IN ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL NEWS YEARS OF ALL TIME,
YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS KCUR STRONG WHEN IT’S NEEDED MOST

THE BEAT GOES ON
YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS KCUR GROWING AND PRODUCING
GREAT REPORTING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES.
I n a year when so much changed so quickly, one thing remained constant: KCUR’s commitment to Kansas City. Our journalists persisted through the ever-evolving pandemic, personal tragedy and an election year like no other to cover the most pressing issues facing our community. Classical KC provided avenues to explore the best of classical music from around the world and right here in Kansas City, even as concert halls and performance venues remained shuttered. KCUR launched entertaining and informative new shows and podcasts to inspire listeners and tell stories of our region that had never been told before.

The beat goes on...

Kansas City returned that love. From donating time, talent and resources, our supporters ensured that we could not only continue our work, but create:

- Award-winning journalism, including KCUR’s first-ever Pulitzer Prize, a national Edward R. Murrow award and multiple regional broadcasting awards
- A new internship fund honoring the life and work of Aviva Okeson-Haberman
- A dedicated FM classical music service (for the first time in more than 20 years in Kansas City)
- Funding for a new transmitter, with more than half a million dollars provided in less than one month
- Increased audiences across all of our platforms, making us the #9 public radio station in the country by audience share

As a listener-supported service, you’ve shown that YOU are the heart of our work — and we are honored to have earned your trust.

Sarah Morris
General Manager
Sarah Morris, General Manager

Sarah Morris was named permanent General Manager of KCUR and Classical KC in March 2021 following a national search. She served as interim manager of the station for 13 months, seeing it through the pandemic, social unrest, a turbulent elections cycle and the launch of the new Classical KC service. Prior to her appointment as general manager, Morris spent 16 years at UMKC serving as Asst. Vice Chancellor for marketing and communications. In that role she has also provided the university’s administrative oversight for KCUR.

KCUR and Classical KC have continued to grow this year in new and exciting ways. In 2021 we were proud to welcome the following staff on board to further our commitment to community reporting and classical music in Kansas City:

- Crysta Henthorne, Designer
- Stephen Koranda, News Editor, Kansas News Service
- Holly Edgell, Managing Editor, Midwest Newsroom
- C.J. Janovy, Director of Content-Journalism
- Nomin Ujiyediin, All Things Considered newscaster and host, Kansas City Today
- Byron Love, On-Demand Podcast Producer
- Blaise Mesa, Criminal Justice & Social Services Reporter, Kansas News Service
- Ary Guerrero, Major Gifts Officer, Classical KC
- Jodi Fortino, General Assignment Reporter
- Karen Campbell, Director of Institutional Giving & Communications
- Shelly Doucet, Director of Gift Giving
- Brook Knoll, Digital Audience Editor and On-Air Host, Classical KC
- Gabe Rosenberg, Audience Editor
- Zach Wilson, Associate Producer, Up To Date
- Karen Campbell, Director of Institutional Giving & Communications
- Shelly Doucet, Director of Gift Giving
- Jodi Fortino, General Assignment Reporter
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In a year filled with rapidly changing news, the reporters at KCUR worked quickly and collaboratively to create content that not only informed audiences but garnered attention locally, regionally, and nationally. KCUR's reporting was recognized for excellence across the newsroom, including a first-ever Pulitzer Prize.

Awards included more than a dozen for the Kansas News Service collaborative from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters and multiple honors from the Missouri Broadcasters Association. The national Murrow Award for Excellence in Writing went to KCUR for a story by the late Aviva Okeson-Haberman. Health reporter Alex Smith was recipient of the coveted Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism from the Association of Health Care Journalists for his reporting on COVID-19. And the first-ever Pulitzer for a KCUR reporter and for an NPR audio recording was awarded to Chris Haxel and other members of the production team of the No Compromise podcast.

These awards serve as a salute to the teamwork, collaboration, and partnerships of KCUR's newsroom, made possible by the generosity of our supporters in the community. Thank you!

As Kansas City’s public radio service, KCUR is acutely aware of issues related to systemic racism and disparities that make up the reality of the world in which we live. The staff and leadership of KCUR are committed to prioritizing our own organizational growth in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). While this work will remain an ongoing effort, this past year has provided opportunities for us to live our DEIB commitment in several ways:

• Formed staff task forces to address and make recommendations related to policies and culture.
• Became a lead partner in Public Media for All, a coalition of public media workers dedicated to advancing DEI efforts.
• Conducted Intercultural Development Inventory surveys and related training.
• Joined the Kansas City REEDI (Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Community of Practice, comprising more than 20 area organizations committed to serving as key drivers of change.
• Participated in multiple trainings led by NPR's DEI leaders.
• Implemented new source tracking methods and audience metrics.

We acknowledge the most difficult work is just beginning, and we continue to seek out ways to learn, grow, and provide Kansas City with content that reflects the diversity of our community. Thank you!

For more information about Public Media for All, please visit publicmediaforall.com.

Launched in the early days of the pandemic, 91.9 Classical KC has quickly become a vibrant platform for amplifying the work of and building audiences for Kansas City’s arts organizations. We are Kansas City’s only 24/7 classical music station, free and accessible for the community we serve. Classical KC provides a respite from the news and has served as a presenter of performances, even as concert halls remain shuttered.

We celebrated Classical KC’s birthday on July 21, 2021 with a full day of curated programming by Kansas City musical luminaries. The complete list is available at: kcur.org/cckturns1.

As we enter our second year, Classical KC’s staff and programming continue to grow. In addition to our existing offerings – The Kansas City Symphony on Classical KC featuring Symphony music director Michael Stern, our community showcase of the Kansas City Local Feature, and the world’s best recordings From the Archives with Frank Byrne – we recently launched a new contemporary classical music show, Sound Currents with hosts Sascha Groschang and Laurel Parks. To listen, tune to 91.9 FM, tell your smart speaker to “play 91-9 Classical KC” or listen on-demand at ClassicalKC.org.

We are humbled by and grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support, including our growing membership, advisory and artistic councils, underwriting partners and institutional supporters. We invite you to learn more about the station and our programming by visiting classicalkc.org.

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By Stephen Steigman, director

KCUR's Award-Winning Reporting

Made possible through listener support

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Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

KCUR continues efforts to better serve a diverse community

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Visual reporter Carlos Moreno shares some of the many photographs that illustrate a year in the life of our community and our world.

By Carlos Moreno, KCUR visual reporter

Let's get this out of the way: no one agrees on what makes a “great” photo.

Visually speaking, it’s easy sometimes to consider significant news events as required photographic highlights: Black Lives Matter protests, a pandemic, a deep freeze in February. Those offer immeasurable opportunities for strong, memorable images. But were they my “best” photos? There have been many more, subtle moments that resonate with me as a photographer.

Given that, here I’m going to whine a bit. At KCUR we almost always have to make landscape-formatted (horizontal) images because of our design platform. Also, most people nowadays view my photos on a phone. So, crafting complicated, nuanced compositions is often not on my menu.

I’ve selected pictures here that do reflect some of the larger news stories of the year, but also some images I like that may not immediately fall into our collective consciousness as “great.” Others are a bit more straightforward—and dare I utter it—they generally tell the story.

I favor the image of a police officer walking among the white crosses that symbolize all the shooting deaths in Kansas City. I sat for a long time looking at that empty patch of crosses. When the police officer walked through there after a press conference at that church, I knew I had my shot.

Fans reacting to the Chiefs losing the Super Bowl became a difficult assignment. I struggled to maneuver in a bar teeming with unmasked people. Emotions were mixed among a crowd that was either heavily invested in the outcome or not invested at all.

A homeless man carrying his luggage into a house given to him in the middle of winter also resonates with me. I feel the photo encapsulates the idea of moving on, optimism and the unknown.

A fun image that seemed to tickle a lot of people is a photo illustration I made showing a hand reaching out of a Halloween-decorated yard, gripping hand sanitizer.

Ultimately, a successful photo, for me, is not necessarily one that delivers all the textbook components of sharpness, composition, emotion or center of interest. Successful images are the ones that bring the reader into a story, support a writer’s premise and/or add another layer of understanding to an event or narrative.

1. A balloon glow at the World War I Memorial and Museum in May brought overwhelming crowds and prematurely—we now know—a celebration to life returning to normal.

2. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was made available to senior citizens and the immunocompromised in January.

3. A photo illustration demonstrated a light-hearted concept about how Halloween went down in October 2020.

4. KC Tenants blocked the doors to the Jackson County Courthouse and interrupted online eviction hearings in October.

5. In December, Kansas City police officer Dave Jackson walked among the 173 crosses staked in front of Wornall Road Baptist Church following a press conference announcing plans for the Longest Night remembrance of homicide victims in Kansas City.

6. The Kansas City Chiefs lost to Tampa Bay in the Super Bowl in February. Fans at Kelly’s Westport Inn packed the bar and suffered the defeat with not a whole lot of masking or social distancing.

7. A couple who had been living in a homeless encampment moved into a house in the Lykins neighborhood in December. The house was sparsely furnished but did still have a string of Christmas lights and other basics to start them off.

8. A man walking along Troost Avenue with his brother was not only covered up because of COVID-19 but was also encrusted with snow during one of the coldest days of the year.

9. In July, friends, family and first responders touched by the collapse 40 years ago of two elevated walkways inside the Hyatt Regency Hotel gathered around the sculpture, created by Rita Blitt, commemorating lives lost.

10. A September motorcade by supporters of Donald Trump drew a massive collection of vehicles that paraded from the World War I Memorial and Museum to the Plaza.
Aviva Okeson-Haberman: A friend and a legacy
KCUR reporter “brought magic to everything”

By Karen Campbell

The KCUR family was devastated when one of its own, reporter Aviva Okeson-Haberman, died after being struck by gunfire in April. A rising star in journalism, Okeson-Haberman was making a name for herself — first as an intern and then as the politics and government reporter at KCUR — and was transitioning to the Kansas News Service to become social services reporter with the statewide collaborative.

Her story made headlines across the region and nationwide, and KCUR received an overwhelming outpouring of support from her fans, friends, former colleagues and family. “We knew we needed to create something that would honor Aviva: not only Aviva the journalist but Aviva the friend,” says Sarah Morris, KCUR General Manager.

Following this supportive response, KCUR named its internship program in honor of Okeson-Haberman. KCUR’s internships are designed to prepare college students, recent graduates and other qualified candidates for careers in public media in general, and KCUR in particular. All KCUR interns are paid, and both full- and part-time internships are available throughout the year. Support for the program is made possible by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation’s matching grant, which is matched by gifts from KCUR members and donors.

“Every new intern that starts at KCUR will learn about Aviva: her drive, her tenacity, her creativity and her tremendous commitment to the truth,” says C.J. Janovy, Director of Content-Journalism. “Her personal story as well as her strong reporting will serve as a source of inspiration for aspiring journalists.”

Additionally, one paid internship will be coordinated in partnership with KBIA at the Missouri School of Journalism, where Aviva started reporting in college. A memorial fund, established with contributions made to KCUR and KBIA after her death, supports this position.

If you would like to support the Aviva Okeson-Haberman Internship Program or contribute to the memorial fund in her honor, please visit kcur.org/donate. To learn more about the internship program, visit kcur.org/internships-at-kcur-89-3-and-91-9-classical-kc. To learn more about Aviva and her reporting, visit kcur.org/people/aviva-okeson-haberman.

New KCUR Original Podcasts

Get Kansas City’s biggest news stories to go with Kansas City Today, our daily news podcast. Explore the headlines with our audio producers as your friendly guides.

Suzanne Hogan keeps Kansas City’s legacy alive on A People’s History of Kansas City with tales of the everyday heroes, renegades and visionaries who shaped the region.

Explore the stories behind Missouri’s iconic foods with Hungry for MO, hosted by KCUR’s Natasha Bailey and Jenny Vergara.

On Real Humans, KCUR’s Gina Kaufmann brings you profiles and personal essays about how we’re all adapting to a new and different world.
Support from our members makes possible all the work we do at KCUR and Classical KC. In fact, it is the single largest and most reliable source of funding, providing for equipment, staff, licensing, utilities and all the things necessary to run two 24/7 news and entertainment services. And member support is what allows our news team to remain independent.

If you are interested in becoming a sustaining member, visit kcur.org/monthly.

KCUR Financials

YEAR IN REVIEW

KCUR provides vital coverage of the stories that people all across the region depend upon. From breaking news to in-depth storytelling, the work of KCUR is made possible through the support of our community. More than 80% of our annual budget comes directly from our strong and dedicated local supporters.

KCUR’s members came through in a big way in 2021, providing a record $2.5 million in gifts. More than half of those gifts were made by sustaining (monthly) members, providing a solid and dependable source of funding for the news, information and entertainment we produce and broadcast every day. Together, our 14,000+ members power the work of our journalists to provide free, high-quality, fact-based content for all who listen, stream and download KCUR’s programming.

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Why I’m A KCUR member: Judy Hultquist

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Our sustaining members – those who donate automatically every month, year-over-year – are especially beneficial. Because we can reliably project what they’ll donate each month, it gives us an added sense of security, allowing us to take on bigger, long-term projects and staff, because we know we’ll be able to fund them for months or even years to come.

We asked KCUR member Judy Hultquist why she decided to sustain KCUR with a monthly gift over 25 years ago when we first offered that option. Her answer was simple, “My sustainer status helps to pay for the programs I love.”

“KCUR is my go-to source for local and national news that is not slanted towards any particular viewpoint. I hear all sides of controversial issues. Shows like ‘Wait, Wait… Don’t Tell Me’ make me laugh and the ‘Fish Fry’ can lead to dancing in my living room or outside on the deck.”

Thank you to Judy and the other 7,500+ KCUR sustaining members and 300+ Encore members! And however you support KCUR and Classical KC, thank you for allowing us to report the news you rely on and create the programs you love.

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Volunteers

Volunteers are vital to KCUR and Classical KC – assisting us with fundraising, event planning and execution, and other crucial tasks. Though we have not been able to bring all volunteers into our building since last spring, they continue to support our work – taking projects home with them, sharing our content and virtual events with their communities, and even making and donating masks for our essential staff.

We look forward to welcoming volunteers in person again soon. If you are interested in volunteering, visit kcur.org/get-involved or email volunteer@kcur.org.

Why we love our marketing partners

COMFORT PLUS SHOES

Comfort Plus Shoes, a locally owned footwear story in Leawood, Kansas, has been a KCUR marketing partner since 2018. Comfort Plus owner Matthew Gold says they highly value their marketing efforts with KCUR. “Our customers regularly thank us for advertising on KCUR,” he says. “Our customers are listeners, too!”

Interested in joining Comfort Plus Shoes and our other marketing partners? Underwriting on KCUR provides businesses and organizations an audience of loyal public radio listeners who appreciate KCUR’s mission. Visit kcur.org/partner-marketing-underwriting to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, June 10, 2022

RadioActive 2022
### Broadcast Schedule

#### Weekday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 a.m.</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Noon</td>
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<td>Here &amp; Now</td>
<td>Here &amp; Now</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>BBC Newshour</td>
<td>BBC Newshour</td>
<td>BBC Newshour</td>
<td>BBC Newshour</td>
<td>Science Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
<td>Marketplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
<td>Fresh Air</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Up To Date</td>
<td>Up To Date</td>
<td>Up To Date</td>
<td>Up To Date</td>
<td>Up To Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>The Pulse</td>
<td>This American Life</td>
<td>The Moth Radio Hour</td>
<td>Snap Judgment</td>
<td>Fish Fry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 p.m.</td>
<td>PRX Remix</td>
<td>PRX Remix</td>
<td>PRX Remix</td>
<td>PRX Remix</td>
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#### Weekend

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 a.m.</td>
<td>The Session with Hermon Mehari</td>
<td>Music Through the Night with Kevin O'Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 a.m.</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
<td>BBC World Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 a.m.</td>
<td>Weekend Edition Saturday</td>
<td>New Letters on the Air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
<td>Weekend Edition Saturday</td>
<td>Weekend Edition Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!</td>
<td>This American Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Freakonomics Radio</td>
<td>Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Snap Judgment</td>
<td>The Moth Radio Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Planet Money / How I Built This</td>
<td>TED Radio Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>RadioLab</td>
<td>The Splendid Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Code Switch / Life Kit</td>
<td>Fresh Air Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>It’s Been a Minute with Sam Sanders</td>
<td>All Things Considered</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Soulsations</td>
<td>Revealed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>The Session with Hermon Mehari</td>
<td>On the Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Fish Fry</td>
<td>Latino USA</td>
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### Additional Details
- Effective 10/2/2021
- Broadcast Schedule
- Text content includes various program names and times.

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<td>Music Through the Night with Kevin O'Connor</td>
<td>Overnight Classics with Andrea Blain</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 a.m.</td>
<td>Music in the Morning with Melissa Dundis</td>
<td>Music in the Morning with Jeff Eseworthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>From The Top</td>
<td>Middays with Melissa Dundis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>From the Archives with Frank Byrne</td>
<td>Middays with Jeff Eseworthy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>WFMT / Metropolitan Opera Series</td>
<td>Middays with Lynne Warfel</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Middays with Lynne Warfel</td>
<td>Classical Afternoons with Mindy Ratner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Classical Afternoons with Mindy Ratner</td>
<td>Classical Afternoons with Steven Stucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Performance Today</td>
<td>Performance Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City Local Feature</td>
<td>The Kansas City Symphony on Classical KC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City Local Feature</td>
<td>Extra Eclectic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Music with Scott Blankenship</td>
<td>Evening Music with Scott Blankenship</td>
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### Additional Details
- Effective 8/22/2021
- Broadcast Schedule
- Additional programs and times listed.
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For membership inquiries, email membership@kcur.org or call 816-235-2829.

In addition to KCUR’s beloved legacy music shows, we’re proud to share two new shows for your listening pleasure: The Session hosted by Hermon Mehari and Soulsations hosted by Carla Eckles.

Hermon Mehari is a world-renowned and respected jazz musician from the Kansas City area. Now, he brings his voice and record collection to the KC airwaves every weekend on The Session. This hour-long music show features jazz, hip hop, soul, R&B and beyond. Together, Hermon and the audience will explore the musical roots of the African diaspora. The Session is more than “new-jazz-adjacent”—it is a space that feels like you are Hermon’s friend, listening to a curated playlist of the music that influences and inspires him.

Also new to our airwaves is Soulsations, hosted by Carla Eckles. Each Saturday from 6 p.m.–7 p.m., you can hear the sounds of Motown’s golden era. Soulsations also invites you to jump into the best R&B and gospel ever made. Soulsations with Carla Eckles is produced in our neighbor to the west, Wichita, but finds itself squarely at home with the musical weekend offerings of KCUR.

Join Hermon and Carla every weekend for your chance to unwind from the news and discover new and old music you will love.

Announcing Two New Music Shows for You to Love

Shelly Freeman

Newsletter design by UMKC Strategic Marketing and Communications.

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