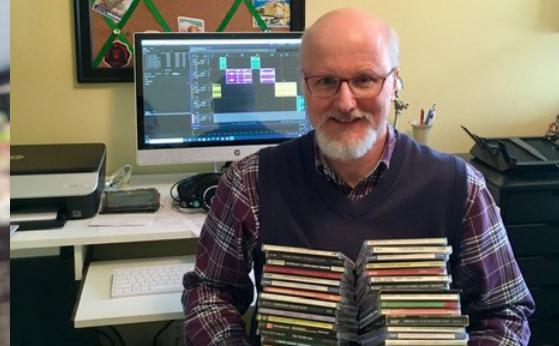


## Local Content & Service Report to the Community 2020

“ We love the station. More specifically, we support the mission of public radio and the intelligent, insightful programming. We love that special Stan Sollars’ touch to morning news and appreciate as well as the many news programs and so many more. Thank you, everyone at WBST! We respect and appreciate the entire WBST team. ”

— Pat Cronk and Alan McCraine.



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the IPR staff began working from home.

STORIES OF IMPACT  
Pandemic Response

# Stay safe, stay tuned

In the Spring of 2020, COVID-19 turned our world upside down and IPR was there to keep our listeners informed about this unprecedented pandemic, specifically its impact locally. While some of the station's programs went on hiatus during the initial lockdown phase, the news never stopped. In fact, the station added additional programs focused on the ongoing pandemic.

IPR aired daily live (later weekly live) updates with Governor Eric Holcomb. Working remotely in a studio set up in his home during shelter-in-place requirements, Stan Sollars, host of Morning Edition, offered weekly on-air interviews with Ball State University President Geoffrey S. Mearns, as well as weekly check-ins with representatives from IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, the largest healthcare provider in our listening area.

Other programs also adjusted to the pandemic. The Scene's student producers shifted the show's primary

focus from featuring Indiana music in live performance to a blend of archived performances, extended interviews with Indiana music creators, and recorded Indiana music used with permission. The show has been able to maintain its mission of celebrating and sharing Indiana music thanks to the flexibility of the student producers and with help from the Ball State student organization Cardinal Music Group (CMG).

To help ensure safety in IPR's studios, the student employee announcers who serve as the voice of IPR during daytime and weekend national programming shifted their operations to track-based announcements, allowing the students to work remotely as needed. Each student received training to set up professional audio equipment in their home environment and work with secure remote delivery systems, adding to their career experience and skill set.



# Celebrating 60 Years

On Sept. 12, WBST/ Indiana Public Radio celebrated its 60th anniversary and kicked off a year-long celebration of the station with the IPR Anniversary Show.



The one-hour program featured former staffers, favorite hosts and special moments in the station's history.

Also that month, *Blue Notes* hosted by Larry Beck, celebrated the anniversary by playing jazz hits that were famous at the time of each major IPR milestone.

And so our members could celebrate the anniversary every day in 2021, we created a 60th Anniversary Calendar. We invited local artists to create pieces around the theme of "radio." The Muncie Arts and Culture Council connected us with 12 artists willing to "tune in" to this project.

Each month features a different work, from drawings to water-colors to digital prints.

The station also planned for additional anniversary events in 2020 that are scheduled for 2021, including online events with well-known NPR hosts, a T-shirt design contest and more.

“ We are adding an additional one-time gift to our sustaining membership to let you know we support your work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and the work you do to keep us up to date with the FACTS. Wow. Facts. Thanks to all the local folks who are keeping things on the air from home. ”

— Kirsten and Roger Smith



Ball State University students Christine Hatfield and Abby Perrey were all honored for their news reporting in 2019 by the Society of Professional Journalists.



# Student News Awards

Two students you've heard on IPR have been awarded for their work by the Society of Professional Journalists' "Best in Indiana" journalism awards.

## Christine Hatfield

A compilation of Christine's stories took second place in the "Student Radio News Reporting" category. Judges listened to her interview with a SNAP benefit recipient worried about a government shutdown affecting her services in January 2019, her report of Muncie's part in the 2019 NFL Draft, and her summary of a city council candidate debate last November.

Christine spent two years as a student news reporter at IPR, sending her last stories in March before leaving campus due to coronavirus closings. She says, "I loved every minute of my time with IPR, and my only regret is that my time got cut

short due to circumstances beyond anybody's control. I learned so much about the world of news and the world of public radio during my time with IPR. It's one thing to be doing journalism work in the classroom, or even in one of the myriad student journalism outlets on Ball State's campus, but it's another thing to be able to build on that experience in an actual newsroom, and I am immensely grateful that IPR gave me that opportunity."

Christine graduated summa cum laude from Ball State's Honors College in May with a double major in Journalism/Telecommunications and Political Science. She's working as a freelancer now, and hoping to find a job in a public radio station somewhere in the country soon.

## Abby Perrey

Abby's story on belly-dancing classes at Cornerstone Center for the Arts

took first place in the "Student Radio Features Reporting" category. Her story focused on why belly-dancing is a workout worthy of trying and the camaraderie amongst the national community.

In the story, we hear from local instructor Jenny Smithson. She told Abby, "I would've never been able to meet these people. And, you know, we come together maybe only once or twice a year for big conventions or shows, and it's like we're all best friends."

Abby's story was one of several IPR airs each year from a Ball State University arts journalism class, taught by Associate Professor of Journalism Mary Spillman.

Abby graduated in May with a major in Journalism/Telecommunications and a minor in Communications Studies.



# Looking Back

Because of pandemic restrictions, presenting our annual Indiana Public Radio Drama in person would be impossible in 2020. So the station, along with Ball State PBS, teamed up to create a documentary about the holiday tradition. *Comfort and Joy: An Indiana Public Radio Drama Retrospective* premiered on Dec. 11 on both stations.

*Comfort and Joy* featured the unique collaboration among the stations, community members, Ball State faculty, and Ball State students to create this nostalgic

storytelling experience that pays homage to “theater of the mind” radio programs of the 1940s. The program included interviews with 10 IPR Radio Drama veterans including directors, music directors, voice actors and a Foley artist.

IPR Radio Dramas have retold classics such as *Miracle on 34th Street*, *It's A Wonderful Life* and *A Christmas Carol*, as well as offered original pieces from local playwrights such as *A Christmas Truce* and *A Few Houses Down*.



STORIES OF VALUE

# Original Productions

## Cardinal Compass

In 2019, Indiana Public Radio launched a new program - *Cardinal Compass*. The monthly program features Ball State University president Geoffrey S. Mearns and his guests. Topics in 2020 included the COVID-19 pandemic and Ball State's response to it, with guest Provost Susana Rivera-Mills; Ball State's historic partnership with Muncie Community Schools, with guests MCS Chief Executive Officer Lee Ann Kwiatkowski and Ball State Teachers College Dean Anand R. Marri, and the "better together" Muncie and Ball State partnership, with guest Mayor Dan Ridenour. This show is produced by Ball State students in the College of Communication, Information and Media.

## All IN

In 2020, IPR continued airing *All IN*, a news program hosted by Matt Pelser. The name reflects the statewide nature of the program that airs at 1 p.m. each weekday on all participating IPBS stations.

## BlueNotes Jazz

BlueNotes continued to offer its eclectic blend of classic and contemporary jazz monthly on Indiana Public Radio. 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

Indiana Public Radio continued its podcast/program *The Facing Project* in 2020. The Facing Project is a monthly, 23-minute long program that is "*StoryCorps* meets *This American Life*" and airs monthly. 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. While the original project took on the subject of poverty, The Facing Project has now collected over 1,500 stories on topics ranging from racism to disabilities to immigration and more.

Each episode of the IPR program hosted by Jamison and Timmerman, who introduce the month's theme followed by performances of two Facing Project stories from different points-of-view but related to the month's theme. Every story is produced by two people who took the time to listen and share and collaborate on a monologue told from one of their lived experiences. Each episode ends with commentary

on the theme between the hosts, leaving listeners with the courage to share their own stories and the empathy to listen to others.

## The Scene

In 2020, IPR continued to offer the weekly, Ball State University student-produced public radio show *The Scene*. The program features music performances from all over Indiana. 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.

## Owsley Moment

IPR continued its weekly radio series, *The Owsley Moment*, in 2020. 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 Indiana Public Radio and are voiced by Ball State students.



**Other programs that continued in 2020 (until the pandemic lockdowns):**

### **Morning Musicale**

Classical music host Steven Turpin broadcast hours of classical music with information on local music performances, information about area musicians and more in 2020. Turpin often engages with listeners by offering concert tickets, CD giveaways and more.

### **Community Connection**

IPR original program that tells the stories of nonprofit organizations in our region. Each month we focus on one organization and what its volunteers and staff are doing to make our community a better place. We're here to tell their story: what impact they have on our community, how they do what they do, and how our listeners can help.

### **IPR Nerds Trivia**

Designed as a way IPR fans could gather with like-minded listeners, it's offered the last Thursday of each month at Books & Brews in Muncie. IPR Nerds Trivia was hosted by All Things Considered host Stephanie Wiechmann and Community Connection host Michelle Kinsey. The trivia nights are free to attend and winners receive prizes (primarily "vintage" IPR and NPR items from our storage closet). Each trivia night drew about four teams, comprised of four "nerds" each.

### **Coffee with Stan**

The monthly Coffee with Stan featured a tasting of delicious single origin coffees with light refreshments from The Caffeinery served by a professional barista, a look inside IPR studios and of course, a chance to meet the man, the legend, Stan Sollars, host of Morning Edition. The event is limited to the first 6 people who register and each month all spaces were full. Coffee with Stan is the first Friday of every month from 8 to 10 am.

## **WHAT THEY SAY**

“ Keep up the good work. I value the news and enjoy the classical music. ”

– Kim Renfeld

“ I'm grateful for the programming! ”

– Steven Chalk

“ IPR is my go-to radio station, at home, in the car, or at work. I trust IPR to bring me fact-based news and informative programs and provide outstanding musical programs. My favorites are Morning Musicale and Harmonia. ”

– Heather Rogers

“ I'm grateful for the programming! ”

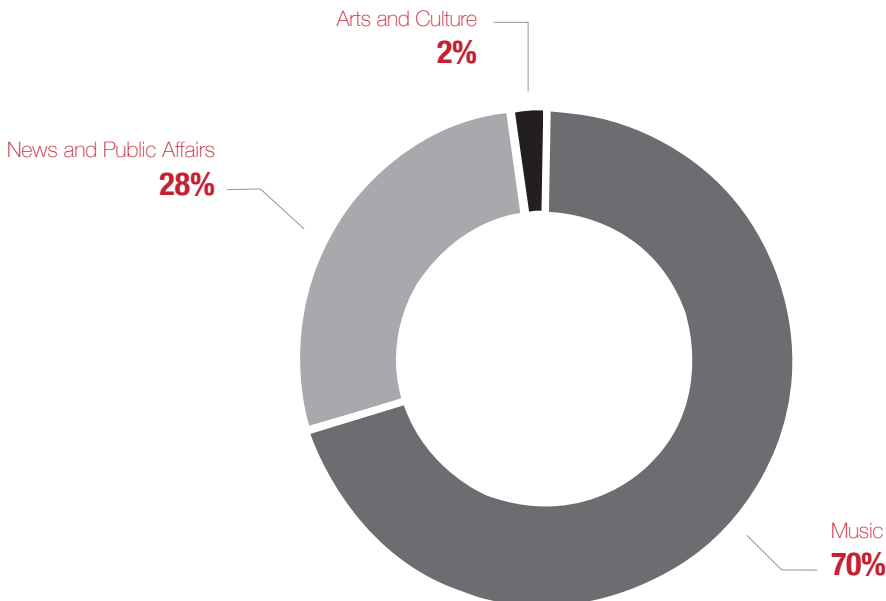
– Steven Chalk

# Pandemic Response

- Providing daily national and regional breaking news; on-air / online / social media platforms. Also contributing local stories statewide
- Added state and regional newscasts on Saturday afternoons during *Weekend All Things Considered*
- Newsroom: staffing to respond to breaking news and audience questions
- Interrupting regular programming, to carry live daily Indiana State Governor Eric Holcomb press conferences; on-air and online
- Interrupting regular programming to carry live White House Press Briefings that are anchored by NPR, with national analysis
- Featuring all national NPR regular and special programs covering the crisis; on-air / online
- Broadcasting relevant COVID-19 PSAs on CDC best practices to stay healthy during coronavirus pandemic, written by the National Association of Broadcasters
- Aiding containment efforts by transitioning on-air staff to work remotely while maintaining local on-air news and information

# 814 Hours

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, IPR aired 814 hours of distinctive local programming in the following categories:



# 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 Music
- Ball State TCOM Dept
- Civic Hall Performing Arts Center
- David Owsley Museum of Art
- Delaware Co. Master Gardener Assoc.
- Honeywell Center
- Mainstage Theatre Anderson
- Marion Philharmonic Orchestra
- Masterworks Chorale
- Muncie Arts and Culture Council
- Muncie Civic Theatre
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- YWCA of Central Indiana



“ I appreciate you very much! I stream IPR to my iPhone each morning when we awaken before 6 a.m. ”

*–Thomas Knight*



INDIANA PUBLIC RADIO  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306

[indianapublicradio.org](http://indianapublicradio.org)