

# WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT: ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING

For the Period: October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

## 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

**The New York Choral Society presents Duke Ellington's "Sacred Concerts" on November 18 and 19 at The New School of Performing Arts**

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-11-16/the-new-york-choral-society-presents-duke-ellingtons-sacred-concerts-on-november-18-and-19-at-the-new-school-of-performing-arts>

Duke Ellington's ***Sacred Concerts*** will return to the stage in NYC for the first time in 35 years on **November 18 and 19** at the Tishman Auditorium at The **New School College of Performing Arts**. The November 19 show presented by the **New York Choral Society** and its partners will also be live-streamed.

While it is said to be Ellington's favorite and most meaningful work, it is not performed often due to its magnitude-- the evening will combine elements of jazz, classical music, choral music, spiritual, gospel, blues, visual art, and dance!

**David Hayes**, Music Director of the New York Choral Society, spoke with host Doug Doyle about the ambitious program.

## A deep and fun discussion about Two River Theater's upcoming production of "Wine in the Wilderness"

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-10-10/a-deep-and-fun-discussion-with-director-brandon-j-dirden-and-actress-crystal-a-dickinson-about-two-river-theaters-upcoming-production-of-wine-in-the-wilderness>

*Wine in the Wilderness*, written by Drama Desk Award winner **Alice Childress** and directed by Obie Award winner **Brandon J. Dirden** (director of August Wilson's *Radio Golf* and *King Hedley II*) launches **Two River Theater's** 2022/2023 Season on October 15 and runs through November 6th.

Dirden and his wife **Crystal A. Dickinson** who portrays "Tommy" in the play joined **WBGO** News Director **Doug Doyle** for a panel discussion before a live audience at Two River Theater in Red Bank, NJ to talk about the seldom-produced masterpiece.

## Newark-based Trilogy: an Opera Company presents the world premiere of "Fannie Lou, I'm Sick and Tired" at NJPAC on December 11

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-12-07/newark-based-trilogy-an-opera-company-presents-the-world-premiere-of-fannie-lou-im-sick-and-tired-at-njpac-on-december-11>

Newark-based **Trilogy: an Opera Company** spotlights Black people in their original operas, presents the World Premiere of ***Fannie Lou, I'm Sick and Tired*** at **NJPAC** in Newark on December 11 at 4pm. The opera explores the life of **Fannie Lou Hamer**, a southern sharecropper turned civil rights leader who was beaten and jailed for her impassioned fight for the right to vote.

This piece was composed by **Richard Thompson** with libretto by **Cassandra Medley**, produced by Trilogy founder and opera star **Kevin Maynor**, directed by **Bianca Laverne Jones** and will be conducted by **Leslie B. Dunner**.

Maynor, the Executive and Artistic Director of Trilogy, spoke with **WBGO News Director Doug Doyle** about why he wanted to tell the story of the civil rights activist and community organizer.

## **Business and Economy**

### **Meet Two River Theater's new Artistic Director Justin Waldman**

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-11-29/meet-two-river-theaters-new-artistic-director-justin-waldman>

As a theatrical producer and director who has brought more than 250 productions to life during his 20-year career, **Justin Waldman** is excited his new position as Artistic Director at **Two River Theater** in Red Bank. Waldman returns to the East Coast from San Diego after an eleven-year career at the **Old Globe Theatre**.

Waldman recently spoke with WBGO News Director **Doug Doyle** about his plans for Two River Theater. The **Tufts University** graduate says his love of theater began at an early age.

### **Tiffany "The Budgetnista" Aliche's documentary "Get Smart With Money" is now on Netflix**

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-10-01/tiffany-the-budgetnista-aliches-documentary-get-smart-with-money-is-now-on-netflix>

On March 30, 2021, **Tiffany Aliche** released *Get Good With Money*. In the New York Times Bestseller, **The Budgetnista** shares a ten-step plan for finding peace, safety, and harmony with your money. Fast forward to September 6th, 2022, Aliche is back to show you in real time how it looks to put her teachings into action in the Netflix documentary, *Get Smart With Money*. The film showcases Tiffany and 3 other financial experts spending 12 months mentoring clients to improve their financial situations. After attending the screening of the documentary, I caught up with America's favorite financial

educator and she shared her experience of where she started to where she's standing now.

## **Minimum wage workers in New Jersey to get a \$1 raise Sunday**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-30/minimum-wage-workers-in-new-jersey-to-get-a-1-raise-sunday>

New year, new minimum wage in New Jersey.

Most hourly workers in the Garden State making minimum wage will get a one dollar raise, [setting the rate to \\$14](#) an hour. That translates to an increase of 8% that Dr. Michael Hayes, assistant public policy professor at Rutgers University-Camden, said is consistent with the inflation rate that we've seen over the past year.

## **Health Care**

### **Newark's Homeless Get a Holiday Surprise from Local Medical Supplier**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-29/newarks-homeless-get-a-holiday-surprise-from-local-medical-supplier>

It was a better Christmas than it might otherwise have been for hundreds of homeless people in Newark.

AvaCare Medical of Lakewood delivered some holiday cheer to the homeless, handing out 500 packages of personal care items at the St. James Social Service building. Here's AvaCare's Jay Stein.

## **Spread the word: Trenton is now down to 1 hospital**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-21/spread-the-word-trenton-is-now-down-to-1-hospital>

St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton, N.J. is now under the auspices of Capital Health. As of 12:01 Wednesday morning, the merger between the regional health provider and the 150-year-old hospital became official.

Also, St. Francis Hospital is no more — It's now a standalone emergency department with several outpatient services under a new name, Capital Health — East Trenton.

The hospital's closure means more work for the Trenton Health Team, according to executive director Greg Paulson, who said informing the community on where to seek medical services will continue well beyond the overnight transition.

## **Return to In-Person Learning Has Caused Mental Health Problems for NJ Students, Counselors Say**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-11/return-to-in-person-learning-has-caused-mental-health-problems-for-nj-students-counselors-say>

The return to in-person schooling has been rocky for many students in New Jersey.

Chalkbeat reporter Catherine Carrera sat in on a virtual panel of school counselors run by the Latino Mental Health Association of New Jersey.

"They're seeing a lot of students come in with anxiety, depression and just recovering from some traumatic experiences that they had during the pandemic, whether that was loss of family members," she said.

## Crime

### **Death of missing Princeton University student ruled suicide**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-29/death-of-missing-princeton-university-student-ruled-suicide>

The death of a Princeton University student, whose body was found on campus this past fall, has been ruled a suicide.

Misrach Ewunetie, 20, was found near the tennis courts by a university employee on Oct. 20. She had been reported missing nearly a week prior.

The Middlesex Regional Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy. It ruled the death a suicide caused by "Bupropion, Escitalopram and Hydroxyzine Toxicity."

### **Adams Highlights NYC Crime Stats In First Year In Office**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-21/adams-highlights-nyc-crime-stats-in-first-year-in-office>

New York City Mayor Eric Adams is highlighting some crime stats in his first year in office while also looking ahead to next year.

Major felony crimes are up nearly 25 percent on the year through November but Mayor Eric Adams points to a 17 percent drop in shootings, 12 percent decline in homicides and gun arrests at a 27 year high as accomplishments during his first year in office.

### **MTA Official Briefs Council Members On Subway Safety**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-12/mta-official-briefs-council-members-on-subway-safety>

MTA officials are briefing city council members on plans to keep the subway system safer. There was a hearing on the matter today.

At a council hearing on subway safety, New York City Transit President Richard Davey testified they are talking with judges about implementing more transit system bans for certain subway crimes and they want the law allowing the bans to be expanded.

## Education

### College students of color express anger over controversial historical murals

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-10-30/college-students-of-color-express-anger-over-controversial-historical-murals>

**Students of color** at several educational institutions have objected to **historical murals** and have called for their removal or destruction. A court case involving a high school ended recently but litigation over murals at a university and a law school is pending. WBGO's **Jon Kalish** has the story.

### Newark Charter School Seeks to Give Back to Its City With Gift Cards

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-23/newark-charter-school-seeks-to-give-back-to-newark-with-gift-cards>

In New York, Governor Hochul is urging everyone to shop local for Small Business Saturday on Nov. 26, and in Newark, a charter school is trying to help Newark businesses. Last year it started giving its teachers gift cards for the holidays that can only be used at businesses in Newark. Jared Taillefer is the head of Great Oaks Legacy Charter School.

“It’s like a bit of an anticipation for this each school year, like what are they gonna come up with,” he said, “and I think teachers have always been happy with the things that we got them to show appreciation even if they are some smaller things like candles and bath salts, like I named, those things go a long way for teachers.”



## **New School Enrollment System Coming to Newark**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-10/new-school-enrollment-system-coming-to-newark>

A new system for school enrollment is coming to Newark.

It's called the Newark Common App and it goes live December 1.

The app was developed by the New Jersey Children's Foundation and the technology firm Avela. Kyle Rosenkrans, the founder of the New Jersey Children's Foundation, explained why a new system was needed.

## **Environment**

### **NJ Fiber Farmer and Artist Creates Blanket with Locally Sourced Wool to Support Area Farms**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-30/nj-fiber-farmer-and-artist-creates-blanket-with-locally-sourced-wool-to-support-area-farms>

New Jersey is known for some farm products such as corn and tomatoes — but wool? There are quite a few farms here and in eastern Pennsylvania that raise sheep and produce wool fibers.

Anne Choi is a New Jersey-based fiber artist, who started NJ Fibershed, which is trying to bring together the fiber farms here.

NJ Fibershed provides a way for small-scale New Jersey-based fiber producers to sell their fiber. Choi said one of the things they did this year was produce a blanket.

## **Senator Calls For Funding For 9-11 Health Program To Fill Shortfall**

**<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-30/senator-calls-for-funding-for-9-11-health-program-to-fill-shortfall>**

New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is pushing her colleagues in Congress to pass a bill to address a funding shortage for a 9-11 program.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand says the World Trade Center Health Program is not going to be able to keep pace with anticipated costs for the more than 120-thousand people it serves.

**Camden County nearly doubles the capacity of its EV charging network**

**<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-22/camden-county-nearly-doubles-the-capacity-of-its-ev-charging-network>**

When Camden County installed infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations in 2013, [more than 97,000 electric vehicles were sold in the U.S. that year](#), according to Argonne National Laboratory.

Those stations have not been upgraded since, until recently.

County officials unveiled upgraded charging stations for electric vehicles, or EVs, Tuesday at Camden County College in Cherry Hill. The stations now have two charging nozzles, as opposed to one. The county also built ten new charging stations, expanding the total to 21.

**Government and State Agencies**

**First Recreational Marijuana Dispensary Opens In NY State**

**<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-28/first-recreational-marijuana-dispensary-opens-in-ny-state>**

The first legal recreational marijuana dispensary is opening in New York today.

Housing Works will sell marijuana at their place on Broadway in Astor Place. CEO Charles King says they are employing people who have been previously criminalized for marijuana.

"Not only do we want to train them to work at Housing Works cannabis but we also want to give them advance training in management so they can move up in the industry."

King says money made from weed sales will go to fight the non profit's causes, homelessness and HIV/AIDS. The state is expected to announce more legal dispensaries soon.

## **N.J. is closer to allowing public cannabis consumption areas, as local startups hope for bigger opportunities**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-14/n-j-is-closer-to-allowing-public-cannabis-consumption-areas-as-local-startups-hope-for-bigger-opportunities>

New Jersey is close to establishing regulations that would allow cannabis retailers and medical cannabis facilities to create public consumption areas.

The state's Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) unanimously approved rules related to [public consumption areas](#) at a public meeting this month.

The commission said the proposed rules "provide the legal requirements for cannabis consumption areas, a fee structure for applications, and details" for how consumption facilities should be operated. A representative for the CRC said the entity will publish details about the proposal to the [New Jersey Register](#) — a free public access site — on Thursday.

## **N.J. appoints first openly transgender Cabinet member**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-06/n-j-appoints-first-openly-transgender-cabinet-member>

Allison Chris Myers will become the first openly transgender person in state history to serve as a Cabinet member in New Jersey.

This week, Gov. Phil Murphy announced Myers' appointment as Chair of the Civil Services Commission, effective January 1. Myers, a Cumberland County

resident, has worked for the Commission since 2001 and is a U.S. Navy veteran.

The Commission oversees appeals filed by state, county, and municipal civil service employees, candidates for employment, and appointing authorities, according to its [website](#).

## Politics

### Former Trenton mayor endorses longtime Assemblyman for Mercer County Executive

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-12-13/former-trenton-mayor-endorses-longtime-assemblyman-for-mercercounty-executive>

Something “just galled” former Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer when he learned that Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes would [announce that he would run for a sixth term](#).

“I’m like is there no one that is going to stand up?” he asked.

So Palmer began to [explore a run to challenge Hughes](#). That was barely a month ago; 31 days by Palmer’s count.

As he was gauging a bid, he heard from Asm. Dan Benson, who was planning to forgo his seat in the New Jersey Legislature to challenge Hughes. Several conversations later, Palmer decided to throw his support behind Benson.

### The November 30 edition of "Ask Governor Murphy" is now available

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-30/watch-here-for-the-next-edition-of-ask-governor-murphy-on-wednesday-november-30-at-7pm>

The latest edition of **Ask Governor Murphy** was on November 30 on wbgo.org. WBGO News Director **Doug Doyle** filled in for **Nancy Solomon** as host and **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy** joined the show remotely to discuss the hot topics in the Garden State including this week's

announcement that an outside review of the state's response to the pandemic is set to begin. The Governor also addressed what is the latest steps to improve the situation at Veterans homes in New Jersey.

*Ask Governor Murphy* is a **WBGO news production** in collaboration with **WNYC** and **WHYY**.

## **WATCH HERE for the next edition of "Newark Today" November 17 at 8pm**

<https://www.wbgo.org/newark-today/2022-11-16/watch-here-for-the-next-edition-of-newark-today-november-17-at-8pm>

On the November 17 edition of **Newark Today**, host **Michael Hill** chats in studio with **Newark City Councilman Patrick Council** and **Marcus Randolph**, President of **Invest Newark**. They'll be discussing a new city ordinance to reduce the impact abandoned properties are having on Newark. The guests will share their immediate and long term plans to address the issue.

During the second half, **Khabirah Myers**, Coordinator of **The Newark Office of Tenant Legal Services** and **Allison Ladd**, Deputy Mayor of **Economic and Housing Development**, join the program to promote a series of public workshops in Newark to help tenants facing eviction issues.

## **Technology**

### **NJ Officials Unveil New Terminal A At Newark Airport**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-15/nj-officials-unveil-new-terminal-a-at-newark-airport>

Officials are unveiling a new Terminal A at Newark Airport. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony today for the terminal.

Terminal A is about one fifth larger than the terminal its replacing and features four lanes for curbside drop offs and pickups and 33 gates. It also has newer

technology touchless boarding and features work from local artists. Newark Mayor Raz Baraka says the terminal reflects the makeup of Newark and Elizabeth.

## **NYC Gets Grant For Electric School Buses**

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2022-11-01/nyc-gets-grant-for-electric-school-buses>

New York City is getting a federal grant for new clean school buses.

Bus companies that service the city are being awarded 18 million dollars from an EPA school bus grant program. It will be used to purchase 51 new all electric school buses to replace diesel ones. Walter Mugdan is with EPA and says this will mean cleaner air for students, bus drivers and school staff.

## **Camden County nearly doubles the capacity of its EV charging network**

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## Race and Ethnicity

### Trailblazing actress and singer Melba Moore prepares for the Hollywood Walk of Fame and talks about her new album "Imagine"

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-12-17/trailblazing-actress-and-singer-melba-moore-prepares-for-the-hollywood-walk-of-fame-and-talks-about-her-amazing-career-arts-high-school-and-her-new-album-imagine>

Finding out she's getting a star of the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2023 hasn't stopped Tony Award winner and trailblazing singer, actress, television host and Newark Arts High School graduate **Melba Moore** from continuing her more than five-decade entertainment career. Motivated by her daughter Charli, the marvelous Melba Moore is out with a new album "**Imagine**", with the title track already being named Soultracks' Song of the Year.

During an exclusive **WBGO Journal** interview, the multi-Grammy nominated told host **Doug Doyle** that she realizes it's a new kind of sound for her but one that speaks to her heart.

### Simone Gordon's The Black Fairy Godmother Foundation holds its third annual Purple Diamond Awards November 5

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2022-11-05/simone-gordons-the-black-fairy-godmother-foundation-holds-its-third-annual-purple-diamond-awards-on-november-5>

The New Jersey-based [Black Fairy Godmother Foundation](#)'s Third Annual Purple Diamond Awards is tonight (November 5) at 6pm at the **Newark Museum of Art**.

**Simone Gordon** is the founder and CEO of The Black Fairy Godmother Foundation, a non-profit organization that's committed to helping those make it through the tough times and find new success.

Gordon spoke with **WBGO Journal** and News Director **Doug Doyle** about her amazing story of success and her foundation that has reached families worldwide.

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This piece was composed by **Richard Thompson** with libretto by **Cassandra Medley**, produced by Trilogy founder and opera star **Kevin Maynor**, directed by **Bianca Laverne Jones** and will be conducted by **Leslie B. Dunner**.

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