Awards and Accolades

National Edward R. Murrow Awards
- Podcast: WNYC Studios and OSMAudio, Dolly Parton's America
- Feature Reporting: Shamari Ridley, Radio Rookies, Trying to Graduate From High School at 21

Washington Post: The Fix's 2020 List of Outstanding Politics Reporters to Follow in Every State
- Karen Yi and Brigid Bergin

Front Page Award
- Local Reporting Feature, Clarisa Diaz, The Push To Turn NYC's Polluting Peaker Plants Into Publicly-Owned Solar Power

City & State: The 2020 Women's Power 100
- For the second year in a row, Goli Sheikholeslami was included in the Women's Power 100, a list of the most influential and "truly exceptional" women who are "shaping the direction of the state."

New York Press Club Awards
- Podcast: Ilya Marritz, Andrea Bernstein, and ProPublica, Trump, Inc.
- Political Coverage: Jose Olivares with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, The Intercept, NBC News, Univision, WNYC, and Latin American media partners, Solitary Voices
- Documentary: Sara Fishko, Olivia Briley, Ed Haber, and Karen Frillmann, Shell Shock 1919: How the Great War Changed Culture
- Entertainment News: Sara Fishko, Olivia Briley, Wayne Shulmister, and Karen Frillmann, Oscar and Nat
- Heart of New York Award: Sara Fishko, Olivia Briley, Wayne Shulmister, and Karen Frillmann, Wright and the Guggenheim

Cultural Partnerships

- Shakespeare in the Park is one of New York City's most beloved traditions, but asthe pandemic progressed, our theaters had to close their doors. To keep this brilliant work free and accessible, WNYC partnered with the Public Theater to present Richard II as a four-part radio play. Masterful performances from André Holland (Moonlight, Selma), Lupita Nyong'o (Black Panther, 12 Years a Slave), Phylicia Rashad (For Colored Girls, Creed), and others, resulted in a 62% increase in WNYC listenership. New York theater critic Vinson Cunningham hosted the production, contextualizing it within the Black Lives Matter movement, to which the performance is dedicated.

- WQXR was proud to partner with the Lincoln Center to reimagine the Mostly Mozart Festival for the airwaves, preserving this cultural mainstay when audiences could not gather in person. From August 10-16, 2020, The Mostly Mozart Festival on WQXR celebrated the great composer's legacy and featured conversations on some of the most urgent social issues of our time. Online listenership was up by 37% the week of the festival, coverage was featured in the New York Times and on NY1, and over 20,000 people tuned in for our pop-up concerts in each of the five boroughs.

- In partnership with the New York Public Library (NYPL), Get Lit with All of It is a monthly on-air, social media, and live stream book club, hosted by Alison Stewart. Authors have included Laura Lippman, Colson Whitehead, Emily St. John, James McBride, Brit Bennett, Emma Straub, and many more. Discussions have focused on New York-centered stories and marginalized voices. And since the pandemic, The Jerome L. Greene Space partnered with NYPL so that participants can access each month's book for free using the NYPL app.
Newsroom Reporting

2020 Elections Reporting

- WNYC launched a series of live national call-in programs, *America, Are We Ready?*, airing on key nights throughout the 2020 Election season. Hosted by Brian Lehrer, with guests from national and local news outlets, these programs convened broad, good-faith conversations to bring voters together across political and cultural lines. The inaugural program, on the eve of the Iowa caucuses, was *featured on 79 radio stations* across the country, *reaching more than 3 million people on terrestrial radio alone.*

- WNYC-Gothamist provided critical information and *investigated our city's voting systems'* in a series led by politics reporter Brigid Bergin. The series included a critical explainer on the *various ways to vote in the presidential election*, as well as a story about the *state's surge in absentee ballots*.

- Bergin also broke the story about the *NYC Board of Elections sending out nearly 100,000 incorrect ballots to voters in Brooklyn and Queens*. NYS Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte *tweeted the article*, demanding action from the New York City Board of Elections.

- Gothamist reported on the *NYPD's violent arrests* after the presidential election in Manhattan. New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson *called the videos shared by one of our reporters "incredibly disturbing."*

- After the NYC Board of Elections released the total NYC voting statistics, Gothamist created an *interactive map* allowing readers to view how their neighborhoods voted.

- As part of a *special election series*, The Takeaway did a deep dive exploring a variety of *issues affecting Latinos in the U.S.*, and what both the Trump and Biden campaigns were doing to engage and persuade voters.

Reckoning with Race, Justice, and Inequality in NYC and Nationwide

- We’re thrilled to announce that Jami Floyd has transitioned from the WNYC host of All Things Considered to *Senior Editor of WNYC’s new Race & Justice Unit*. Throughout her 25-year broadcast career, Jami has trained her eye on race and justice issues, and her work has remained at the nexus of law and journalism.

- WNYC-Gothamist reporter George Joseph *exposed police corruption in Mount Vernon, including racism, alleged beatings in custody, and illegal strip searches*. Hours after the publication, Mount Vernon Police Commissioner Shawn Harris placed Sergeant Michael Kushnir on restricted duty status, according to a personnel order leaked to WNYC-Gothamist. Additionally, The Mount Vernon Police Department *has put a controversial detective, Camilo Antonini, on desk duty*, following WNYC- Gothamist's publication of a video showing him conducting a strip search in an apartment in apparent violation of department rules.

- Gothamist reported the story of Jillian Williams, *a pregnant MTA worker who suffered a miscarriage after not being given appropriate accommodations*. She, along with three other women, are suing the agency for violating a 2014 New York City Human Rights Law meant to protect women from "pregnancy discrimination."
COVID-19 Reporting: Civic Information and Accountability

- **Gothamist**, in collaboration with **Chalkbeat**, has been reporting on how New York educators teach and New York students learn during the pandemic. This coverage has included regular updates on school closures, conversations with students about remote learning, and surveys on reactions to re-opening plans.

- With recent fears of a second wave of COVID-19, **Gothamist** reported on pandemic parties, which ignored COVID-19 health guidelines, as well as the uptick in uprisings against public safety measures in hot zones, including communities in Borough Park. **Governor Andrew Cuomo repeatedly cited Gothamist’s reporting about yeshivas** operating in violation of his orders during an October 14th news conference.

- “**Counted,**” a special series from **The Takeaway about the 2020 Census**, has reported on community leaders who are reaching out to those who have been traditionally undercounted. Additionally, they reported on how COVID-19 could affect the Census count.

- **The Brian Lehrer Show** continued its partnership with Clear Health Costs called **Price Check NYC**, to create a crowd-sourced database for 30-35 specific procedures and hopefully help create transparency in health cost pricing in the tri-state area.
Building upon our successful Active Listening Challenge, we created WQXR Bingo! Listeners were able to download a card from our website and mark it each time they heard something described in one of the squares. Sounds ranged from Mozart, to a piano, to a piece that’s fast. Upon completing the Bingo card, parents were able to submit a photo in exchange for an exciting prize: a set of WQXR stickers.

Earlier this year, WQXR and Paris-based video production company, La Blogothèque, partnered to create unique and intimate music videos for classical music. The result is a mini-series of four videos shot during pre-pandemic days, without masks, and close-up. Artists include violinist Nicola Benedetti, composer Tariq Al-Sabir, and the American Modern Opera Company.

Gustav Mahler's birthday was Tuesday, July 7, and WQXR celebrated with a special one-hour show about the very first of Mahler's extraordinary symphonies, Embrace Everything: Mahler's First Symphony, explored the sources and inspirations for that work, with leading conductors, orchestral musicians, and scholars. Listeners heard Mahler’s own words and took a deep dive into his powerful, timeless music.

WQXR's Elliott Forrest hosted Lang Lang’s Goldberg Variations, an hour-long exploration of Lang Lang's 28-year relationship with one of Bach's most celebrated works. Featuring anecdotes about Lang Lang’s transformative conversations with musicians like Christoph Eschenbach and Nikolaus Harnoncourt, as well as his transcendent experience of playing on Bach's own Baroque organ in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, the radio program is richly scored with music from Lang Lang's album.

WQXR and WRTI, Philadelphia's classical music and jazz station, partnered to present This Week with Yannick, an eight-week radio series hosted by acclaimed conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Topics included music that celebrates spirituality; the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; and a rich program of music from cultures around the world.

The Black Experience In The Concert Hall, The Mozart Effect: WQXR's Terrance McKnight hosted a live call-in show focused on the unique challenges people of color face in the classical music world. Featuring violinist Sanford Allen, vocalist & conductor Bobby McFerrin, vocalist Julia Bullock, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and cellist Alvin McCall, this radio special was a continuation of the first conversations Terrance hosted to honor and celebrate Juneteenth.

Joseph Boulogne, The Chevalier of Music and Revolution, looked at the life and works of one of Mozart's contemporaries: Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a composer, violinist, conductor, and fencer. Hosted by Terrance McKnight, the program includes a conversation with Marlon Daniel, Artistic and Music Director of the Saint-Georges International Music Festival; Lady Jess, violinist and Co-Artistic Director of the Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra; and Bill Barclay, the Artistic Director of Concert Theatre Works and former Director of Music at Shakespeare’s Globe.

WQXR launched Camp Wolfgang, our very first virtual kids fair, in celebration of the Mostly Mozart Festival. It was a fun, full day of virtual Pop-Up Classrooms, concerts, crafts, and more, streaming live from WQXR's Facebook page, and presented in partnership with Lincoln Center. The performances and activities are available online.
Arts and Culture

Diversity and Inclusion

- The classical music world is in the middle of a long, overdue reckoning. But the question remains whether leaders, administrators, patrons, and performers of all backgrounds will take up the mantle to ensure a more just and equitable culture. WQXR’s series, Educate Yourself, shared stories from Black classical artists about the challenges they’ve faced in the industry. Editorials include a collection of stories being shared across social media, a reading list on classical music and race, as well as a discussion with the previous generation’s Black musicians about the racism they’ve faced.

- WQXR staff writer James Bennett’s editorial piece, On Taking Lip [Service], challenged classical institutions to go beyond “these statements of solidarity” which “are empty without action.” Bennett reflects back to May 2020, the murder of George Floyd, and the actions the arts world needs to take to continue moving forward.

- As part of WQXR’s In Conversation series, James Bennett interviewed Soprano Lauren Michelle, discussing racism in the opera house, the cost of speaking up, and how she tumbled head-first into the dazzling world of opera.

New Leadership and Host Updates

- Ed Yim started as WQXR’s new Chief Content Officer and Senior Vice President on September 28. Joining us from American Composers Orchestra (ACO), where he served as President and CEO since 2017, Ed brings deep roots in the cultural community and a profound breadth of professional experience. In his first months, he has conducted a listening tour with WQXR staff, partner artists, peer classical stations nationwide, and leadership from cultural institutions, laying the groundwork for a new strategic plan to support the classical community.

- WQXR’s Creative Director and Host, Clemency (Clemmie) Burton-Hill, continues to recover from a serious medical incident in January 2021. After months of physical therapy, Clemmie is doing remarkably well, and she shared her story publicly over the summer. Still, her recovery continues, and we remain unsure of her official return date.

- WQXR Host Terrance McKnight was approached to write a book about his vision and experience hosting The Black Experience in the Concert Hall. To write the book, Terrance took a short leave from WQXR’s airwaves, inviting friends and fellow New Yorkers to host. Guests include celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson, opera star Thomas Hampson, violinist (and WQXR 20x20 artist) Kelly Hall-Tomkins, WNYC’s Brian Lehrer, MacArthur “Genius” Fellow and host of Aria Code, Rhiannon Giddens, and renowned saxophonist, composer and bandleader Branford Marsalis.

- This October, overnight host Nimet Habachy marked her 40th year on the air. During her incredible career, she’s worked in three different locations, outlasted four Philharmonic music directors, and stayed with the city through its darkest and brightest moments. She sat down with James Bennett to answer his “Fast Five” questions about her experiences.
The Jerome L. Greene Space

- In partnership with the Museum of Food and Drink (MOFAD), The Greene Space is presenting Food for Thought, exploring the unique connections of food, music, visual art, culture and more. Each month, The Greene Space produces a show and food experience, bringing together culinary histories of communities across our country. Past events have included Culinary Lyricism, exploring the relationship between music and food in Black and Latinx Cultures; Oyster Soirée: a deep dive into the flavors, climate issues, and societal history of half shells; and Food for Thought, Reclamation Feast: a celebration of Indigenous culinary practices helping Native communities reclaim their heritage.

- John Holiday, one of WQXR's 20 for 20 artists, stunned judges on the hit TV show The Voice, during blind auditions with his performance of Misty. You can watch the performance here.

- First Peoples Week was The Greene Space's first-ever multi-day celebration centering Indigenous communities in and out of New York City. The Greene Space team provided a meaningful space for Indigenous artists, organizers, and thinkers to lead a conversation and offer insights into their histories, cultures, concerns and visions for the future. This virtual exhibit will remain live until October 10, 2021.

- The Greene Space continued to support NYC artists with seven new episodes of (Still) Live From New York, providing artists with a platform to showcase their work, while encouraging audiences to support them as performance venues across the city remain closed.

- Offering rare and insightful looks at the biggest stories of the day, Reporter's Notebook is our newest series featuring WNYC, WNYC Studios, and Gothamist reporters and journalists. Recent discussions included a conversation between Kai Wright and Andrea Bernstein about the 2020 Election and state of the country, as well as a discussion with reporters Ilya Marritz (Trump, Inc.) and Sally Herships (The Heist) on the impacts of one of President Trump’s key legislative accomplishments, the 2017 tax cuts.

- WQXR's Classical Up Close series presents unparalleled, exclusive access to major artists in an intimate setting. Artists have included cellist Steven Isserlis; soprano Ailyn Pérez with baritone Igor Golovatenko; multi-Grammy Award winner Joyce DiDonato.

- On Halloween, WQXR partnered with Death of Classical and Green-Wood Cemetery to produce a special event called To America, inspired by the poetry of James Weldon Johnson. The show blended music, history, literature, and dance, with performances by The Harlem Chamber Players, violinist Lady Jess, singers Danielle Buonaiuto and Shala Hughes, and many others.

- Due to the pandemic, state election officials expected a surge in the number of voters requesting absentee ballots. In response, many states extended early voting and reduced requirements associated with absentee ballots. The Takeaway's Amy Walter led candid discussions about the 2020 election with officials in three key states: North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Arizona.
We’re thrilled to announce that Radiolab has two new co-hosts. Lulu Miller is a Radiolab alum and the former Co-Host and Co-Founder of NPR’s Invisibilia. Latif Nasser was formerly Radiolab’s Director of Research and hosted the acclaimed mini-podcast, The Other Latif. Miller and Nasser succeed Robert Krulwich, the show’s longtime co-host who retired earlier this year. Radiolab also announced that reporter Molly Webster has been named the show’s first Senior Correspondent.

In keeping with the moment, Radiolab created a series of election-related episodes. In Bloc Party, the team investigated the groups that pollsters, reporters, and political operatives believed could change the course of the election. What If? asked the burning questions that was on so many minds, what would Donald Trump do if he lost the election?

New Yorker Radio Hour

On August 28, The New Yorker Radio Hour featured a conversation between host David Remnick and President-Elect Joe Biden. In a wide-ranging conversation, Biden compared his position to that of Franklin Roosevelt: taking office during a disaster, he argues, he would have an opportunity to affect a hugely ambitious agenda, but one driven by pragmatism rather than ideology.

Blindspot (9/11)

While the devastating images of the 9/11 attacks are seared into our national collective memory, most of the events that led up to that day took place out of public view. With over 1.3 million total downloads to date, Blindspot: The Road to 9/11 brings to light the decade-long “shadow struggle” that preceded the attacks. Hosted by WNYC reporter Jim O’Grady (who covered 9/11 and the aftermath for The New York Times) and based on HISTORY’s television documentary Road to 9/11, the podcast draws on interviews with FBI agents, high-level bureaucrats, journalists, experts, and people who knew the terrorists personally.

United States of Anxiety

Starting Sunday, August 23, The United States of Anxiety began airing weekly as a live radio show on WNYC, in addition to continuing as a podcast. Hosted by Kai Wright and hailed by The Atlantic as one of the “Best Podcasts of 2018,” The United States of Anxiety explores the biggest questions of our time: who counts as an American, who is allowed to live here, who gets access to opportunity, and whose lives matter?

Death, Sex, & Money (DSM)

In August, The New York Times profiled Anna Sale about the urgency of her work, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. The piece includes a series of interviews with essential workers and Skin Hunger, a two-part collaboration with the podcast Love + Radio about the longing for physical touch.

In September, DSM created the mini series Game Changer, which dove into the many ways that the COVID-19 pandemic upended the lives of athletes. Episodes included a minor leaguer’s lost opportunities, an NFL players’ desire to make change, and a BMX freestyler looking to 2021 for hope.

DSM welcomed WNYC alumna Jo Ann Allen to spearhead a series of conversations with listeners aged 60+ about aging. What’s liberating about it, what’s scary about it, and what’s changing during the pandemic.
On the Media (OTM)

- Streamed live from The Jerome L. Greene Space, Brooke Gladstone and Bob Garfield hosted Imprecision 2020, OTM's first-ever live election night show. The program featured expert interviews, music, comedy, and reflections from the OTM team. Guests included Mike Pesca of The Gist; Kai Wright, host of WNYC's United States of Anxiety; comedian Jessica Kirson; actor Alec Baldwin; Brian Lehrer, host of WNYC’s The Brian Lehrer Show; Buzzfeed reporter Jane Lytvynenko; writer Mychal Denzel Smith; and musicians Meah Pace, Randy Ingram, and Cécile McLorant Savant.

- In The Rise of "Conspirituality," OTM producer Leah Feder spoke with Travis View, host of the QAnon Anonymous podcast, who contextualizes this latest chapter in QAnon's spread, and Seane Corn, a yoga instructor and co-founder of Off the Mat, Into the World, about what she's been seeing in her community. She also speaks with Joseph Uscinski, professor of political science at the University of Miami, about why members of what appears to be a progressive community might be seduced by a seemingly right-wing conspiracy theory.

Consider This

- On September 9 we launched Consider This, our new daily news podcast in partnership with NPR. Hosted by the incredibly talented Rebeca Ibarra, Consider This is the first localized daily news podcast in the country. As we do in our live broadcast everyday, the podcast blends national and international news from NPR with local reporting from WNYC—extending public radio's unique local-national collaboration into the digital space.

Trump, Inc.

- With over a million downloads in October alone, Trump, Inc. has continued to ask the question, “who’s profiting from this administration and at what cost?”. In partnership with New York Magazine, WNYC's Trump, Inc. profiled insiders who profited off the Trump presidency. Read our full list of 51 Trump insiders (from Sheldon Adelson to Ryan Zinke) here.