

GATHER 'ROUND THE RADIO  
E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON OLD-TIME RADIO CLUB  
THE GRTR STUDIO EDITION



THE HORIZONS ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

THE SET-UP

Hello fine listeners, and welcome once again to the mythical confines of the GRTR Studio where we broadcast information and inspiration about radio, music, nostalgia, personality, books, and beyond. Terry Gross continues to be our inspiration. Listen to her "Fresh Air" radio show, live or podcast; check your NPR listings for a station where you can tune in. Our broadcast team is in place

at their homes along the Catoclin Ridge: Beverly is watching the clock sweep towards network feed. Fred is at the board, and Bert has copy ready to read. I think we need a respite these days, from burning hills and crashing waves. So Fred is piping in a song about a different hillside that we can all imagine. Jimmy Martin wrote "On the Sunny Side of the Mountain" years ago. His guitar playing is impeccable, his voice evokes that high lonesome sound:

Now don't forget me darlin' as I've decided not to stay  
 So here's my little wish as I'm going far away  
 I'll be waiting on the hillside where the wild red roses grow,  
 On the sunny side of the mountain where the ripplin' waters flow.

Fred fades the track as Beverly cues us in.

### ON THE AIR

Hello everyone; I trust that you're all staying safe, getting some exercise, reading, cooking, and Zooming from time to time. We've sanitized the dusty old courier pouch, and we'll get right to it, with a couple of Club announcements; then we'll run a file or two from the GRTR Archives.

You may well agree that lately our perception of today's world has many aspects. "Blue sky thinking" is in order; and Bert has a message from Martin Grams which delivers his Convention News in just that manner. Martin has sent this message widely, and here it is on GRTR:

Bert steps to the microphone:

Later this month the Nostalgia Convention will be live on Facebook!

**Videos of past celebrity Q & A events!**

Rare films including a "lost" 1950 LIGHTS OUT telecast and

1952 James Stewart TV western never seen in decades!

**Live Q & A with Hollywood celebrities!**

Slide show seminars!

## FREE ADMISSION

Click the link below on September 25 and 26 to attend the event from your computer!

<https://www.facebook.com/MidAtlanticNostalgiaConvention>

- With over 25,000 followers on the convention Facebook page, we expect the event to be very active.
- This is not the same as attending the event in person, but this way you can still have fun for the weekend. Even vendors will be offering photos of their collectibles for sale!
- We will send a schedule of events via e-mail on Saturday, September 19.
- All of the videos (slide show seminars, celebrity panels, etc.) will be posted hourly through Sept. 25 and 26, and remain on the Facebook page on Sunday, Sept. 27, giving you one extra day to enjoy the features!

### OCTOBER CLUB MEETING – ZOOM IN FOR SCRIPT READINGS

Thanks, Bert; good news indeed! Stick with us, because Bert has more news, this time about the Club meeting in October. Scurry now and get your calendars. Be sure and mark the date: Friday evening October 9. Zoom will be the link for the virtual MWOTRC meeting. An email will follow about how to log on for that. A comedy script – “Popeye” – and a drama “Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar” will be the features. The directors have sent in their

descriptions of the plays. Bert will read Jack French's writeup on the "Popeye," script, then John Abbott, on the "Johnny Dollar" episode.

Bert, on cue:

For the October Zoom meeting, we will be doing a re-creation of an episode of "Popeye" from the 1935-1937 series sponsored by Wheatena cereal. It's a little different from the Popeye you recall in the movie cartoons and the comic strip. First off, Popeye gets his strength, not from spinach, but from Wheatena, (at the insistence of the sponsor.) Secondly, Sweet Pea is replaced by Matey, a little newsboy and ward of Popeye. Sponsors thought the former was too young to make an impression on radio, so they invented Matey to take his place.

This production will emphasize fun and strive for humor, in not just the lines, but also the music and the sound effects where realism will yield to comedy.

And following, Bert reads John Abbot's summary of "Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar."

In addition to Popeye, we will also offer a Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar script titled "The Thelma Ibsen Matter". This program is not a Bob Bailey program, but it is a Bob Bailey program. The original program was done by John Lund and was aired on 1/9/1953. It was merged with "The Emily Braddock Matter" (5/19/1953) and broadcast as the Bob Bailey 5-part story "The Broderick Matter" in November 1956. Because of the difficulty of latency between speakers, we are going to do this recreation the same way that many 1950's era programs were done - the dramatic parts were taped with gaps for sound and commercials (which were added later). This will be a different type of recreation, but everything is different these days.

### MUSIC BRIDGE AND COMMERCIAL

Fred is piping in the orchestral tone poem about the river Moldau, by the Czech composer Bedřich Smetana. It was featured a few months ago on the BBC Radio 3 program, "From the Stave," where music scholars discuss the original sheet music of composers as preserved in libraries. Wonderful.

The Dayton Dragons baseball season is on hold until 2021. No one from the front office has called the GRTR Studio to confirm their continuing sponsorship for next season. It's not like cobwebs are growing on our phone! Call us, you cool Reds farm team!

I know they will get in touch; after all, our Club had a key part in the Heritage Day festivities at the stadium couple of years ago, with the Lawrence Kandrach Singers singing the National Anthem, and Sandy Pitts-Malone throwing out the first pitch.

### MUSIC CUE AND NETWORK FEED

We must close with this wonderfully insightful piece:

#### JOYCE DiDONATO'S CONCEPT ALBUM

Fred is piping in an aria from Handel: "Queen Boadicea", a warrior of Britain who sings this lament: "Oh lead me to some peaceful gloom..."

The 2016 album is called "In War and Peace". The subtitle is "Harmony Through Music," and in the liner notes Joyce DiDonato asks a question for the troubled age we are living in:

In the midst of chaos, how do you find peace?

She prints the answers from people in all walks of life. All are excellent; this is exceptional:

"As our hands rise, we view unprotected people in chaos and find our peace in being models of brokenness made strong in the darkness and the burning light."

Her own brilliant answer is to look at works of opera written in the Baroque era, because those composers took "reinvented antiquity" and wrote

beautiful music about tragic events, as a path to transcendence in the minds of their listeners.

DiDonato is in full voice, backed by a chamber orchestra, as she sings arias by Handel, Purcell, and Monteverdi. There are seven arias of blood, revenge, and death: and eight arias of safe haven, meadows, birds, lovers, and sturdy oaks. Words to live by in these unsettling times.

Beverly is signaling us to network feed. Soup and sandwiches? Yes, I say! We shall forage in our own kitchens; eat well and stay safe everybody!

Thanks ever; and keep those cards and letters coming!

Mark Anderson

Frederick MD

