Carnegie Hall Live Returns for 2021 Broadcast Season

Hear the show Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on KVPR beginning May 19

This year Carnegie Hall Live marks its 10th anniversary and we’re celebrating with a look back at some of our favorite performances from the last decade! The specially curated 13-part series features recordings of some of classical music’s most esteemed artists in an array of styles and repertoire all captured live at New York City’s world-famous concert hall.

This year’s season will begin Wednesday May 19th at 8:00 PM and will continue every Wednesday through August 11th. The program is hosted by Jeff Spurgeon.

Highlights from this season include:

- Orchestral performances with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra & Mitsuko Uchida; Berlin Philharmonic, Martha Argerich and the Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; The Philadelphia Orchestra with Lang Lang and Chick Corea; San Francisco Symphony/Michael Tilson Thomas; Vienna Philharmonic/Valery Gergiev; West-Eastern Divan Orchestra/Daniel Barenboim
- Recital selections from Thomas Hampson; Leif Ove Andsnes and Marc-André Hamelin; Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason; Sir András Schiff; and Yuja Wang
- Chamber music from the Brentano Quartet, Takács Quartet, St. Lawrence String Quartet
- A musical tour through the 1,000-year history of the Venetian Republic with Jordi Savall
This summer is already shaping up to be one of many milestones, both on-air and behind the scenes at Valley Public Radio. A few weeks ago, NPR marked the 50th anniversary of the network’s first broadcast. During our upcoming fund drive, we’ll be celebrating the occasion with special content, a NPR 50th Anniversary t-shirt premium, and by airing the new documentary Fifty And Forward. This special broadcast has host Audie Cornish looking back at NPR’s rich history, and forward to the public radio world of tomorrow. For me, it speaks to the continued relevance of public radio and the work we do, regardless of how technology or our world changes.

This summer will also involve other important milestones for Valley Public Radio. Tuesday June 1, 2021 marks 442 days since the COVID-19 crisis first forced us to shift to remote work. Over that span, our employees have done an incredible job of keeping the station on-the-air, recording in their closets, participating in staff meetings from their dens or backyard patios, and somehow managing to make it all seem barely noticeable to the listener. While the pandemic is not behind us, we are optimistic the worst of the crisis has passed, and with precautions, businesses like ours can begin to resume some level of “normalcy.” And while the pandemic has taught us a lot of lessons about remote work and broadcast technology, we’ve also learned there is no replacement for the camaraderie and collaboration that comes from working together out of the same facility.

That’s why this June we’re excited as our staff begin to return to the broadcast center. While this is exciting, it also brings with it a host of additional one-time expenses that weren’t included in our annual budget. We’re upgrading our air conditioning systems with the latest filtration technology to improve indoor air quality. We’re reconfiguring some of our office spaces to provide more private areas and social distancing. We’ve completed the outfitting of a third production studio, to allow staff to record or go on-air live in a safe, distanced environment. And we’re adding outdoor seating and tables on our patio to allow our employees to have a shaded outdoor area to safely eat their lunch or take a break during the day. All told, these special re-opening expenses total close to $20,000, and we need your help to fill this hole in our budget. You can help sponsor these improvements with a special gift of support. A gift of $2,500 will sponsor an outdoor table and chair installation, with two of these opportunities available. And each gift of $1,000 will support the filtration/sanitization upgrade of one of our nine air conditioning/heating units. Donors who wish to support these projects or other facility improvements can contact our development director Joe Garcia, at (559) 862-2472 or jgarcia@kvpr.org. Thanks in advance for helping us pay for these essential upgrades for our staff.

This summer also marks another milestone. We celebrate the work of our news department, which in May won THREE prestigious Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for their coverage, on top of eight Golden Mike Awards earlier this year. We also say goodbye to a longtime staffer, All Things Considered host Jason Scott, who is leaving to take a new opportunity with a local school district. Please join me in wishing Jason all the best in this new endeavor and for his years of excellent service on-air.

By Joe Moore, President & General Manager

jmoore@kvpr.org • 559-862-2481
MUSIC

For a listing of our music selections, visit KVPR.org or contact the station.

CARNEGIE HALL LIVE Recorded performances from New York City’s most famous stage. Through August 11. Wednesdays at 8:00pm.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The weekly broadcasts offer a unique format that illustrates the fascinating stories found inside the music. Broadcasts are Tuesdays at 8pm.

CLASSICS ALL NIGHT with Peter Van De Graaff Host Peter Van De Graaff plays sweet and soothing selections for late night and early morning listeners. Late nights & early mornings: weekdays until 3am; weekends until 5am.

CLASSICAL 24 Timeless classical music. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on KVPR Classical digital stream.

CONCIERTO Classical music at KVPR.org and KVPR 89.3 HD-2 by composers and performers, presented in English and Spanish. Hosted by Frank Dominguez. Saturdays at 9pm.

EARLY MUSIC NOW Music from the Medieval, Renaissance and early Baroque eras. Sundays at noon.

JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA Host Christian McBride takes listeners on a tour of live jazz performances from today’s top stars. Saturdays at 8pm.

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC Recorded performances of the New York Philharmonic hosted by Alec Baldwin. Mondays at 8pm.

SUNDAY BAROQUE This program celebrates the current wealth of recorded Baroque music. Suzanne Bona hosts every Sunday from 9am to Noon.

SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ Hosted by FM89’s David Aus with jazz classics to new recordings. Sundays from 9pm to midnight.

THE THISTLE & SHAMROCK Host Fiona Ritchie’s weekly program has become a gathering place on the radio for those that love music with Celtic roots. Sundays at 8pm.

WEEKEND CLASSICS Musical selections from FM89.

YOUNG ARTISTS SPOTLIGHT Student performances Thursdays.

INFORMATION

1A Daily talk program from WAMU and NPR, exploring issues in a changing America, and encouraging you to ‘speak freely.’ Hosted by Jenn White, weekdays from 9am-11am.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED News magazine from NPR. Weekdays 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Weekends 5pm to 6pm.

THE CALIFORNIA REPORT This statewide newscast is heard weekday mornings at 6:50am and 8:50am. The California Report Magazine, a half-hour news magazine program, is heard Fridays at 6:30pm.

FORUM A statewide look at the issues facing California, hosted by KQED’s Mina Kim. Monday-Thursday 1pm to 2pm.

FRESH AIR WEEKEND Hosted by Peabody Award-winning Terry Gross. Sundays at 6pm.

HERE AND NOW News and features from NPR and WBUR in Boston. Mondays through Thursdays 11am to 1pm.

LEFT, RIGHT & CENTER A fast-paced hour of smart, witty, and serious talk that takes on the week’s front-page issues. Saturdays at 6pm.

LATINO USA Hosted by Maria Hinojosa. The only national, English language news and culture program from a Latino perspective. Saturdays at 7pm.

MARKETPLACE Business news with host Kai Ryssdal. Weekdays at 3pm, rebroadcast Monday-Thursday at 6:30 pm.

MORNING EDITION National and international news from NPR. Weekdays from 3am to 9am.

VALLEY EDITION Hear the issues that matter to Valley residents each week with a mix of in-depth reports, studio discussions and more. Valley Edition airs live on Fridays at 1pm, and is repeated Fridays at 7pm.

SCIENCE FRIDAY with Ira Flatow. Talk about science and the environment. Fridays 11am to 1pm.

WEEKEND EDITION The Saturday and Sunday edition of NPR’s most popular news program. Weekend mornings from 9am to 9am.

STAR DATE Weekdays at 6:19am, 2:58pm and 10:00pm.

TALK & ENTERTAINMENT

IT’S BEEN A MINUTE NPR’s Sam Sanders brings us casual conversations about the connections between pop culture and current events. Saturdays from 4pm-5pm.

MILK STREET RADIO Host Christopher Kimball explores the wide world of food. Saturdays at 10am.

THE MOTH True stories told live, from professional and amateur storytellers based in New York. Tuesdays and Sundays at 7pm.

RADIOLAB Radiolab believes your ears are a portal to another world, where sound illuminates ideas and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy and human experience. Mondays at 7pm.

TED RADIO HOUR Innovative ideas from the world’s top thinkers. Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 8pm.

THIS AMERICAN LIFE Hosted by Ira Glass. Themed stories with a unique focus on our everyday experiences. Wednesdays at 7pm, Saturdays at noon.

THINK Host Krys Boyd brings us conversations about current events, culture, history, food, wine and the arts. From KERA. Weekdays at 2pm.

THROUGHLINE NPR’s weekly program about history, dedicated to the idea that the past is always present. Thursdays at 7pm.

TRAVEL WITH RICK STEVES Explore with with travel expert and author Rick Steves as he talks with friends from around the globe. Saturdays at 9am.

WAIT WAIT…DON’T TELL ME! Join host Peter Sagal for this fun-filled hour of mind-stretching fun, based on the week’s news. Saturdays at 11am.

Listen to our live audio streams online at KVPR.org or on your favorite connected device.
### Radio Schedule

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**Weekend Edition**

**Morning Edition**

**Classics All Night with Peter Van de Graaff**

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**Made in Fresno, California, USA.**
Excerpts from National Public Radio’s Original Mission Statement, circa 1969

Written by Bill Siemering

National Public Radio will serve the individual, it will promote personal growth, it will regard the individual differences with respect and joy, rather than derision and hate. It will celebrate the human experience as infinitely varied, rather than vacuous and banal. It will encourage a sense of active, constructive participation, rather than apathetic helplessness.

National Public Radio, through live interconnection and other distribution systems, will be the primary national non-commercial program service. Public radio stations will be a source for programming input as well as program dissemination. The potentials of live interconnection will be exploited; the art and enjoyment of the sound medium will be advanced.

❉❉❉

In its cultural mode, National Public Radio will preserve and transmit the cultural past, will encourage and broadcast the work of contemporary artists, and provide listeners with an aural aesthetic experience, which enriches and gives meaning to the human spirit.

In its journalistic mode, National Public Radio will actively explore, investigate and interpret issues of national and international import. The programs will enable the individual to better understand himself, his government, his institutions, and his natural and social environment, so he can intelligently participate in affecting the process of change.

The total service should be trustworthy, enhance intellectual development, expand knowledge, deepen aural aesthetic enjoyment, increase the pleasure of living in a pluralistic society, and result in a service to listeners which makes them more responsive, informed human beings and intelligent, responsible citizens of their communities and the world.

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Because National Public Radio begins with no identity of its own, it is essential that a daily product of excellence be developed. This may contain some hard news, but the primary emphasis would be on interpretation, investigative reporting on public affairs, the world of ideas, and the arts. The program would be well-paced, flexible, and a service primarily for a general audience.

It would not, however, substitute superficial blandness for genuine diversity of regions, values, and cultural and ethnic minorities, which comprise American society. It would speak with many voices and many dialects. The editorial attitude would be that of inquiry, curiosity, concern for the quality of life, critical problem solving, and life loving. The listener should come to rely upon it as a source of information of consequence, of having listened as having made a difference in his attitude toward his environment and himself.
NPR Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The first broadcast of NPR’s All Things Considered took place on May 3, 1971. That day more than 20,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest against the Vietnam War. NPR journalists covered the day’s events, producing a 24-minute sound portrait of what was happening which was inducted in 2017 into the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress for its place in US audio heritage.

In 1971, NPR debuted with around 88 Member stations, 55 employees, and fewer than 2 million listeners. Now, more than 60 million people access NPR content for free on multiple platforms each week. Valley Public Radio joined the network in 1978, and together with NPR and fellow member stations, provides an essential service to local communities, and serves as a lifeline for rural America and those seeking vital information during emergencies.

“For the past 50 years NPR has been an essential, trusted source for international, national and local news, and cultural programming featuring music, history, education and the arts,” said NPR President and CEO John Lansing. “All Things Considered’s first broadcast was a vivid report on demonstrations against the Vietnam war. Times may have changed but NPR’s mission and commitment to informing the American public has not. We just went through a summer of racial unrest, a global pandemic, and a very contentious election year. NPR is covering all of this and no longer just on the radio, we are meeting our listeners where they are and addressing their interests and needs.”

“During a year in which most Americans have felt isolated, public radio has served to connect us with what’s happening in the world and with one another. Not just as a source of news and inspiring insights on life and the arts but as an essential, enriching, and enlightening companion in listeners’ daily lives,” added LaFontaine, Oliver, Chair, NPR Board of Directors.

To celebrate this milestone with our listeners, NPR has prepared a full slate of programming, and a special section on the NPR.org website. Throughout the celebration, both on-air and online, we’re reflecting on — and renewing — our commitment to serve an audience that reflects America and to Hear Every Voice.

Fifty and Forward: An Anniversary Celebration Of NPR

Join NPR’s Audie Cornish and other journalists for this one hour special program. NPR grew up alongside a post-Watergate journalism ethos that shaped the media industry for decades. In this show, we’ll unpack that ethos: how it developed in the newsroom and changed
over time, through today. Analytical, critical and forward thinking, this program tells the story of NPR’s history in the context of the growth of modern media.

**Broadcast dates:**
Wednesday June 23 at 1:00 p.m. & Saturday June 26th at 6:00 p.m.

**We Hold These Truths:**
At a moment when American society feels particularly divided, and the political system particularly fragile, we propose an examination of American democracy and how people participate in it. Through a special series of host pieces, character profiles and conversations on Morning Edition and All Things Considered we will explore how one learns about democracy, how one gains a stake in a democratic system, and how democracy falls short.

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Hear NPR’s First Broadcast
Scan this QR code image with your phone to listen to a portion of the first All Things Considered broadcast and Fresh Air’s interview with NPR’s Susan Stamberg and Bill Siemering.

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All Things Considered debuted on May 3, 1971. The same day, over 20,000 protesters gathered in Washington, DC, to demonstrate against the Vietnam War. All Things Considered documented all sides of the antiwar protest with a visceral 24-minute sound portrait, taking listeners to the heart of America’s agonies over the war in Vietnam. Against an aural backdrop of helicopters, motorcycle engines and police sirens, NPR reporters recorded the voices of protestors, police officers, veterans and office workers on the streets of Washington.

The inaugural broadcast of All Things Considered was inducted into the Library of Congress on March 29, 2017. "For the sounds that we made on the first day to be right up there with Martin Luther King Jr.’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech or Neil Armstrong’s first words spoken by a human being on the moon — that’s very lofty company for us," Susan Stamberg, who began hosting the flagship show in 1972 and continued to do so for 14 years, said.

However, NPR is nothing without its trusted staff: “The real credit goes to [those] who made and make the ideas real everyday,” Bill Siemering, NPR’s first programming director, said. “The NPR staff’s commitment to the highest standards of broadcast journalism are valued more now than ever.”

ATC creator Bill Siemering says he wanted that first broadcast — and the ones that would follow — to offer a different take on the news: “I wanted to hear voices that aren’t heard generally on the air and to have first-person accounts of these things,” he says.

Susan Stamberg, who co-anchored ATC from 1972 until 1986, was working as a production assistant when the show debuted. She says the initial broadcast felt like a “revelation.”

“It’s radio that I had never heard,” Stamberg says. “Sounds that had never existed, that had never come out of a radio across the country at the same time. I mean, it was just thrilling.”

A year later, Stamberg made history as the first woman to anchor a daily national news program in America. Siemering says her voice was perfect for ATC. “It has rich tone [and] color,” he says. “It’s the sound I really wanted for NPR. It’s the sound that I still think represents NPR the best: this insatiable curiosity.”

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Fifty years after working together on ATC, Susan Stamberg and Bill Siemering are still in public radio
At Sew N So Alterations in north Fresno, the steady thrum of mechanized needles is a good sign. It means business is finally starting to pick back up again.

Owner Patrick Tran points out several machines that are used to make alterations.

“Those three are overlap machines where after you cut it, you overlap so it doesn’t fray,” he says gesturing to a row of machines on the back counter.

His family owns two more stores in the area. Tran says he learned the trade from his parents, who met in Vietnam.

“My mom and dad, they meet each other through learning how to sew, same class,” he says.

Sewing helped his parents survive. It was a lifeline when they fled their homeland after the Vietnam War.

“When we escaped Vietnam, we went to Thailand. That’s when they start using their skill, so we’ve been sewing ever since,” he says.

Once the family settled as refugees in Fresno, they started sewing in their home, making hand tailored garments for the local Asian community. They had so many customers that they were able to open their first business 37 years ago. At that time, Tran was 10 years old and eventually, he learned the trade.

“During high school, I would come and help them, my parents, doing very simple stuff and then gradually doing more difficult things,” he says.

Tran walks to the back of the small, narrow shop past his wife Mai, who is stitching together a white dress shirt. He and Mai have run this store for 20 years. Three other family members work here, all relatives that Tran sponsored from Vietnam. Tran points to another machine.

“That one is a double stitch where you sew it on a T-shirt or something stretch,” he says.

After clothes are tailored, they’re steamed and pressed. Today, his sister-in-law stands at the ironing counter, making perfect creases on a pair of pants. But this past year during the pandemic, the shop wasn’t this noisy.

“No parties, no wedding, no school. So, most of our alterations is based on those events so we have no customers,” he says.

Tran shut down his business for a short time. He thought the lockdown was only going to last for a couple of weeks. Any longer than that, and he knew he was going to have to use his savings to pay bills.

“After one week, we have nothing to do. We see on the news a lot of people that’s elderly that doesn’t have any masks so we start making masks and giving out to senior citizens,” he recalls.

Some of those senior citizens receiving free masks were at a nursing home where one of the relatives of a resident happened to work for the city of Fresno. They heard about the masks and tracked down Tran’s shop. After approving the design of the masks, Tran was awarded a contract to make them for city crews.

“So that keep us by for several months, and then they place the second order so that helped us to complete the whole year,” he says.

And the store is still making them. On this day, Tran’s relatives sit at their sewing machines, busily stitching together face masks.

The masks come in several sizes, diverse colors and designs that include sports logos and cartoon characters. After they’re sewn together, each mask is bagged in plastic and labeled for sale.

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Pandemic Funding Creates New Housing Options To Fight Homelessness In Fresno

By Soreath Hok

Katherine Miranda stands outside Fresno’s Crossroads Village housing complex overlooking Blackstone Avenue. She just moved here about a month ago. Before that, she was on the streets for nine years. Her first night in her new room was so quiet, she says.

“The first night I couldn’t sleep because we were so used to the train,” she laughs. “But I mean, it’s wonderful,” she says.

The facility used to be Smugglers Inn, then Hotel Fresno. But just this year, the north Blackstone location reopened, newly renovated as a permanent housing option for formerly homeless and low income tenants.

Miranda found out about housing programs through the Poverello House and applied. She chose Crossroads Village, where tenants are required to pay a monthly subsidized rent and sign a 12-month lease.

“Why should I go somewhere I don’t have to pay rent? That’s going to make me, that’s just like being out on the streets except for you have somewhere over your head. You know what I mean?” she says.

Miranda believes taking on the financial responsibility is key to getting back on her feet. And she’s able to stay here because with the pandemic came millions of dollars of extra funding for homeless housing and strict deadlines for development.

Fresno County used its $15 million grant from California’s Homekey project to purchase and renovate the hotel into 165 permanent housing units.

“Crossroads Village has been a unique opportunity to bring a large amount of units on very, very quickly,” says Katie Wilbur, executive director of RH Community Builders, the private developer that renovated the facility and operates the program in partnership with Fresno County.

On this day, she gives a tour of the property. “So this is our main building. We do have two community spaces in here,” Wilbur says, showing off a room where Crossroads Village will be partnering with Fresno City College to offer GED classes. The same

Fresno City Council Member Miguel Arias tours the site of a women and children’s shelter on Parkway Drive.
The room will host resume and budgeting workshops for residents.

She takes out her keys to open the door to a studio. It looks like a typical hotel room with two queen sized beds.

“They come with a microwave, hot plate and refrigerator. And it’s their home,” Wilbur adds.

Wilbur says the ability to renovate an existing space was the fastest solution to offer housing to a growing population of people experiencing homelessness.

Newly released figures from the U.S. Census Bureau shows the rental vacancy rate in Fresno dropped from 6.9% in 2019 to .08% in 2020, as available housing disappeared during the pandemic.

One reason why the vacancy rate is so low is due to the moratorium on evictions put in place because of the pandemic. With fewer people leaving their residences, there’s a lot less housing available.

To combat this lack of housing, the city is working with the Fresno Housing Authority on an even larger scale motel project.

Councilmember Miguel Arias says the location is a strip of motels on Parkway Drive right across from Highway 99.

“The city has acquired six motels in this drive and has renovated five of them. And they’re fully occupied now,” he says.

Like Crossroads Village, the purchases and renovations for these motels were put on the fast track due to $34 million from the Homekey project. The city allocated another $8 million in CARES Act money to fund motel operations for the next five years.

The project is in a blighted area, says Arias.

“This is what is known as the Red Light District of the Central Valley,” he adds.

Arias says he saw an opportunity to clean up the area by targeting motels engaging in illegal activities.

“The level of human trafficking and drug trafficking was so blatant, that they would do it in the open,” Arias says, pointing to a motel on Parkway Drive, largely quiet and empty on this Friday afternoon.

Although six motels have been purchased for housing renovations, another six to eight motels are still privately owned in the area. Arias says the City of Fresno is in negotiations to purchase at least three more motels for renovations.

He says turning some of the most run down motels into temporary housing for homeless individuals is a win-win. He points to a motel that’s now been converted to temporary housing for those transitioning from drug treatment programs.

“This was Parkside Inn, one of the worst facilities of Human Trafficking,” Arias says pointing to a motel where the perimeter is covered with a chain link fence. There are safety measures to protect residents.
“As you can see the facility is gated off,” Arias says.

Each renovated motel has 24-hour security and most are gated to keep non-residents out. But because of the area, the project does have its critics.

“We’re dealing with people with drug addiction, people with mental health, people that are just down on their luck and we’re putting them all together in one of the highest crime areas in Fresno,” says homeless advocate Dez Martinez.

She’s making dinner this afternoon at one of the encampments she manages at the corner of Broadway and San Benito under the Highway 99 overpass.

“Hold on one second I think my beans are burning,” Martinez says as she runs to check on the big pot of beans she’s cooking to make sure they aren’t burning. “Oh no, they’re not whew!”

She lived on the streets for a year and a half and now runs her non-profit, We Are Not Invisible, which provides support services for the unhoused.

Despite the fence and the security, she thinks the Highway 99 project is too dangerous. She says her friends who have been placed in the motels don’t feel safe.

“It wasn’t cleaned up. We just scooped up a whole bunch of people and just threw them into a pit of wolves,” she says.

Martinez was especially concerned about the location of the women and children’s shelter.

“We have a family motel on the same block with drugs, sex trafficking, all that stuff. We could have had the family motel, the family shelter, way away from there, not on Parkway,” she says.

These motels are what city officials call “transitional housing” that will ultimately be renovated into permanent housing. Because money from the Homekey project was used to renovate the motels, they are required to eventually become permanent housing units. For now, because of the lack of housing in Fresno, there’s no limit on the amount of time people can stay for free at these motels.

But Martinez isn’t critical of all the housing projects. She says she really likes Crossroads Village.

“It’s great because the property is beautiful. The building looks beautiful. You are a product of your environment,” Martinez says.

Back on Blackstone Avenue, Katherine Miranda agrees. She plans on staying at Crossroads Village for a long time. And now she’s looking for work. Her Crossroads Village caseworker recently helped her apply for a job at the Poverello House.

“Yeah, until I feel that I’m fit enough, or ready enough to go out there into the world to have my own place, I’ll be here,” Miranda says.

And she won’t be alone. The complex is approaching 80% capacity and should be filled up soon.
Valley Public Radio Wins Eight Golden Mike Awards At 71st Annual Event

This March, the Radio Television News Association of Southern California awarded Valley Public Radio eight honors at the organization’s 71st annual Golden Mike Awards. The station received the most awards of any radio station in the Division B category, which is reserved for small market stations. The station’s honors include best continuing coverage for reporting on the Creek Fire, best investigative reporting, and best public affairs program for Valley Edition, all in the Division B category.

“We are incredibly proud of the work our news department has produced amid great challenges over the past year. As these awards recognize, our team, led by News Director Alice Daniel, has brought listeners outstanding coverage on everything from COVID-19 to wildfires to a community tragedy. We are honored to receive these awards from the RTNA of Southern California, alongside some of the finest broadcast stations in the nation,” said Valley Public Radio President and General Manager Joe Moore. “Congratulations to the entire news staff for their dedication and excellence.”

The Golden Mike Awards honor broadcast excellence among radio and television stations from San Diego to Fresno. The awards are typically presented in a gala event in Los Angeles, but this year the program was presented online. A video of the awards ceremony is posted below, and a list of all Golden Mike radio & podcast award winners is available online at kvpr.org.

Valley Public Radio’s Winning Entries - 71st Annual Golden Mike Awards:

R-05, DIVISION B – BEST INDIVIDUAL WRITING
KVPR At Hmong Mini Mall, A Place To Share News Even When It’s The Worst

R-07, DIVISION B – BEST CONTINUING COVERAGE
KVPR Largest Single Blaze in California History Burns More Than 379,000 Acres and 856 Structures

R-10, DIVISION B – BEST NEWS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM
KVPR Valley Edition - April 10, 2020 Dolores Huerta’s Legacy, Mark Arax On Saroyan, Shark Tank

R-14, ONE DIVISION – BEST FEATURE NEWS SERIES REPORTING
KVPR What The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Could Mean For California’s San Joaquin Valley

R-15, DIVISION B – BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
KVPR Years Before COVID19, Avenal State Prison Grappled With A Different Deadly Outbreak

R-16, ONE DIVISION – BEST SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, ONE MINUTE OR LONGER
KVPR He Fought for the U.S...

R-22, DIVISION B – BEST BUSINESS AND CONSUMER REPORTING
KVPR From Puppy Pads To Medical Masks: How A ‘Shark Tank’ Entrepreneur Is Helping Fresno Hospitals

R-24, DIVISION B – BEST MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING
KVPR “Eureka Moment” in Valley Fever Case Paves Way For New Research, Treatment Options
### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Community

Find more events at kvpr.org

DUE TO COVID-19 IN-PERSON EVENTS MAY HAVE CHANGED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION. PLEASE CONSULT EVENT ORGANIZERS AND OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR CURRENT INFORMATION.

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<th>JUNE</th>
<th>EVENTS/EXHIBITS</th>
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| 3 Thru 7/15 | **40th Anniversary Art Auction: Online Silent Auction**  
Spectrum Art Gallery, 608 E. Olive Ave., Fresno | spectrumphotogallery.org |
| 2-25 | **Photography Exhibition**  
Arts Visalia, 214 E. Oak Ave., Fresno | artsvisalia.org |
| 12 | **Yoga Classes at The Zoo**  
Fresno Chaffee Zoo, 894 W. Belmont Avenue | fresnochaffezoo.org |
| 17 | **Sazon Con Arte (Virtual)**  
Arte Americas, Fresno | arteamericas.org |
| 24 | **Art After Dark**  
Bakersfield Museum of Art, 1930 R Street, Bakersfield | bmoa.org |
| 24 | **Respite by The River: reading by Ife-Chudeni Oputa, music by Happenstance**  
San Joaquin River Parkway, 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno | riverparkway.org |

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<th>JULY</th>
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| 31 Thru 6/26 | **Summer/Fall 2021 Exhibitions**  
Fresno Art Museum, 2233 N. First Street, Fresno | fresnoartmuseum.org |
| 8 | **Respite by The River: reading by Tanya Nichols & Bill McEwen, music by Glen Delpit**  
San Joaquin River Parkway, 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno | riverparkway.org |
| 18 | **Call to Fresno Artists: SCCCD West Fresno Fountain Project**  
Fresno Arts Council | fresnoarts council.org/opencalls |

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| 15 Thru 9/12 | **Daddy Long Legs**  
Roger Rocka’s Dinner Theatre, 1226 N. Wishon Ave., Fresno | gcplayers.com |
| 16-25 | **The Servant of Two Masters**  
Stars Playhouse, 2756 Mosasco Street, Bakersfield | bmtstars.com |

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| 17 | **Sirens of Summers Series: Sara Niemietz**  
Camp Tuolumne Trails, 22988 Ferretti Road, Groveland | tuolumnetrails.org/sirens-of-summer |
**EVENTS/EXHIBITS**

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<td>10</td>
<td>Habitat Restoration in Ecuador - Virtual Meeting with Wendy Willis</td>
<td>Fresno Audubon Society, Fresno</td>
<td>fresnoaudubon.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Respite by The River: reading by Catherine Abbey Hodges, music by Rob Hodges</td>
<td>San Joaquin River Parkway, 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno</td>
<td>riverparkway.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Overnight Under the Stars: Perseids</td>
<td>Yosemite Conservancy, Glacier Point Road</td>
<td>yosemite.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Art After Dark</td>
<td>Bakersfield Museum of Art, 1930 R Street, Bakersfield</td>
<td>bmoa.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Thru 10/10</td>
<td>Barefoot in The Park</td>
<td>2nd Space Theatre, 928 E. Olive Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>gcplayers.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Thru 9/18</td>
<td>Monty Python's Spamalot</td>
<td>Stars Theatre Restaurant, 1931 Chester Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bmtstars.com</td>
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**MUSIC**

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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sirens of Summers Series: Rebecca Jade</td>
<td>Camp Tuolumne Trails, 22988 Ferretti Road, Groveland</td>
<td>tuolumnetrails.org/sirens-of-summer</td>
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**EVENT RECAP:**

**Valley Public Radio Listeners, Staff Join For A Virtual “Night Out”**

In April, Valley Public Radio staff and listeners got together for a virtual online fundraiser to celebrate the station, and local food and wine. Peter Ficklin of Madera’s Ficklin Vineyards, (America’s most awarded Port winery), Donna Mott of Ooh De Lolli Kitchen Works and Fine Edibles, a Fresno-based purveyor of small-batch desserts, and Josh Isla-Wolf, owner of Fresno’s newest craft cocktail bar and restaurant, Quail State, brought their insights and tips on cooking and pairing food and beverages to the discussion. It was a fund night to connect with dozens of Valley Public Radio listeners from across Central California. Special thanks to Valley Public Radio’s Kathleen Schock, Kerry Klein and David Aus for helping to host this special event. Stay tuned for info about future online fundraisers from Valley Public Radio in the coming months!
Deaths Among ‘Financially Vulnerable’ Latino Immigrants In Kings County Shot Up By 90% in 2020

By Madi Bolanos

Pedro Cruz Mendoza was born in Oaxaca and came to the Central Valley in 1988. His wife and their son joined him 8 years later. He spent 21 years working in the fields.

“He was very hard working,” said Claudia Medina, Cruz Mendoza’s wife. “He never missed a day of work - never.”

He’d go to work even when he was sick, she said. They’re undocumented and as low-wage workers, couldn’t afford to take a day off. But when Medina started feeling sick in late February, she said she immediately told her boss at the small restaurant where she worked. She self-isolated in their second bedroom of their Lemoore mobile home.

She told Cruz Mendoza she might have COVID-19. He brushed it off, she said. He didn’t believe the virus was real. But she took it seriously, knowing her husband was older and therefore more at-risk of developing complications from COVID-19.

“When he would leave for work, I would leave the room to make myself something to eat and then I would throw bleach on everything, I’d clean,” she said. “I was scared and always thinking of him.”

Overtime Medina’s health improved. But a few days later, she noticed Cruz Mendoza had developed a dry cough. She said she begged him to get tested for COVID-19.

“He told me, ‘oh, my back is hurting,’ and I told him it was his lungs and we needed to take him to the doctor but he said ’no,’” she said.

He continued to go to work in the fields for four days.

“Financially vulnerable” immigrants continue working during pandemic

Latino immigrants have been hit especially hard by the coronavirus pandemic. That’s especially true in Kings County, where there was a 90% increase in deaths among Latino immigrants between 2019 and 2020, according to a data analysis by UC Merced.

The Migration Policy Institute estimates there are 11,000 undocumented people in Kings County, and nearly all are from Mexico or Central America. Like Cruz Mendoza, many of them work in the food and agriculture sector, an industry hit hard by the pandemic. And they don’t qualify for unemployment or federal stimulus checks.
All of that helps explain why the Central Valley’s Latino immigrants have suffered during the pandemic, said Ana Padilla, executive director of the UC Merced Community and Labor Center.

“It leaves them financially vulnerable, where they have really no choice but to continue working in certain conditions and despite their own health,” Padilla said.

Cruz Mendoza remained wary of getting medical attention even as his condition worsened. Eventually, Medina took him to the clinic where he tested positive for COVID-19. A day later, she said, she decided to take him to the county’s only hospital.

“They told me ‘he has very little oxygen in his lungs and his pulse is very low,” she said. “They weren’t sure what was going to happen.”

On March 28th, after 20 days in the hospital, Pedro Cruz Mendoza passed away, leaving behind his wife, only son and two grandchildren.

Among California counties with significant Latino populations, Kings County had the second-highest increase in deaths among Latino immigrants during 2020. Only Imperial County, along the California-Mexico border, had a higher increase in Latino immigrant deaths last year—a 97.5% increase.

Son: ‘It does exist and it is real’

Family and friends met at the Phipps Dale Funeral Chapel in Lemoore on April 9 to say their goodbyes to Cruz Mendoza. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, only 25 people were allowed in at a time. Groups of people gathered outside the chapel, waiting for their turn.

Inside, a local musician sang of love and departure. Cruz Mendoza laid in his casket wearing his Cruz Azul soccer jersey and his favorite beanie.

“I said, ‘I’m going to dress him the way he dressed here,’” Medina said.

Cruz Mendoza’s family had no money for the burial. Despite working in the Valley’s fields for two decades, he had only earned enough to put food on the table and pay his bills.

But his daughter-in-law started a GoFundMe account; his son put on a car wash; his son’s mother-in-law dropped off donation boxes at stores in the area; and a friend loaned the family $5,000 dollars.

All together, they came up with the $14,000 they needed to pay for his funeral expenses.

“A lot of people came by to ask what we needed, to let us know they were with us,” she said.

Besides their immediate family and a sister in Bakersfield, Medina said they didn’t have any biological
relatives in the Valley. Still, Cruz Mendoza had many friends.

“A lot of people loved him, a lot of people,” she said. “When this happened they’d come and say ‘tell me this isn’t true.’ And how I wish I could tell them it wasn’t.”

Medina said many people in the Latino undocumented community don’t take COVID-19 seriously until it hits them personally. Their son, Juan, admits before the death of his father, he was one of those people.

“I would wear my mask and put hand sanitizer, but still I would say it’s a mental thing,” he said. “But now that I’ve seen that, once you live it yourself, it does exist and it is real.”

Now Medina and her son say they’re figuring out how to live life without Pedro Cruz Mendoza. And Medina says she will have to figure out a way to pay for his medical bills when they arrive.

This story is part of the Central Valley News Collaborative, a joint project of Valley Public Radio, Radio Bilingue, The Fresno Bee and Vida en el Valle. The project is supported by the Central Valley Community Foundation with technology and training support by Microsoft Corp.
The Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) has awarded Valley Public Radio with three 2021 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for Excellence in Writing, News Documentary, and Feature Reporting. It is the third year in a row that Valley Public Radio has received Regional Murrow Award honors. The awards are presented to small and large radio, television and digital outlets based on 14 geographic regions. The station entries, which were among small market radio stations in California, Hawaii and Nevada, now advance to the national Murrow Award competition.

Reporter Kerry Klein’s piece ‘Eureka Moment’ In Valley Fever Case Paves Way For New Research, Treatment Options won in two categories: News Documentary and Excellence in Writing. These are the third and fourth Regional Murrow Awards Klein has won in the past three years.

‘Eureka Moment’ tells the story of 4-year-old Abraham Gonzalez-Martinez. In 2018, he arrived at UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital so ill with valley fever he had lumps on his head where the fungus was burrowing into his skull. His body wouldn’t respond to normal antifungal medications, so doctors spent 11 months treating him with precision medicine. The story chronicles the long process of solving Abraham’s medical mystery, and explains why the lessons learned from his case are valuable to the field of valley fever research.

“Everyone I interviewed for this story had this palpable excitement whenever they talked about Abraham and what his case meant to them,” said Klein. “I’m glad that excitement is resonating with our audience and other journalists, too.”

KVPR News Director Alice Daniel said she was extremely proud of Klein’s persistence in reporting this story. “It took an incredible amount of determination and hard work to report this story and Kerry did it in a respectful and empathic manner. I feel fortunate I was able to work with her as her editor because I saw the effort it took to put it all together. And to win two regional awards for the same story is an incredible honor.”

Alice Daniel also won a Regional Murrow Award this year for Feature Reporting for her story about a “Shark Tank” entrepreneur who pivoted to a new business when he learned the factory in China that makes his puppy pad products was now repurposing some of its equipment to make surgical masks. He reached out to friends in the healthcare industry in several places including Fresno and learned the need for PPE was vast.

“This story shows the value of ingenuity and perseverance in an incredibly difficult time, so I’m very happy it won a Regional Murrow Award,” she said.

Valley Public Radio’s President and General Manager Joe Moore said the recognition is most deserved. “As our listeners already know, our news department produces outstanding work every day. We are incredibly proud of our team for this recognition, and even more so for all of the reporting they’ve done over the past year, covering everything from the pandemic to social unrest to wildfires. We thank the Murrow jurors for these honors, and look forward to bringing local audiences even more outstanding coverage in the months ahead,” he said.

About the RTDNA:

The RTDNA is the world’s largest professional organization devoted exclusively to broadcast and digital journalism. Founded as a grassroots organization in 1946, RTDNA’s mission is to promote and protect responsible journalism. RTDNA defends the First Amendment rights of electronic journalists throughout the country, honors outstanding work in the profession through the Edward R. Murrow Awards and provides members with training to encourage ethical standards, newsroom leadership and industry innovation.
PARADISE, Calif. — Teri Lindsay said she had no intention of speaking at a fire survivors’ rally that drew about a hundred people to the Skyway in Paradise Saturday May 22nd. But as her daughter, Erika, stood by her side — tears streaming down the young girl’s face — Lindsay voiced her frustration at her family’s living conditions 2.5 years after the 2018 Camp Fire.

“Everytime she sees smoke, she cries. She can’t heal until we can go home,” Lindsay said of Erika, who was seven when the 2018 Camp Fire destroyed their house, and thousands of others in Paradise. The fire was caused by equipment belonging to PG&E. They’ve been living in a trailer overlooking a branch of Lake Oroville ever since.

Like the vast majority of the 70,000 fire victims of PG&E fires caused between 2015 and 2018, Lindsay has not yet received any money from the Fire Victim Trust. The Trust was set up last year to distribute billions of dollars as part of a settlement between fire survivors and PG&E.

Lindsay said she was motivated to join this weekend’s rally after reading a KQED investigation,
published earlier this month, which showed that the Fire Victim Trust racked up $51 million in overhead costs last year, while distributing $7 million to fire victims during that period. The investigation was based on KQED’s analysis of federal bankruptcy court filings, court transcripts and correspondence between the Fire Victim Trust and fire victims.

At the end of last year, fire victims had received less than 0.1% of the approximately $13.5 billion they were promised.

“I thought that I was healing. Until that report came out, it changed my life and took me back to the day. I did not realize how well they’re being paid and we’re living in squalor still,” Lindsay said.

John Trotter, the retired California Appeals Court Justice who runs the Fire Victim Trust, has declined KQED’s repeated interview requests. In a YouTube video released last week, he acknowledged the fire victims frustration, but also predicted more delays.

“The trust didn’t create the settlement,” Trotter said. “We’re still walking uphill on this. We’re not near the top yet. We’re making progress. We’re getting there. When we get to the top and down the other side, it will go much more quickly.”

According to the Trust, the pace of payments is picking up — with about $255.4 million distributed as of May 19. But, even then, only 565 of nearly 70,000 eligible families had their claims processed and paid, according to the data. In addition, those families are getting 30% of what they’re owed while the Trust collects its own fees in full. Every dollar spent on overhead comes out of the fund for fire victims. One court filing, unearthed by KQED showed Trotter charged the Fire Victim Trust $1,500 an hour. In the video, he said he had taken a pay cut — to a “very adequate” salary of $150,000 a month.

The 30% payment structure is partly a result of the terms of PG&E’s settlement with fire victims. The company has funded the Trust half with cash and half with PG&E stock. The arrangement, which has few precedents, made the fire victims major shareholders in the utility and has complicated the task of administering the Trust, experts say.

Since KQED’s investigation, members of Congress from both parties have demanded action. In separate emails, Rep. Mike Thompson, a Democrat, and Doug LaMalfa, a Republican both called for faster payouts. James Gallagher, a state Assemblyman who represents Paradise, says KQED’s investigation “raises a lot of questions and concerns that need answers.” In an interview on KQED Forum this week, Gallagher said he and his colleagues were preparing a letter calling for more transparency.

Fire victims are making similar requests. “Families are still living in cars, travel trailers and FEMA trailers,” Kirk Trostle, a retired police chief who lost his home in Paradise in 2018, wrote to Judge Montali May 12, citing KQED’s reporting.

“Stating fire victims are languishing is an understatement,” he added. “I request you speed up the process to a sprint-like manner and direct the [Fire Victim Trust] to provide transparency and accountability.”

At Saturday’s rally, Camp Fire victim Sasha Poe reiterated those calls, saying survivors have the right to know where all of those administrative dollars are going.

“The Trust is set up for fire victims,” said Poe, who joined the rally along with her husband and children. “Yet so many months and years down the line, fire victims haven’t seen much.”

Teri Lindsay with daughter Erika, speaks at a rally in Paradise, Calif. May 22, 2021. They lost their home in the 2018 Camp Fire.

 Angela Casler attends a rally in Paradise on May 22, 2021, to protest runaway overhead expenses incurred by the PG&E Fire Victim Trust. Casler lost her father-in-law shortly after the Camp Fire.
“Yeah, the masks kind of help us balance our business, actually help us a lot,” he says.

Tran sifts through a pile of face masks and says as much as 60% of his business last year was due to this product alone.

This addition to his business has attracted new customers.

“People start noticing how our masks fit and feel, so they keep coming in,” he laughs.

And as restrictions have eased, Tran says he’s also relieved to see regular customers return to his shop.

“People been coming here for 19, 20 years, and even their kids, their grandkids. We have a lot of loyal customers, yeah,” he says.

The year has been tough, Tran says, but with new and old customers, the family is piecing together a steady recovery.

*This story is part of the Central Valley News Collaborative, which is supported by the Central Valley Community Foundation with technology and training support by Microsoft Corp.*
Valley Public Radio receives support from the following local businesses and organizations:

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