

Fueled by a deep commitment to independent local journalism, engaging educational content, inspired multicultural and music offerings, and spirited civic engagement, NEPM combines the track record of a trusted media resource with an emphasis on sharing new voices and inspiring new conversations.

We provide audiences throughout western New England with diverse programming across all platforms — TV, radio, online, and mobile — including PBS and NPR programs complemented by locally-produced shows, podcasts, and specials. NEPM is located in Springfield, Massachusetts, and serves all of western New England.

Watch

With four digital television channels, video on demand, and streaming video, NEPM brings quality public television programs to audiences across western New England, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs, to hear diverse viewpoints, and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS KIDS helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. NEPM's locally-produced television programming includes the arts and culture weekly *Connecting Point* and the academic quiz show *As Schools Match Wits*.

Where to Watch

Listen

New England Public Media provides an essential and trusted voice for the region through local reporting and locally-produced music programming, and by connecting the region to the world through its partnership with NPR and other national and international public media organizations. Its flagship signal, 88.5FM WFCR (and five repeating stations in Berkshire County), presents news, jazz, and classical music, while the six stations of the NEPM News Network provide the region with news, talk and cultural programming 24/7.

Where to Listen

Watch

News. Culture. Kids.

	DT Tuner	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

NEPM

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™

NEPM news network

News. Talk. Culture.

Springfield/Amherst/Westfield	640 AM
Hampden County	91.9 FM
Hampshire County	89.3 FM
Franklin County	91.7 FM
Southern Berkshire County	89.5 FM
Northern Berkshire County	98.9 FM
Hampden/Hampshire/Franklin Counties	
WFCR 88.5-3 HD Radio™	

LOCAL VALUE

NEPM's local reporting and public affairs programming tells the stories of our region's diverse population. Its events and partnerships serve as a conduit for involvement and interaction. The station's educational services work to meet head-on the challenges facing families, parents, and youth in our region.

KEY SERVICES

Journalism

Educational Outreach

Community Engagement

Music, Arts & Culture

LOCAL IMPACT

By integrating television, radio, video, audio, digital and social media under one roof, NEPM is better positioned to discover and tell the stories that matter to the people of western New England – in politics, news, arts, education, culture, and more.

VISION

New England Public Media is western New England's source for the best in public media — a robust, multi-platform organization that addresses the full range of journalism, education, and entertainment interests across our region. As a trusted, respected, and responsive community resource, NEPM connects the diverse residents of our region to each other and the world through original storytelling, dynamic programming, and inclusive events that inform, educate and inspire.

VALUES

To realize its mission and vision, NEPM will adhere to the following values:

Excellence

NEPM will strive for the highest quality in our programming, outreach, facilities, and staffing.

Integrity

NEPM, as an institution and on the individual level, will adhere to the highest ethical standards. Our work products will be accurate and fairly represented.

Respect

NEPM will respect the opinions, contributions and needs of all of our viewers and supporters. We will encourage and facilitate civil discourse within the community.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

NEPM will provide programming and services that reflect the diversity of its community.

Creativity

NEPM will develop innovative approaches to address the dynamic needs of its community.

Learning

NEPM will nurture and support the fundamental lifelong desire to learn and grow.

NEPM Community Advisory Board

The NEPM Community Advisory Board was established by the board of directors in 2021 to reflect the tremendous value we place on the aspirations of our community. The CAB serves in an advisory role, offering an outside perspective on the diverse educational and cultural needs and interests of the local communities served by NEPM.

CAB members come from a broad cross-section of the NEPM broadcast coverage area. They have widely differing backgrounds, experiences, and interests. They range in age from young adults to seniors. NEPM Chief Content Officer Maxie Jackson, who serves as the staff liaison to the CAB, said, "I'm very glad that we have this talented and diverse team of people who care about the mission of New England Public Media. They provide us with perspective, point out our blind spots, and advise us going forward."

Table Stakes

On Sept. 10, 2020, NEPM was selected as a participating station in the third year of the *Television News Innovation Table Stakes Project*. Supported and funded by the Knight Foundation/Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications, the program helps stations identify and address the most critical challenges faced by the local news sector and learn how to use the proven model of the "table stakes" process to overcome these challenges.

The model calls stations to serve targeted audiences with targeted content and experiences, publish on the platforms used by targeted audiences, produce and publish continuously to meet audience needs, funnel occasional users to habitual and valuable loyalists, diversify and grow the ways stations earn revenue from the audiences, partner to expand capacity and capabilities at lower and more flexible cost, and drive audience growth and profitability from a "mini-publisher" perspective. The NEPM Table Stakes team includes employees from content, development, and education. They have established the goal to develop a reciprocal relationship between NEPM and the Latinx/Hispanic communities in western New England. The team is engaging the entire NEPM organization in its efforts.

In the Community

NEPM strives to take an active role in the community by conceiving of, planning and executing, and participating in a wide range of initiatives. Many of these efforts require personal representation while others require support and planning services, volunteer organization, materials/resources, or intellectual leadership/guidance. NEPM's Department of Educational Engagement provides learning opportunities and works closely with the community to improve outcomes for youth, families, educators, students, and community partners. NEPM is an implementing partner of the 413Families text message campaign, which offers families with young children information about fun things to do and tips about health, learning, and more. So far, there are over 3,900 recipients who receive messages weekly.

NEPM's Community Partners and Supporters

NEPM Sponsor List Calendar 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021

The Academy At Charlemont	Blandford Fair	Danco Modern
Academy Hill	Bombyx	The Davis Financial Group
Achieve TMS East	Book Arts Promotions	Dean's Beans
All Energy Solar	Book Moon	Dennis Group
Alt E Store	Boston Symphony Orchestra	Dietz & Company Architects
American International College	Boyden & Perron, Inc.	The Dirty Truth
Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce	Brattleboro Retreat	Doherty Wallace Pillsbury & Murphy, PC
Amherst Business Improvement District	Bridgeside Grille	Downtown Sounds
Amherst College Department of Art & History of Art	Brushworks Open Studios	DSP Shows
Amherst College Latinx & Latin American Studies	Bulkley Richardson	Dublin School
Amherst College Office of Communications	The Bushnell Performing Arts Center	Eastworks
Amherst Copy & Design Works	The Center At Eagle Hill	EMA Dental
Amherst Dental Group	The Center School	Emily Dickinson Museum
Amherst Laser and Skin Care Center	Central Energy	The Ethel Walker School
Amtrak New England	Chapdelaine's Home Furnishing Showcase	Eversource Energy
Anchor House of Artists	Chester Theatre Company	Exit 7 Players Theatre
Apples & Crafts Fair & Food Truck Festival	Chesterwood	Fallon Health
Applied Mortgage	CHH Engraving	Fierst Bloomberg Ohm, LLP
Arcadia Players	Christopher Heights of Northampton	The Fire Place
Armbrook Village	City Space	Florence Hearing Health Care
Armen Coaching	Clark Art Institute	Florence Paint & Decorating Center
Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail	Clark University	The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Atkins Farms	Classic Colonial Homes	FootC By Nurses
Atlas Technical Consultants	Cochrane Dental Associates	Forish Construction
bankESB	Cold Spring Landscape Contractors, LLC	Four Winds School
Barron & Jacobs	Colebrook Realty Services, Inc.	Franklin Community Co-Op
Barts Ice Cream Company	Collaborative For Educational Services	Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame	Colony Care At Home	Franklin County Community Development Corporation
Bay Path University	The Common School	Full Circle Adoptions
Baystate Health Systems	Commonwealth Registry of Nurses, Inc.	Gage-Wiley & Co, Inc.
Bear Bookshop	Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture	Gaslight Entertainment
Behavioral Health Network Inc	Community Music School of Springfield	Gateway City Arts
Bement School	Concora	Gazebo
Berkshire Bank	Connecticut River Museum	Gilbert's Written Word Stationery
Berkshire Botanical Garden	Cooley Dickinson Hospital	Good News Garage
Berkshire Food Co-Op	Corsello Butcheria	Granny's Baking Table
Berkshire Health Systems	Cotton Tree Service	Green River Festival
Berkshire Mountain Distillers, Inc.	Country Bank	Greenfield Auto Specialists
Berkshire Museum	Crooked Stick Pops	Greenfield Cooperative Bank
Berkshire Opera Festival	Curran and Keegan Financial	Guzik Motor Sales Inc.
The Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook	Cushing Academy	Hampshire Bicycle Exchange
	Dancing Bear Farm	Hampshire Dermatology
		Hancock Shaker Village
		Harold Grinspoon Foundation
		Harry King Rug & Home

NEPM Sponsor List Calendar 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021 continued

Hart & Patterson Financial	Mike's Maze at Warner Farm	Provisions
Hartford Symphony Orchestra	Miss Hall's School	Quonquont Farm
The Hartsbrook School	Modern Memoirs, Inc.	Randall's Farm
Hearth and Timber	Mohawk Trail Concerts	Real Pickles
Heroes Boarding and Training	Mohegan Sun	Red Fire Farm
Hilltown Community Health Centers	Molly Cantor Pottery at Handle Factory	Renew.Calm
Historic Deerfield	Monson Savings Bank	Rhyme Digital
Holyoke Gas & Electric Department	Monsoon Roastery	Richard Bates
Holyoke Hummus Company	MOSSO - Musicians of The Springfield Symphony Orchestra	River Valley Co-Op
Hood Milk	Mountain View Farm CSA	River Valley Counseling Center
Hot Table	National Conference For Community and Justice	Riverbend Animal Hospital
Hudson Business Coalition	Native Plant Trust	rk Miles
Jackson & Connor	New Britain Museum of American Art	Roberto's Restaurant
Jazz In July	New England Falconry	Rockridge Retirement Community
Jeff's Granola	New England Meetinghouse Design	The Rowe Center
Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts	New England Orthopedic Surgeons	RSVP of The Pioneer Valley
JoiaBeauty	New England Showcasters	Joe Ryan Imported Car Repair
Jones Whitsett Architects	Norfolk Chamber Music Festival	Saint Germain Investments
Jorgensen Center For The Performing Arts	Northampton Arts Council	Salemi Appliance
Katalyst Kombucha	Northampton Jazz Festival	Santander Bank
Keith A. Minoff Attorney At Law	Northampton Open Media	Sasson Turnbull Ryan & Hoose
Kestrel Land Trust	Northeast Solar	Scapes Builders and Excavation, LLC
Kuhn Riddle Architects	Oak Meadow School	Scrub Wear House
Kw Home	October Mountain Financial Advisors	Servicenet
Lander Grinspoon Academy	Ompractice	Shatz, Schwartz, and Fentin, P.C.
Landmark College	One Roof Festival	Sidehill Farm
Lathrop Communities	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College	Silver Screen Design
Laudable Productions	Ostberg & Associates	Silverthorne Theater Company
Leisure Time Canvas, Inc.	Paper City Clothing Company	Sixteen Acres Garden Center
Lifepath	Paradise City Arts Festival	Ski Sundown
Birdz of A Feather	Paradise City Landscape Design	Skye Mountain Realty, Inc.
The MacDuffie School	Paradise Copies	Smith and Son Jewelers
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center	Park Hill Orchard	Smith College Museum of Art
Mass Humanities	Partridge-Zschau Insurance Agency, Inc.	Smith College Department of Music Department
Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass Moca)	Pascucci, Teixeira & Co, P.C.	Solaflect Energy
Massachusetts Commission For The Blind	Pekarski's Sausage	Sonnet & Sparrow
Massachusetts Cultural Council	Peoplesbank	Springfield Jazz & Roots Festival
Massachusetts Teachers Association	PETA	Springfield Museums
MassLive	Phoenix Fruit Farm	Springfield Parking Authority
Mass Match	Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School	Springfield Symphony Orchestra
Mathnasium of East Longmeadow	Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra	Springfield Technical Community College
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Graduate & Continuing Education	Prentiss Smith & Co., Inc.	St John's Episcopal Church
Melanson		Stakeholders Capital
Melody Foti, CFP		State Street Fruit Store
		Steve Lewis Subaru
		Steve Snow Real Estate
		Stoneleigh-Burnham School
		Subaru of New England
		Summerlin Floors
		Sunderland Farm Collaborative

NEPM Sponsor List Calendar 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021 continued

Sumner Heating Co., Inc.
Swanson's Fabrics
Sylvester's Restaurant
Tangle Chocolate
Teagno Construction, Inc.
Ten Thousand Villages
Thomas Douglas Architects
Tiger Press
Trinity College Chapel
Turn It Up!
TurnPark Art Space
UMass College of Humanities and
Fine Arts
UMass Fine Arts Center
UMass Five College Federal
Credit Union

University Museum of
Contemporary Art
Valley Eye Radio
Valley Home Improvement
Valley Light Opera
Valley Solar
VCA Veterinary Specialists of
Connecticut
Vermont Department of Tourism
Volvo Cars Pioneer Valley
Wanczyk Nursery
The Water's Fine
We Clean Heat Pumps
Webber and Grinnell Insurance
West Branch Capital
West End Pub

West Side Clock Shop
Western Builders
Western Earthworks
Western Mass Coaching Alliance
Westfield State Univ Graduate
College of Graduate & Continuing
Education
Westminster School
Whalen Insurance
Wilbraham & Monson Academy
Williamsburg Market
Worcester Academy
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wright Builders
Yes Computers
Zephyr Behavioral Healthcare

NEPM's Education Team

In addition to the many community engagement and education efforts outlined in the pages that follow, NEPM's Education Team is a partner on many educational community efforts, including:

- Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Awards
- Putnam Vocational Early Education & Care Advisory Council
- Reading SuccessBy4thGrade
- Springfield Early Literacy Coalition
- Bay Path University and Smith College Community Advisory Boards

Professional Development

As part of NEPM core education services, the station offers professional development workshops to regional educators, highlighting PBS educational resources that include PBS LearningMedia, a powerful platform for teachers and students. In partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and GBH, NEPM also provided a free webinar on Project Based Learning for nearly 300 educators from across the state and the country, including recipients of the [Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards](#). Also in collaboration with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, NEPM helped to select more than 20 regional PreK-12 educators as Classroom Innovators who would engage students in project-based learning. In addition, NEPM participated in the first-ever city-wide, virtual professional development conference, [Building Bridges](#), for all Springfield Massachusetts Pre-K educators, offering a workshop that provided PBS literacy and STEM resources to engage children and their families.

PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion

NEPM nominated a gifted pre-K educator, Arbely Mejia, to become a PBS KIDS 2021-2022 Early Learning Champion. Because of our close work with her and students over several summers, we wanted to recognize and celebrate her commitment to students and their families. This two-year initiative allows NEPM to provide Ms. Mejia with pathways for professional growth, community and networking opportunities as we build our relationships with local educators. In support of Arbely's classroom, NEPM donated 18 PBS KIDS Playtime Pads as well as books and other resources.



Educational Resources

With the support of GBH and the Krueger Charitable Foundation, NEPM distributed thousands of books and other educational resources, such as workbooks and other hands-on materials, to local, underserved schools in our region. Also in collaboration with GBH, NEPM was able to distribute 1,200 Molly of Denali bags containing books, hands-on games, and stickers to children in Springfield, Holyoke, Westfield, and Gateway Regional school districts — just in time for the start of summer vacations!

The launch of Alma's Way offered NEPM the opportunity to showcase a new PBS KIDS program with resources that targeted our region's vast Latino audience.

In coordination with NEPM's New Voices Campaign and Hispanic Heritage Month, we invited educators and staff to the exciting premiere of Alma's Way. Since then, we continue to share the show's collection of resources during professional learning opportunities and on our blog.



Education Blog

To further update educators about our resources, posts on the [NEPM's Education Blog](#) highlighted high-quality pre-K-12 materials, trends, professional development opportunities, and more. The blog also provides quick links to sites such as PBS KIDS, PBS Parents, Ready to Learn, and other resources. These resources are primarily from PBS sites such as PBS LearningMedia, which offers vast collections designed to enhance the classroom with engaging content.

NEPM Studio Tours

Staff led several interactive station tours throughout the year. These events enabled area students and interns to learn about career opportunities in the multimedia production industry. Students and interns were also able to explore production processes and, with guidance, even handle some studio equipment.

Educator Ambassadors Program

NEPM collaborated with WGBH on the [2021 Educator Ambassadors](#) program to recruit and engage innovative teachers from across the Commonwealth to work on the development and dissemination of educational

resources and advance our roles as public media partners for pre-K-12 educators in our state. The five western Massachusetts teachers are from Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School in Palmer, Westhampton Elementary, Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield, Alice B. Beal Elementary School in Springfield, and the High School of Science and Technology in Springfield.

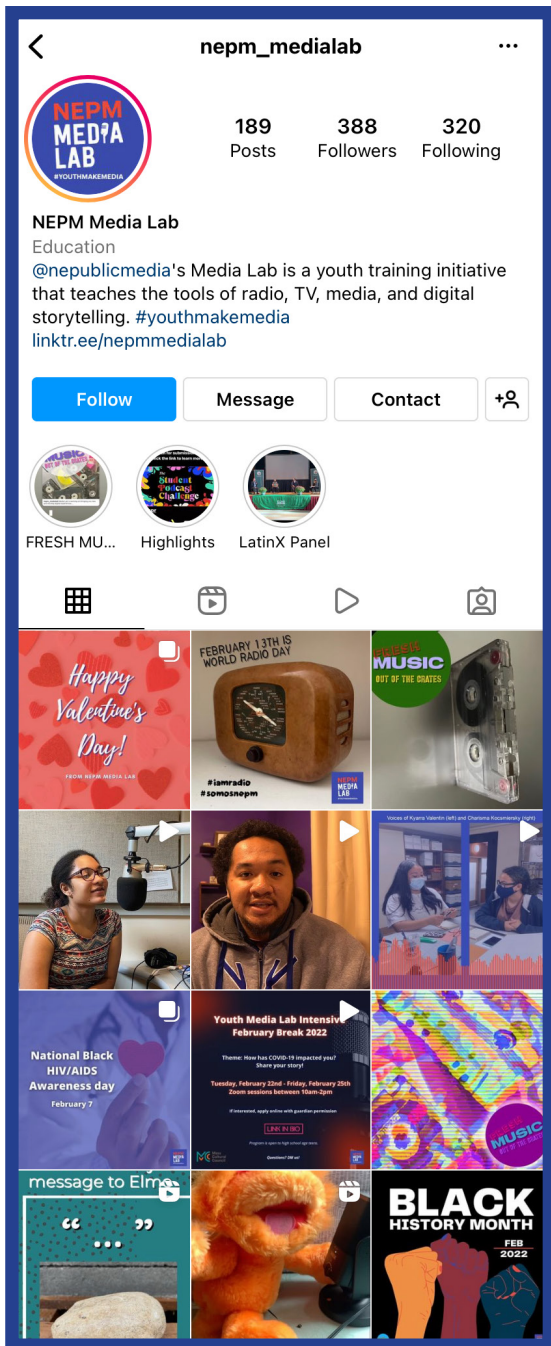
Media Lab

NEPM's education team offered a remote workshop to high school students in an intensive course during spring break week. Students learned the basics of podcast production, utilizing the technology available in remote settings due to the pandemic. They produced audio pieces that were featured in a virtual showcase where family and friends were able to enjoy and celebrate youth accomplishments. This experience granted students the opportunity to join NEPM *Media Lab's* summer internship program for an extended and deeper experience in media production.

The *Media Lab's* summer employment experience offered teens from Springfield and Holyoke the opportunity to participate in a hybrid (in-person and remote engagement), seven-week intensive program to learn about media and digital citizenship. They heard from industry professionals and used audio/video editing software to produce their own journalistic articles, podcasts, and video projects while gaining valuable experience they can apply in their future careers. Partners included UMass Public Health YPAR Research Team, *El Pueblo Latino*, *The Republican*, and *MassLive*. Funding has been provided by MA State Earmark and YouthReach - Mass Culture Council.

The final showcase event celebrated their accomplishments and presented some of their work during the summer for the enjoyment of their family, friends, and guests to the virtual showcase. Their work was also featured on Media Lab's social media feed.

You can watch the showcase [here](#).



Instagram

Media Lab launched an Instagram account where they share content created by students, featuring their profiles and some of their interests. They are also creating content to engage with younger audiences, and to connect with the Instagram community, offering content that relates to Media Lab, the education department, and NEPM's programming on radio and TV, creating a connection between content and educational opportunities that NEPM provides to the audience and the community.

[Join NEPM Media Lab on Instagram](#)

Fresh Music Out of the Crates

Media Lab is developing a digital radio feature for a new, diverse, young audience that we identified after our last summer session. Our interns showed a strong interest in exploring music production, creation, and discovery. Interns created individual playlists featuring songs that helped them get through months of isolation during the pandemic and shared why each song meant something to them.

Using quality standards similar to programming created by NPR Music, CBC in Canada, and The Current in Minneapolis, Minnesota, NEPM Media Lab created "Fresh Music Out of the Crates." It offers our students an audience of high school, college, university and young professionals in our community, access to curated music selections that include research, journalism, storytelling, radio production, and music appreciation that elevates the listening experience. By making a stronger partnership with local artists and producers already connected or involved with NEPM, we are getting access to artists that eventually will provide an enhanced learning experience for our interns.

Every Friday, we release a new episode with five songs, selected on the criteria of new emerging artists from different cultures, countries, races, and music genres, that are innovating, representative of their identity, talented, and inspiring to our youth, while expanding their appreciation for music from different cultures, backgrounds, and places. The weekly shows live online [here](#).

PRX workshops

In March of 2021, *Media Lab* partnered with PRX to create and facilitate two virtual workshops called “Preserving Neighborhood Stories,” as part of the PRX Gateway Cities Audio Project. Media Lab’s work included the preparation of curriculum, translation of materials to Spanish, and facilitating the workshops, one of them completely in Spanish. The workshops were provided to emerging podcasters and community leaders of the participating Gateway Cities across Massachusetts, identified by PRX to be part of the project.



Latinx Media Panel

In partnership with Elms College, NEPM Staff and members of [Colectivo de Medios Latino](#) participated in a Media Panel Discussion: Latinx Communities of Western Massachusetts on campus. Approximately 175 people (mostly first-year students and their first-year seminar faculty) attended. Watch the panel discussion [here](#).



AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT OUTREACH & EVENTS

NEPM produces many annual events to engage our community, share PBS and NPR content with our audiences and develop connections and partnerships throughout the region. NEPM is also committed to actively participating at many events in the community, including celebrations, information and internship/job fairs, festivals, meetings, etc. In 2021, NEPM continued its effort to provide our community with a variety of virtual events as we continued to deal with the impact of the pandemic on our events program.

El Puerto Rico

On Jan. 23-24, New England Public Media and the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts Victory Theatre (MIFA) joined forces to present El Puerto Rico 3: Identity Duets — a virtual chamber concert event that featured the work of contemporary Puerto Rican composers performed by the Victory Players Contemporary Music Ensemble under the direction of music director Tianhui Ng.

The goal of MIFA’s El Puerto Rico is to acquaint audiences in Holyoke and western New England with the exciting work of living Puerto Rican composers. In past years, the Victory Players Contemporary Music Ensemble — a group of young and highly accomplished instrumentalists who share a passion for new music — came to Holyoke to work with Tianhui Ng in a residency that took them to local public schools and culminated in an annual live concert for the public.

COVID-19 necessitated a pivot to a virtual format where the players recorded their parts remotely, and NEPM created the final audio/video files. The virtual event included duets by Puerto Rican composers Gabriel Bouche Caro, Carlos Carrillo, Johanny Navarro, Christian A. Quiñones, Iván Enrique Rodríguez, and Omar Surillo. Tianhui Ng, music director of the Pioneer Valley Symphony, and director of orchestral studies Mount Holyoke College, hosted the event and conducted interviews with the composers.

Then, the project took another step forward with a new collaboration with GBH. In June 2021, Tianhui Ng and the Victory Players traveled to GBH's Fraser Performance Studio in Boston to record ten new compositions and a set of interviews with the composers for the release of *El Puerto Rico 4* in the fall of 2021.

[El Puerto Rico Press Release](#)

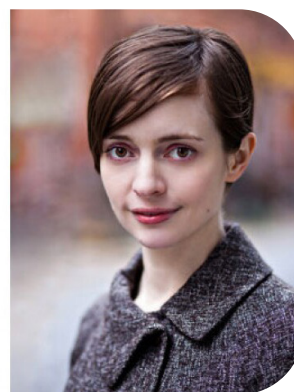
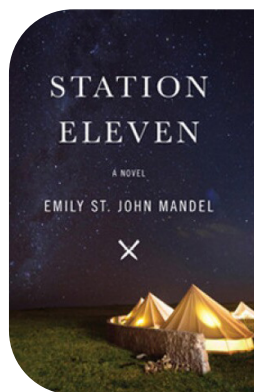


"Telling Our Story, Singing Our Song: Preserving and Protecting Our Sacred Spaces in Dangerous Times."

The Black Church, the moving four-hour series from Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., aired on NEPM TV on Feb. 16 and 17. It traced the broad history and culture of the Black church in America and explored African American faith communities on the frontlines of hope and change. On Feb. 17, NEPM and the Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival joined forces to present "Telling Our Story, Singing Our Song: Preserving and Protecting Our Sacred Spaces in Dangerous Times." Amilcar Shabazz of the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst hosted the [online discussion](#) with series producers Stacey Holman and Shayla Harris.

A Conversation with Emily St. John Mandel

On April 27, NEPM hosted a discussion with author Emily St. John Mandel about "Station Eleven," her mesmerizing 2014 novel set in a dystopian post-pandemic fictional world. The keynote event for NEA Big Read: Pocumtuck Valley, it brought together Libraries in the Woods, Tilton Library, the Springfield Public Forum, and more than 40 other organizations and businesses in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden County. [The virtual conversation](#) was hosted by NEPM's Jill Kaufman and concluded with a live Q&A. Later, in June, the conversation continued when "Station Eleven" was selected for the debut of NEPM's Book Club.



The Founding Mothers of NPR

On May 19, NEPM joined with the Springfield Public Forum to present a discussion with author and journalist Lisa Napoli about her new work, "Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR." Her book recounts how Susan Stamberg, Linda Wertheimer, Nina Totenberg and Cokie Roberts paved the way for a new generation of top-notch women journalists who serve at NPR today. [The online discussion](#) with Napoli was hosted by NEPM's Jill Kaufmann.



Valley Voices Story Slam

In partnership with the Academy of Music Theatre, NEPM produced the seventh season of our popular Valley Voices Story Slam series, which encourages storytelling as a means of connection and inspiration. Our storytellers audition with an opening line on a theme and are then coached for a live performance story slam. Each event features ten tellers each delivering a five-minute story. The winners of each slam go on to compete in our “Best of Valley Voices” event live at the Academy of Music Theatre. Themes this year included Family Drama, Let Me Explain, First Time, and Now or Never. You can see clips from our shows and download the podcast at nepm.org/valleyvoices

Pregones Puerto Rican Traveling Theater of New York

NEPM presented a staged sneak peek of “Torched,” a musical in development by Pregones Puerto Rican Traveling Theater of New York with its partner, MIFA. “Torched” speaks to the now legendary era of the Bronx fires. The program also included excerpts from “The Red Rose,” adapted from “Little Things Are Big”, written by Jesús Colón.

CONTENT & PRODUCTION

At NEPM, our mission is to provide our community with diverse, high-quality programming that informs, educates, and entertains.

We accomplish this with a passionate staff in our regional newsroom, covering stories important to our region, and with extensive national and international coverage from a wide range of programming provided by NPR, American Public Media (APM), Public Radio International (PRI), and other public radio sources, and PBS programs like *FRONTLINE* and *PBS NewsHour* keep our community connected to the world.

It is also vital to our mission to connect our audience to the wealth of art and culture in western New England. We do this by providing locally produced classical, jazz, and world music programs, and in-depth coverage of local cultural resources by our news department. Our locally produced show *Connecting Point* offers interviews and field pieces on our regional arts and culture scene both online and on NEPM-TV. In addition to on-air content on both radio and television, NEPM offers a variety of non-broadcast resources, from an impressive line-up of podcasts produced in-house and community outreach initiatives, to our *Media Lab* program for underserved high school students and a robust college internship program. We strive to meet the needs of our community, reflecting its diverse interests in our programming, creating connections, and exploring the world – across continents with NPR reporters stationed in far-flung corners, and right here in western New England where our reporters cover state and local politics, our eclectic arts and culture scene, exciting academic pursuits at our many local universities and colleges, and so much more.

Local Journalism & News Reporting

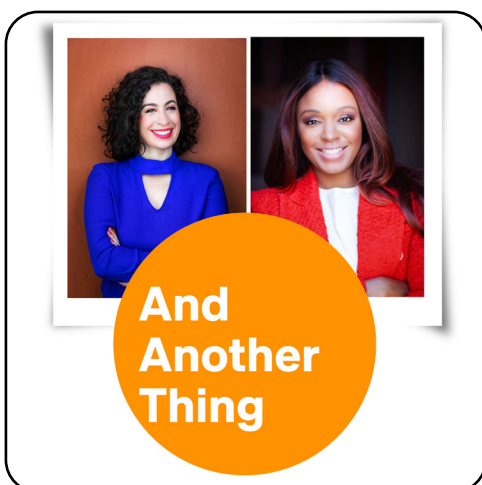
The NEPM news department works on enterprise reporting of issues relevant to the station's diverse listening area, which includes major urban centers, post-industrial cities and towns, a large rural area and a vibrant academic community. The local news service produces newscasts, long-form features and documentaries, interviews, commentaries and news-focused podcasts.

NEPM's commentaries have been recognized with awards from the Public Media Journalists Association for five straight years. In FY21, regional commentators on our air included: Andréa Comer, deputy commissioner at Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection executive; UMass Amherst graduate student Nick DeLuca; Sister Patricia Byrne of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Baden; singer and writer Tinky Weisblat; writer Bruce Watson; Marie Troppe of Holyoke Community College; writer Martha Ackmann; Johannes Evelein, a professor at Trinity College; Elizabeth Vozzola, writer and psychology professor; writer and UMass Amherst lecturer Susan Johnson; journalist Jamil Ragland; Michael Carolan, a writer and professor of practice at Clark University; author and illustrator Grace Lin; nurse midwife Evelyn Resh; Lauren Ostberg, an attorney and essayist; activist Michele Miller; and the Rev. Christopher Carlisle.

In FY21, NEPM brought listeners coverage of major international, national and regional stories. Our newsroom closely tracked the state's political scene, with major coverage of the issues facing our region, including COVID-19, racial justice, police reform efforts, and the 2020 election. Long-form reporting explored alternative strategies to help address the opioid crisis, the science questioning the accuracy of eyewitness statements to police, and youth mental health challenges during the pandemic.

Nearly every week, we aired conversations with a Statehouse reporter about legislation under consideration on Beacon Hill in a Morning Edition segment called *Beacon Hill in 5*, which is also a podcast. *The Short List*, a weekly roundtable segment, in which a panel of journalists discusses the major regional news stories of the week, helped listeners explore key issues. The segment has now been expanded as part of *And Another Thing*.

NEPM is a founding member of the New England News Collaborative, a partnership among nine public media stations to coordinate radio and digital news coverage, share reporting, and advance best practices in all aspects of journalism. This partnership allows NEPM to broadcast more news relevant to our audience, and to share our content with other stations in the region. Partnerships with local newspapers, The Springfield Republican and Daily Hampshire Gazette, have allowed NEPM access to the papers' photo archives and encouraged their reporters to talk about their stories on the air.



And Another Thing

NEPM's *And Another Thing* is a daily news-drive public affairs radio program tapping into the regional tapestry of western New England. Influencers and newsmakers throughout New England are tapped for a fast-paced and journalistic exploration of issues impacting civic life in the region. Co-hosts and producers Dara Kennedy and Maya Shwayder bring international journalistic credentials to topical interviews covering health, economy, transportation, law enforcement, environment, education, social justice, and gender issues.

Music & Cultural Programming

Connecting Point

NEPM's long-running public affairs show, *Connecting Point*, changed its format from nightly to weekly in the fall of 2020, and shifted its content focus beginning in May 2021 towards arts and culture. Zydalis Bauer assumed hosting duties of the program in January 2021. Over 50 unique episodes were produced over the course of the year, featuring over 250 unique and diverse guests. The show features a mix of field pieces and studio conversations hosted by Ms. Bauer, and the show has a robust digital and social media presence expanding its reach beyond traditional broadcast. In June, *Connecting Point* Producer/Videographer/Editor Ross Lippman received a 2021 New England Emmy Award for his work. *Connecting Point* is available online at nepm.org/cp and on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. with hashtag #CPonNEPM).

Music

NEPM's flagship radio station, 88.5 FM features a wide range of music throughout the week, including opera, classical, jazz, world, and Latin music. At a time when many public radio stations across the country are switching to an all-news format, NEPM remains committed to being western New England's source for high-quality music programming. In addition to producing over 3,000 hours of local music programming each year, the station is actively engaged in promoting the region's vibrant music scene including broadcasting Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts from Tanglewood and Symphony Hall.

This past year, we also partnered with the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) to present new music inspired by Puerto Rico. In January, NEPM and MIFA hosted *El Puerto Rico: The Identity Duets*, a virtual event presenting seven new compositions by six Puerto Rican composers performed by the Victory Players, a sextet of some of the finest young musicians in the country. This was followed in September by *El Puerto Rico: The Rich Port* featuring an additional ten performances by the Victory Players presented in a series of videos produced in collaboration with MIFA and GBH Music.

Due to COVID-19, our music hosts participated in virtual events with local organizations and our communications team developed a new newsletter called *Culture to Do (From Your Couch)* to help people connect with virtual events in our community during the pandemic.

The NEPM News Network

News. Talk. Culture.

The seven-station NEPM News Network, heard throughout New England and in portions of New York State, offers 27/4 news and talk content to complement 88.5FM's mix of music and news. NEPM continued its partnerships with Amherst College and American International College which have had a major impact on the station's ability to serve our region with news and talk programming. The NEPR News Network can be heard on seven stations throughout the region including 91.9 FM in Hampden County, 89.3 FM in Hampshire County, 91.7 FM in Franklin County, 89.5 FM and 98.9 FM in Berkshire County, 88.5 FM HD-3 in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties, and on 640 AM as well as streaming on nepm.org and via your smart speaker.



As Schools Match Wits

As Schools Match Wits (ASMW) is an academic quiz show for high school students from schools across western New England. The program celebrated its historic 60th anniversary season in 2021. ASMW is produced by both NEPM and Westfield State University (WSU), which provided the production facilities and student production crew. As it is an actual broadcast television

production, ASMW is also a real-world learning environment for the television production students in WSU's Department of Communication. Broadcast weekly during the school year on NEPM-TV, questions for *As Schools Match Wits* are written in accordance with Massachusetts and Connecticut state high school curriculum guidelines. The shortened season was recorded under strict COVID-19 safety protocols including shielding and masking participants, host, and crew, and isolating in separate rooms. Thirteen episodes were broadcast featuring over 100 students and teachers from 20 regional schools.

Digital and Podcasts

In December 2021, New England Public Media made the move to Grove, a new CMS offered to NPR stations to support digital growth for local stations. NEPM staff is quickly adjusting to the upgrade, and continues to tweak its online presence with UI/UX in mind.

NEPM's collaboration with Merriam-Webster on *Word Matters*, a podcast about the history and meaning of words with Merriam-Webster lexicographers, continued to grow with over 1.1 million downloads since the podcast's launch in August 2020. In 2021, *Word Matters* also won a Shorty Award, which recognizes the best in digital and social media, for best podcast.

Awards

On April 6, 2021, senior reporter Karen Brown, was recognized by the Association of Healthcare Journalists for her four-part series, ["Help, not handcuffs,"](#) which explored how police officers and drug users are adapting to "post-overdose outreach," how the work of recovery coaches fits into the process, and how researchers and policy makers are struggling to judge its effectiveness. Brown was awarded second place in the "Public Health/Small Market" category.

On May 6, 2021, NEPM's newsroom won an Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association. The award for "excellence in sound" was

given in the "Small Market Radio" category in Region 10, which covers the New England states. The winning story, ["Officers Take A Knee To End Tense Protest In Northampton, Mass.,"](#) was produced by reporter Alden Bourne.

On June 24, 2021, NEPM won an award from the Public Media Journalists Association for a commentary produced by NEPM's Tema Silk. The winning entry, ["Searching for grace while black and blue,"](#) featured a reflection by Andréa Comer, a Black woman who is married to a Black police officer. NEPM took first place in the Commentary category for Division B — stations with 4-7 full-time staff in their news departments. This marks the fifth consecutive year where NEPM has won an award in this category.

On June 26, 2021, at the 44th New England Emmy Ceremony, NEPM's Ross Lippman won in the category of "Video Journalist No Time Limit" for a composite of some of his work on *Connecting Point* during the past year. Each year, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Boston/New England Chapter honors the best in the business with the Emmy Awards, the highest honor in the television industry. Lippman's composite included ["Springfield's Say Their Names Mural,"](#) ["Reckoning with Racial Justice in South Hadley,"](#) and ["Westfield Starfires Take the Field During Pandemic."](#)