

12th Note

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Fiona Ritchie, host of *The Thistle & Shamrock*, which airs Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm.

This is FIONA RITCHIE

By Wanda Butler
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You know the voice. As familiar as a soothing cup of tea, as warm as a hand-knit sweater, Fiona Ritchie's rich Scottish burr has floated over radio airwaves for the past 18 years. Her popular program, *The Thistle & Shamrock*®, celebrates the best and most innovative in Celtic music. But Fiona's melodious voice remains the first music that listeners of the program appreciate.

She laughingly agrees to speak the introductory line from National Public Radio's popular show. "This is Fiona Ritchie, coming to you from Charlotte, North Carolina." Her lilting speech and auburn hair speak of Scotland and all things Celtic, as does her love of the region's music. "But now I say at the end of the program, 'The Thistle & Shamrock comes to you from Edinburgh, Scotland, and Charlotte, North Carolina.' Most people certainly think the show originates in Charlotte and are most surprised to learn I'm actually doing the program in Scotland."

On this day, Fiona, accompanied by daughter Eilidh (AY-lee) and partner Ian Hodgson, is visiting Charlotte. The radio personality's business office remains in this North Carolina city where the show first began.

Harmony at Home

So how did a nice Scottish girl end up in a medium like this? "I grew up in a radio household," Fiona says, remembering her hometown of Gourock, Scotland, on the banks of the River Clyde. "My mum always seemed to have the radio on. It was a companion. And whenever Scottish country-dancing music would come on, Mum would dance around with us when we were wee. We always had that as a little bit of a soundtrack and backdrop to our childhood."

Fiona's love of music and the radio followed her to Stirling University in Scotland, where she majored in psychology and first experienced live music. "I started to seek out more opportunities to see it," she says. "And I began amassing a small collection of music that really sort of rooted me to where I was from."

Through an exchange program with the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, North Carolina, Fiona had the opportunity to spend a semester here. "I was quite clueless really about the United States and about the South," she says. "I came over very wide-eyed and open

(continued on page 5)

YOUNGSTOWN
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA concerts
will be broadcast on

Wednesday nights in
September and October.

See details inside.

Coming WYSU-FM Events:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| FRIDAY, 9/28 | Banned in Ohio: A Tribute to the Weavers, YSU Kilcawley Center |
| SATURDAY, 9/29 | WYSU-FM tent at the Mahoning RiverFest, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm, Packard Park, Warren. |
| FRIDAY, 10/12 | Friday, 10/19: WYSU-FM Priority on Programming Membership Campaign |
| FRIDAY, 11/2 | Folk Festival Concert featuring Magpie and Steve Reese, YSU Kilcawley Center |

Program Listings for the Months of September & October 2001

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN										
Mid.	Classical Music Overnight					Jazz After Hours	Jazz After Hours										
1:00																	
2:00																	
3:00																	
4:00																	
5:00																	
6:00	Morning Edition					Hearts of Space	Alternative Radio										
7:00						Classical Music with Barbara Krauss					New Dimensions	Loose Leaf Book Co.					
8:00											Weekend Edition	Weekend Edition					
9:00	Classical Music with Michael Cervone					Car Talk	Classical Music with Richard Sberna										
10:00						Classical Music with Gary Sexton					Whad 'Ya Know?	Music from Chautauqua					
11:00											All Things Considered					Says You!	Symphony Cast
Noon																Weekend ATC	
1:00	Classical Music with Rick Popovich					Living on Earth	This American Life										
2:00							Classical Music					E-Town	Thistle and Shamrock				
3:00	Performance Today					Jazzscapes with Rick Popovich							Folk Festival with Charles Darling				
4:00							Classical Music Overnight					Now's the Time with Martin Berger	Classical Music Overnight				
5:00	Piano Jazz																
6:00																	
7:00																	
8:00																	
9:00																	
10:00																	
11:00																	
Mid.																	

JAZZ ON THE WEEKEND

Jazzscapes

with Rick Popovich

Friday and Saturday, 7:00 pm

9/1 Mulgrew Miller. McCoy Tyner-influenced pianist with an impressive resume.

9/7 New Releases. Featuring Freddie Hubbard's latest Hip Bop release *New Colors*.

9/8 Louis Hayes. Hard bop drummer who has been on board for numerous influential sessions

9/14 Natural Reaction. The forces and beauty of nature serve as inspiration for this installment.

9/15 Tim Hagans. Incisive, forward-reaching trumpeter with interesting associations.

9/21 Equinox. We celebrate Autumn's arrival.

9/22 Stan Getz. Perhaps the "cool" school's most prominent tenor player...but much more.

9/28 Pick of the Month. Lee Morgan's 1967 Blue Note release, *The Procrastinator*, is featured.

9/29 Bruce Gertz. Boston-based bassist/leader deserving wider attention.

10/5 New Releases. Steve Turre's newest recording, *TNT, Trombone-N-Tenor*, is featured.

10/6 Classic Miles. Highlights from his late '40s roots through his mid '60s adventures are on tap.

10/12 WYSU-FM Pledge 2001. Priority on Programming.

10/13 WYSU-FM Pledge 2001. Priority on Programming.

10/19 High Standards. Tunes that have withstood the test of time are featured.

10/20 Darrell Grant. Piano and composition exponent of the so-called "new bop" is featured.

10/26 Pick of the Month. Christian McBride's 1996 sophomore recording, *Number Two, Express* is featured.

10/27 Charles Lloyd. From rock concert billings in the '60s, to intimate mystical settings today, this distinctive veteran tenor player has reinvented his allure.

Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz

Friday, 11:00 pm

9/7 Cassandra Wilson. Recorded live at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York City, vocalist Cassandra Wilson, joined by Marian McPartland and bassist Peter Washington, entertains us with an array of tunes.

9/14 Ravi Coltrane. As the son of jazz legends John and Alice Coltrane, saxophonist Ravi Coltrane is continuing the legacy he inherited by developing his own sound and feeling. He talks about his musical heritage and his individual approach to the music.

9/21 Ernie Andrews. Vocalist Ernie Andrews has tremendous vitality, an energy and ability to communicate that stems from his gospel roots. Influenced by Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Eckstine, and Johnny Mercer, Andrews' own special style is a mix of energy, drama, and humor.

9/28 David Sanchez. Capitalizing on his innate sense of rhythm, saxophonist David Sanchez weaves the multicultural threads of Latin American and North American music into a colorful tapestry.

10/5 Ira Sullivan. If it's a horn, jazzman Ira Sullivan plays it and plays it well. Tonight's show was recorded before a live audience in Miami.

10/12 Liz Magnes. One of Israel's most dynamic and creative jazz pianists, Liz Magnes' signature style blends East and West for a Middle-Eastern flavored jazz.

10/19 John Lewis. Tonight we honor the memory of John Lewis with this encore

broadcast from the first season of *Piano Jazz*. The leading creative force in the Modern Jazz Quartet, Lewis was a versatile musician and composer.

10/26 Aaron Parks. A true prodigy, pianist Aaron Parks was recently named the Cole Porter fellow for placing first in the Fifth American Jazz Piano Competition.

Now's the Time

with Martin Berger
Saturday, 10:00 pm

9/1 YSU Alumni. Recordings by some of YSU's distinguished graduates, including the Lalama brothers, Darryl White, Phil Palombi, Jim Masters, et al.

9/8 Maynard Ferguson. Trumpet virtuoso and durable leader.

9/15 Jim Snidero. Agile, vigorous contemporary saxophonist.

9/22 Woody Herman. A half-century of exciting bands.

9/29 Max Roach. A founder of modern jazz and one of the landmarks of jazz drumming.

10/6 Benny Green. Deft contemporary pianist.

10/13 Benny Green. The exuberant modern-mainstream trombonist.

10/20 Benny Goodman. Icon of an era and all that, and an interesting musician as well.

10/27 Dexter Gordon. Straight ahead with one of the distinctive tenor saxophonists.

Tony Leonardi

Recently, WYSU-FM lost a dear friend with the passing of Dana School of Music Professor and Director of Jazz Studies, Tony Leonardi. In November, WYSU will honor him with a special one-hour tribute reflecting on the past accomplishments of this great artist and teacher.

Please watch for more information in the November/December 12th Note.

YOUNGSTOWN RADIO READING SERVICE

Observes *25 years* of Broadcasting for visually-impaired

What's playing at the theater? Who's getting married? Which grocery store has the best deal?

Most of us just pick up the local newspaper to find out. For people who are blind or visually-handicapped, this information becomes much more difficult to come by.

Goodwill's Youngstown Radio Reading Service is celebrating 25 years of keeping these people in the know through its news, books and lifestyle programming.

YRRS, operating as a sideband station of WYSU-FM, broadcasts print material which is not otherwise accessible to its listeners. Specially tuned radios are provided free of charge to qualified listeners in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Mercer counties.

Operations are funded through the Ohio Educational Broadcast Commission, the United Way of Mahoning and Trumbull counties, and private donations.

Service Celebration

Anniversary recognition began at Goodwill's May awards banquet, followed by news features and a volunteer recognition open house later in May. Other festivities will include hosting area Lion's Club zone meetings to pay tribute to the dedicated support of those groups over the years, while giving them the opportunity to tour Goodwill's facility.

History Begins

Minneapolis/St. Paul pioneered the radio reading service concept in 1969. Youngstown, along with Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati, brought the service to Ohio in 1975. A Rehabilitation Services Commission grant provided initial funding for the local station which, at that time, was under the auspices of the Youngstown Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired. There are now nine reading services in Ohio.

YRRS's current coordinator, Mike Bosela, started with the station in 1979 and has watched the service grow through the years. Starting with six hours

a day on weekdays, programming has expanded to noon until midnight every day of the year.

When the Society for the Blind closed its doors, the station found a new home at Goodwill. During the move, service was shut down only one day.

Annual audience surveys determine new directions, which in recent years has included minority and retirement-age



Youngstown Radio Reading Service's coordinator, Mike Bosela, at the controls.

information. Programming schedules are set so listeners know when to tune in, with the news running twice a day. The popularity of the childrens' programming rose enormously when Harry Potter made the airwaves.

Several local and syndicated talk shows address lifestyle issues of the blind, ranging from cooking to raising families, encouraging listeners to share experiences and exchange views.

Our Heroes

During the last 25 years, area Lions Clubs replaced equipment and continue to purchase new radios to expand service. With state funding cuts on the horizon, program sponsorships will be introduced.

Described as "the backbone, the life blood of Radio Reading," about 100 volunteer readers read the news and entertainment while linking listeners to the surrounding community.

"We get people who want to make the world a better place," says Bosela.

New volunteer recruits come from the Volunteer Center, Mooney and Ursuline High School Christian service programs, RSVP, and word of mouth. Many area professionals appreciate the flexible 8:30 am-8:30 pm hours of the station, where programs can be pre-recorded at the volunteer's convenience.

Future Focus

A look at the next 25 years focuses on digital broadcasting, which will be federally mandated by 2006. Perhaps the biggest obstacle in facing the adjustment will be how to replace all the equipment and radios, all of which will become obsolete.

"There's not even a company that makes a digital radio for the service now," explains Bosela. "And there are only three or four suppliers nationwide (of radios currently used)."

One future trend Bosela gets excited about is the Ohio Telephone Reader which will allow those who are visually-handicapped to access newspapers at their convenience. Through a computer software program and toll-free access line, a synthesized voice reads the news.

"It's an especially handy development for the young, and newly blinded people," explains Bosela. "They can access information at their convenience rather than having to adhere to a regular scheduled broadcast. Even so, people want to hear a human voice. I love the service. The Tribune is available now and the Vindicator will be soon."

With new medical breakthroughs that improve, or even perfect, damaged eyesight, will the YRRS become obsolete?

"If medicine can eliminate blindness, that would be great," smiles Bosela. "I would lead that parade."

The Youngstown Symphony Orchestra IS ON THE AIR

The Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of music director Isaiah Jackson, returns to WYSU-FM with a six-program concert series, beginning Wednesday, September 5, with the final performance on Wednesday, October 10. All concert broadcasts begin at 8:00 pm.

September 5

Bach/Stokowski: Toccata and Fugue in D minor
Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini for Piano and Orchestra
 Cecil Licad, pianist
Debussy: La mer
Ravel: *Daphnis and Chloe*, Suite No. 2

September 12

Mozart: Symphony No. 36 (Linz)
Strauss R.: Concerto for Violin
 Mark Kaplan, violin
Strauss R.: Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*
Strauss, J. Jr.: On the Beautiful Blue Danube

September 19

Glinka: Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*
Tchaikovsky: Concerto No. 1 for Piano
 Earl Wild, piano
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

September 26

Bach/Elgar: Fantasia and Fugue in C minor
Mozart: Concerto No. 4 for Violin
 Ani Kavafian, violin
Debussy: Three Nocturnes
 Youngstown Symphony Women's Chorus
Bartok: Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*

October 3

Bach: Orchestral Suite No. 4
Bloch: Prayer
Bottesini: Grand Duo
 Gary Karr, double bass
Beethoven: Symphony No. 2

October 10

Bach/Webern: Ricercare
Beethoven: Concerto No. 5 for Piano (Emperor)
 Andre Watts, piano
Brahms: Symphony No. 4



WYSU-FM's Commentary Café

was recorded live before an audience at the Youngstown Unitarian Church on Monday, July 23. From left to right: Bob Fitzer, guest Ron Verb, Dr. Bill Binning. Photo credit: Keith Barkett.



SURVIVAL SOUNDS

WITH DAVID LUSCHER

—David Luscher

There is an old saying that goes, "Change is inevitable except in vending machines." Still, I miss certain items from the past; my favorite would be the long-playing record. I have tons of them. Boxes of them! So many in fact that when I relocated to Youngstown, the moving company that I hired complained! ("If I have to move one more box... Why doesn't this guy buy some furniture?") My mother calls me once a week just to nag about the 600-plus 78 rpm's that I have conveniently stored in her basement. Not only do I still have all of the albums that I have ever purchased (plus CDs and cassettes) but also all of the albums that my parents and grandparents purchased. I just can't bring myself to throw any of them away.

Elvis Presley, the Mills Brothers, John Coltrane, Jim Nabors, Prince, Arthur Lyman, Sade, Frank Sinatra, Connie Boswell, Michael Jackson, 101 Strings, Barbara Streisand, Earth, Wind, and Fire, Glenn Miller, the Everley Brothers, Julie London, the Gap Band, Oliver, Sammy Davis Jr., the Carpenters, The Time, George Shearing, Run D.M.C., Henry Mancini, Johnny Cash, the S.O.S. Band. Dean Martin, Dean Martin, did I mention Dean Martin? These records represent the thoughts, feelings, emotions, likes and dislikes of three generations. Just one glance at my collection and you get a pretty good picture of the people who have graced my life.

The ties we have to old recordings can be a personal one. If you had to narrow it down to ten, which ones would they be? You may think that that's an easy question, as most people did when I started to ask it. So I challenged those people to go home and do just that. The result has morphed into a new monthly radio special called **Survival Sounds**.

Each month, a new guest from our hometown will share with us their top ten and the stories that made these recordings special to them. They could be Rusted Root to Rachmaninoff, Beethoven to the Beatles, and Patsy Cline to Prince. You never know what you may hear. So join me the first Saturday of the month at 6:00 pm for **Survival Sounds**.



Anita Lin, director of the Ballet Western Reserve is the first **Survival Sound** guest, Saturday, September 8 at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE DRIVE

set for

October 12-19

Our semi-annual fall pledge drive is scheduled to run for one week, October 12-19. To encourage as much early support as possible in reaching our goal of \$72,000, WYSU will hold daily drawings to win substantial prizes. All renewals received by mail between July 1 and October 12 will be included in all drawings. On-air pledgers may make themselves eligible for more drawings if they pledge early in the week. Help WYSU keep its priorities in the right place: keep your radio dial tuned to 88.5 FM and pledge early during the fall **Priority on Programming** campaign.



SUNDAY NIGHT FOLK E-Town

with Nick Forster
Sunday, 6:00 pm

E-Town features live music by some of today's finest singers, songwriters, and musicians along with informative interviews and conversations revolving around today's social and environmental issues.

The Thistle and Shamrock

with Fiona Ritchie
Sunday, 7:00 pm

9/2 Stepping Out. Tonight we debut the music from fiddler Fiona Moore who talks about the challenges of starting to tour and record.

9/9 On the Water. This week's music takes us on a voyage.

9/16 In-Flight Entertainment. Music appreciating birds on this week's program, including Loreena McKennitt's *Bonny Swans*, and selections from Maddie Prior's suite of songs, *In the Company of Ravens*.

9/23 Barachois. Since the 1600s, French Acadian communities have thrived on Prince Edward Island in the Canadian Maritimes. The songs and fiddle tunes of this close community have been passed down through the generations. Fiona Ritchie met up with Barachois, a band intent upon keeping their family's Acadian musical heritage alive.

9/30 ...And listen to My Song. We feature artists this week who have sought to deliver a message of peace, social justice, and environmental consciousness through their music.

10/7 Bullock & Doyle. Multi-instrumentalist and composer Robin Bullock and guitarist and singer John Doyle have both won a following in the United States and beyond for blending ancient Celtic melodic traditions with the rootsy rhythms of contemporary and world music.

10/14 WYSU-FM Pledge 2001. Priority on Programming.

10/21 Celtic Ragas. Descendants of wandering Celtic tribes, now mostly concentrated on Europe's westernmost shores

and in North America, are reunited with their eastern roots in this program, where we connect Celtic, Eastern European, and Asian music.

10/28 All Hallow's Eve. A creepy Celtic crawl through eerie ballads and mysterious melodies.

Folk Festival

with Charles Darling
Sunday, 8:00 pm

9/2 Names. Sally Rogers and Howie Bursen's tribute to the AIDS Quilt inspired this program of people's names.

9/9 Blues in the Night, Part XII. Recent bluesmen are spotlighted: Jimmy Witherspoon, John Primer, Taj Mahal, John Hammond, and Paul Black.

9/16 Once in the Saddle. Breaks through the myth of the Old West with cowboy songs by Michael Martin Murphey, Herb Jeffries, Don Edwards, and more.

9/23 And Now for Something Completely Different, Part XV. Expect the unexpected in this zany blend of waggery and reflective material.

9/30 Folk Moods and Styles, Part III. British, Celtic, American — traditional, contemporary — story songs, and ditties.

10/7 Folk Sampler, Part LXVII. Blends contemporary with old time, ballads with blues, country with humor.

10/14 Support Your Local Folk Show, Live! Once again Charles Darling will be in the studio waiting for your call with a pledge to keep folk music part of the WYSU schedule. Your call, with a pledge large or small, will be greatly appreciated. Call 330 742-1481. You might win a CD in a special air-time drawing. Thanks!

10/21 A John Hartford-John Lee Hooker Memorial. Country singer John Hartford and bluesman John Lee Hooker passed away in June. This program honors their contribution to the roots of American music.

10/28 Contemporary Folk, Part XXX. Features the music of Maggie and Steve Reese who will be performing Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm, at Peaberry's on the YSU campus.

MAGPIE

to perform at

7TH ANNUAL FOLK FESTIVAL CONCERT

WYSU-FM and Folk Festival will present the incomparable folk duo, *Magpie*, featuring Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner on Friday, November 2, 2001 at 8:00 pm in Peaberry's at Kilcawley Center on the campus of Youngstown State University. Steve Reese, singer/songwriter and YSU English professor will open the evening with some original works. Charles Darling, producer of WYSU's weekly radio program, *Folk Festival*, will host the concert, which is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be sold at Peaberry's, and parking is \$3.00 in the M-8 lot off University Plaza.

Performing for 28 years and releasing ten CDs, *Magpie* embraces a musical rainbow – with impressive proficiency in each genre. From traditional, classic country, swing, and blues to contemporary songs written by themselves and others, Terry and Greg cover a lot of musical ground. For a closer look at this talented duo, check out *Magpie's* website at www.magpiemusic.com. Then mark your calendar for November 2 and join us for a lively and memorable musical event.



Terry Leonino and
Greg Artzner of
Magpie.

Photo by Tom Radcliffe.

Y·S·U Art, Music And Theater

Art 9/7 Fall Exhibition Opening reception McDonough Museum, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Art 9/7-11/2 Fall Exhibition, McDonough Museum

Music 9/30 Dana Chamber Orchestra, Bliss Recital Hall, 4:00 pm

Music 10/3 Dana Brass Ensemble, Bliss Recital Hall, 8:00 pm

Theater 10/4-10/6, 10/12-10/13 *Communication Doors*, by Alan Ayckbourn, Spotlight Arena Theater, Bliss Hall, 8:00 pm (Matinees on 10/7 and 10/14 at 3:00 pm)

Music 10/7 Ronald Gould, organ, St. John's Episcopal Church, 4:00 pm

Music 10/17 YSU Marching Pride and Intercollegiate Athletics: Parade of Penguins for Hunger, Beeghly Center, 7:00 pm

Music 10/22 Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Boardman High School Auditorium, 8:00 pm

Music 10/24 New Music Annual Fall Concert, Bliss Recital Hall, 8:00 pm

For information: 330-742-3624



WYSU inaugurates new equipment at Summer Festival of the Arts

Thanks to a grant from the Home Savings Charitable Foundation, WYSU-FM is now able to "take its show on the road." The grant enabled WYSU to purchase portable broadcasting equipment and a tent for outdoor use. The new equipment was inaugurated at the *Summer Festival of the Arts* on July 7 & 8 on the campus of YSU. Broadcasting from this outdoor venue, WYSU staff greeted guests, accepted classical music requests, distributed *Whad'Ya Know?* balloons and flyers, and held drawings for tickets and prizes. Pictured in the WYSU tent are (left to right) Gary Sexton, WYSU director; David Luscher, WYSU associate director; Darlene Pavlock, executive director of the Home Savings Charitable Foundation; and Dr. David Sweet, president of Youngstown State University.

This is FIONA RITCHIE

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mindful to it all. I had the American collegiate experience. The friends I made took great delight in exposing me to things that I hadn't had before, be it a drive-in movie or a bowl of grits."

The 20-year-old student became unexpectedly attached to the people and land of North Carolina. "That was a journey," she says, "and my roots, without me noticing, started to find their way down. When it came time for me to go back to Scotland, the roots tugged a bit."

Melody in the Mountains

After returning home and graduating from college, Fiona decided to come back to further discover the region. "I started to slowly peel back the layers and explore the subtleties and special culture of the South and its many connections with where I'd come from," she says. "That's when I began to get interested in the music of the Southern mountains."

And that's when the people of the South began to take notice of Fiona Ritchie. After taking a job in fundraising at radio station WFAE, she moved on to become the promotion and development director. Though she was told early on that, with her accent, she could never be on the air, the station manager encouraged her to host *The Thistle & Shamrock*.

"That was the starting point for my own journey into the music," says Fiona. Her lyrical journey into radio still continues. "I had never imagined I would present a Scottish music show," she says. "I think it's only when you step out of your own culture that you start to appreciate it more."

The program proved popular from the beginning. The first national show aired June 4, 1984, after a year and a half of local play. Now one of the most syndicated shows on NPR, the program plays in more than 360 cities. And while Fiona introduced Americans to her native music, they also became acquainted with her.

Fiona recalls, "People would say to me, 'Oh, you're from Scotland. I'm Scottish.' And I'd say, 'Really? Where are your parents from?' And they'd answer, 'Rock Hill, South Carolina.' They were talking about a really old connection of the Ulster Scots, what they call Scots-Irish," clarifies Fiona. "So I started to realize how long-lived these feelings of connectedness are and how important they are to people."

"One thing that has been quite overlooked, I think, is the Appalachian connection to Celtic music," asserts Fiona. "I've become a bit of an advocate there [in Scotland] and have had a few opportunities on BBC radio to explore that connection musically."

She broadened her geographical knowledge, as well as spread the word on

Celtic music, by visiting U.S. radio stations that air *The Thistle & Shamrock*. "One memorable trip was to Breaux Bridge, Louisiana," she says, smiling. "I have a couple of photographs of that occasion; I was absolutely puce [in color] from dancing all night."

"These are the great privileges that doing the program have brought to me," continues Fiona. "It's given me a chance to get out and travel and meet people at a level that I would have never had a chance to do."

Same Song, Second Verse

After several years in Charlotte, Fiona made the difficult decision to return to Scotland, moving the base of *The Thistle & Shamrock* to Edinburgh.

She went home to Scotland in 1991 to be closer to the source of the music. "I work in a beautiful Georgian building on the top floor, right off Charlotte Square," says Fiona, who is suddenly set upon and hugged by a sunny-haired child. "And here's Eilidh," she says, introducing her lively daughter.

Now with partner Ian and their small daughter, Fiona's travels have slowed a bit. "But Eilidh's a great sport, really," says Fiona. "She comes along to whatever is going on. She's heard plenty of music and has been to other events that give her a chance to enjoy the community aspect of the music. The main thing you want to expose wee ones to is the whole sense of participation and community, which is at the heart and soul of this music and heritage."

And the heritage honors Fiona Ritchie in turn. The complete archive of programs from *The Thistle & Shamrock* resides at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, North Carolina, where Fiona has taught a course in Celtic music. St. Andrews has awarded Fiona an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters, and she has also been named one of the Top 100 Irish Americans by Irish American magazine. She laughs. "Yes, there's that confusion that all things Celtic are Irish," she says with good humor. "And it's been a fun thing, in the context of the program, to explore and celebrate the links between Scottish and Irish music."

Fiona intends to keep that celebration going. "I'll keep doing the show," she says in her inimitable voice. "It has its own momentum now. New bands come up all the time, and that keeps the show on the cutting edge. And we like to make it fun."

And Fiona does love fun. She plays the guitar and sings. Ian plays piano. And young Eilidh already dances - just as her Celtic mother and grandmother before her.

(*The Thistle & Shamrock* airs Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm on WYSU-FM.)

NPR World of Opera

Saturday, 1:30 pm

9/1 ROSSINI: *Tancredi*. Opera Orchestra of New York; Eve Queler, conductor. Cast: Vesselina Kasarova, Maureen O'Flynn, Robert Breault, Kamel Boutros. Rossini's first great serious opera, *Tancredi* shows us that in the hands of a true master even the aging *opera seria* format could still produce both a moving romance and a riveting spectacle.

9/8 VERDI: *Macbeth*. Orchestra of St. Luke's; Collegiate Chorale; Robert Bass, conductor. Cast: Juan Pons, Maria Guleghina, Dean Peterson, Michael Sylvester. Of the hundreds of Shakespeare operas, only four or five have stayed in the repertory, and of those, three are by Verdi. Verdi's *Macbeth* displays his unique ability to pare Shakespeare's words down to operatic scale, imbuing his music with all of the original's emotional impact.

9/15 DONIZETTI: *La Favorita*. Opera Orchestra of New York; Eve Queler, conductor. Cast: Jennifer Larmore, Gregory Kunde, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Vitalij Kowaljow. A French grand opera, complete with ballets and all, by one of Italy's greatest masters. It's a boy-gets-girl story in which getting her turns out to be so problematic that by opera's end, the boy opts for celibacy instead.

9/22 MEYERBEER: *Les Huguenots*. Opera Orchestra of New York; Eve Queler, conductor. Cast: Olga Makrina, Krassimira Stoyanova, Maria Zifchak, Marcello Giordani. Another French grand opera, this one by a German who adopted Paris as his hometown. Often cited as Meyerbeer's finest opera, *Les Huguenots* concerns an arranged marriage in which the arrangements go seriously awry.

9/29 DONIZETTI: *Maria Stuarda*. Opera Orchestra of New York; Eve Queler, conductor. Cast: Ruth Ann Swenson; Lauren Flanigan; Gregory Kunde; Patrick Carfizzi. An opera written about the same queen who was the subject of the recent movie *Elizabeth*, starring Cate Blanchett. In Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*, however, she's not quite the innocent-turned-stateswoman portrayed in the movie version. The object of Elizabeth's desire, the Earl of Leicester, prefers another woman (Maria). This angers Elizabeth, so Maria loses her head—literally.

10/6 CHERUBINI: *Anacreon*. Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy; Gabriele Ferro, conductor. Cast: Charles Workman, Iulia Isaev, Lucia Rizzi, Raphalle Farman. The opera is subtitled "Fugitive Love," and the title is literally true. Somehow, Love (Amor) has eluded his mother, Venus, and gotten himself mixed up with some mischievous mortals.

10/13 BIZET: *Carmen*. Houston Grand Opera; Alain Lombard, conductor. Cast: Béatrice Uria-Monzon, Luis Lima, Adina Nutescu, Mark S. Doss, József Gregor. In this opera, Bizet may have created the most famous "cigarette girl" of all time. She doesn't carry them around on a tray like in a '40s nightclub but instead *makes* them, at least until passion intervenes. Love, betrayal and murder have never sounded better.

10/20 JANACEK: *Katya Kabanova*. Houston Grand Opera; Asher Fisch, conductor. Cast: Catherine Malfitano, Katherine Ciesinski, Neil Rosenshein, Zheng Cao. The story of an old woman who abuses her grown son, terrorizes her daughter-in-law to the point of suicide, nods approvingly when the son is shipped to Siberia, and seems content only when the daughter-in-law's corpse is fished out of the Volga.

10/27 MOZART: *Così fan tutte*. Houston Grand Opera; Patrick Summer, conductor. Cast: Christine Goerke, Joyce DiDonato, Richard Croft, Nathan Gunn. On the surface, Mozart's drama seems a silly farce of mistaken identities. But as is usual with Mozart, it's also more than that. Underneath, the opera tells a disquieting story of human weakness, betrayal and—perhaps—forgiveness.

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Good News Travels Fast

Balloons promoting the April 27, 2002 live national broadcast of **Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know?** at Powers Auditorium were distributed at YSU's *Summer Festival of the Arts* on July 7 & 8. On July 9, WYSU received an e-mail message from Cindy Maak of Bluemont, Virginia near Washington D.C. Cindy informed us that, upon investigating her dog's frantic barking, she discovered one of our **Whad'Ya Know?** balloons! Congratulations to Bill Hall of Youngstown, who won the drawing for a pair of tickets to see the live **Whad'Ya Know?** next April. By the way, tickets are not yet on sale, but WYSU members and listeners will be the first to know of their availability.

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Sponsored by: WYSU 88.5 FM, Peace Action Youngstown

Bookworm with Michael Silverblatt

Monday, 7:00 pm

9/3 Nick Hornby: *How to Be Good, Riverhead*. The author of *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy* has made a shift: the gifted comic novelist has adopted a woman's voice to examine marriage, fidelity, happiness and, finally, moral goodness.

9/10 Ethan Canin: *Carry Me Across the Water, Random House*. Ethan Canin, probably the gentlest writer of his generation, affably offers his ideas about fatherhood, memory, and the betrayal children inevitably feel at the hands of their parents.

9/17 Ann Patchett: *Bel Canto, Harper Collins*. Ann Patchett knows that a novel is an author's private kingdom — problems the world can't solve can be solved within the pages of a book. Here she wrestles global terrorism into the comforting shape of a romantic comedy.

9/24 Arnon Grunberg: *Silent Extras, St. Martin's Press*. The young Dutch writer who created a sensation in Europe with his first novel, a sort of Amsterdam-set *Catcher in the Rye*, talks about the perils of recognition and his continuing need to evade seriousness.

10/1 Walter Mosley: *Fearless Jones, Little Brown*. Walter Mosley is best known for his *noir* mysteries. With books set in the black communities of Los Angeles, he writes the hidden histories of race, sensuality, crime, and cultural aspiration. Here, we discuss his comic *noir*, the beginning of a new series whose hero is a bookworm.

10/8 New American Short Stories: Dan Chaon: *Among the Missing, Ballantine*; Adrienne Sharp: *White Swan, Black Swan, Random House*; Marisa Silver: *Babe in Paradise, Norton*. Three young writers, each publishing a first book with a major press, explore the terrain of contemporary short-story writing. From personal backgrounds to their desires to break with tradition, we examine the variety of impulses that bring writers to the short story.

10/15 Li-Young Lee: *Book of My Nights, BOA Editions*. Li-Young Lee's poetry has moved beyond the details of his Chinese upbringing to an investigation of what he calls "primal silence" which, in this conversation, turns out to be an exploration of God's presence.

10/22 & 10/29 TBA.

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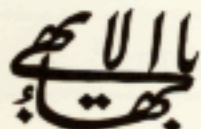
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