30 pm & 2 am 12/31.
8:30 Call the Midwife Holiday Special (TV-14)
10:00 All Creatures Great and Small: Christmas in the Dales (TV-PG)
See page 2.
11:00 Amanpour and Company
26 Tuesday
7:00 The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song (TV-14)
Part 1 of 2. Henry Louis Gates Jr. explores the roots of African American religion, beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the extraordinary ways enslaved Africans preserved and adapted faith practices from the brutality of slavery to emancipation. Repeated 1 am 12/27.
9:00 The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song (TV-14)
Part 2 of 2. Discover how the Black church expanded its reach to address social inequality and minister to those in need — from the Jim Crow South to the heroic phase of the civil rights movement — and the Black church’s role today. Repeated 3 am 12/27.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

27 Wednesday
7:00 Nature (TV-G) (DVS)
Penguins: Meet The Family. A celebration of one of Earth’s most iconic and beloved birds, featuring footage of all 17 species of penguins for the first time — from New Zealand, Cape Town, the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica. Repeated 2 pm 12/28, 3 am 12/29 & 12 am 12/31.
8:00 NOVA (TV-PG) (DVS)
Alaskan Dinosaurs. Wielding chainsaws to extract fossils frozen into the permafrost and flying drones to map thousands of footprints, intrepid paleontologists discover that dinosaurs thrived in the unlikeliest of places — the cold and dark of the Arctic Circle. Repeated 4 am 12/29 & 2 pm 12/29.
9:00 Great Yellowstone Thaw (TV-PG) (DVS)
Part 3 of 3. It’s summer in Yellowstone, and with soaring temperatures and drought comes the risk of wildfires. Repeated 1 am 12/28, 3 pm 12/28 & 2 am 12/29.
10:00 Mushar (TV-PG) (DVS)
11:00 Amanpour and Company

28 Thursday
7:00 Mid-American Gardener
Repeated 11 am 12/30.
7:30 Ask This Old House (TV-G)
Winter Prep, Miter Saw Station.
8:00 Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
Don’t Try This at Home. See page 11. Season 2, episode 1 of 10. Great Slaughter plays host to the summer roadshow of kids’ TV show “Jolly Roger.” Repeated 7 pm 12/30.
9:00 Doc Martin (TV-PG)
Licence to Practice. Season 9, episode 8 of 8. Wedding bells are ringing for Morwenna and Al. But some last minute hitches threaten to jeopardize their big day. Repeated 6 pm 12/31.
10:00 Death In Paradise (TV-PG)
A Stormy Occurrence. Season 2, episode 7 of 8. As Hurricane Irma approaches Saint Marie and the islanders are battenning down the hatches, the team is called to the murder scene of a young meteorologist.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

29 Friday
7:00 Washington Week with The Atlantic
8:00 Meredith Willson: America’s Music Man
He performed under Sousa and Toscanini. He scored films for the likes of Chaplin and wrote popular songs performed by Sinatra and The Beatles. And when the River City boys band marched on Broadway, Meredith Willson caught the whole world’s ear.
9:00 Craft In America (TV-PG)
Miniatures. Explore the world of tiny objects and the artists that make them. Repeated 1 am 12/30.
10:00 Craft In America (TV-PG)
Play. Explore the intersection of play and artistry.
11:00 Amanpour and Company

30 Saturday
7:00 Sister Boniface Mysteries (TV-PG)
Don’t Try This at Home. See 8 pm 12/28.
8:00 Midsomer Murders (TV-PG)
Judgement Day (parts 1 & 2 of 2). Season 3, episode 3 of 4. The residents of the village of Midsomer Mallow fear for their chances of winning the Perfect Village competition when a local thief and womanizer is brutally killed with a pitchfork.
10:00 Agatha Christie’s Poirot
The Mystery of Hunter’s Lodge. Season 3, episode 10 of 10. Hastings is invited to a shooting weekend where Mr. Harrington Pace is found dead.
11:00 Austin City Limits (TV-PG)
Cimafunk and the Tribe.

31 Sunday
7:00 Next at the Kennedy Center
A New Year’s Eve Celebration.
8:00 Roy Orbison Forever (TV-PG)
This music documentary charts Orbison’s career and relationships with other musicians through interviews and archive performances.
9:00 Doobie Brothers: 50th Anniversary at Radio City Music Hall (TV-G)
Celebrate 50 years with the Grammy-winning band, who have sold more than 48 million records worldwide.
10:00 David Bowie: Serious Moonlight (TV-G)
Experience one of the most dramatic and charismatic performances of Bowie’s career on his 1983 tour recorded live in Vancouver.
11:00 Prince and the Revolution: The Purple Rain Tour (TV-14)
Experience the powerful performance by Prince and The Revolution on their legendary Purple Rain Tour.
Exclusive streaming of Walter Presents

Throughout December, Friends of WILL receive exclusive access to full seasons of five Walter Presents series, a collection of award-winning international dramas that are hand-picked by TV connoisseur Walter Iuzzolino. Each is presented in its original language with English subtitles.

**Season 2 of The Wagner Method** (French) begins Dec. 1, and follows a work-obsessed police captain whose style often leaves his squad and the suspects he pursues caught off guard.

Based on true events, **Hotel Europa** (German) explores a hotel frequently visited by Konrad Adenauer, Charlie Chaplin, and Adolf Hitler. Season 1 begins Dec. 8.

A fierce detective is abducted just prior to the delivery of her child in **Unbroken** (German). A search for her missing child ensues after she is unable to remember anything after being kidnapped. Season 1 begins Dec. 15.

In the fast-paced and suspenseful series **The Paris Murders** (French), a profiler solves challenging cases using her extraordinary ability to get in the minds of both victims and criminals. Season 7 begins Dec. 22.

Set in the mystical word of San Candido, **One Step From Heaven** (Italian) is a captivating series in which love, nature, and friendship intertwine in fascinating ways. Season 2 begins Dec. 29.

Go to will.illinois.edu/passport, your TV’s app menu, or your preferred streaming device, and find out how you can unlock more shows with your WILL Passport via the PBS App.
Kranich to retire after more than 25 years of opening doors, challenging boundaries

Kimberlie Kranich has devoted 25 1/2 years to Illinois Public Media. As she prepares to retire later this month, she reflects on a career driven by public service and pushing boundaries.

“My focus and dedication has always been to the communities we serve, including underrepresented communities,” Kranich said. “In everything we do, we hope to build a richer community that is responsible for each other. My favorite part of my job is collaborating with people for a common goal.”

“Kimberlie’s entire career at IPM has been focused on championing diverse voices and ensuring everyone has access to educational resources,” said Moss Bresnahan, IPM executive director. “She has worked tirelessly to share stories of educators, veterans, LGBTQ community members, immigrants, voting rights advocates, and so many more. I could not hope to quantify the innumerable lives she has impacted, but I know this community is a much better place to live thanks to her efforts.”

Kranich started part time as a freelance producer, working on such projects as the original Prairie Fire, then was hired full time in 1998 as a promotions coordinator in the Marketing Department. She is now the director of engagement and educational outreach and has served 12 years on the leadership team. Her department also includes Illinois Radio Reader.

“Kimberlie brought to IPM fresh and important perspectives that have continued to expand the stations’ connections with the communities it serves,” said Debbie Day, retired director of development who hired Kranich.

“I think because I’ve been able to do a little bit of everything I love, that is the true reason I have stayed so long. And I wasn’t sure I would,” Kranich said. “But I have been given great latitude to do my job using my unique experiences in radio and TV production and journalism. And those things are all interwoven to produce, hopefully, stronger programs — whether it’s a live event in the studio or in the community, a TV or radio program, or a podcast.”

She has led many successful programs through the years (see box on page 19), and she has won many awards for her efforts.

What has changed in 25 years? “Over the years, we have worked hard to diversify our staff and programming. And with that diversification we’ve seen different viewpoints and different stories that reflect a better understanding of the region we serve,” she said. “When you add people who have different experiences, and they are allowed to shape and share those experiences just like anyone else, the coverage changes. The trust changes.”

“I will miss Kimberlie’s passion for reaching out to the community. She is an avid supporter of social justice, both professionally and personally,” said Kathie Spegal, coordinator of Illinois Radio Reader. “It has been exciting to see what her Uni High students have produced. We have been friends for more than
Dear Friends,

When I arrived here from Penn State Public Broadcasting in 1998, WILL’s track record was obvious from the award plaques that hung on the walls for radio news and public affairs reporting and the Emmy statues on TV producers’ desks. This is also the place where children were heard but not seen (Tree House Radio) and taught how to turn oral histories into radio documentaries. Having just come from producing a TV news program for kids called “What’s in the News,” I was eager to make my mark. But would I be safe here?

I came out as lesbian in my job interview when asked why I wanted to leave my producer/director job. My partner just got her Ph.D. and had secured a faculty position at Parkland College. I needed to test the culture of WILL before getting an offer since my partner’s job offer at a college in Alabama had been rescinded after she asked about domestic partner benefits for me. This was 1997, one year after The Defense of Marriage Act, which limited the definition of marriage to the union of one man and one woman, was signed by President Bill Clinton.

The staff composition at WILL was like that at WPSU — mostly white with men dominating news and station leadership positions. I experienced the familiar insider-outsider feeling but was determined to create a space that didn’t just complement what was already here, but to also push for what was missing. I built collaborations inside WILL and with members of local Black community organizations, youth-centered organizations, and social change makers. These efforts led to station projects WILL is still known for and proud of today, including the Youth Media Workshop; Smile Healthy! a dental health access reporting partnership with Black-owned radio station WBCP and Champaign County Health Care Consumers; and community listening sessions that bring our producers and journalists together to meet diverse members of the public for face-to-face discussions and sharing that builds trust and sources.

When in a position to hire staff and interns, I added Black staff to our then weekly TV program Black Perspectives, Latina staff to our longstanding and still active Book Mentor Project, and queer staff to Illinois Radio Reader.

Illinois Public Media has a more diverse staff now than at any other time in my nearly 26 years here. The uprisings against George Floyd’s murder were a catalyst for change in our industry, and top leadership here understands that we, the media, play an outsized role in shaping this experiment known as a ‘participatory democracy.’ Thank you to all of you who support these efforts with your time and money. — Kimberlie Kranich

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20 years and worked together for 10 years.
I will miss her approach to the community here
at the station, and I look forward to new ways
to collaborate together.”

Kranich has plans to continue her work in retirement. “I want to spend more time on the things I love, and only spend time on things I love, which include community collaborations, radio, young people and the elderly, including my 80-plus-year-old mothers.” She also plans to spend more time with her wife, Emily, and their daughter, a fourth-grade student in Unit 4. And she will continue to teach comprehensive sexual education to school-aged children at her church and challenge herself with more improv gigs.

“But you know, every single time I turn on our station or watch something we produce locally, whether I’m involved in it or not, it fills me with pride in the fact that this is a community and we’re seeing and talking to each other. And we’re growing, we’re getting better,” she said.
Illinois Public Media’s next film screening at the Virginia Theatre will not only feature the second hour of *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*, but the event will celebrate the Black church experience with a panel discussion and live performances.

"The Black church has been the place where Black people have developed institutional and individual armor against racism and white supremacy, and where Black women and Black LGBTQ people have struggled for inclusion and leadership roles," Kranich said. "In this special screening, we’ll learn about the role of the Black church during reconstruction and the demands of Black women to take their rightful place has leaders within the institution."

Tune to WILL-TV at 7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 26, to watch the full series.
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 Spinners and Weavers Guild  
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