



Photo Credit: Courtesy of McGee Media

The Bedrock of Survival and Grace

For many, the Black church is their house of worship. For some, it is ground zero for social justice. For others, it is a place of transcendent cultural gifts exported to the world, from the soulful voices of preachers and congregants, to the sublime sounds of gospel music.

In a new two-part series, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., traces the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America. The documentary reveals how Black people have, through their spiritual journeys, improvised ways to bring their faith traditions from Africa to the New World, while translating them into a form of Christianity that was not only truly their own, but a redemptive force for a nation whose original sin was found in their ancestors' enslavement across the Middle Passage.

"Our series is a riveting and systematic exploration of the myriad ways in which African Americans have worshipped God in their own images, and continue to do so today, from the plantation and prayer houses, to camp meetings and store-front structures, to mosques and mega-churches," says Dr. Gates. "This is the story and song our ancestors bequeathed to us, and it comes at a time in our country when the very things they struggled and died for — faith and freedom, justice and equality, democracy and grace — all are on the line. No social institution in the Black community is more central and important than the Black church."

[The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song](#)
[Watch Tuesdays, Feb. 16 & 23 at 9 p.m.](#)

Holiday Programming for Comfort and Joy

This year, when COVID-19 may alter the way we choose to celebrate, you can depend on NEPM to provide top-flight holiday programming to help you feel connected with tradition. Here are some of our favorites:

Candles Burning Brightly (Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. on NEPM 88.5) is a one-hour radio celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights with an exploration of Chanukah foods, traditional activities, and plenty of music.

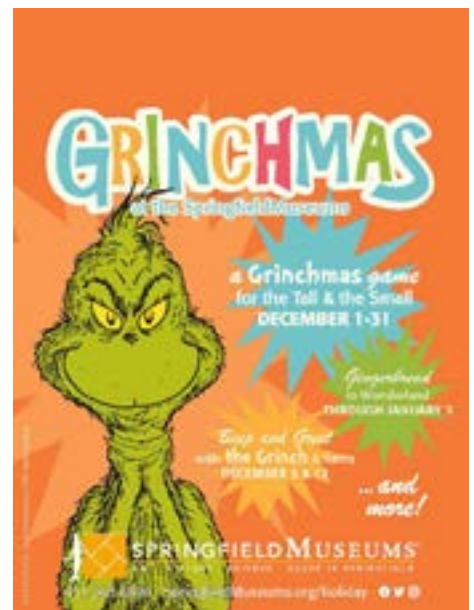
Kelli O'hara and Richard Thomas host **Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir (Monday, Dec. 14 at 9 p.m. on NEPM TV)** — the annual Americana-themed Christmas special that exudes the warmth of the season.

Enjoy an evening that spans Ella Fitzgerald's beloved album of holiday classics presented by the American Pops Orchestra. Hosted by Vanessa Williams, **Ella Wishes You a Swingin' Christmas (Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. on NEPM TV)** incorporates segments on Ella's life and career.

On Christmas Eve, it's **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Thursday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m. on NEPM 88.5)**, the iconic live broadcast from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge., presented by one of the world's foremost choirs of men and boys.

This year's **Call the Midwife Holiday Special (Friday, Dec. 25 at 9 p.m. on NEPM TV)** is set in December 1965. Everyone at Nonnatus House is looking forward to a traditional Christmas, but things don't go according to plan.

On New Year's Eve, **United in Song: A Celebration of America's Resilience (Thursday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. on NEPM TV)** offers powerful performances filmed at Mt. Vernon to affirm our commitment to come together as Americans through the arts.



From Broadcast to Podcast



Vernon Jordan: Make It Plain

Watch Monday, Dec. 28 at 10 p.m.

Meet the man described by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. as “the Rosa Parks of Wall Street.” Vernon Jordan went from modest origins to national renown as a pioneering attorney, businessman and civil rights leader, and as an influential counselor to American presidents — spanning the era from LBJ to Barack Obama.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of LBJ Library photo by Ralph Barrera



Nature: The Alps

Wednesdays, Jan. 13 & 20 at 8 p.m.

The Alps span 750 miles from the Mediterranean Sea to the Adriatic — one mountain chain after another, each one more imposing and more diverse than the next. And on every mountain slope, ridge or meadow, nature’s drama is played out as animals fight for their survival in Europe’s iconic mountains.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Otmar Penker, © Terra Mater Factual Studios & Wild Nature Film



American Masters: Laura Ingalls Wilder

Watch Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m.

Follow the remarkable story of an Ozarks farm woman who, at 65, turned her childhood into the best-selling “Little House” series. *American Masters* dives into the life, times, and controversial legacy of this pioneer woman.



Great Performances: The Magic of Callas

Watch Friday, Jan. 15 at 9 p.m.

Her glorious operatic career was said to be over, with scandals rather than performances generating headlines. Wanting to show the world that the title of “*Prima donna assoluta*” was still hers, Maria Callas returned to London’s Royal Opera House in the role of Tosca. A British broadcaster recorded the opera’s second act, capturing one of the most dramatic moments in opera history.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of © ullstein bild / Harry Croner



Frontline: A Thousand Cuts

Watch Friday, Jan. 8 at 9 pm.

With freedom of the press under threat in the Philippines, “A Thousand Cuts” goes inside the escalating war between the government and the press. The documentary follows Maria Ressa, a renowned journalist who has become a top target of President Rodrigo Duterte’s crackdown on the news media.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Elosia Lopez/REUTERS



The Long Form

Listen Sundays at 6 p.m. on NEPM 88.5

This is the place on the NEPM schedule for stand-alone hidden gems — ‘long form’ audio documentaries from independent and diverse voices on a wide range of topics. From week to week, you may not know what to expect, but we expect you’ll like it!



Masterpiece: All Creatures Great and Small

Watch Sundays, Jan. 10–Feb. 21 at 9 p.m.

James Herriot’s adventure as a veterinarian in 1930’s Yorkshire returns in a new adaptation of his beloved stories. Nicholas Ralph makes his television debut as the iconic vet who became renowned for his inspiring humor, compassion, and love of life.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Playground Television (UK) Ltd



Code Switch Podcasts

Stream at NEPM. Org

It’s the NPR podcast that tackles the subject of race head-on. *Code Switch* explores how race impacts every part of society — from politics and pop culture to history, sports, and everything in between. This podcast invites everyone into the conversation — because everyone’s part of the story.

NEPM Mentors Middle Schoolers

In partnership with Springfield Public Schools and the Latino Education Institute, NEPM's Education Team has been leading a virtual media literacy enrichment class during the school day at Duggan Academy, giving middle schoolers the chance to engage with professionals in the field of journalism.

Students are learning basic media skills, producing their own stories, conducting interviews, sharing stories, building musical beats, and creating dialogue in a bilingual approach to English and Spanish languages.

NEPM Media Lab Project Director Iohann Vega-Martinez has been thrilled with the progress. "Our students have been having fun while learning the fundamentals of storytelling. We also have been learning a lot from them, especially on how to adapt to the virtual environment in creative and ingenious ways."



WFCR → NEPR → NEPM Martin Miller's 25th Anniversary



In 1995, Martin Miller took the helm of WFCR 88.5, which aired NPR news programs during drive times, classical music during the day, and jazz in the evening.

In 2007, when many public radio stations were dropping music programming in favor of news and talk, Martin orchestrated a solution with the acquisition of WNNZ AM. The station could provide news programming on one channel while remaining faithful to its music-loving audience on WFCR. With the eventual expansion to 13 frequencies, and a new website, a new name was in order. In 2011, New England Public Radio was born.

Then, in 2019, New England Public Radio and WGBY Television announced that they would merge to create a new multi-media organization, which would be better positioned to serve the region — New England Public Media.

As President, Martin is now leading the process to expand NEPM's reach by investing in new people, new platforms, new infrastructure, and new services. The future is bright!

Thousands Agree. Words Matter.

We knew it was a good idea for NEPM to team up with Springfield-based Merriam Webster to create a podcast for people who love language. And now, with over 200 thousand downloads, we know it's a national hit!

[Word Matters](#) takes listeners behind the scenes of the English language as Merriam-Webster editors discuss new and emerging words, surprising word histories, tricky usage issues, pet peeves, and everything that goes into writing The Dictionary.

Hosted by Emily Brewster, Senior Editor and Editorial Ambassador for Merriam-Webster, [Word Matters](#) invites listeners to eavesdrop on conversations Emily and fellow editors Peter Sokolowski, Ammon Shea, and Neil Serven have about the language's inner workings.



Watch



News. Culture. Kids.

	DTuner	Comcast	Spectrum	Time Warner
NEPM-DT	57.1	2	7	12
NEPM-Create	57.4	237	182	1277
NEPM-Kids	57.3	217	180	1276
NEPM-World	57.2	209	181	1275
NEPM-HD	57.1	857	782	1221

Listen



News. Classical. Jazz.

Amherst/Springfield/Hartford	WFCR 88.5 FM
North Adams	101.1 FM
Great Barrington	98.7 FM
Lee	98.3 FM
Pittsfield/Lenox	106.1 FM
Williamstown	96.3 FM
All Classical	WFCR 88.5-2 HD Radio™

news network

News. Talk. Culture.

Amherst/Springfield/Westfield	WNNZ 640 AM
Hampden County	WAIC 91.9 FM
Hampshire County	WAMH 89.3 FM
Franklin County	WNNZ 91.7 FM
South Berkshire County	WNNU 89.5 FM
North Berkshire County	WNNI 98.9 FM
Hampden/Hampshire/Franklin Counties	WFCR 88.5-3 HD Radio™

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us at hello@nepm.org

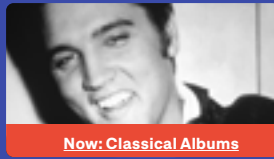
Dates and times mentioned are accurate at time of printing and are subject to change. Please check nepm.org.



Always: PBS Newshour



Now: Great British Baking Show



Now: Classical Albums



Jan. 17: Miss Scarlet and The Duke

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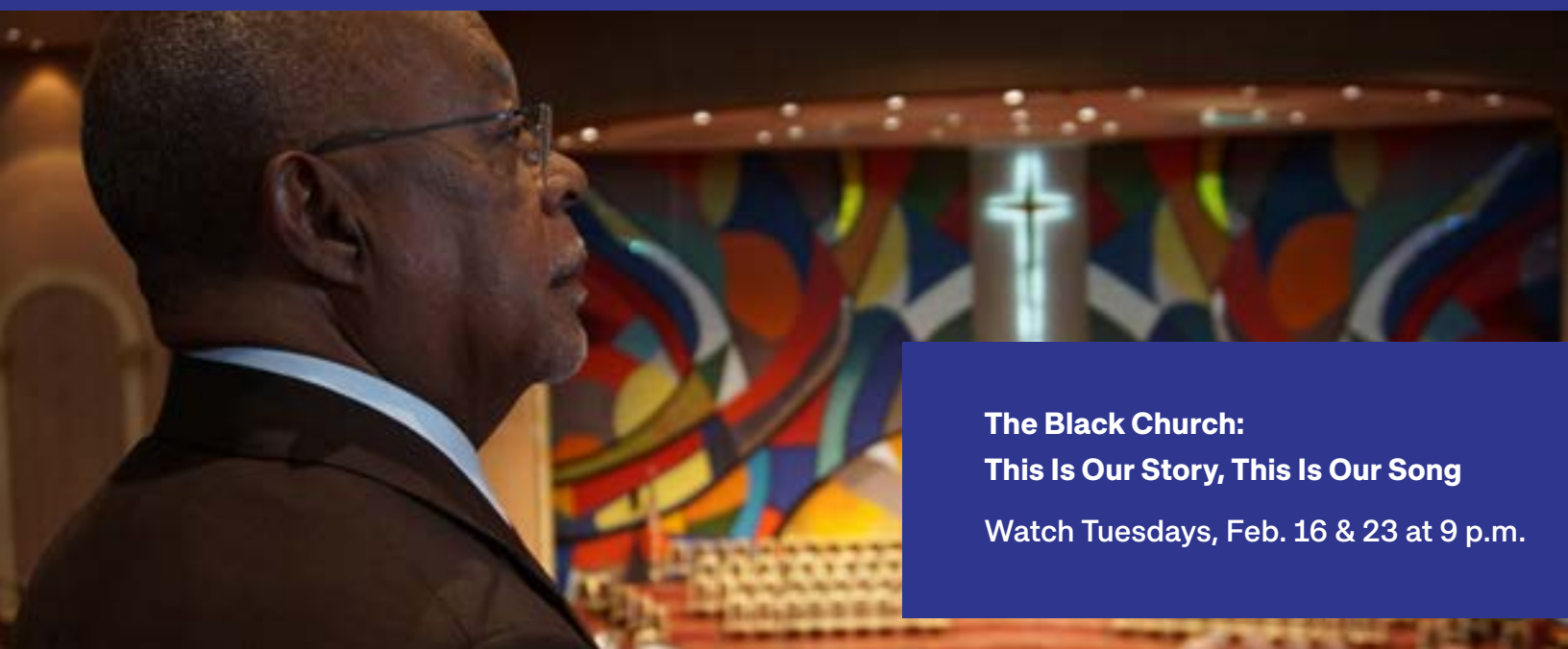
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