

ASCERTAINMENT STATEMENT-88-5 FM WXPB

1st Quarter 2024: January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

In ascertaining the public affairs needs of the WXPB listening community, the management and programming staff of WXPB assesses and reviews the essential issues and topics of importance to the University City, West Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania community, and the overall listening audience. Among the on-air features that served this purpose was a series of daily specials, stories and interviews celebrating Black History Month during the entire month of February. Specifically on the XPB Morning Show, Bob Bumbera delivered daily stories, with audio on XPB's Black History Month's Featured Artist. Also in the month of March, the XPB Morning Show celebrated International Women's Day with special programming and songs about and by women, and how the official holiday in more than 20 countries is commemorated in different ways. WXPB's Black Music City project for 2024 also revealed the list of thirty black creatives in the greater Philadelphia region that will receive grants of between \$1,500 and \$5,000 each, to help fund the creation of new artistic works that honor the influence of Philadelphia's legendary Black music heritage. Every month throughout the first quarter of 2024 WXPB presented "Live from Kelly Writers' House: a monthly show recorded live at the Kelly Writers House on the Univ. of Pennsylvania. One of the programs featured Queens of the Penstroke, who are a collective of women and non-binary people who use writing to express and share their experiences with the prison system. An event in the Writers House and streamed on XPB.org saw them share excerpts from their collection of work, including themes of struggle, oppression, stigmatization, and a

reclaiming of power, with a guest feature from a hip-hop activist.

As usual those consulted during this quarter included WXPB G.M. Roger LaMay, Program Director Bruce Warren, Assistant Program Director Mike Vasilikos, and WXPB Morning Show host Kristen Kurtis. Resources from the University of Pennsylvania's Office and Community Relations and Center for Community Partnership were also utilized for ideas on programming dealing with community issues. The center has designed a guide to help build effective partnerships between the Penn community and the West Philadelphia and University City neighborhoods. This relationship helps devise community service programs for Penn students and stimulates new and creative initiative linking the Univ. of Penn to its direct neighborhood community. This quarter WXPB continued to broadcast Live from the Kelly Writers' House. Shows included local, Philadelphia poets and musical guests, & University of Pennsylvania students. WXPB also featured a number of ongoing programs addressing a variety of issues including ones focusing on the LGBTQ community (Out Music & Amazon Country) & Kids Corner- the only nightly radio show focusing solely on kids and their specific issues. WXPB continues to work diligently in serving the radio station's diverse audiences with insightful, and provocative programming that compliments the music.

1st Quarter Ascertainments: 01/01/24 through 03/31/24

1/04/23

Today marks the return of mandatory mask-wearing at all hospitals within the Main Line Health System . A surge in “post-holiday” cases of the flu, Covid 19, and RSV as prompted the action , including at Lankenau Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital and Paoli Hospital, along with the Main Line Health locations in KOP, Broomall and Newtown Square. The mask requirement be in effect for at least 2 weeks.

ChristianaCare and Tower Health are also urging all patients and visitors to wear masks, but as of now mask-wearing is not required at those facilities, but strongly encouraged.

Since passage of the Endangered Species Act 50 years ago, more than 1,700 plants, mammals, fish, insects and other species in the U.S. have been listed as threatened or endangered with extinction. Yet they are not treated equally: federal government spending data reveals striking disparities among biological kingdoms. About \$1.2 billion a year is spent on species in the U.S. and about half goes toward recovery of just two types of fish: salmon and steelhead trout along the West Coast. Tens of millions of dollars more go to other widely known species including manatees, whales, grizzly bears and spotted owls. Scientists tell us the best way to protect endangered species is to protect them where they live from logging, oil and gas drilling, over-grazing and development which all lead to habitat destruction.

1/09/24

Researchers estimate about 14% of adults experience tinnitus while 2% experience a severe form of it. The condition is often described as “a ringing in the ears”, & may affect 750 million people worldwide. While there is no cure, there are a number of ways of managing the condition, including cognitive behavioral therapy which helps people to reduce their emotional connection to the sound, allowing the brain to learn to tune it out. & Researchers have created an app, called “MindEar” that provides Cognitive Behavioral Therapy through a chatbot with other approaches such as sound therapy to help empower sufferers of the condition to regain a level of control.

A tribute concert in honor of Sinead O’Connor and Shane McGowan is being planned in NYC for this spring. "Sinead and Shane at Carnegie Hall" will take place on March 20th. Sinead O’Connor died in July at the age of 56, while McGowan passed away in November at the age of 65. Among those scheduled to perform at the Tribute show include: The Dropkick Murphys, Cat Power, David Gray, The Mountain Goats, Julia Cumming of Sunflower Bean, Glen Hansard, Amanda Palmer, & Kat Edmonson, among others. All proceeds from the show will go to charity.

1/19/24

The Philadelphia Eagles have raised \$3 million with their 2nd holiday themed charity album: ‘A Philly Special Christmas Special’ which has raised more than twice as much money for Philly charities as their first album. This year, all the money raised will benefit organizations like: The Children Crisis Treatment Center of Philadelphia, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia which will each receive \$250,000. Other charities

receiving funding from sales of “A Philly Special Christmas Special” are: Phil-abundance, Ronald McDonald House, MANNA, the Philadelphia Children Alliance, and Rock to the Future among other local non-profits. Sixty-one thousand total units of the album have been sold, including a limited-edition red vinyl LP that’s sold out, but there are still various ways to get the album @ phillyspecialchristmas.com. So far, the 11 songs on *A Philly Special Christmas Special* have been streamed over 10 million times across music platforms, & Plans for a 3rd *Philly Special* album, have not been announced yet.

1/31/24

We now may know why many of us don’t feel like working out: Our brains don’t want us to exercise, and in fact, may be hard-wired for humans to be sedentary. According to evolutionary biologist Daniel Lieberman author of the book: “Exercised: Why Something We Never Evolved to Do is Healthy and Rewarding,” pre-historic hunter-gatherers would not go-out jogging to burn extra calories. It would have been a waste of time, burning energy on something that's not going to give you any benefit.” Studies have shown that “humans have an automatic tendency” to choose relaxing over moving, for example, choosing to take an escalator instead of the stairs. Many people also subconsciously have negative feelings toward exercise that go back to childhood, and sometimes it’s just a confidence issue. Research suggests people who view themselves as competent exercisers are more likely to stick to a regular routine, while people who think the opposite may struggle to exercise.

2/01/24

Today's XPN'S- Black History Month "Daily Featured Artist" is Sly & the Family Stone! The band that pioneered the "frenetic combination" of funk, soul, R&B, rock, and psychedelia, known as "Progressive Soul." Sly Stone was born Sylvester Stewart (on March 15, 1943 in Denton, Texas) He loved music at an early age, taking up several instruments & performing gospel music as a child growing up in the Bay Area in California with his siblings (& future bandmates) Freddie and Rose. Sly got his nickname from a classmate in grade school who misspelled "Sylvester," and "Sly" just stuck. In the mid-1960s, Sly Stone worked as disc jockey at "K-Sol Radio) An air check from 1967 from DJ Sly Stone on KSOL radio in Oakland, CA... He also worked for some time at San Francisco radio station KDIA, before taking on music full-time with Sly and Family Stone...the first rock group to have a racially integrated male and female lineup. In 1993, Sly and the Family Stone was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Bassist & singer Larry Graham (of Graham Central Station) who had a 1980 hit w/ "One in a Million You," played w/ Sly and the Family for a period of time. Graham came up w/ the signature 'slap bass technique" you hear in so many of the band's songs. Larry Graham is also a relative of rap superstar Drake.

2/2/24

February 2nd! Day two of XPNs commemoration of Black History-Month with our daily artist-spotlight, and today it's TSOP by MFSB! A song and an entire musical collective. The Sound of Philadelphia- TSOP was also the R&B/disco revolution of the Sound of Philadelphia created by Gamble & Huff's Philadelphia International Records, and their legendary

house-band MFSB! The “Mother Father Sister Brother” Orchestra performed on the 1974 recording of TSOP featuring vocals by The Three Degrees. It was written as the theme song for the TV show Soul Train, and became the 1st TV theme song to reach No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. “MFSB” was a talented collection of more than 30 studio musicians based at Philadelphia's Sigma Sound Studios...Musicians like: Guitarist Bob Babbitt, who was also a member of the legendary Funk Brothers. Reggie Lucas- who produced a majority of Madonna's 1983 self-titled debut album. Bobby Eli- Who performed on hit singles for Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, and drummer Earl Young- who also played on “The Love I Lost” and “Bad Love” w/ Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes! Drummer Earl Young, of the MFSB band (a critical part of the Sound of Philadelphia, TSOP!) Member of the Musicians Hall of Fame. And also honored with (5) different bronze plaque on Philadelphia. Walk of Fame on Broad Street, and Earl Young was also the founder and leader of The Trammps who had that huge HUGE hit record in 1977 "Disco Inferno" when it was part of the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack

3/06/24

Newly upgraded LED Lights will soon be shining along Boathouse Row in Philly. The renovated lighting system now adorns the 10 historic boathouses that line a section of the east bank of the Schuylkill River just north of the Fairmount Water Works and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A \$2 million dollar upgrade, which took a year to complete, included renovation to the boathouses themselves features a new lighting system with 6,400 programmable LED bulbs, which present 16 million color combinations. A ceremony will take place from

6pm to 8pm tomorrow night at the Fairmount Fish Ladder, located on the west side of the Fairmount Dam, “The Fish Ladder” allows migrating fish species like American Shad to travel upriver to spawn.

3/0824

International Women’s Day was celebrated on WXPB and on the XPB Morning Show. Bob Bumbera discussed how France has inscribed the guaranteed right to abortion in its constitution, after a special public ceremony today. The measure was overwhelmingly approved by French lawmakers earlier this week, and today’s ceremony means it can now enter into force. France is the first country to explicitly guarantee abortion rights in its national charter.

On this International Women’s Day, Women across the world will demand equal pay, reproductive rights, education, justice, decision-making jobs and other essential needs during demonstrations around the globe . Officially recognized by the United Nations in 1977, and an official holiday in more than 20 countries, International Women’s Day is commemorated in different ways. Protests are often political rooted in women’s efforts to improve their rights as workers. Demonstrations are planned from Tokyo to Mexico City and this year’s global theme is “ Invest in women: Accelerate progress..” Marches, demonstrations and conferences are being held the world over, from Asia to Latin America and elsewhere.

On the XPB Morning Show we took a closer look at a new musical debuting in Philadelphia at Theater Exile! “The Angry Grammarian: The Musical” is the brainchild of Penn grad and

one time XPN intern Jeff Barg. Back in 2007 Jeff started writing his column, the “The Angry Grammarian” that looked at how language, grammar, and punctuation shape our world. The musical is the semi-autobiographical story of a person who’s passionate about predicates, consumed by commas and seduced by subjunctives. Audio of Jeff Barg from of recent edition of Live from the Kelly Writer’s House on XPN, along with some of the production’s performers was aired.

3/14/24

A new song by The “Tennessee Freedom Singers”- an all star group consisting of Brandi Carlisle, Allison Russell, Brittany Howard, Maren Morris, , Emmylou Harris, Amanda Shires, and Devon Gilfilian, among others, is out now. “Tennessee Rise” was inspired by movements for social justice and equality, and the candidates who support them. including Gloria Johnson of Tennessee and her campaign for US Senate. Each of the artists they plan to donate any proceeds they receive from the streaming of the song. Tennessee Rise.

The Black Music City project for 2024, has unveiled it the 30 Black creatives in the greater Philadelphia region, that will receive grants of between \$1,500 and \$5,000 each, to help fund the creation of new artistic works that honor the influence of Philadelphia’s legendary Black music heritage. This year’s grant recipients are Honoring a wide range of persons or styles from decades of Philly music - from Bessie Smith to Bilal to *Philly Word* hip-hop magazine - AND ALL 30 new creations will be showcased in June during African American Music Appreciation Month. This Black Music City received 717 applications for a total of \$134,500 in available grants, which is

the highest number of applications received in the four-year history of the project. Each of the 2024 Black Music City grant recipients is also receiving a free, one-year membership to REC Philly. Black Music City has awarded nearly \$400,000 in artistic grants to 129 recipients since it was founded in 2020 in partnership between WXPN , WRTI-FM, and REC Philly, with lead support provided by the William Penn Foundation. More information is available at www.blackmusiccity.com.

3/25/24

The so-called “Taylor Swift Effect” in Brazil is leading to safer conditions at outdoor concert venues and elsewhere in the country during heat waves. About 100 proposals are working their way through municipalities in Brazil to ensure the distribution of water during extreme heat. Making sure water is available on hot days in Brazil was not a priority until Taylor Swift’s concert in Rio de Janeiro last November, when the heat and humidity created a heat index of 138 degrees Fahrenheit and led to the death of a 23-year-old fan, who died from heat exposure that caused cardiac arrest. Brazil’s justice ministry has issued a regulation obliging organizers of big events to guarantee water for attendees during heat waves.

3/26/24

Rescue workers in Baltimore are searching for as many as seven people in the Patapsco River near Baltimore, after a major bridge in the city's port was struck by a container ship early this morning, and collapsed. So far, two people have been saved from the water. There were an unknown number of vehicles traveling on the Francis Scott Key Bridge, along with several contractors working on the structure, at the time of its collapse.

The 1 & 1/2-mile-long, “Key Bridge” was struck by a large container ship which was leaving Baltimore Harbor on its way to Sri Lanka. The Key bridge serves as the outermost crossing of the Baltimore harbor, over the Southeastern portion of the Patapsco River and was an essential link of Interstate-695, or the Baltimore Beltway.

**Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
for Kids Corner
First Quarter, 2024 / January 2nd through March 26th**

ISSUE: Civil Rights / American History

Program Name: Kids Corner

Broadcast Date(s): January 15, 2024

Broadcast Time: 19:00-20:00

Program Summary: Local singer-songwriter/activist Rodney Wittenberg joined Kathy to showcase his project, We Stood Up: Reflections on the Civil Rights Movement.

Program Details: We Stood Up: Reflections on the Civil Rights Movement. Never have we heard a more comprehensive and poignant sampling of speeches, conversations, testimonies, and poetry from a span of generations affected by the Civil Rights Movement. The moving words of MLK Jr., Maya Angelou, and John Lewis are interspersed with songs that make you stop and listen. Among the best is the song, Love. Simple, beautiful, and important, especially now. The title song, We Stood Up, represents the story of Rosa Parks and the Greensboro Five with an excellent rap. We can just see students across the country learning the words, choreographing their own dances, and performing this with pride for their parents and communities.

WXPB ASCERTAINMENT FORM

PROGRAM NAME: Kids Corner

HOST: Kathy O'Connell

PRODUCER: Robert Drake

AIRS: Currently airs Mondays and Tuesdays 19:00

LENGTH: 60 minutes

Created in January 1988, the primary mission of Kids Corner continues to be one that provides a stimulating variety of educational and entertaining programs for children ages 5-13. The show enables children to get involved in interactive segments and demonstrate their knowledge, talent and abilities. In addition, it serves as a resource for parents, educators and professionals in child-related fields.

2024 FIRST QUARTER / 31 episodes

Kids Corner Music Hour – airs weekly every Monday as well as on special occasions and features an hour of music from regional and national musicians that target the younger ear. In this quarter, the Kids Corner Music Hour aired:

Jan 8
Jan 11
Jan 18
Jan 22
Jan 25
Jan 29
Feb 5
Feb 12
Feb 19
Feb 26
Mar 4
Mar 11
Mar 18
Mar 25

KIDS CORNER PROGRAM / 2024 FIRST QUARTER OVERVIEW

(note: Kids Corner went from four shows a week to two, beginning February 2024)

Jan 2: Billy Jonas Band – an hour of stories and songs
Jan 4: The Science of Benjamin Franklin – Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer at the Franklin Institute Science Center in Philadelphia explores Franklin's amazing career in science.
Jan 9: The Big Question: in advance of Philadelphia's first snow in two years, kids call in to vote "Snow or No" as to whether or not they like winter weather.
Jan 10: Kathy asks kids to call in and teach her something they've recently learned in their school studies
Jan 16: The Big Question: Kids call in to discuss ways that they are involved with their local community.
Jan 17: Musicians Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer join Kathy for an hour of stories and songs
Jan 23: The Big Question: Kids chime in on their favorite part of winter
Jan 24: The Kids Corner Bookmobile: Kathy and the kids recommend good books for listeners to check out!
Jan 30: The Weekly Big Question: If you could have one superpower, what would you choose?

Feb 6: The Weekly Big Question: In advance of the Super Bowl, kids let us know who (if anyone) are they rooting for ... Taylor Swift won out)

Feb 13: The Weekly Big Question: Have you ever tried something you didn't like but pretended you did?
Feb 20: The Weekly Big Question: What was one of your favorite birthday memories?
Feb 27: The Weekly Big Question: Do you have a nickname? Where does it come from?
Mar 5: The Weekly Big Question: What is one of your all-time favorite books to read?
Mar 12: The Weekly Big Question: In advance of the Oscars, we ask kids for their favorite movie?
Mar 19: The Weekly Big Question: As spring approaches, we ask kids what is their favorite part of the spring season?
Mar 26: The Weekly Big Question: Where in the world would you like to visit if all you had to do was snap your fingers to get there?

**Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
for OUTsounds / Amazon Country
First Quarter, 2024 / January 7th through March 31st**

WXPN ASCERTAINMENT FORM

PROGRAM NAME: OUTsounds
HOST: Robert Drake
AIRS: Sundays at 23:30
LENGTH: 30 minutes

OUTsounds celebrates out artists worldwide and showcases music created and performed by members of the LGBTQ community. On occasion, Robert will also air short interviews with members of the LGBTQ community – these chats will be noted above, as they occur.

2024 FIRST QUARTER

13 episodes

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28
February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31

PROGRAM NAME: Amazon Country
HOST: Debra D'Alessandro
AIRS: Sundays at 23:00
LENGTH: 30 minutes

Amazon Country is a program dedicated to celebrating and spotlighting the artistic creations found within the lesbian/feminist community. Throughout each show, host Debra D'Alessandro showcases music created and performed by members of the lesbian/feminist community. On occasion, Debra will also air short interviews with members of the LGBTQ community – these chats will be noted above, as they occur.

2024 FIRST QUARTER

13 episodes

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28
February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31