



WLRH PUBLIC RADIO 89.3 FM

# AIRWAVES

THE QUARTERLY PROGRAM GUIDE · SUMMER 2006



## NPR's From the Top Heading to Huntsville

The Huntsville Chamber Music Guild and WLRH are pleased to welcome National Public Radio's classical music program *From the Top* to Huntsville this September. Christopher O'Riley and friends will host a live taping of the popular classical music program, which will feature some of the area's outstanding young vocalists and instrumentalists. Soprano Angela Brown, a former Huntsville resident who wowed the critics with her star turn as *Aida* at the Met, will be the special guest.

Recorded in live concert settings in concert halls around the U.S., *From the Top* captures the top-notch musicianship, offbeat humor and insights of America's best classical musicians aged nine to 18. High-profile performers such as Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Bobby McFerrin have appeared to talk about their musical influences and the development of their careers, and to perform with the young artists. The program has been described by the *Chicago Tribune* as "one of the most original programs in the history of public radio," while the *Los Angeles Times* declared, "*From the Top* is making classical music wild and fun and crazy!"

*From the Top* will be recorded live at 7:30 September 15 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Tickets are available from the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild at 824-6540. *From the Top* airs Saturdays at 1 PM on WLRH, 89.3 FM.



Dr. Margery Whatley introduces Joshua Bell prior to the Educational Encounter.



Bell takes questions from the audience.  
Photos courtesy Ron Roberts

# Bell's Words Ring True for Young Audience

In March, the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild welcomed superstar Joshua Bell. Prior to the Friday evening recital, approximately 500 young musicians were treated to an Educational Encounter with the Grammy-winning violinist. Dr. Margery Whatley of the UAH Music Department introduced her old friend from music camp and when she mentioned his inclusion in the People Magazine 50 Most Beautiful People list, Josh sighed and rolled his eyes. "Most people don't know this," he said when he took the microphone, "but Margery was 51st on that list." He apologized for being late – he'd missed a connecting flight – and told the crowd he was just going to warm up. Beethoven, Mozart and Ysaye — quite a warmup!

He then took questions from the audience: "Who's your favorite composer?" "What's your favorite song?" "How much did your violin cost?" He answered the questions directly: "Right now, it's Prokofiev." "I enjoy whatever I'm working on." "Hmm, I'm not real sure, I sold another Strad to buy this one." One kid asked, "When did you learn to play the violin?" "I'm still learning," said Joshua Bell.

Thanks to the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild, young musicians, their parents and teachers can continue to learn. The next Educational Encounter will be held in conjunction with the National Public Radio program From the Top on Friday, September the 15th at Trinity United Methodist Church.



# Stormy Weather Dampens Pledge Week

The severe weather that blew through the Tennessee Valley the final Friday of the Spring Fundraiser did no physical damage to the station, but it did knock a big chunk out of the money we had hoped to raise that evening. With the threat of tornadoes in the forecast, WLRH management felt it was in the best interest of the staff and volunteers to suspend fundraising for the day. Without the money generated by such popular programs as Fresh Air, World Café and Reelin' in the Years, it seemed unlikely that the station would meet its goal of \$145,000 by noon Saturday. Despite a spectacular Saturday morning in the pledge studio, the station still fell some \$6000 short of its goal.

*"Our dedicated WLRH volunteers and staff had worked so hard all week long, and I know we were all a bit down when we hadn't reached the big goal by the "official" close of the fundraiser that Saturday. However, as I left the station, I found myself thinking of that great kids' book, "The Little Engine That Could." To paraphrase those lines, "I Know We Can, I Know We Can," obviously, I was holding out hope that our faithful listeners would rise to the challenge and push forward to reach the goal, and sure enough, they did!"* – Judy Watters

As the week continued, more pledges trickled in by phone and online. By Wednesday, enough money had come in to meet the goal. Everyone at WLRH is extremely grateful for the support of our listeners. Every pledge, whether by mail, online, telephone or walk-in is tremendously appreciated. Your financial commitment ensures another year of quality public radio in the Tennessee Valley – rain or shine!



World travelers and NPR supporters Kurt (l) and Franz (r) Wisner at Cape Town Marina (photo courtesy Kurt Wisner)

# WLRH Welcomes Honeymooning Brothers

Vagabond brothers Franz and Kurt Wisner stopped in Huntsville during their national road trip/book tour to speak to the Huntsville Literary Association and the A to Z Book Club. Franz is the author of *Honeymoon with my Brother*. Kurt's the brother. Prior to their interview on Morning Blend, the guys spent a few minutes in the production studio with Bill Wells and shared some thoughts about the value of public radio.

*Franz:* "For an author it's a real treat to be on NPR and we jump at the chance whenever we get it. It's amazing how well-educated and well-informed the listenership is. We'll do these interviews with morning shock jocks and it'll be a top-rated, nationwide program and we'll see zero impact and yet, we'll do thirty seconds on an NPR station and folks will come out to the events and say 'hi' and pick up the book and spread the word. It's a really, really wonderful audience and a wonderful service."

*Kurt:* "To add to what Franz said – thirty seconds – that's usually what we get with the shock jocks is thirty seconds in the morning. The NPR interviews are longer and more thoughtful...we can get into a lot of the aspects of the book that touch the readers."

Franz's best-selling memoir *Honeymoon with my Brother* is slated to be made into a movie by Sony Pictures. You can learn more about the book and the Wisner brothers at [www.honeymoonwithmybrother.com](http://www.honeymoonwithmybrother.com)



## Democracy Now! joins the WLRH Schedule

Due to an incredible number of requests for the news program *Democracy Now!* both before and during the spring fundraiser, WLRH has added it to the schedule Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. *Democracy Now!* is a one-hour news program hosted by Amy Goodman, who is also author of the book *The Exception to the Rulers*.

Amy Goodman brings a great deal of experience to the table as host of *Democracy Now!* While in East Timor during major internal turmoil a number of years ago, she was caught up in street violence during a report and barely escaped. This incident and others lend Amy a different kind of perspective on the world we live in and the events that shape it. She is a frequent guest speaker around the country and is well known for her straightforward, no-nonsense reporting.

Please welcome *Democracy Now!* to Huntsville by tuning in to WLRH each Friday at 6:00 PM.

## MEXICO

World Traveler and WLRH Station Manager George Dickerson wearing his WLRH Bucket Hat on vacation at the Mayan ruins of Chichén Itzá.



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**WLRH**, Alabama's first full-service Public Radio Station, is a member of Public Radio International and National Public Radio. Offices and studios are located on the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus.

**Radio Reading Service**

WLRH transmits special programming for the blind and visually handicapped Monday through Friday. Eligible listeners can obtain free receivers to pick up the special signal enabling them to hear interviews, local newspapers, books, and other daily features. To join our present listeners or to learn more about this program, contact the Radio Reading Service department.

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5:00 am			Morning Edition		
6:00					
7:00					
8:00					
9:00			Morning Blend		
10:00					
11:00					
12:00 N			Among Friends		
1:00					
2:00					
3:00			All Things Considered		
4:00					
5:00			Marketplace		
6:00			Fresh Air		Democracy Now!
7:00			Classical Evening		World Café
8:00					
9:00			Echoes		Reelin' in the Years
10:00					

Partial Schedule: 5 am – 10 pm. For full overnight schedule: www.wlrh.org

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5:00 am	Classical Morning	
6:00		
7:00	Weekend Edition	
8:00		
9:00	Car Talk	
10:00		St. Paul Sunday
11:00	Whad' Ya Know	Wait Wait Don't Tell Me
12:00 N	Brass, Reeds & Percussion	Car Talk
1:00	From The Top	The Prairie Home Companion
2:00	Schickele Mix	
3:00	City Arts & Lectures	Thistle & Shamrock
4:00	Weekend ATC	
5:00	The Prairie Home Companion	This American Life
6:00		New Dimensions
7:00	Folk Sampler	Alternative Radio
8:00	Talkin' the Blues	Living On Earth
9:00	Riverwalk	Classical Evening
10:00		

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- \$100 1 WLRH red tote bag with black straps and pocket
- \$75 CD-Classical Hits with superstars  
 Yo-Yo Ma, Pavarotti, Wynton Marsalis & more  
 OR- CD-Gershwin Fantasy with Joshua Bell and  
 The London Symphony Orchestra  
 OR- CD-World Cafe Volume 19  
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