

December / 2023



Radio for the Blind is Received Well and Expands Due to Popular Demand

[Community Growth Radio](#), located in Vancouver Washington, is a radio network dedicated to serving the blind, the visually impaired and the disabled. Thanks to many positive, kind notes and emails, CGR Radio has now expanded to 6 live streams. This new stream offers Classical Music, recordings that have been digitally transferred from LP, 78 RPM and even Cylinder Wax Recordings.

The recordings were donated by a music collector via his estate. The collector had over 3000 recordings, going back to 1897.



Remembering Maria Emilia Martin

A pioneer for radio and humanity, Maria Emilia Martin passed away in early December.

Martin is most celebrated for creating "Latino USA", the public radio show featuring Latino communities and culture. After 30 years, the show continues to reach audiences around the country. She is also known for mentoring countless journalists.

CGR Stream #6 also offers Librivox recordings and books, histories of composers and of classical music, music theory.

"I wanted to be not your normal or typical Classical Music stream," says Gerald Gaule, the station's sole owner and operator, "but to add education and oral history as well as recordings of historical value and teaching." CGR offers over 11,000 total selections, including the above donation. CGR #6 has no ads or sponsor mentions.

In the 1970's, when Martin started out, she wasn't a journalist, but a social worker.

She was living and working in Santa Rosa, CA when she first heard KBBF, the local Latino-owned and operated community radio station. Martin volunteered, producing a show about women's health and sexuality. Many women called into the show, including low-income farm workers. One night a woman called in after overdosing on pills. Martin recalled in her memoir, "Crossing Borders, Building Bridges: A Journalist's Heart in Latin America" (2020), that the woman needed help because the hospital treating her didn't have anyone who could speak her language. As the [New York Times](#) described it, "The idea that public radio could be not just a community resource but also a lifeline was, Ms. Martin wrote, an 'aha moment' for her, and she was hooked."

Maria changed careers and dedicated her life to journalism and community and public radio.

The above photo was taken at the 2023 Grassroots Radio Conference where Maria was one of the opening speakers. With sorrow and gratitude, we think on her many contributions and gracious heart. She will be missed.



Pacifica Network's



**Round-Table:
Loudness Units Full
Scale (LUSF)**

First FCC Part 15 Station

Meet Roy Clark. He is the one-man radio station operator of [WEFR](#) or *West End Fairmont Radio*. Roy has engineering experience and his own FCC Part 15 certified AM ChezRadio Procaster Transmitter. He broadcasts out of his house in Fairmont, WV, hoping to reach the underserved and all who are overwhelmed with the media of intolerance and disinformation. He's been on-air since June, uniquely enough, on the AM dial by the power of Part 15, an FCC rule that allows stations to broadcast on low power if they don't interfere with other frequencies.

Roy worked in commercial radio for about 10 years in the Washington D.C. area. That's where he first heard Pacifica station WPFW and became a regular listener. Eventually, he had an opportunity for a construction permit to start his own Ip station. However, the construction permit fell through, and the commercial radio job fizzled out, so Roy moved on. When Roy talks about commercial radio now, he is sometimes amazed at the scale and ambition of it all, mentioning that he knows a local commercial station with a \$75,000 electric bill.

Now that he's back home in Fairmont, Roy is making another go of radio, this time with a different goal than he had in Washington, D.C., preferring to use the power of the airwaves "as a tool to serve with community and interviewing." Another change from the commercial WEFR's electric bill is \$10.

[Read interview with Roy Clark](#)

This is an important conversation for Pacifica Network. Loudness Units Full Scale affect sound quality and most of public radio including NPR and PRX have adopted the standard of -24 LUFS for programming.

In this presentation, Robin Collier of KCEI in Taos, NM, recounts his appreciation of sound from growing up playing the Viola and listening to the good sound of KPFA in the 60's. He explains that one of the qualities that separates FM from AM is that you can play a symphony with its full dynamic range and that, unfortunately, sound quality has degraded with the invention of cell phones and podcasts.

In this hour, we discuss the possibility of Pacifica Network adopting the -24 standard, which some shows in AudioPort are already doing.

We also talk about what it means to adopt the -24 LUFS standard, and how to do it.

"Now, why use minus 24? This goes back to the idea that you want to have the ability to broadcast the full dynamic range of a symphony orchestra from the very quiet parts of the symphony to the most loud, you know, symbols and loudness, and have nothing distorted."

-Robin Collier

We also appreciated the insights from Joseph McGuire of KSVR, Otis Maclay of Pacifica Network, and Jon Almeleh of Pacifica Network.

New in AudioPort



Gardening Tips from the Triangle

[Half Hour](#)

A casual, encouraging type of gardening show (zone 5). Host Amara is a keen enthusiast who loves to learn about, experiment, and explore gardening. Tips range from directions on caring for a Christmas cactus or starting impatiens or planting a tree, to more free form advice. She advocates for composting and for collecting seeds and bulbs (she does go on and on about the benefits of bulbs). The show discusses indoor container gardening & ground gardening.

Produced by Amara Kopakova at WBDY in Binghamton, NY

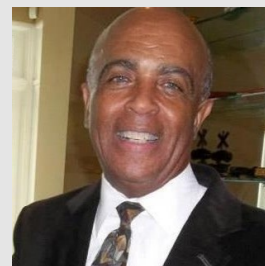


The Front Porch Jam

[Hour](#)

The Front Porch Jam features only Independent Country artists. These artists are mainly American artists, but we do have a few international artists as well. The show focuses on Traditional and Outlaw Country, with ZERO current mainstream pop style songs, or what I refer to as 'Tractor Rap'. I created this show to make listeners aware that there are new country artists creating REAL country music.

By independent producer Bill Kenton for the West Virginia Super Station Network.



Crable Table

[Hour](#)

Charles Crable explores the history of Black experience in New York's Southern Tier & throughout the United States, with personal commentary on politics, religion, & current events.

Produced at WBDY in Binghamton, NY



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