

WLRH



PUBLIC RADIO 89.3 FM

airwaves

THE QUARTERLY PROGRAM GUIDE · SUMMER 2009



Oberammergau and the Romantic Danube

by Ginny Kennedy

In 1633, in the midst of the Thirty Years War, the Bavarian village of Oberammergau was stricken with the bubonic plague. The villagers vowed that if they could be spared from further death, they would perform a play depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The deaths subsided and the villagers kept their vow—for more than four hundred years. The play is a true community effort with some 2000 performers, musicians and stage technicians—all local residents of the village. The play is staged once a decade in years ending in zero and in 2010, Classic Cruise and Travel is offering the WLRH travelers the opportunity to experience the Oberammergau passion play as part of an unforgettable trip which includes a cruise down the river Danube.

On June 16th the travelers depart Huntsville for Munich. From there, you'll motor to Oberammergau for the passion play, then it's on to Nuremberg where you'll board the sleek and comfortable Viking Danube for an eight-day cruise down the beautiful river which bears its name. Along the way you'll stop to explore the renowned Walsenburg Abbey and the medieval city of Regensburg. There's a walking tour of Passau and a concert on one of Europe's largest organs inside St. Stephan's cathedral. There are tours of the Benedictine Abbey at Melk and the grand city of Vienna. The cruise ends in the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

The trip has so much to offer—the passion play, the luxurious river cruise, the walking tours—and then there is the company. Doris Todd of Classic Cruise and Travel says: “The WLRH Travelers are a very fluid group, often having different participants. But a real certainty is that it is always the most congenial and welcoming group of people... people who love to travel.” In addition to seeing the sights and making new friends, the WLRH travelers are also supporting their local public radio station. A portion of the fees goes to WLRH.

More information about this inspirational journey is available from Doris at 885-2035 or email classiccruises@comcast.net. You may learn more about the Viking Cruise line at vikingrivers.com

Pledge

by Oliver Stoutner

When all the counting was finished on April 4th our pledge board total read \$115,085, more than \$115,000 raised during our spring pledge drive! That's an impressive amount under any circumstances and I want to thank all of the members, businesses and organizations who pledged their support to WLRH. It's through the direct financial support of people like you that we are able to offer entertaining and informative programming across the Tennessee Valley.

We did fall nearly \$25,000 short of our target and in the past month or two some of you have asked, "Will WLRH be okay?" The answer is, "Yes, absolutely." WLRH continues to receive great support from our members, business partners and area non-profits. Furthermore, station support in other areas continues to grow.

Did you know that WLRH has received nearly \$6,000 in vehicle donations so far this year? WLRH's own Bill Wells recently got in on the act when he donated his 1999 Pontiac Grand Am. If you have an extra vehicle, please consider donating it to the station by calling 1-866-789-8627 or visiting our website at wlrh.org and clicking on the "Support WLRH" tab.

WLRH continues to offer wonderful tours with The WLRH Travelers. This year, The Travelers will be heading off to Provence, Barcelona and New York City. As you can see in Ginny's article, 2010 looks to be phenomenal as WLRH offers folks a chance to see the once-in-a-decade performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play in Bavaria.

So, keep your eyes and ears open. We'll be announcing a brand new WLRH special event in the coming months, and a number of projects—including an exciting collaboration with The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. It really is a great time to be a part of WLRH!

Remember, if you haven't had a chance to make a contribution to the station, or if you'd like to send WLRH an additional gift, the coupon on the back of this issue of Airwaves can be cut out and used to make a pledge. Or, save the postage and make a contribution online at wlrh.org or at 1-888-330-8989.



WLRH Welcomes Development Director Kevin Watson



The Roman philosopher Seneca is noted for saying, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end"....of course if one is under the age of 40, he or she might recall that passage as the closing lyric to a 1998 song by the alternative rock group Semisonic. Regardless, the sentiment is quite simple and yet profound.

As the new Development Director at WLRH, I'm excited at the new beginning ahead of me. Not only have I had the opportunity to learn about the heritage of WLRH, but I've been fortunate to begin learning about the rich history of Madison County, the Tennessee Valley, and the Heart of Dixie. Although a native Hoosier (born and raised in Indiana) and new to Alabama, I'm not new to public radio.

My first exposure to public radio was when I was ten years old and I heard Dick Estelle's *Radio Reader*; at the age of twenty, I became hooked on *All Things Considered*. From that starting-off point, I slowly listened to more and more of the programs offered by my local station, in time becoming both a financial supporter and a station volunteer.

I then made the leap to working in public radio and was the Membership Director and Volunteer Coordinator for Northeast Indiana Public Radio and immersed myself in all the "behind the scenes" activities essential to paying for the programming that our listeners heard. And with the "ending" of that "beginning", I've come full circle.

I'm happy to be a part of the WLRH team and I look forward to serving well the station, our members, and our community. Feel free to contact me here at the station—about a question or a concern, opportunities to volunteer for us, or just to introduce yourself and to say hello. You may call the station or you may email me at kevin@wlrh.org.

There was an error in the last issue of Airwaves. The opening of the article "Crunched by numbers" should have read:

Several years ago, a bunch of overworked under-paid reporter friends of mine were discussing going out for a Friday evening happy hour – a fine idea except that we really couldn't justify the cost. "I don't have any money," said my friend Frankie. "I'll tell you how much money I have. If you gave me all the money in the world and then took it away – that's how much money I have." I knew what he meant then and I certainly understand now.

Help WLRH go green!

Help us reduce paper consumption by signing up to receive your future issues of Airwaves online only. Send an email to airwaves@wlrh.org with your name, email address and mailing address and we'll add you to our growing list of people who prefer to receive Airwaves electronically.



▲ Last March, the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild welcomed the legendary Marilyn Horne. During her visit, she dropped by the WLRH studios to chat with Judy Watters and the two ended up sharing pictures of their grandchildren. Pictured left to right, Barbara Hocher, Executive Director of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Dr. Wilson Luquire, Marilyn Horne, and Judy Watters.

2009 Huntsville Literary Association's Young Writer's Contest

by Judy Watters

It's always a treat to meet these gifted students when they arrive at the WLRH studios with winning poems and stories in hand, ready to face that forbidding microphone. These young writers are often accompanied by their parents (unless the winner is old enough to drive, of course) along with their brothers and sisters - someone usually remembers to bring a camera to document this special occasion. Every spring I have the pleasure of recording the winners of the Huntsville Literary Association's Young Writer's Contest. WLRH then airs these enthusiastic young voices in the SUNDIAL Writer's Corner in conjunction with the Huntsville Times publication of the winners' pictures and writings.

This year, First Place for Lower Elementary Poetry was awarded to third grader Christian Gonzalez who is home schooled by his mother, Laura Gonzalez. Sabrina Chen, a sixth grader at Randolph School, captured First Place in the Upper Elementary Poetry division. For the first time in the contest's history, one student came out on top for both Junior Poetry and Junior Short Story - Nicholas Mecikalski is a rising sophomore at Liberty Middle School. The Senior Poetry First Place award went to Lillian Stewart, a 2009 graduate of Grissom High School, and Heidi Siegrist was named First Place winner in the Senior Short Story division.

A fine time was had by all!

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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					
6:00					
7:00			Morning Edition		
8:00					
9:00					
10:00	Morning Blend with Ginny Kennedy	Morning Blend with Judy Watters	Morning Blend with Ginny Kennedy	Morning Blend with Judy Watters	Morning Blend with Ginny Kennedy
11:00					
12:00 N					
1:00			Among Friends with Beth Norwood		
2:00					
3:00					
4:00			All Things Considered		
5:00					
6:00			Marketplace		
7:00			Fresh Air		Hearing Voices
8:00			PRI's The World		The Invisible City
9:00					
10:00	From the Top	Classical Guitar	Splendid Table	Wire Tap	
11:00					Reelin' In The Years
12:00					
1:00			Classical Music		
2:00					
3:00					Classical Music
4:00					

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5:00 am		
6:00	Classical Music	
7:00		
8:00	Weekend Edition Saturday	Weekend Edition Sunday
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 and Percussion	Car Talk
1:00	This American Life	Prairie Home Companion
2:00	The Splendid Table	
3:00	Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me	Thisle & Shamrock
4:00	Weekend All Things Considered	
5:00		This American Life
6:00	Prairie Home Companion	City Arts & Lectures
7:00	Folk Sampler	Alternative Radio
8:00	Talkin' the Blues	Living on Earth
9:00	Riverwalk	Hearts of Space
10:00		
11:00	Midnight Special	Classical Music
12:00		
1:00		
2:00	Classical Music	
3:00		
4:00		

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