BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH IS RICHARD III IN

THE

HOLLOW CROWN

on Great Performances, December 22 & 25 on WETA TV 26/HD

Celebrate the holidays with music & specials on Classical WETA 90.9 FM & WETA TV 26/HD

A new WETA documentary premieres December 1: Discovering Alexandria: The 20th Century

– And inside, a tribute to Gwen Ifill –
Dear WETA Members,

As we close the year, we remember and celebrate our beloved friend and colleague Gwen Ifill, who passed away on November 14 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bearing her burdens with quiet grace and immense dignity, Gwen was very private about her health struggle and preferred to focus on her reporting. She was a strong, brave woman with a big heart and a deep faith, and she gave her work her all.

Gwen was one of America’s leading lights in journalism, a true national treasure who devoted her life to public service. She was joyfully dedicated to her work, which had real impact, always presenting incisive, balanced reporting that elevated discourse. One measure of that impact has been the enormous outpouring of expressions of love and appreciation from viewers and colleagues throughout the country — and from abroad. Gwen was adored by her audience.

She came to WETA in the fall of 1999, the perfect person and journalist to invigorate Washington Week and make a significant contribution to the NewsHour, sharing Jim Lehrer and Robin McNeil’s journalistic ethics and approach to the news. Whether leading Washington Week’s robust roundtable discussion or serving as a NewsHour senior correspondent and later in the anchor chair, Gwen reported the news with integrity and authority, building enormous credibility through fair reporting and probing interviews.

She was also a trailblazer. Although she considered herself simply a journalist — full stop — she was also one of the first black journalists to become managing editor and moderator of a national politics program, and she and her close friend and colleague Judy Woodruff made history as the first women to co-anchor a nightly network television news program. Gwen was honored to be selected to moderate vice-presidential debates in 2004 and 2008, and she covered seven presidential campaigns, five while at WETA.

Gwen was also a powerful mentor; she relished meeting and encouraging young journalists and was in turn inspired by them, always remaining optimistic about the future of her profession and its public service mission. For her work, she earned enormous respect, a host of honorary doctorates and an incredible array of awards, among which was a prized Peabody Award for Washington Week. That honor was garnered for the roadshows that took Gwen to cities around the country, broadcasting before live audiences. She loved those special programs, which allowed her to meet the audience and to field questions from engaged viewers who so relied upon her trusted, unbiased reports.

We will miss Gwen on the air, in the hallways at WETA and in our television studio, where on Friday nights she and the production crew put on music and danced together just before her on-camera introductions to Washington Week. Her joie de vivre, effervescence and quick wit were infectious. Gwen was an extraordinary, special person, a wonderfully kind and inspiring colleague, and a warm and steadfast friend. It was a great privilege to know her.

We will forever cherish Gwen’s memory, and we will go on reporting and analyzing the news in service to the public, presenting superb journalism to the American people as Gwen would want and expect us to do.

Sharon Percy Rockefeller, President & CEO, WETA
Holiday Music on Classical WETA 90.9 FM

Experience the sounds of the season on Classical WETA 90.9 FM as Greater Washington’s exclusive classical music radio service adds holiday music into its broadcasts. Seasonal offerings air throughout the month and increase substantially during the week before Christmas. Special programming begins with a broadcast of Ryba’s Czech Christmas Mass on the December 18, 9 p.m. broadcast of Choral Showcase and culminates with special programming on December 24-25.

Christmas Eve specials include the traditional Christmas Eve Carolfest (6 a.m.–1 p.m.); Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King’s College, Cambridge (5 p.m.); and Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker (7 p.m.). On Christmas Day, Classical WETA presents Christmas in Washington (10 a.m.), featuring performances of holiday music by D.C.-area choral and instrumental ensembles; Handel’s Messiah (3 p.m.); and Bach’s Christmas Oratorio (9 p.m.).

For complete WETA holiday programming details, visit weta.org/happyholidays.

For the Holidays, on WETA TV 26/HD

Rick Steves’ European Christmas Sun 12/4, 10:30am; Rpts Sat 12/17, 10pm; Sun 12/18, 10am, 6pm

Celtic Thunder Christmas Fri 12/9, 9:30pm; Rpts Sat 12/17, 4:30pm, midnight; Sun 12/18, 10pm

Lidia Celebrates America: Holiday for Heroes Fri 12/16, 10pm; Rpts Mon 12/19, 2pm; Wed 12/21, 3pm

Celtic Woman: Home for Christmas Sat 12/17, noon

Libera: Angels Sing Christmas in Ireland Sat 12/17, 6:30pm; Rpts Sun 12/18, 2pm

Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (featuring): Laura Osnes and Martin Jarvis Mon 12/19, 9pm; Rpts Tue 12/20, 3pm; Sat 12/24, 11pm; Sun 12/25, 12:30pm

Santino Fontana and the Sesame Street Muppets Mon 12/19, 10pm; Rpts Tue 12/20, 4pm; Sun 12/25, 1:30pm

Alfie Boe/Tom Brokaw Sun 12/25, 2:30pm

Deborah Voigt/John Rhys-Davies Sun 12/25, 3:30pm

Happy Holidays with the Boston Pops Wed 12/21, 10pm; Rpts Thu 12/22, 5pm; Sun 12/25, 11:30am

Christmastime in New Orleans 12/23, 8:30pm; 12/25, 11:30pm

Call the Midwife Holiday Special 2016 Sun 12/25, 7:30pm (2015 at 6pm); Rpts Mon 12/26, 2pm

Live from Lincoln Center: New York Philharmonic New Year’s Eve Sat 12/31, 8pm

Visit weta.org/happyholidays for details.
A new film produced by WETA presents the third production in a documentary trilogy exploring the remarkable, vibrant history of Alexandria, Virginia. Discovering Alexandria: The 20th Century spotlights the community’s evolution during the rapid cultural and technological changes from the 1900s to the present day. The 90-minute documentary continues the chronicle of Alexandria history begun by WETA in the 2014 film Discovering Alexandria: The Early Years and the early 2016 film Martyrs, Mayhem & Martial Law: Life in Civil War Alexandria.

Through archival footage, interviews with longtime residents and insights from historians, the new program explores the people, places and events that defined the city during an era of profound change that included the two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights era and much more.

Segments recall Alexandria’s early industrial era, the importance of its busy shipyards, the heyday of Potomac Yard when it was one of the top railroad hubs on the Eastern Seaboard, and the ammunition-to-art evolution of the Torpedo Factory. The film follows significant changes in transportation such as the arrival of the GW Parkway connecting Alexandria with Washington, D.C., and later, the new Metro transit system; the construction of new landmarks such as the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (top), and the preservation of historic sites such as Gadsby’s Tavern and Carlyle House. Discovering Alexandria: The 20th Century also spotlights the growth of the city through development, annexations and post-war urban renewal that would give the city its modern form.

The film also spotlights the city’s people, its diverse neighborhoods and social history, including segregation in the city and the significance of the Barrett Branch Library — site of one of the country’s first civil rights sit-in protests — and Arlandria community. Nostalgic memories of Alexandria from residents fondly recall iconic eateries, stores and theaters past and present, including Hot Shoppes, Bradshaw Shoes and the Reed Theatre.

A year in the making by WETA staff, Discovering Alexandria: The 20th Century is the culmination of research conducted at the Alexandria Library Special Collections, Library of Congress and National Archives — and features archival footage courtesy of those institutions and additional city resources. Featured local historians and experts in the film include Jim Mackay of The Lyceum; Lance Mallamo of the Office of Historic Alexandria; Audrey P. Davis of the Alexandria Black History Museum; Susan Hellman of Carlyle House Historic Park; Gretchen Bulova of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum; local historian George Combs and author Ted Pulliam.
**WETA TV 26/HD December Specials**

**My Music: Rock, Rhythm and Doo Wop**

*Saturday, December 3 at 8 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD, repeating December 5, 7 & 17*

Impresario TJ Lubinsky presents a concert event that offers a time capsule of musical memories, featuring a historical reunion of ’50s and ’60s pop music icons Little Richard, Frankie Valli, Little Anthony & The Imperials, Fred Parris & The Five Satins, Lou Christie, Lenny Welch and an array of other stars. Taped at the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh, the performances are hosted by Frankie Valli, Jerry Butler and Lloyd Price. On the songlist are “Keep A-Knockin’”; “In the Still of the Night,” the number one oldies single of all time; “Silhouettes”; “A Thousand Stars”; “For Your Love”; “Lightning Strikes”; “Tears on My Pillow”; “Going Out of My Head”; “Hurt So Bad”; “Shimmy Shimmy Ko Ko Bop” and much more. The program repeats December 5, 7 and 17 in primetime. Also watch for other Lubinsky My Music presentations airing this month: *Get Down Tonight: The Disco Explosion* on December 2 at 10 p.m., and *Magic Moments: The Best of ’50s Pop* on December 18 at 8 p.m.

**Il Volo: Notte Magica**

*Sunday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD*

The young Italian vocal trio Il Volo returns with a new concert special that pays tribute to The Three Tenors and features special guest Plácido Domingo. Discovered by the manager of tenor superstar Andrea Bocelli, Il Volo has wowed audiences worldwide since 2011. In this new concert, taped beneath the stars in Florence, Italy’s beautiful Santa Croce Square, Piero Barone, Ignazio Boschetto and Gianluca Ginoble pay tribute to the world-famous tenor trio that included José Carreras, the late Luciano Pavarotti, and Domingo, who conducts a symphony orchestra for select pieces in the new special. Receiving intensive classical training in preparation for the event, Il Volo sings in true operatic style. Among the songs on the bill are “Nessun Dorma,” “Granada,” “No puede ser,” “Torna a Surriento,” “Maria” and “O Sole Mio.”

**Forever Painless with Miranda Esmonde-White**

*Monday, December 5 at 8 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD*

Miranda Esmonde-White, *The New York Times* best-selling author of “Aging Backwards,” addresses the topic of chronic pain in a new special program. *Forever Painless* provides an eye-opening education on pain and its causes, and offers a new approach to pain management. Through interviews from world-renowned health professionals attesting to the power of the body to rid itself of pain with the right approach to pain relief and management, the program presents an accessible and widely available solution to the current pain epidemic, inspiring people to take their health into their own hands. In addition, interviews with individuals who have cured their chronic pain through gentle, daily exercise offer stories of those who have suffered and triumphed.

For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, Series 2: Deadweight</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
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<td>(from 7:30pm) Call the Midwife Holiday Special 2016</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Antiques Roadshow: Birmingham, AL (Ep 1)</td>
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<td>Eero Saarinen: American Masters</td>
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*PBS NewsHour airs weeknights at 7 p.m.*

*Charlie Rose airs late weeknights (check listings)*
WETA TV 26 & WETA HD
December simulcast primetime listings, plus weekends for WETA TV 26

- Programming on WETA TV 26 and WETA HD is exactly the same — simulcast — Monday through Friday from 7 p.m. through Charlie Rose, and weekend evenings, beginning at 6 p.m. Saturdays and 11:30 a.m. Sundays.
- Please note that Saturday daytime listings that follow are for WETA TV 26 only unless otherwise indicated.
- For complete 24-hour schedules of programs on WETA TV 26 and WETA HD, visit weta.org/tv.
- The weekend primetime schedule on WETA TV 26 often repeats the next weekday afternoon on WETA TV 26.
- WETA TV 26 is devoted to children’s programming 5 a.m.–noon weekdays and 6–9 a.m. Sundays. For 24 hours of children’s programming each day, tune in to the WETA Kids channel. See page 12 for schedule information.

Program Key
- WETA productions, co-productions or presentations. {DVI} — Descriptive Video Service. R — Aired within the month. Listings are accurate as of press time. For late-breaking program updates, call 703-998-2724 or visit weta.org/tv.

1 Thursday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 DISCOVERING ALEXANDRIA: THE 20TH CENTURY — A new WETA production, the third in a trilogy of films spotlighting the rich history of the city of Alexandria, Virginia, explores the past century. See page 2 for details. Repeats tonight; Fri 12/2, 4:30pm; Sat 12/3, 6:30pm; Sun 12/4, 2pm; Tue 12/6, 10pm; Wed 12/7, 2:30pm
9:30 DISCOVERING ALEXANDRIA: THE 20TH CENTURY — R
ON THE PSYCHIATRIST’S COUCH WITH DANIEL AMEN, MD — In this special, Dr. Amen, a double board-certified psychiatrist who has written 10 New York Times best-selling books, relates the most important lessons he has taught thousands of patients over the last 35 years. Repeats Sun 12/4, 12:30pm; Fri 12/9, 1pm
10:00 MY MUSIC: GET DOWN TONIGHT: THE DISCO EXPLOSION — KC and the Sunshine Band, Karen Lynn Gorney (Saturday Night Fever) and Dance Fever’s Denny Terrio co-host a reunion of superstars of the 1970s disco and dance era in a production mixing vintage performances by the Bee Gees and Donna Summer and more contemporary performances by Irene Cara, Leo Sayer, Tavares, A Taste of Honey, Chic, The Trammps, Martha Wash of the Weather Girls, and others. Repeats Sat 12/3, 2:30pm
12M NATIONAL PARK SYMPHONY—THE MIGHTY FIVE — A program celebrates the grandeur and majesty of Utah’s five national parks, set to glorious music from the Utah Symphony. See stunning iconic images, grand vistas and secret locations in Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyon-Lands, Capitol Reef and Arches National Parks.

2 Friday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 WASHINGTON WEEK — WETA’s long-running weekly production presents a roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories of the week emanating from the nation’s capital.
8:30 RIC EDELMAN’S THE TRUTH ABOUT RETIREMENT — Financial advisor Ric Edelman — host of the television series The Truth About Money with Ric Edelman (Tuesday afternoons on WETA TV 26) — provides an action plan that people can use to help ensure a fiscally secure retirement, with a focus on the new Social Security laws that took effect in the beginning of 2016. Repeats Tue 12/6, 11:30pm; Wed 12/7, 4pm

3 Saturday

10:00 MY MUSIC: GET DOWN TONIGHT: THE DISCO EXPLOSION — KC and the Sunshine Band, Karen Lynn Gorney (Saturday Night Fever) and Dance Fever’s Denny Terrio co-host a reunion of superstars of the 1970s disco and dance era in a production mixing vintage performances by the Bee Gees and Donna Summer and more contemporary performances by Irene Cara, Leo Sayer, Tavares, A Taste of Honey, Chic, The Trammps, Martha Wash of the Weather Girls, and others. Repeats Sat 12/3, 2:30pm
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For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org
Sunday, December 4 at 7 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD
Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise, a documentary from scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (above), explores the past 50 years of African-American history, chronicling the progress made and raising questions about the obstacles and challenges that remain.

1:00 30 DAYS TO A YOUNGER HEART WITH DR. STEVEN MASLEY — Dr. Steven Masley — a board-certified physician, nutritionist, longevity researcher and award-winning educator who is also a highly acclaimed chef — shares the news that Metabolic Syndrome, also known as pre-diabetes, is the number one cause of cardiovascular disease, not high cholesterol. Masley discusses the impact that food, nutrients and exercise have on making a measurable difference in the reduction of arterial plaque.

2:30 MY MUSIC: GET DOWN TONIGHT: THE DISCO EXPLOSION — R
3:30 FOREVER PAINLESS WITH MIRANDA ESMONDE-WHITE — The New York Times best-selling author of “Ageing Backwards” addresses the topic of chronic pain in a new special that offers an eye-opening education on pain and its causes — and a new approach to pain management. The program includes compelling interviews from health professionals about the power of the body to rid itself of pain with the right approach to pain relief and management; and interviews with individuals who have cured their chronic pain through gentle, daily exercise.

6:00 PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND
6:30 DISCOVERING ALEXANDRIA: THE 20TH CENTURY — R
8:00 MY MUSIC: ROCK, RHYTHM AND DOO WOP — WETA reprises a concert that presents numerous original Top-40 artists from the 1950s and 1960s rock ’n’ roll and doo wop era, performing their signature songs. Hosted by Frankie Valli, Jerry Butler and Lloyd Price, the talent list features a wide array of performers from Rock ’n’ Roll, Rhythm and Blues, and Doo Wop music, including Little Richard, Little Anthony & The Imperials, Lenny Welch, Fred Parris & The Five Satins, Lou Christie and more. Repeats Mon 12/5, 9:30pm; Wed 12/7, 8pm; Thur 12/8, 4pm; Fri 12/9, 11pm; Sat 12/17, 8pm; Sun 12/18, noon, 11:30pm

10:00 LAST OF THE BREED — Savor a once-in-a-lifetime Chicago concert event by legendary musical artists Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Ray Price. The treasure trove of honky-tonk hits and Texas swing tunes turned the album Last of the Breed into a major-selling hit. The threesome, backed by Grammy Award-winning "Kings of Texas Swing" Asleep at the Wheel and Ray Price’s Cherokee Cowboys, delivers rousing performances of their greatest hits.

11:30 LANG LANG NEW YORK RHAPSODY: LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER — Internationally acclaimed pianist Lang Lang performs a love letter to New York in this Live from Lincoln Center special, featuring music from Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Danny Elfman, Lou Reed, Alicia Keys, Don Henley and more.

1:00 EAT TO LIVE WITH JOEL FUHRMAN, MD — R

Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD
Ed Sullivan’s Rock and Roll Classics: The ’60s presents classic song performances on Sullivan’s television show from 1963 to 1968 by top pop bands of the era, including the Beach Boys (above).

12M EAT TO LIVE WITH JOEL FUHRMAN, MD — R

Sunday, December 4 at 10 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD
Ed Sullivan’s Rock and Roll Classics: The ’60s presents classic song performances on Sullivan’s television show from 1963 to 1968 by top pop bands of the era, including the Beach Boys (above).
Wednesday, December 7 at 10 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD
Emin: Live from Russia with David Foster features a St. Petersburg concert by the Azerbaijani singer-songwriter and pop music star.

8:00 FOREVER PAINLESS WITH MIRANDA ESMONDE-WHITE — The New York Times best-selling author of ‘Aging Backwards’ addresses the topic of chronic pain in a new special that offers an education on pain and its causes — and a new approach to pain management. The program includes compelling interviews from health professionals about the power of the body to rid itself of pain with the right approach.

9:30 MY MUSIC: ROCK, RHYTHM AND DOO WOP — See the Saturday, December 3, 8 p.m. listing.

11:30 30 DAYS TO A YOUNGER HEART WITH DR. STEVEN MASLEY — R
1 AM CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

7 Tuesday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 SUZE ORMAN’S FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR YOU — In a program taped at American University, the personal finance expert presents advice on a broad set of financial issues, including: how to invest; whether to buy or rent a home; saving for retirement; what kind of life insurance to buy; wills and trusts; student loans and more.

10:00 DISCOVERING ALEXANDRIA: THE 20TH CENTURY — See the Thursday, December 1, 8 p.m. listing.

11:30 RIC EDELMAN’S THE TRUTH ABOUT RETIREMENT — R
1 AM CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

6 Wednesday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 MY MUSIC: ROCK, RHYTHM AND DOO WOP — See the Saturday, December 3, 8 p.m. listing.

10:00 EMIN: LIVE FROM RUSSIA WITH DAVID FOSTER — International recording star Emin and special guests present a spectacular concert taped at the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia. Emin is joined onstage by Grammy Award-winner David Foster along with singers Ani Lorak and Polina Gagarina. Repeats Fri 12/9, 6:30pm

11:30 THE AGE FIX WITH DR. TONY YOUN — Board-certified plastic surgeon and anti-aging expert Dr. Anthony Youn, named a “Top Doctor” by U.S. News & World Report and Harper’s Bazaar, opens up a world of insider tips, tricks and secrets from the fields of beauty, dermatology and plastic surgery, offering easy home remedies to achieve results without surgery.

1 AM CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

8 Thursday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE — In a co-production with WETA, scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. spotlights the past 50 years of African-American history, charting the remarkable progress made and raising hard questions about the obstacles and challenges that remain. R

11:00 MY MUSIC: ED SULLIVAN’S ROCK AND ROLL CLASSICS: THE ’60S — R
1 AM CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

9 Friday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR

8:00 WASHINGTON WEEK — WETA’s long-running weekly production presents a roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories of the week emanating from the nation’s capital.

8:30 RICK STEVES’ GUIDE TO CUBA — Travel expert Rick Steves reports on the red tape, frustrations and rewards that come with travel in the home of rumba and rum, and romance and revolution. In a spirited slideshow lecture, Steves recaps the highlights of his trip, offering a virtual tour of Havana and much more.

9:30 CELTIC THUNDER CHRISTMAS — Irishmen Damian McGinty, Keith Harkin, Paul Byrom, Ryan Kelly and Scotsman George Donaldson of the Celtic Thunder vocal ensemble bring together their affinity for a great popular song with live performances that pay homage to cherished holiday favorites. Repeats Sat 12/17, 4:30pm; midnight; Sun 12/18, 10pm

11:00 MY MUSIC: ROCK, RHYTHM AND DOO WOP — R
1 AM CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

10 Saturday

SIMULCAST ON WETA TV 26 & WETA HD, 6AM-6AM:
6AM-9AM WETA VIEWER FAVORITES
9AM EASTENDERS — (two episodes)
10AM-5AM WETA VIEWER FAVORITES

11 Sunday

SIMULCAST ON WETA TV 26 & WETA HD, 6AM-6AM:
6AM-5AM WETA VIEWER FAVORITES

12 Monday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: BISMARCK, ND — Episode 2.
Repeats Tue 12/13, 1pm; Thur 12/15, 5pm

9:00 ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: BISMARCK, ND — Episode 3.
Repeats Tue 12/13, 2pm; Thur 12/15, 5pm

10:00 WASHINGTON IN THE ’60S — An Emmy Award-winning WETA TV 26 production explores the political, social and cultural events that make up the history of the Washington, D.C. area during the seminal decade of the 1960s. Connie Chung narrates. Repeats Tue 12/13, 3pm; Wed 12/14, 1pm; Tue 12/27, 3pm; Wed 12/28, 2pm

11:00 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

13 Tuesday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE — An acclaimed film by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon tells the story of the five Harlem teenagers who were wrongly convicted of a rape in New York City’s Central Park in 1989. The 2013 co-production of Florentine Films and WETA chronicles the Central Park jogger case from the perspective of those whose lives were upended by this miscarriage of justice. (DV1) Repeats Wed 12/14, 4pm
10:00 FRONTLINE: FROM JESUS TO CHRIST: THE FIRST CHRISTIANS — A Frontline special examines the story of the rise of Christianity, looking back 2,000 years to the time and place where Jesus of Nazareth lived and preached. The series challenges familiar assumptions and conventional notions about the origins of Christianity. Part 1 of 2. Frontline traces the life of Jesus of Nazareth, exploring the message that helped his ministry grow and the events that led to his crucifixion around 30 C.E. [D(VI)]

12M CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

Wednesday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR

8:00 NATURE: LEGENDARY WHITE STALLIONS — Nature goes backstage with the world-famous Lipizzaner stallions and their riders at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. This ancient “court of kings” trains horses for years to execute supremely difficult artistic and athletic maneuvers that only a very few will master. [D(VI)] Repeats Thur 12/15, 2pm

9:00 NOVA: MYSTERY OF A MASTERPIECE — NOVA meets a new breed of experts who approach art mysteries as if they were crime scenes, determined to discover “who committed the art,” and follow art sleuths as they combat the criminal market in stolen and fraudulent art. [D(VI)] Repeats Thur 12/15, 2pm

10:00 SECRETS OF THE DEAD: VAN GOGH’S EAR — The night when Vincent van Gogh cut his own ear may define his turbulent life and art. Generations have theorized about what really happened on December 23, 1888, in the French town of Arles, but no one has been clear on the details until now. [D(VI)] Repeats Thur 12/15, 2pm

11:00 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

Thursday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR

8:00 MASTERPIECE MYSTERY!: THE LADY VANISHES — A young socialite (Tuppence Middleton) suspects foul play when a woman inexplicably disappears from a train. This adaptation of the classic thriller, made famous by Alfred Hitchcock and based on Ethel Lina White’s 1936 novel The Wheel Spins, also stars Keeley Hawes (Upstairs Downstairs) and Tom Hughes [Page Eight]. Repeats Fri 12/16, 1pm; Mon 12/19, 3pm

9:30 THE MAKING OF A LADY — Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett (The Secret Garden), a drama features the story of the educated but penniless Emily (Lydia Wilson). A lady’s companion for Lady Maria (Joanna Lumley), she meets her employer’s nephew, Lord James Walderhurst (Linus Roache). Accepting his practical if unromantic marriage proposal, Emily finds solace with Walderhurst’s nephew Alec Osborn (James D’Arcy) and his wife, Hester (Hasina Haque), after Lord James renews his regiment. Emily, alone with the Osborns, begins to fear for her life. Repeats Fri 12/16, 2:30pm; Mon 12/19, 4:30pm

11:00 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

Friday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR

8:00 WASHINGTON WEEK — WETA’s long-running weekly production presents a roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories of the week emanating from the nation’s capital.

8:30 STUART DAVIS: IN FULL SWING — A film from the National Gallery of Art spotlights the ongoing exhibition of this American master of Modernist painting. Davis (1892–1964) blurred distinctions between text and image, high and low art, and abstraction and figuration, crafting a distinct style that continues to influence art and design made today.

9:00 JOSHUA BELL’S SEASONS OF CUBA — Airing as part of the PBS Arts Fall Festival, a concert features award-winning, world-famous violinist Joshua Bell leading a Live From Lincoln Center event with musicians from America and Cuba, building a bridge between cultures and artistry.

10:00 LIDIA CELEBRATES AMERICA: HOLIDAY FOR HEROES — Join host Lidia Bastianich for a holiday special celebrating veterans, who discuss the importance of family during holidays, the challenges and sacrifices of their work and the pride they take in having defended our country. Repeats Fri 12/19, 2pm; Wed 12/21, 3pm

11:00 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

Saturday

SIMULCAST ON WETA TV 26 & WETA HD, 6AM-1:30AM:

6AM RICK STEVES’ EUROPE: REMOTE, SACRED AND WILD

6:30 MY MUSIC: CLOSE TO YOU: REMEMBERING THE CARPENTERS + CHRISTMAS — WETA reprises a Carpenters retrospective that includes new segments featuring the duo’s Christmas music. Between 1970 and 1994, the Grammy Award-winning duo achieved an astonishing run of hits with 17 singles in the Billboard Top 20 including three #1 songs and six songs at #2. Repeats Sun 12/18, 3pm

8:30 RICK STEVES’ EUROPE 2016: ITALY — The European travel expert explores Italy, touring Rome, Florence, Venice and Veneto cities of Verona, Padua and Ravenna.

11:30 PATY’S MEXICAN TABLE — New Season 5 episode.

12N CELTIC WOMAN: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS — A Christmas celebration features the Celtic Woman group performing popular holiday classics and several original compositions in concert at Dublin’s Helix Centre.

1:30 MY MUSIC: THE MAGIC MOMENTS: THE BEATLES OF ‘50S POP — See the Sunday, December 18, 8 p.m. listing.

3:30 RICK STEVES’ GUIDE TO CUBA — R

4:30 CELTIC THUNDER CHRISTMAS — R

6:00 PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND

6:30 LIBERA: ANGELS SING CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND — The iconic St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Armagh, Ireland, is
Sunday, December 18 at 8 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD
Magic Moments: The Best of ’50s Pop presents live performances and archival footage of pop music classics by acts including the McGuire Sisters (above), Patti Page, Perry Como and others.
12:30AM CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

### Saturday

**ON WETA TV 26, 6AM-6PM.** See weta.org/hd for WETA HD.

**6AM** NEW SCANDINAVIAN COOKING

**6:30** CHEF JOHN BESH’S NEW ORLEANS

**7:00** CIAO ITALIA

**7:30** HUBERT KELLER: SECRETS OF A CHEF

**8:00** JOANNE WEIR’S COOKING CONFIDENCE

**8:30** RICK STEVES’ EUROPE

**9:00** EASTENDERS — (two episodes)

**10:00** A CHEF’S LIFE HOLIDAY SPECIAL

**11:00** A CHEF’S LIFE

**11:30** PATI’S MEXICAN TABLE — New Season 5 episodes.

**12N** THE MIND OF A CHEF

**12:30** JACQUES PÉPIN: HEART & SOUL

**1:00** ESSENTIAL PÉPIN

**1:30** SARA’S WEEKEND MEALS

**2:00** BAKING WITH JULIA

**2:30** LIDIA’S KITCHEN

**3:00** IN JULIA’S KITCHEN WITH MASTER CHEFS

**3:30** JACQUES PÉPIN: MORE FAST FOOD MY WAY!

**4:00** COOK’S COUNTRY FROM AMERICA’S TEST KITCHEN

**4:30** AMERICA’S TEST KITCHEN FROM COOK’S ILLUSTRATED

**5:00** MARTHA STEWART’S COOKING SCHOOL

**5:30** MARTHA BAKES

**SIMULCAST ON WETA TV 26 & WETA HD, 6PM-12M:**

**6:00** PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND

**6:30** WASHINGTON WEEK — R

**7:00** DOC MARTIN, SERIES 7

**8:00** MISS FISHER’S MURDER MYSTERIES, SERIES 2: DEATHWATCH — (two episodes)

**9:00** THE WETA MOVIE: THAT’S ENTERTAINMENT III — The 1994 compilation film, the third installment of the That’s Entertainment trilogy spotlighting musical numbers from MGM classics, features film stars introducing clips from more than 100 MGM musicals.

**11:00** CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR FEATURING LAURA OSNES AND MARTIN JARVIS — R
ON WETA TV 26, 6AM-11:30AM. See weta.org/hd for WETA HD.
6AM-9AM WETA KIDS PROGRAMMING
9:00 WHITE HOUSE CHRONICLE
9:30 TO THE CONTRARY WITH BONNIE ERBE
10:00 THIS IS AMERICA & THE WORLD WITH DENNIS WHOLEY
10:30 RELIGION AND ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY
11:00 THE OPEN MIND
SIMULCAST ON WETA TV 26 & WETA HD, 11:30AM-12M:
11:30 HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH THE BOSTON POPS — R
12:30 CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR
FEATURING LAURA OSNES AND MARTIN JARVIS — R
1:30 CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR
FEATURING SANTINO FONTANA AND THE SESAME STREET MUPPETS — R
2:30 CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE
CHOIR FEATURING ALFIE BOE AND TOM BROKAW —
Journalist Tom Brokaw and Tony Award-winning Les Misérables tenor Alfie Boe headline a concert of holiday favorites with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square.
3:30 CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE
CHOIR FEATURING DEBORAH VOIGT AND JOHN RHYS-DAVIES —
Soprano Deborah Voigt and British actor John Rhys-Davies join the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square for a concert of holiday favorites.
4:30 A CHEF’S LIFE HOLIDAY SPECIAL —
Chef Vivian serves up the best of her Southern heritage and the Chanukah traditions her husband Ben grew up with.
5:30 PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND
6:00 CALL THE MIDWIFE HOLIDAY SPECIAL 2016 —
The Poplar neighborhood readsies itself for Christmas 1960. An unexpected surprise for a grieving mother brings the holiday magic home, while Nonnatus is rocked when one of its own disappears.
7:30 CALL THE MIDWIFE HOLIDAY SPECIAL 2016 —
Follow the Nonnatus House family to South Africa after they receive an SOS call from a mission hospital that’s understaffed, underfunded and threatened with closure. Repeats Mon 12/26, 2pm
9:00 GREAT PERFORMANCES: THE HOLLOW CROWN: THE WARS OF THE ROSES: RICHARD III —
In Shakespeare’s play, Richard plans the murder of his brother George in his quest for the English crown. After the death of Edward IV, Richard’s path to the throne is clear — except for the princes in the tower. Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench and Phoebe Fox star. Repeats Mon 12/26, 3:30pm
11:30 CHRISTMASTIME IN NEW ORLEANS — R

26 Monday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: BIRMINGHAM, AL — Episode 1 of 3. Repeats Tue 12/27, 1:30pm; Wed 12/28, 1pm

Thursday, December 29 at 8 p.m. on WETA TV 26/HD
The three-part drama The Guilty, starring Tamsin Greig (left), follows a cold-case investigation into a young boy’s disappearance.

9:00 INDEPENDENT LENS: MEET THE PATELS — In this documentary film, Ravi Patel, whose tradition-minded Hindu family is not happy that he’s single at almost 30, enters the semi-arranged marriage system in America. Explore the influence of culture and identity on an intense, personal, important part of one’s life — love.

10:30 WASHINGTON IN THE ’80S — An acclaimed WETA TV 26 production explores the decade of Reagan and Barry, the Wall and the Quilt, Go-Go and DC punk, the Air Florida crash, crack, and a golden age for local media and sports. Twenty prominent local figures — including Kojo Nnamdi, Joe Gibbs, Maureen Bynum, Arch Campbell, Pat Buchanan and the late Marion Barry — reflect on the 1980s. Repeats Tue 12/27, 5pm; Wed 12/28, 4pm

11:30 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

27 Tuesday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 EERO SAARINEN: AMERICAN MASTERS — The biography series explores the life of the modernist architect behind visionary buildings such as St. Louis’ Gateway Arch. Travel with his son, cinematographer Eric Saa- rinen, as he visits his father’s work on a cathartic journey, shot with the latest in drone technology. Repeats Thur 12/29, 5pm

9:00 FRONTLINE: EXODUS — A Frontline special presents first-person stories of refugees and migrants fleeing war and persecution for Europe, told through camera-footage filmed by the families themselves as they leave their homes on dangerous journeys seeking safety and refuge.

11:00 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

28 Wednesday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR
8:00 NATURE: COLD WARRIORS: WOLVES AND BUFFALO —
A film spotlights the epic life-and-death relationship of wolves and buffalo in Wood Buffalo National Park, where wolf packs hunt the largest land mammals on the continent. The animals’ story is captured by a filmmaker who has followed them for more than 20 years. (DVI) Repeats Thur 12/29, 2pm

9:00 NOVA: BUILDING PHARAOH’S CHARIOT — Did the Egyptian chariot mark a crucial turning point in ancient military history, aiding Egypt’s greatest era of conquest known as the New Kingdom? A team of archaeologists, engineers, woodworkers and horse trainers builds and tests two accurate replicas of Egyptian royal chariots, driving them in the desert outside Cairo. (DVI) Repeats Thur 12/29, 1pm

10:00 EGYPT’S TREASURE GUARDIANS — A program follows a select group of individuals determined to bring Egypt back from the brink: to discover more of the country’s history, keep its heritage safe and persuade tourists to visit the country again. Repeats Thur 12/29, 3pm

11:00 CHARLIE ROSE — Repeats next weekday, noon

For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org
Peg + Cat + Holidays airs Dec. 13 at 11:30 a.m. on the WETA Kids channel, 11 a.m. on TV 26

Visit weta.org/kids for full listings of children’s programs on WETA Kids & WETA TV 26
The WETA UK channel is devoted to presenting the best in British television programming, broadcasting beloved classics and contemporary series around the clock, seven days a week. WETA UK offers a full schedule of great entertainment programming — featuring drama, mystery, comedy and documentary series — all delivered with an accent from the Isles. Visit wetauk.org for a complete schedule and program descriptions.

### P.M. PROGRAMMING ON WETA UK IN DECEMBER

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>Globe Trekker</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series IX</td>
<td>Death in Paradise, Season V</td>
<td>BBC Antiques Roadshow</td>
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<td>Penelope Keith’s Hidden Villages</td>
<td>Pie in the Sky, Series III</td>
<td>Priceless Antiques Roadshow</td>
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<td>Penelope Keith’s Hidden Villages, Season I (Season II starts 12/25)</td>
<td>Doctor Blake Mysteries, Series IV (NEW)</td>
<td>Inspector Morse, Series IV</td>
<td>Father Brown, Series III</td>
<td>Call the Midwife, Series II</td>
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<td>Priceless Antiques Roadshow</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series IX</td>
<td>Death in Paradise, Season V (NEW)</td>
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For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org 13

VISIT WETAUK.ORG FOR A PRINTABLE FULL-DAY SCHEDULE.
Penelope Keith’s Hidden Villages
Sundays at 8 p.m. starting December 4 on WETA UK

In a delightful six-part series, renowned British actress Dame Penelope Keith (The Good Life, To the Manor Born) leads a tour of Britain’s most charming villages to discover what makes each one unique. Armed with her vintage “Batsford” travel books, Keith explores the rich artistic, literary and royal histories of each region; discovers how time has changed village communities; and seeks out quirky traditions that continue to this day. From county shows and village fairs to fertility dances and ancient ceremonies, Keith looks for the community heartbeat of each village she visits.

Death in Paradise, Season 5
Tuesdays at 9 p.m. starting December 6 on WETA UK

Immediately following the 8 p.m. premiere of a new season of The Doctor Blake Mysteries on December 6, WETA UK presents a new season of Death in Paradise, featuring Kris Marshall as DI Humphrey Goodman, joined now by Joséphine Jobert as DS Florence Cassell. With a new team in place, the ever-analytical detective is finally making himself at home on the Caribbean island of Saint Marie but enters a midlife crisis surrounding love. On the job, his intellect and experience are tested as he investigates some of the island’s most perplexing murders yet.

Black Work
Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. starting Dec. 7 on WETA UK

In this three-part police thriller, Police Constable Jo Gillespie (Sheridan Smith) is devastated when her detective husband, Ryan, is shot dead working undercover. Although the police brass urges her to stay out of the investigation, Jo begins to doubt her fellow officers and searches for the killer with the help of her colleague (Matthew McNulty, The Paradise). The cast includes Geraldine James (Sherlock Holmes), Douglas Henshall (Primeval, Shetland), Phil Davis (Whitechapel), Ace Bhatti (EastEnders) and Andrew Knott (The History Boys).

DCI Banks, Series V
Thursdays at 10 p.m. starting December 15 on WETA UK

After Series IV of the crime drama DCI Banks concludes in early December, WETA UK presents new 2016 Series V episodes, with Stephen Tompkinson reprising his role as police inspector Alan Banks in three new cases set against the backdrop of rural and urban Yorkshire. Andrea Lowe returns as DS Annie Cabbot, as does Caroline Catz as DI Helen Morton. Banks is pushed to the brink as the team investigates the link between a woodland murder victim and a local crime boss, a missing-persons case and more.

The Body Farm — and More

Beginning December 13; Waking the Dead spin-off The Body Farm premiers, with Tara Fitzgerald and Keith Allen, airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m. Also in December: The Doctor Blake Mysteries, Series IV features new 2016 episodes, Tuesdays at 8 p.m., beginning December 6; Wallander, Series I, with Kenneth Branagh, airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. beginning December 7; The Driver, airs Fridays at 10 p.m. beginning December 16; and The Inspector Lynley Mysteries continues into Series II on December 10, Saturdays at 9 p.m.
Imagine starting violin lessons at age four, and after 10 years of study — by which time you’ve become a really fine player — a teacher from another conservatory suggests your real talent lies at the piano. So you switch schools, and within six months win first prize at a piano competition in Italy! Such was the path of Austrian pianist Ingolf Wunder, who has evolved from competitions to concert hall stages and an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. Hear him on the December 12 broadcast of Front Row Washington on Classical WETA 90.9 FM in a Phillips Collection recital, performing Franz Schubert’s last piano sonata, a piece about which pianist Stephen Hough writes, “...the pen has to be set down on the desk, the body rested against the back of a chair, and a listener’s whole being surrendered to another sphere.”

We begin the month on the December 6 broadcast with another iconic work — Bach’s famous Chaconne in d minor arranged for four celli. The National Chamber Players’ quartet, comprised of three NSO cellists and Avery Fisher grantee Sophie Shao, also perform Arvo Pärt’s signature Fratres. In another broadcast, the National Gallery of Art’s Beethoven Trio Festival last February celebrated the composer’s music for three instruments. On Front Row Washington on December 19, the North Carolina Symphony String Trio plays Beethoven’s first string trio, Op. 3 and the Serenade in D Major, Op. 8. Then we close out the year on December 26 with Musica Pacifica’s A Scottish Christmas Celebration at Dumbarton Oaks. The ensemble was joined by Baroque violinist David Greenberg, a 10-year alum of Tafelmusik and an expert on Cape Breton fiddling. Join us for local performances by world-class artists each Monday night at 9 p.m. on Classical WETA 90.9 FM on Front Row Washington.

December NSO Showcase Highlights Orchestral Favorites

Wednesday, December 7 at 9 p.m.

By Nicole Lacroix, Evening On-Air Host

This month, Classical WETA’s NSO Showcase unwraps a festive program of light classics featuring six conductors, eight delightful orchestral favorites, and, as soloist, Paul Jacobs, the first organist to ever win a Grammy Award. National Symphony Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach opens the festivities with the Overture to Wagner’s Tannhäuser. In turn spiritual and seductive, the Overture tells the story of a young knight who struggles to stay true to his saintly girlfriend in spite of the erotic allure of the Venusburg, home of the goddess of love. Maestro Eschenbach closes the concert with the bubbly Fledermaus Overture, essentially one big champagne-filled party. In between, NSO Guest Conductor Ludovic Morlot recreates the disastrous housekeeping of Dukas’ Sorcerer’s Apprentice (visions of Mickey Mouse in a pointed hat), and the NSO shows off its international flair with a trio of colorful works. Pops conductor Steven Reineke leads the orchestra in Gershwin’s Cuban Overture, complete with exotic instruments; Christoph Eschenbach conducts Chabrier’s rhapsodic España; and Vassily Sinaisky joins the NSO for a performance of Borodin’s panoramic Prince Igor Overture. The jam-packed program continues with renowned Bach expert Helmuth Rilling conducting the Orchestral Suite No. 3, and, as an added bonus, Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs plays the rollicking Poulenc Concerto on the Kennedy Center’s magnificent Rubenstein Family Organ, with conductor Matthew Halls. Sound like fun? Join the party on Classical WETA’s December broadcast of NSO Showcase, Wednesday, December 7 at 9 p.m.
Concerts from the Library of Congress
Saturdays at 9 p.m.

Concerts from the Library of Congress, a series featuring classical music artists recorded live at the Library's Coolidge Auditorium in Washington, D.C., continues on Classical WETA 90.9 FM. The series airs through the first three weeks of December and concludes its current season on January 7 after a hiatus during the holidays. The hour-long programs, funded in part by WETA members, are co-produced by WETA, the Library of Congress and Classic Digital Syndication. Bill McGlaughlin is series host.

For the concert featured on the December 3 program, Handel and Haydn Society at 200, the musicians of Boston’s famed Handel and Haydn Society traveled to Washington as part of a celebration honoring 200 years of excellence. Founded in 1815, the Society is the nation’s oldest continuously performing arts organization, with a storied history that has seen the U.S. premieres of masterworks such as Handel’s Messiah and Mendelssohn’s Elijah. On the program, artistic director Harry Christophers conducts a 26-voice choir and chamber ensemble in works by William Byrd, Thomas Linley and J.S. Bach, along with a new work co-commissioned by the Society and the Library: Gabriela Lena Frank’s My angel, his name is freedom.

The December 10 broadcast, Ensemble Intercontemporain, spotlights the French chamber ensemble, a major force in the music world. A highlight of the Library’s 90th anniversary celebration, Ensemble Intercontemporain’s November 2015 appearance exhibited a virtuosic command of style and the tradition of uncompromising artistry established by founder Pierre Boulez. The centerpiece of this hour is Alban Berg’s Chamber Concerto for piano, violin and 13 winds. Then, on December 17, Calefax: In the Reeds features the engaging Dutch reed quintet Calefax, which presents its own transcriptions of a range of music, from Renaissance polyphony to an irresistible rendition of a favorite orchestral classic: Richard Strauss’s Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks. Also on the bill are works by Ockeghem, Franck, Nancarrow and Shostakovich.

In the Czech lands in the 18th century, music was very important, and it started with the young people in small local schools. There, notes received as much attention as numbers and letters. The idea was that music was a stepping stone. It encouraged study of both the sacred and the secular; it made it easier for students to pursue a higher education; and, for some, it became a career. The key was the teacher — music needed to be among their vast repertoire.

In the midst of this tradition was Jakub Jan Ryba (1765-1815). His father, a teacher and musician, encouraged his obviously talented son. Young Jakub learned the cello and organ, and earned money by working with church choirs and selling his early compositions. As a teen, though, Jakub abandoned his blossoming music career (in and near Prague) to accept a general teaching position near his hometown and so became ensconced in the Czech music-in-schools tradition. He continued writing music while he taught, and his pieces were very much in the spirit of his chosen livelihood, evincing a commitment to inclusion. His Mass settings, for example, brought the message closer to listeners by using not just the Latin text, but also Czech words too, and by including familiar folk songs and dances.

The Czech Christmas Mass, which airs on the December 18 broadcast of Choral Showcase, is a brilliant example of this accessibility. The piece tells the Christmas story, and you’ll enjoy the shepherds’ lively discussion on the varied explanations of the nighttime spectacle (in the Kyrie), the Offertory paying home to the Christ child, the songs of celebration in the Sanctus and Benedictus, and a prayer for peace on earth in the Agnus Dei.

Ryba’s Czech Christmas Mass on Choral Showcase
Sunday, December 18 at 9 p.m.
By David Ginder, Morning On-Air Host

Jakub Jan Ryba
The 86th season of the Metropolitan Opera Radio Broadcasts begins December 3 on the weekly program Classical WETA Opera House with an exciting performance of Puccini’s Manon Lescaut featuring Anna Netrebko in the title role, appearing alongside Marcelo Álvarez and Christopher Maltman. The season’s 24 performances air Saturday afternoons at 1 p.m. (with rare 12:30 p.m. exceptions) through the May 13 performance of R. Strauss’s Der Rosenkavalier, the season finale. The radio broadcasts, each a Saturday matinee airing live (with an occasional archival exception) from New York’s Lincoln Center feature the world’s greatest contemporary opera vocalists and present a varied repertory. Mary Jo Heath returns for her second season as Met host, alongside commentator Ira Siff.

The composer most prominently represented this season is Giuseppe Verdi: Nabucco (January 7), conducted by Met Music Director Emeritus James Levine, features Plácido Domingo in a new Met role as the title character; Rigoletto (February 4), stars Željko Lučić; La Traviata (March 11), features Sonya Yoncheva and Thomas Hampson; and Aida (April 15) stars Krassimira Stoyanova. Among other composers represented most often this season are Rossini (3 operas), Puccini (2), R. Strauss (2), and Wagner (2).

After this month’s opening broadcast, Manon Lescaut (December 3, 12:30 p.m.), Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho’s 2000 opera L’Amour de Loin (December 10, 1 p.m.), a meditation on idealized love set in the medieval era, has its Met premiere with Susana Phillips, Eric Owens and Tamara Mumford. Richard Strauss’s Salome (December 17, 1 p.m.), stars American soprano Catherine Naglestad as the title character; Gerhard Siegel and Željko Lučić also star. The Met then presents an archival performance of Humperdinck’s Hansel and Gretel (December 24, 1 p.m.), a favorite around the holidays, and James Levine leads a revival of Rossini’s lighthearted L’Italiana in Algeri (December 31, 1 p.m., from Fall 2016).

Among other season highlights are a performance of Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette (January 21), with Diana Damrau and Vittorio Grigolo as the star-crossed lovers; and Rossini’s Il Barbiere di Siviglia (January 28), with Peter Mattei opposite Pretty Yende as Rosina. The following month, Damrau and Javier Camarena team up in Bellini’s I Puritani (February 18). Dvořák’s fairy-tale opera Rusalka (February 25), stars Kristine Opolais in the title role of a water nymph who falls in love with a human prince. Then, Rossini’s Guillaume Tell (March 18, from Fall 2016), is staged by the Met for the first time since 1931; and a rare revival of Mozart’s Idomeneo (March 25), stars Matthew Polenzani. Next is Beethoven’s only opera, Fidelio (April 1); and Wagner’s Tristan und Isolde (April 8, from Fall 2016) stars the world’s preeminent Isolde, Nina Stemme. Also in April, Anna Netrebko reprises one of her greatest successes, the heroine Tatiana in Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin (April 22), paired with Dimitri Hvorostovsky as Onegin. The company wraps up the season with presentations of Alfano’s Cyrano de Bergerac (May 6), with Roberto Alagna and Patricia Racette; and Richard Strauss’s wistful comedy Der Rosenkavalier (May 13), with Renée Fleming and Elīna Garanča. For monthly opera details, visit classicalweta.org.
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