

WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT:
ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING FROM WBGO
For the Period: July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

TOPICS ADDRESSED

Arts and Culture

Business and Economy

Health Care

Crime

Education

Environment

Government and State Agencies

Politics

Technology

Race and Ethnicity

Arts and Culture

Violinist, educator and humanitarian Midori brings her passion-filled music to NJPAC

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-27/violinist-educator-and-humanitarian-brings-her-passion-filled-music-to-njpac>

Visionary artist, activist and educator **Midori** began her meteoric career as a violin prodigy. By age 12, she had left audiences around the globe standing and cheering. And *The New York Times* has declared "she is an artist of inspiring gifts."

WBGO's **Doug Doyle** spoke with Midori about her upcoming concert at **NJPAC** on November 5 at 3pm.

In the four decades since her debut with the New York Philharmonic at age 11, the magical violinist has performed with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras and has collaborated with world-renowned musicians like Leonard Bernstein and Yo-Yo Ma. Midori celebrated her 40th anniversary last season with Warner Classic's released of the complete Beethoven sonatas for piano and violin with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. She began the current season with a summer appearance at the Santander International Festival, followed by fall tours of Europe and North America with Festival Strings Lucerne.

Artists & musicians create unique live/work space in Paterson industrial building

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-07-01/artists-musicians-create-unique-live-work-space-in-paterson-industrial-building>

Last week we introduced you to the poet **Rashad Wright** who lives in a unique artist community in Paterson called **Prototype 237**. This week WBGO's **Jon Kalish** takes us to this unique live/workspace where art and music is made.

Singer and composer Allan Harris brings his musical *Cross That River* to NYC

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-11/singer-and-composer-allan-harris-brings-his-musical-cross-that-river-to-59e59-theaters>

Singer and composer **Allan Harris** brings his ***Cross That River*** musical to 59E59 Theaters in New York City through October 8. Harris and his wife Pat wrote the book which tells the tale of a runaway slave in the 1860's unsettled West. That territory and backdrop provide a new life and new dreams for "Blue" who escapes to Texas to become one of America's first Black cowboys.

Harris, who was a finalist in the most recent edition of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition spoke with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle about composing the music for *Cross that River* and playing the lead role.

Business and Economy

Officials break ground for the Mulberry Commons Pedestrian Bridge in Newark

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-23/officials-break-ground-for-the-mulberry-commons-pedestrian-bridge-in-newark>

Newark officials have broken ground on a pedestrian bridge that will provide a connection from Newark Penn Station to the central business district.

The **Mulberry Commons Pedestrian Bridge** will provide a direct connection from the Ironbound's shops and restaurants, to the Prudential Center. It's the

second phase of a long talked about project to connect two of Newark's most popular destinations.

Bassist Christian McBride is excited to perform at Montclair Jazz Festival

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-03/montclair-jazz-fests-artistic-director-and-8-time-grammy-award-winning-bassist-christian-mcbride-is-excited-to-perform-at-festivals-downtown-jamboree-on-september-9>

Christian McBride talks about how the Montclair Jazz Festival is helping small businesses in the downtown area while providing a community feel to mom and pop shops.

Artists & musicians create unique live/work space in Paterson industrial building

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-07-01/artists-musicians-create-unique-live-work-space-in-paterson-industrial-building>

WBGO's **Jon Kalish** takes us to this unique live/work space in Paterson where art and music is made in an industrial building.

Health Care

Singer Gloria Gaynor donates art collection to Newark hospital

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-02/two-time-grammy-award-winning-singer-and-newark-legend-gloria-gaynor->

[donates-substantial-art-collection-to-university-hospitals-pediatric-ward](#)

University Hospital, New Jersey's only public academic medical center and the principal teaching hospital for all Newark-based medical education has received a substantial art donation from two-time Grammy Award-winning singer and humanitarian **Gloria Gaynor**. The gifted collection will be displayed in the Pediatrics Department and support University Hospital's goal of creating a friendly, welcoming, and whimsical environment for young patients on their healing journeys.

More funding needed for those sick from 9-11

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-25/more-funding-needed-for-those-sick-from-9-11>

Officials in New York are calling for more money to help those sickened from 9-11 related illnesses.

It's estimated funding for the World Trade Center Health program will not be able to keep pace with the anticipated costs associated with those suffering from 9-11 related illnesses. Andrew Ansbro with the Uniformed Firefighters Association is urging Congress to add more money to the program. He says three thousand New York firefighters currently have 9-11 related sicknesses.

Updated COVID booster vaccine arriving in NY Soon

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-14/updated-covid-booster-vaccine-arriving-in-ny-soon>

The recently approved coronavirus booster shot is arriving in New York State on Friday.

Governor Kathy Hochul wants all New Yorkers to get it. It's for ages six months and up is designed to combat new circulating strains of coronavirus.

While the numbers are far better than earlier in the pandemic, Hochul says cases and hospitalizations have been on the rise in New York State.

"This is not the bad ol days at all. We don't anticipate getting there but shame on us if we don't see the warnings, take precautions, be ready and know this could spread very quickly."

Hochul sent a letter to nursing homes reminding staff to get its residents vaccinated.

Crime

N.J. Sen. Menendez doubles down, refuses to resign after bribery indictment

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-28/n-j-sen-menendez-doubles-down-refuses-to-resign-after-bribery-indictment>

New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez said he understands how concerning the charges are against him, but believes that he will be exonerated in court.

In his first press conference since last week's indictment, Menendez vowed Monday to fight the charges and evoked the American legal principle that all people are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

State sets more goals for Paterson police department

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-27/state-sets-more-goals-for-paterson-police-department>

The New Jersey attorney general's office is setting more goals for the Paterson, New Jersey police department following a state takeover six months ago because of numerous issues.

Attorney General Matt Plakin laid out a number of changes to come in the continued transformation of the Paterson Police department. He appointed Isa Abbassi who's been in charge for months now. Abbassi wants to rebuild the public trust in police.

Mayor Baraka leads Newark panel praising city for community role in crime fighting

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-20/baraka-leads-newark-panel-praising-city-for-community-role-in-crime-fighting>

Newark is in the midst of a decline, the kind you like to see — violent crime. Homicide rates hit a record low in 2022, down 15% from the previous year. Shootings were down 35% last year.

Mayor Ras Baraka took part in a discussion Sept. 18 about fighting crime with community involvement. Lenore Anderson, president of Alliance for Safety and Justice, was there. She said Baraka has been out front on this. “That resulted in things like the creation of the Newark Community Street Team, which does street outreach and conflict mediation, it resulted in things like creating a hospital-based violence interruption program, trauma recovery centers,” she said.

She said Baraka talked about how he has been affected by violent crime, with the killing of his sister in 2003.

Education

Commentator Mildred Antenor has concerns about the future of education in America

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-07-01/commentator-mildred-antenor-has-concerns-about-the-future-of-education-in-america>

This past semester it happened again. During a class session, I asked a student to read a paragraph from the textbook and as the student began to read, I turned around to write something on the board. I had just started to write a few seconds when this particular student began struggling with a word. I put the chalk down to help the student get through the paragraph. --- And it was a moment that made me wonder --- what is happening to the education of our kids? Not because of this one incident, but, because I've experienced this in the classroom on numerous occasions. And it seems that within the past 5 years, this is happening more and more frequently.

Scandinavia tradition of teaching folk arts takes root in Minnesota

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-08-31/scandinavia-tradition-of-teaching-folk-arts-takes-root-in-minnesota>

Scandinavia has a long tradition of folk arts such as weaving, basket-making, boat building and woodworking being taught in special schools to perpetuate the crafts. There are now more than 60 folk arts schools in North America. The mid-west, particularly Minnesota, is a hotbed for these schools.

WBGO's Jon Kalish visited the North House Folk School in Minnesota.

Next week Jon takes us to a week-long kids blacksmithing summer camp where the kids work on red-hot steel.

Scholarships based on race may fall victim to affirmative action decision, experts say

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-07-27/scholarships-based-on-race-may-fall-victim-to-affirmative-action-decision-experts-say>

Some fallout from the Supreme Court decision striking down affirmative action in college admissions. Scholarships that consider a student's race or ethnicity could end up the subject of court battles, said Kalyn Belsha, a reporter for Chalkbeat, a nonprofit news outlet that covers education.

"Some college systems have interpreted the Supreme Court's decision to mean that if they are awarding the scholarship themselves and it's coming through kind of their institutional aid, that they can't take into consideration the student's race when they're awarding that money," she said.

Environment

New Jersey remains "ground zero" for climate change in the Mid-Atlantic

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-07-13/new-jersey-remains-ground-zero-for-climate-change-in-the-mid-atlantic>

State officials have long called New Jersey "ground zero" for climate change in the Mid-Atlantic.

The summer of 2022 was the third warmest summer on record, with a drought warning from the Department of Environmental Protection that lasted four months. Dr. James Shope, the applied climatologist at the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers University, said it could be a "glimpse of the future."

New Jersey residents urged to prepare for more extreme weather emergencies

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-19/new-jersey-residents-urged-to-prepare-for-more-extreme-weather-emergencies>

To mark Emergency Preparedness Month, New Jersey officials are urging residents to be prepared for hurricanes and other extreme weather events that have become more frequent due to climate change.

State Police Superintendent Col. Pat Callahan, who is also director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, says storms are becoming more frequent and more intense.

Mayor releases plan to transform parts of Staten Island

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-14/mayor-releases-plan-to-transform-parts-of-staten-island>

There's a four hundred million dollar plan to transform parts of Staten Island

Construction will start this fall on a four year plan to create more waterfront access to the public. President of the city's Economic Development Corporation Andrew Kimball says What's called the Staten Island North Shore Action plan will rejuvenate the borough.

"Providing the backdrop to help spur enormous economic growth and development creating thousand of units of new housing at a time our city so desperately needs it."

Several key areas of Staten Island will get redeveloped. The plan includes thousands of new jobs and a new school.

Government and State Agencies

NJ's new Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way vows to honor Sheila Oliver's legacy

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-09/njs-new-lieutenant-governor-tahesha-way-vows-to-honor-sheila-olivers-legacy>

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy has appointed **Tahesha Way** as the second-in-command of the Garden State. Way, who is succeeding the [late Sheila Oliver](#), is the second Black woman to serve as lieutenant governor. She will be the third ever lieutenant governor of New Jersey. The swearing-in ceremony took place on Friday.

Increased New Jersey Child Tax Credit is expected to be a big help to parents in cities like Newark and Trenton

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-07-16/increased-new-jersey-child-tax-credit-is-expected-to-be-a-big-help-to-parents-in-cities-like-newark-and-trenton>

New Jersey Democratic Assemblywomen **Shanique Speight** and **Verlina Reynolds-Jackson** spent some time earlier this week visiting **Newark Day Center** on Hill Street to highlight the **increased Child Tax Credit** in the budget. That spending plan was recently passed by the state legislature. The Child Tax Credit is doubling from 500 dollars to one-thousand dollars. Assemblywoman Speight (29th District) says the increase is especially crucial

when it comes to helping low to moderate income families in cities like Newark.

Impact a government shutdown would have on New York

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-28/impact-a-government-shutdown-would-have-on-new-york>

What would a government shutdown mean for New York? Senator Kirsten Gillibrand says the New York state economy stands to lose millions of dollars a day if the government shuts down and it will be very disruptive in a lot of ways.

"If these federal workers aren't working, well all the places they go for lunch and for dinner and for dropping off for dry cleaning and bringing their kids to daycare, all of that becomes at risk."

The feds recently approved money to help with the migrant crisis. Gillibrand says that would be delayed and so would federal disaster relief funds to areas hard hit this past year with flooding. There are 700 thousand federal employees along with tens of thousands of service members. Gillibrand says they would be furloughed or work without pay.

Politics

WATCH HERE for the next edition of Newark Today on September 21 at 8pm

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-21/watch-here-for-the-next-edition-of-newark-today-on-september-21-at-8pm>

The next **Newark Today** streams here on wbgo.org at 8pm on September 21.

Host **Michael Hill** will be talking about the Greater Newark Conservancy and its Hawthorne Avenue farm. The farm provides environmental and food sustainability to Newark's residents.

LISTEN HERE for the next edition of Ask Governor Murphy on September 13 at 7pm

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-09-13/listen-here-for-the-next-edition-of-ask-governor-murphy-on-september-13-at-7pm>

The next edition of **Ask Governor Murphy** is Wednesday, September 13 at 7pm on wbgo.org. Host **Nancy Solomon** and **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy** will be talking your phone calls and social media questions. Some of the topics to be discussed are reactions to the latest report about NJ's nursing homes and the appointment of new Lt. Governor Tahesha Way. and whether

Ask Governor Murphy, a co-production of **WBGO, WNYC and WHYY**.

Governor Hochul and state lawmakers get low approval rating marks

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-08-28/hochul-and-state-lawmakers-get-low-approval-rating-marks>

Poll numbers for Governor Kathy Hochul and New York state lawmakers are not looking good.

A Unite NY Voter Empowerment Index poll shows that 40 percent of respondents are thinking about moving out of New York. Pollster Tim Dunn says they are not happy with a lack of action on reforms in Albany.

Technology

Muckraking web site Shtetl covers ultra-Orthodox Jewish Communities in Brooklyn and Rockland County

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-08-22/muckraking-web-site-shtetl-covers-ultra-orthodox-jewish-communities-in-brooklyn-and-rockland-county>

Getting unfettered news about close-knit religious communities can be challenging, especially when journalists aren't part of the community. When it comes to **ultra-Orthodox Jews**, mainstream Jewish news organizations and secular news media do provide coverage but the ultra-Orthodox media outlets often ignore contentious issues.

WBGO's **Jon Kalish** reports a new website focusing on that religious community is now offering often critical news with an insider's perspective.

NYC mayor learns about technology in trip to Israel

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-08-22/nyc-mayor-learns-about-technology-in-trip-to-israel>

New York City Mayor Eric Adams is in Israel this week learning about technology and meeting with leaders.

Mayor Adams was impressed with food related technology including tasting honey made without bees.

"We were also able to see lab meat in other form, laboratory meat and other forms of meat by products that's made out of natural products with zero fat.

Meanwhile, the mayor sat down with large Israeli tech companies to learn from them about what the city needs to do to expand Israeli tech startups. The

mayor sat with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and heads of a protest movement.

Governor Hochul sends drones to NY beaches to monitor for sharks

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2023-07-18/hochul-sends-drones-to-ny-beaches-to-monitor-for-sharks>

New York State is using more drones to watch for sharks along beaches with it being a very active summer for shark activity.

Governor Kathy Hochul is sending 60 new shark monitoring drones to Nassau, Suffolk, New York City and Westchester beaches following a handful of attacks off New York waters this summer. Erik Kulleseid is the state's Commissioner of Parks and Recreation.

Race and Ethnicity

Pianist Matthew Whitaker is musical director of 'Billy Strayhorn: Something To Live For'

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-22/pianist-matthew-whitaker-musical-director-of-billy-strayhorn-something-to-live-for>

The world premiere of ***Billy Strayhorn: Something To Live For***, based on the life and music of legendary jazz musician and songwriter, opens the 2023-2024 season at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. The musical runs through October 11.

The production is directed by Kent Gash. A passion project of Rob Zellers, written with Gash, the musical explores Strayhorn's struggles as a Black, queer man in Middle America, as well as his artistic triumphs with Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday. The musical features a live jazz band under the direction of pianist Matthew Whitaker.

Violinist Itzhak Perlman to wow NJPAC October 8 and addresses antisemitism

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-09-12/violinist-itzhak-perlman-to-wow-njpac-october-8>

16-time Grammy Award-winning violinist, composer and educator **Itzhak Perlman** is excited about his upcoming performance at **NJPAC**.

Perlman recently spoke with WBGO News Director **Doug Doyle** about his October 8th "An Afternoon with Itzhak Perlman" concert which intertwines narrative, multi-media elements and music.

Youth suicide rates are up in communities of color

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2023-07-31/youth-suicide-rates-are-up-in-communities-of-color>

Suicide rates are up ... especially among young people and in communities of color ... as are other tragedies experts call deaths of despair.

A report from the nonprofit Trust for America's Health finds that between 2010 and 2021 the youth suicide rate soared enough to make suicide the main cause of increased mortality in this age group.

Brandon Reavis is one of the authors of the report:

"The youth suicide rate for Americans age 10-17 increased by more than 70 percent over the last 10 years."

Reavis says the report shows that American Indian ... Alaska Native ... and LGBTQ youth are most at risk for poor mental health and suicidal behaviors ... as well as communities of color.