AN INTERVIEW WITH JAE SINNETT
From the Chief Executive Officer

We are almost at the end of 2020, and what a year it has been! None of us could have imagined how this year would go, but as we’ve all adjusted to a new normal, WHRO Public Media has strived to be a helpful resource to you and our local community. From creating televised educational content for children learning at home to developing webinars and other resources for teachers suddenly tasked with facilitating distance learning, our education team has worked diligently to help both parents and teachers navigate a new educational landscape. Additionally, our radio and television staff have found new ways to bring you the news, local public affairs programs, music and arts-related content that you count on from us.

While some of our programs or events may have looked different this past year, our commitment to inform, enlighten and entertain has remained unchanged. Even in the midst of uncertainty, we’ve celebrated a few treasured milestones this year. In September, we celebrated 30 years of our two public radio stations, WHRO and WHRV, serving the Hampton Roads region. Several of our radio hosts have been with us that entire time, including Jae Sinnett, our well-known jazz musician and announcer. You can read more about him on page 10. Our programs also earned several awards this year including five Emmy awards, three Addy Awards, two NETA awards, and three journalism awards for reporting from our news team.

I don’t know how different your holidays may look this year. I know many of us have suspended travel plans and put holiday parties on hold, but whatever your modified celebrations look like, I hope you will include some of the wonderful programs we have planned to lift your spirits. You’ll find great television specials and Christmas favorites on WHRO FM. Read more about these music programs on page 9.

As we head into the holiday season, and look forward to wrapping up a difficult year, I’d like to say thank you for your faithful support throughout 2020. Your support makes our work possible! This month features both our television and radio membership drives—a last push to finish this year strong. Our resources are kept strong by you—a community of people who recognize the profound importance of an independent news service driven by a public mission.

Staying well-informed has never been so important to our daily lives, and WHRO has never been more determined to ensure that the indispensable news and information you count on is always here for you, now and in the year ahead. I hope you will consider contributing a holiday donation or year-end gift to help us fulfill this mission. As fierce and unwavering as our commitment and determination are, listener funding is always THE critical power source that makes it all possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

I hope you and your family have a safe and wonderful holiday season!
WHRO Passport is an added member benefit giving you extended access to a digital, on-demand library of more than 1,500 episodes of PBS favorites, including Masterpiece, NOVA, Nature, the entire Ken Burns’s library, and newer series such as Finding Your Roots with Henry Lewis Gates and Classic Albums. Whatever your interest, we have programs for you to enjoy anytime, anywhere!

With such a vast library it can be tough to decide what to watch, so we’ve recently created a new webpage and bimonthly newsletter that shares my recommendations on the best and brightest in the collection. As head of content for WHRO, I spend hours reviewing programs and working with colleagues on local program creation and showcasing the national programming that best fits our community. I’ll share my insider knowledge of the newest binge-worthy dramas, documentaries and more before they are loaded each week as well as our staff’s recommendations. To spend less time searching and more time watching, check out WHRO.org/binge today!

By Heather Mazzoni
Chief Content Officer
Heather.Mazzoni@whro.org
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TV listings are subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date listing, visit whro.org/tvschedule
The Ornament of the World
Tuesday, December 8, 8:00 p.m.

_The Ornament of the World_ tells the story of a remarkable time in history when the Muslims, Christians and Jews forged a common cultural identity that frequently transcended their religious differences.

Nature: Snow Bears
Wednesday, December 9, 8:00 p.m.

Witness the incredible journey of newborn polar bear cubs as they leave the safety of their den for the first time. Bravely led by their mother, the cubs must make the perilous 400-mile Arctic voyage to the sea to feed. Narrated by Kate Winslet.

Craft in America, Season 12: Storytellers
Friday, December 11, 9:00 p.m.

Meet artists who use narrative to communicate personal and universal truths. Featuring artists Nicholas Galanin, Julie Schafler Dale, Linda J. Mendelson, George Rodriguez and Christina Bothwell.

Ella Wishes You a Swingin' Christmas, with Vanessa Williams
Tuesday, December 15, 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's entire iconic album of holiday classics presented by the American Pops Orchestra. Featuring appearances by Dee Dee Bridgewater, Norm Lewis, Carmen Ruby Floyd, Nova Payton, Dave Detwiler and Morgan James.
# WHRO TV Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>17 Thu</td>
<td>This Old House</td>
<td>Kitchen Queens: New Orleans</td>
<td>The Jazzy Vegetarian</td>
<td>The Jazzy Vegetarian</td>
<td>Earth's Sacred Wonders - Closer to the Divine</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow - New Orleans, Hour Three</td>
<td>Rick Steves’ Europe</td>
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<td>18 Fri</td>
<td>America's Test Kitchen</td>
<td>The Whole Truth</td>
<td>America’s Test Kitchen Special: Home for the Holidays</td>
<td>Holy Silence</td>
<td>Lucy Worsley’s 12 Days of Tudor Christmas</td>
<td>Christmas on the Danube</td>
<td>P. Allen Smith’s Garden Home</td>
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<td>20 Sun</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow - Orlando, Hour One</td>
<td>Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow - Orlando, Hour Two</td>
<td>Christmas on the Danube</td>
<td>P. Allen Smith’s Garden Home</td>
<td>Tending Nature</td>
<td>Stories from the Stage</td>
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<td>City Hall</td>
<td>French Chef Classics</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow - Orlando, Hour One</td>
<td>Christmas on the Danube</td>
<td>P. Allen Smith’s Garden Home</td>
<td>Tending Nature</td>
<td>Stories from the Stage</td>
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<td>22 Tue</td>
<td>America Reframed - Agents of Change</td>
<td>Kitchen Queens: New Orleans</td>
<td>How to Cook Well</td>
<td>How to Cook Well</td>
<td>Richard Bangs’ Adventures with Purpose Morocco</td>
<td>Family Travel with Colleen</td>
<td>Fly Brother with Ernest White</td>
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<td>24 Thu</td>
<td>This Old House</td>
<td>Milk Street Television</td>
<td>The Magic of Christmas</td>
<td>Earth’s Sacred Wonders - Visions of the Divine</td>
<td>Christmas at Belmont</td>
<td>Rick Steves’ Europe</td>
<td>Travelscope</td>
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<td>25 Fri</td>
<td>Washington Week</td>
<td>America’s Test Kitchen</td>
<td>Call the Midwife Holiday Special</td>
<td>No Passport Required - Las Vegas</td>
<td>Richard Bangs’ Adventures with Purpose Pearl River Delta</td>
<td>City Hall</td>
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<td>Call the Midwife Holiday Special</td>
<td>Jacques Pepin: American Masters</td>
<td>Best of the Joy of Painting</td>
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<td>Richard Bangs’ Adventures with Purpose Pearl River Delta</td>
<td>Likley</td>
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<td>28 Mon</td>
<td>American Masters - Laura Ingalls Wilder: Prairie to Page</td>
<td>French Chef Classics</td>
<td>America’s Test Kitchen</td>
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<td>Stories from the Stage</td>
<td>Anne of Green Gables: Fire &amp; Dew</td>
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<td>29 Tue</td>
<td>Personal Statement: America Reframed</td>
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<td>Stories from the Stage</td>
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<td>31 Thu</td>
<td>United In Song: Celebrating The Resilience of America</td>
<td>Milk Street Television</td>
<td>Lidia’s Kitchen</td>
<td>Weekend with Yankee</td>
<td>Rick Steves’ Europe</td>
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**Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World**

Monday, December 21, 10:00 p.m.

Discover how Native American musicians have transformed American blues, jazz and rock in this musical celebration featuring Robbie Robertson, Taj Mahal, Slash, Jackson Browne, Taboo, Quincy Jones, Tony Bennett, Iggy Pop, Steven Tyler and more.

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**City Hall**

Tuesday, December 22, 8:00 p.m.

A look inside the inner workings of Boston's City Hall.

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**Laura Ingalls Wilder: Prairie to Page**

Tuesday, December 29, 8:00 p.m.

Follow the journey of the award-winning author of the best-selling *Little House* series in this exploration of her life and legacy and her little-known, secret collaboration with her daughter on the books that shaped American ideas of the frontier.

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**United in Song: Celebrating the Resilience of America**

Thursday, December 31, 8:00 p.m.

An evening of powerful performances to unite and celebrate our country, affirming our commitment to come together as Americans through the arts. The 90-minute concert features a moving narrative by Anna Deavere Smith and a special performance by Denyce Graves.
WEEKDAYS

5-10am  Morning Classics with Dwight Davis
10am-1pm  Mid-Day Classics with Anthony McSpadden
1-4pm  Mid-Day Classics with Rebecca Weinstein
4-7pm  Afternoon Classics with Wayla Chambo
7-9pm  Performance Today
9pm-Mid.  Evening Classics with Raymond Jones
Mid.-5am  90.3 Overnight

SATURDAYS

Mid.-6am  90.3 Overnight
6-7am  Harmonia
7am-Noon  Car Tunes
Noon-1pm  From the Top
1-4pm  The Metropolitan Opera
12/5  Prokofiev: War and Peace
12/12  Beethoven: Fidelio
12/19  Humperdinck: Hansel and Gretel
12/26  Mozart: The Magic Flute
4-6pm  Intermezzo
6-8pm  Performance Today
8-11pm  This Just In with Raymond Jones
11pm-Mid.  Harmonia

SUNDAYS

Mid.-7am  90.3 Overnight
7am-Noon  Your Musical Brunch
- 8:30 - BirdNotes
Noon-1pm  With Heart and Voice
1-3pm  Performance Today
3-4pm  From the Parlor with Dwight Davis
4-7pm  Afternoon Classics with Raymond Jones
7-8pm  Classical Guitar Alive!
8-10pm  Pipedreams
10pm-Mid.  Evening Classics with Raymond Jones

Public Radio with classical music on three great stations: WHRO 90.3 FM, serving Hampton Roads; WHRJ 89.9, serving the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck; and WHRF 98.3, serving the Eastern Shore.

whro.org/radio
The holiday season may look different for many of us this year; perhaps we’re staying home rather than traveling, having smaller gatherings, or missing holiday concerts and performances we would usually attend. In the midst of all the change and uncertainty that 2020 has brought, we hope that partaking in beloved musical traditions on WHRO FM will add some comfort and joy to your holiday season.

You’ll find a number of returning favorites on the schedule, such as Christmas with the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, Welcome Christmas! with VocalEssence, and the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. New offerings this year will include A Soulful Christmas, an uplifting program from American Public Media that celebrates Christmas, an uplifting program from American Public Media that celebrates Christmas and the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square. New offerings this year will include A Soulful Christmas, an uplifting program from American Public Media that celebrates Christmas, and explores Black classical music and choral traditions, and A Baroque Noel with Pegasus Early Music, featuring Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s Messe de Minuit pour Noël. We also look forward to bringing you some recent releases of music for the season. Among those are the world premiere recording of The Ballad of the Brown King by Margaret Bonds, with text by Langston Hughes; Love Enfolds Thee Round, a Christmas disc of music spanning medieval to modern-day repertoire from the early music ensemble TENET Vocal Artists; and Machet die Tore weit, an album of festive Advent and Christmas music from St. Thomas Church in Leipzig.

On December 21 we’ll celebrate the winter solstice with The Christmas Revels, and on Christmas Eve make sure to tune in for a longtime listener favorite, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from the Chapel of King’s College, Cambridge, England. For Christmas Day we’ll offer joyous and beautiful music throughout the day, including encore presentations of many of the previous week’s specials.

Wherever the holidays find you this year, join us for the contemplation and celebration that only great music can provide.

Please check whro.org for details, times, and the most up-to-date program information.

By Wayla Chambo
Assistant Program Director
Wayla.Chambo@whro.org

The Soundtrack for your Holiday

Traditions are hard to come by, especially in these unusual times. However, one of our favorite pasttimes here at WHRV, months in the making and planning, is our annual holiday programming. This year we’re featuring a set of seasonal offerings sure to delight as we celebrate this special time of the year.

Our annual Sunday before Christmas program this year kicks off at 6:00 p.m. on December 20 celebrating “Home for the Holidays.”

6 pm It’s the return of A Cowboy Christmas. Get ready to two-step round the Christmas tree with the Riders in the Sky Gang, Asleep at the Wheel, and the original singing cowboy Gene Autry.

7 pm Pure Holiday Americana with A Pickin’ Holiday! and this year also featuring classic country seasonal music. Listen as Bluegrass legend Del McCoury puts a Bluegrass spin on “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and Country superstar Johnny Cash performs some holiday standards.

9 pm Acoustic Highway celebrates the spirit of the holidays with music from James Taylor, Art Garfunkel and Judy Collins. We’ll also feature several tracks from one of the most beloved holiday albums ever released with John Denver’s Rocky Mountain Christmas. And it’s also the annual WHRO staff caroling session. This year enjoy the staff’s performance of “Holly Jolly Christmas.”

10 pm Past performances of local singer/songwriters’ holiday songs live from the WHRV studio. It wouldn’t be the Sunday before Christmas without friends like Narissa Bond, Brandon Parr, Skip Friel, Jim Masters, Doug Wilcox and others who have generously visited the studio for years helping to usher in the wonderful time that is Christmas.


12 am Seasonal instrumental tunes with the New England Harp Ensemble, Stephen Bennett, Celtic artist Kevin Burke, violinist Mark O’Connor and local musician Timothy Seaman. Also, a tribute to the Winter Solstice as we celebrate the arrival of the longest night of the year with music from the Windham Hill Series.

And, for those sleep-deprived parents up all night putting the finishing touches on the train set and dollhouse, we have a backdrop of music to help keep you moving in the final push on Christmas morning. From 1–3 a.m. we’ll feature a two-hour holiday edition of Lost in the Shuffle, and from 3–5 a.m. hear Joy to the World with jazz pianist Bob Thompson, who each year hosts a holiday concert. Listen to this live performance that captures wonderful performances by artists Mollie O’Brien and Catherine Russell.

Christmas Day

9 a.m. All Songs Considered Holiday Show
10 a.m. Hollywood Holiday
1 a.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols
2 p.m. Home for the Holidays
1 p.m. Tinsel Tales
2 p.m. Tiny Desk Holiday
3 p.m. The Story of Christmas

And our locally produced shows by Jae Sinnett and Paul Shugrue also get in the holiday spirit:
7 p.m. R&B Chronicles Christmas Show
8 p.m. A Shot of the Blues Christmas Edition
10 p.m. Mountain Stage’s Holiday Show

It’s our labor of love and musical gift to you as we celebrate the holidays here at WHRV.
He’s a performer, composer, music educator, radio announcer and chef extraordinaire—and those are just a few of his many talents. We wanted to learn more about the man behind the microphone, so we sat down for a brief conversation with WHRV host Jae Sinnett.

How did you get into radio?

Sort of on a fluke. I came to the station one day to complain to then station manager, Vianne Webb, about an issue. During the conversation she said, “By the way, Jae, did you read about our new station WHRV FM 89.5 coming on the air soon?” When I said “Yes,” she asked, “Would you be interested in the jazz producer position?” I was stunned. I told her I knew nothing about broadcasting, and she said that was okay—I could learn. She obviously knew I had a deep understanding of the music. That was sort of how she got into broadcasting, and she liked the concept of a raw talent growing into the position. Not someone already trained and polished. After about five years of anxiety attacks, I grew into the position. It’s funny now when I think about it.

What part of the job excites you the most?

Having the opportunity to present this great music to our fantastic listeners. Jazz can be a challenging listen to the untrained or unprepared ear, so there is a teaching component in the mix as well. I try to offer viable points of departure for listeners to grasp more of what they’re hearing. I don’t spoon-feed this audience. Some will get it and some won’t, but many appreciate the educational element I incorporate into the program.

How has the job changed since you started?

The most obvious area is the technology. I didn’t feel at the beginning that I had to be as concerned about the engineering aspect of the medium. It’s different now. We’re more technologically driven. The beginning was light years more simplistic from a technology standpoint. The music was and is as creative as ever, so that hasn’t changed, but I’ve grown considerably as a broadcaster over these 30 years. So there’s much change in this regard.

What musician has influenced you the most?

Not one but many—for various reasons. John Coltrane’s power, passion and commitment. Vince Mendoza’s compositional ability and style. Jack DeJohnette’s drumming virtuosity. The melodic and compositional inventions of drumming innovator Max Roach. The utilization of space from Miles Davis. The cohesive melodicism and group camaraderie of the Yellowjackets. I have many influences.

What made you get into jazz? What makes it so special?

Being a drummer, I became disenchanted with the pop, rock, soul and funk styles I was playing early on, basically relegating me to keeping the beat. The repetition wore thin with me. I felt stagnant creatively speaking. Then someone introduced me to jazz. I had heard some jazz growing up in the ’60s but didn’t pay much attention to it until I started taking drumming seriously. Jazz presented an entirely new world for me with rhythm, drum set variation and creativity, and thought processes. It was improvisationally driven so there was considerably more room to expand and explore. I couldn’t get there with other genres of music. Later, I went back to those earlier styles as a much more mature artist and now have just as much appreciation for them in approach. I think expanding my choices and ability brought me back to that point because I developed options.
Funniest thing you’ve seen on the job?

I would turn this into the funniest thing I’ve ever done on the job. My first week sitting in the chair I was very sick with bronchitis. The coughing and congestion were terrible. I was drinking this industrial-strength cough medicine and taking strong antibiotics. At the time, WHRV hadn’t gone live yet. We were still one signal, WHRO, but jazz was overnight at the time I started. Being as sick as I was and drinking that strong cough medicine and working an overnight shift wasn’t a good mix. By the time 6 a.m. hit, I was out of my mind and I had to read underwriters at about 5:50 a.m. One was from the Tidewater Board of Rabbis. In my loopiness I read... "Underwriting support comes from the Tidewater Board of Rabbits." The phones lit up like a Christmas tree. Oh, the pitfalls of LIVE radio!

If you had not become a radio announcer, what job do you think you’d be doing instead?

I am a professional touring and recording performing artist. Drummer, composer and music educator. I was teaching at the Governor’s Gifted High School and performing with my jazz group when I accepted the WHRV FM position. If I didn’t accept the broadcasting position I would certainly be performing and teaching at a very serious level. I was doing that before WHRV. Maybe cooking somewhere too.

Speaking of cooking, how did you get started in that? Why do you enjoy it so much?

Being a broke college student. Ha! I had to figure out something or starve, so I started simple: eggs, hamburgers, boiling pasta with bottled sauces, etc. This was way before I realized cooking is also a very sophisticated art. Over time it became about creativity, like folks working a crossword puzzle. Using your mind in a creative way. I look at cooking now no differently than I look at writing a new composition or playing a solo. The artistic explorations of cooking and performing and writing music all parallel the other. It’s also about living a healthier lifestyle. I can create my own choices in what I decide to put in my body.

What’s your favorite dish to make?

A common question but honestly, I don’t have a favorite dish. I have favorites, yes, but not a singular one. My chicken piccata is one of my favs. My sriracha chicken meatballs are another. I have a weakness for pasta, rice, potatoes – the carb dishes for some reason. I cook many dishes that feature these foods, but moderation is always front and center. So anything I cook with these ingredients are my favorites.

By Grace Douglas
Social Media Specialist
Grace.Douglas@whro.org

WHRO Matinée
All your favorite PBS programs every weekday afternoon starting at 3:30 p.m. on WHRO TV15
See what’s on at whro.org/matinee

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<td>Ken Burns: Here &amp; There</td>
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<td>4:30 - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Durrells in Corfu</td>
<td>Durrells in Corfu</td>
<td>Durrells in Corfu</td>
<td>Death in Paradise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 28-31</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Sanditon Episode Seven</td>
<td>Sanditon Episode Eight</td>
<td>Lucy Worsley’s 12 Days of Christmas</td>
<td>Father Brown</td>
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<td>Fall of the House of St</td>
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<td>Durrells in Corfu</td>
<td>Durrells in Corfu</td>
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Be sure to hear one of Jae’s new creations in January when you tune into Another View with Barbara Hamm Lee.
"I'm Sorry"

I hear it all the time.

“I’m sorry I couldn’t do more.” “I’m sorry that this was all I could do.” “We are sorry that we couldn’t make a bigger gift.”

A quick check of our membership record in such cases often reveals that the speaker has supported WHRO generously for decades. And often, it’s from a member who is already giving really generously – based on their ability to give.

Charitable giving means different things to different people. There are people who make a gift of $10 and reach deeply in their pocket to do so, and others who give that amount but have the means to give much more, should they choose to do so. There are people who make a gift of $1,200 or more and support WHRO more generously than any other local non-profit, and others who give that amount and support scores of other local organizations just as generously, because they can.

I’ll never forget how almost 20 years ago, after my dad passed away in Upstate New York, I learned an important lesson serving as the executor for my parents’ estate. I learned that after all of his years of non-profit support and service to organizations, including the Red Cross Board of Directors, the United Way Board of Directors and service to the Boy Scouts of America as a Scoutmaster (thanks, Dad!) and much more, philanthropy to him was about service, not giving. For my dad, a gift of $50 was a very generous gift. He was the type that would say, “I’m sorry I can’t do more.” Frankly, as a philanthropist, I think he was a giant.

Please don’t be sorry or apologetic. Be excited. Your support, at whatever level YOU select, is making a difference. YOU are helping everyone in Eastern Virginia (and in many ways, people all across the Commonwealth) through your support of WHRO Public Media, at whatever level is the right level for you and your family. Thank you.

As year-end approaches and you watch and listen to the important and unique services provided by WHRO Public Media, it’s my hope that you feel a special sense of pride in having helped to make them all possible. No apologies, and Happy Holidays!

By Tom Burton
Chief Development Officer
Tom.Burton@whro.org
Julia’s will said a lot about her.

What does your will say about you?

Although Julia Atwater Bristow died in 2010 at age 85, today this retired artist and government writer is sending 49 students to college. Julia’s estate plans included a charitable bequest to the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to forever help students from Norfolk and the Eastern Shore achieve their dreams. Paint your own vision of the future by letting your will say a lot about you.

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To honor a person or special occasion with a tribute or memorial gift to WHRO Public Media, please call Ed Joyce at 757.889.9360 or email ed.joyce@whro.org

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* These plans are contingent upon the governmental restrictions on public gatherings in place at the time. More information will be provided closer to the date of the event. Capacities are very limited.
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Many of our members feel so strongly about the future of WHRO that they’ve included the station in their will, trust, life insurance, retirement, or other estate plan. We’re honored to include these generous members in the WHRO Public Media Legacy Society:

Consider joining the community of people who want public television and radio to span generations by including WHRO in your will. For more information, call Dory Morrison at 757-889-9477 or email dory.morrison@whro.org
The Leadership Circle

Thanks for leading the way!
Leadership Circle members share WHRO Public Media’s vision of excellence and understand that financial participation at the leadership level is vital for WHRO Public Media to continue providing the best educational and broadcast services to our region. Thanks for leading the way!

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