



Local Content & Service Report to the Community 2021

“ Steven Turpin will be missed. I’ve been listening since ‘04 with great enjoyment to **Morning Musicale**. Just yesterday I made a note of the toy piano selection, intending to see if it’s available for purchase. Where else would I hear such delightful, unusual offerings? ”

— Teresa Dennis



Stan Sollars with Ball State President Geoffrey S. Mearns in a 2018 interview.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Pandemic Response

Healthy discussions

In 2021, the pandemic was still impacting our daily lives and Indiana Public Radio's commitment to keeping listeners informed never waivered. **Morning Edition** host, Stan Sollars, continued to invite Ball State University's President Geoffrey S. Mearns and IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital President Jeffrey Bird to participate in regular updates focusing on the impact of the pandemic. The **Ball State Pandemic Updates**, which later transitioned to a more general Ball State Update, were long-form conversations - about 7 minutes - between Sollars

and Mearns. The updates aired Friday mornings on IPR and covered such topics as campus vaccination numbers, quarantine counts, infection data and more.

The semi-regular updates from Bird on Indiana Public Radio, also about 7 minutes, provided information about COVID-19 numbers, hospital capacity and more. Both of the updates provided the timely, in-depth information listeners trusted IPR to deliver.



Stephanie Wiechmann, Stan Sollars and Christine Hatfield were honored in 2021 for their reporting.

IPR News Awards

IPR Senior Producer and **All Things Considered** host, **Stephanie Wiechmann** received a first place “Spectrum Award” in Best General News from the Indiana Broadcasters Association. Her coverage detailed public opposition to a private recreational facility building in a public park. Stephanie has reported and hosted for IPR for 14 years.

IPR News was proud to be recognized again last year in the Society of Professional Journalists Best in Indiana news awards. The awards recognize work done in 2020 during the news-heavy, everything-changed pandemic year.

Stan Sollars, longtime **Morning Edition** host, won a third place award in the Best Newscast category. His entry from April

2020 included stories about nursing home COVID cases, changes to Indiana’s SNAP program for families in need, and the affordability of homes in the IPR area. This award is one of dozens he’s acquired in his more than 25 years on air for Indiana Public Radio.

Former student news reporter **Christine Hatfield** won second place in Student News Reporting for stories about local businesses relying on student customers adapting after Ball State University closed its campus during the pandemic. That campus closing cut Christine’s time at IPR short, too – the Des Plaines, Illinois native was living on-campus and had to go home to finish classes online. She graduated from Ball State in May of 2020.



Taking steps

In 2021, IPR partnered with a Ball State University communications capstone class to participate in the **StoryCorps One Small Step** initiative.

One Small Step conversations provide friends, family, and complete strangers—with different political views and backgrounds—the chance to sit down and have a 40-minute conversation about what has shaped their worldviews.

The Ball State class recruited participants for One Small Step and IPR staff recorded the conversations, to be used on air and added to the Library of Congress archives.

The project will continue in 2022.



IPR Radio Drama Director Matthew Reeder welcomes the audience back to Sursa Hall.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Drama returns

After a one-year break due to the pandemic, the IPR Radio Drama was back in 2021.

The production, **This American Carol**, was written by Jennifer Blackmer, a professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance and the Director of the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, both at Ball State University. She described the production as a mix of “The Office,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “This American Life.”

The IPR Radio Drama, which featured BSU students,

community members and even IPR staffers, was broadcast live Dec. 17 from Sursa Performance Hall at Ball State University. More than 250 people attended the “behind the scenes” view of the production, which later aired on Ball State PBS as well.

“After a one-year pandemic hiatus, I’m so glad we are getting the chance to return the IPR Radio Drama to the stage and airwaves for our audience,” said Angie Rapp, Radio Drama Producer and Marketing Manager at IPR.



IPR Classical Music Coordinator Steven Turpin at his retirement reception.

STORIES OF VALUE

IPR Original Productions

Morning Musicale finale

On Dec. 31, 2021, Steven Turpin hosted his final **Morning Musicale** program on IPR. Steven retired after 33 years as the station's classical music guru.

Steven's carefully-curated classical music selections during his weekday program, his thoughtful interviews with local and national musicians, and the special bond he shared with his many listeners will be missed.

Steven said in a note to listeners:

"For exactly a third of a century, I've been surrounded daily by both in my role as host of **Morning Musicale** at IPR. I cannot imagine having had a more satisfying career. It has been a distinct privilege, as well as a great pleasure, to share the wonderful treasury of classical music with you. Though we may never have met, I hope that you've felt a connection and have been enriched by the music that means so much to me. My heartfelt thanks for your friendship and support these last 33 years!"

Cardinal Compass

In 2021, IPR continued its Ball State program **Cardinal Compass: Campus & Community Conversations**. The monthly program features Ball State University president President Geoffrey S. Mearns and his guests. **Cardinal Compass** explores the connections between Muncie and Ball State University. Mearns and his guests take the audience behind the scenes of the evolving relationship

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STORIES OF VALUE

IPR Original Productions

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by exploring the challenges and opportunities that exist. Themes included athletics, new campus facilities, increasing diversity and inclusion, and philanthropy with a focus on how these topics connect with the community. This show is produced by Ball State students in the College of Communication, Information and Media.

All IN

In 2021, IPR continued airing **All IN**, a statewide news program. It airs at 1 p.m. each weekday on all participating IPBS stations and takes a deeper look at the topics Hoosiers are talking about.

BlueNotes Jazz

BlueNotes continued to offer its eclectic blend of classic and contemporary jazz monthly on IPR. Hosted by Larry Beck, this is east central Indiana's only jazz radio broadcast offering great music, news of local jazz events, and features with local jazz musicians.

Facing Project

Despite making a switch to work-from-home, **The Facing Project** continued to build empathy and shared experiences through telling peoples' stories through Zoom calls and interviews. A monthly, 23-minute long program that is "StoryCorps meets This American Life." Founded in 2012 in Muncie by J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman, The Facing Project began as a one-off response to debates about the poverty statistic in Delaware County — to bring a human story to the numbers — but quickly grew into a program model and then into its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has now spread across the country to over 100 communities. Each episode of the IPR program, which is now in syndication, introduces the month's theme followed by performances of two Facing Project stories from different points-of-view but related to the month's theme.

The Scene

In 2021, IPR continued to offer the weekly, Ball State University student-produced public radio show, **The Scene**. The goal is to promote the Indiana music scene by focusing on the music itself. It tells the stories of the music happening in our own backyards, gives listeners a bit of context about new and upcoming artists and often includes interviews with the musicians themselves. This year, **The Scene** continues its shift from primarily featuring live, local music in performance around the state to including more interviews, pre-recorded music contributions, and fun radio experiences, including two "radio drama"-style episodes that present music in a fresh, creative way. The show was able to record live performances from a handful of summer music festivals, including a Juneteenth event coordinated by Indianapolis jazz venues.

The Owsley Moment

IPR continued its weekly radio series, **The Owsley Moment**, in 2021. Created in 2017 by Ball State School of Art professor Lara Kuykendall, The Owsley Moment is a brief, informative program that describes one work on display at the David Owsley Museum of Art every week. **The Owsley Moment** is written by students of Kuykendall's Art Museum Theory & Practice and Art in the United States classes at Ball State. They are produced in collaboration with The David Owsley Museum of Art and IPR and are voiced by Ball State students.

The Roundtable

In 2021, IPR began airing the Ball State PBS produced program **The Roundtable**. The program, hosted by Michael Hicks, George and Frances Ball Distinguished professor of economics and director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. The program focuses on public affairs issues and how they affect the people and places of Indiana.



Key Services

In 2021, IPR provided these vital services:

- IPR **Morning Edition** host **Stan Sollars** featured nearly-weekly **Pandemic Updates** with Ball State University President, Geoffrey S. Mearns, about the pandemic and its impact on BSU campus life and semi-regular community updates with Jeff Bird, M.D., IU Ball Memorial Hospital President
- Produced more than **949 hours of local programming** focused on the people and places in our community
- IPR News provided approximately 130 hours of newscast content during drive time. **All Things Considered** host and reporter **Stephanie Wiechmann** continued to cover regional, county, and municipal issues through her reporting in an area with few local news outlets. State and regional news partnership with Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS) continues to support IPR's diverse news sources.



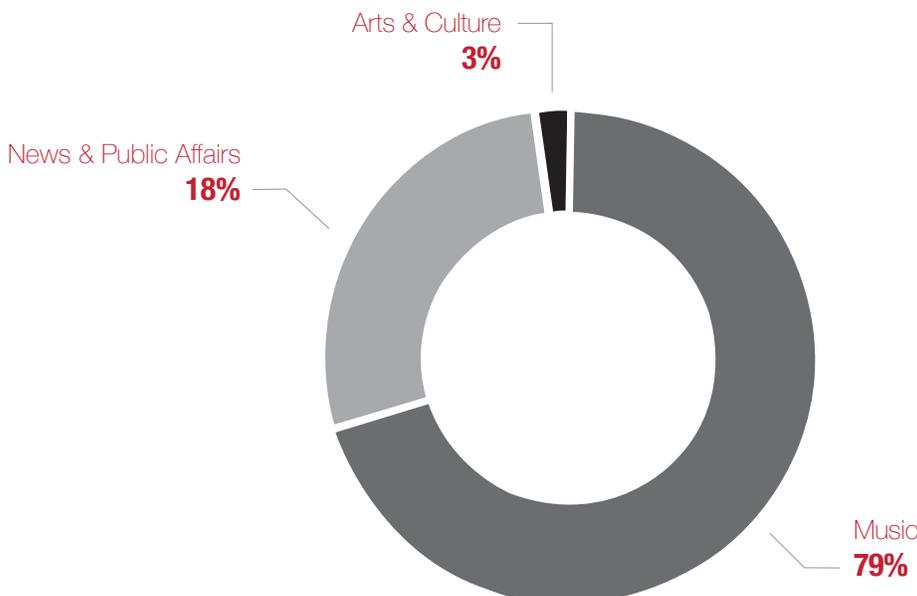
IPR Friends

Here are some of the arts and culture and non-profit organizations with whom IPR partnered with last year:

- Anderson Symphony Orchestra
- Arts Place, Inc.
- Ball State Dept of Theatre & Dance
- Ball State School of Art
- Ball State School of Music
- Ball State TCOM Dept
- Civic Hall Performing Arts Center
- David Owsley Museum of Art
- Honeywell Center
- Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations
- Mainstage Theatre Anderson
- Marion Philharmonic Orchestra
- Masterworks Chorale
- Muncie Arts and Culture Council
- Muncie Civic Theatre
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra

950 HOURS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, IPR aired 949.5 hours of distinctive local programming in the following categories:



“ I am so grateful that
WBST is available each
day for us! I value
the music you offer but
I find the news even
more valuable! ”

–Coco & Chanel & Carolyn Shobe



INDIANA PUBLIC RADIO

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Muncie, IN 47306

indianapublicradio.org