

DECEMBER 2 - Beginning of Hanukkah:**NEWS:*****Hanukkah Lights***7 - 8 pm on [IPR News](#)

A perennial public radio favorite with all new Hanukkah stories. Hosted by Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz.

CLASSICAL:***Candles Burning Brightly***4 - 5 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Mindy Ratner hosts this holiday favorite, in celebration of Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. "Candles Burning Brightly" explores Chanukah foods and traditional activities - and plenty of music.

Chanukah in Story and Song5 - 6 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Chanukah in Story and Song is a unique holiday program created especially for public radio listeners. This delightfully engaging program presents 25 eclectic selections, from the Ladino songs of the Spanish Jews and Yiddish melodies of Eastern Europe to modern Israeli tunes and the ensemble's original version of "I Have a Little Dreydle."

DECEMBER 3:**NEWS:*****The 2018 Iowa Public Radio Holiday Book Guide***10 - 11 am on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

Looking for reading inspiration for you or someone else this holiday season? Never fear! Iowa booksellers share their recommendations for the years' best book gift selections.

The 2018 Iowa Public Radio Holiday Book Guide9 - 10 pm on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

Looking for reading inspiration for you or someone else this holiday season? Never fear! Iowa booksellers share their recommendations for the years' best book gift selections.

DECEMBER 6:**STUDIO ONE:*****Studio One Tracks: "A Conquered Christmas" from the Des Moines Social Club***7 - 10 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

Iowa Public Radio presents its 4th annual LIVE "A Conquered Christmas," a radio special hosted by Iowa musical artist Christopher the Conquered, featuring a variety of special guests performing classic songs of the season as well as new songs celebrating thankfulness, unity, and love.

DECEMBER 7:

STUDIO ONE:

Studio One Tracks: "A Conquered Christmas" from the Des Moines Social Club

7 - 10 am on Studio One online

Iowa Public Radio presents its 4th annual LIVE "A Conquered Christmas," a radio special hosted by Iowa musical artist Christopher the Conquered, featuring a variety of special guests performing classic songs of the season as well as new songs celebrating thankfulness, unity, and love.

DECEMBER 10 - Hanukkah concludes:

NEWS:

Hanukkah Lights

9 - 10 pm on [IPR News](#)

A perennial public radio favorite with all new Hanukkah stories. Hosted by Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz.

DECEMBER 16:

STUDIO ONE:

An Irish Christmas In America

1 - 5 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

This beloved and heartfelt show delivers a fascinating mix of Irish music, song, dance and stories. Backed by evocative photos depicting Irish winter traditions, the production provides a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas, as well as a fun-filled, family-friendly start to the holidays.

DECEMBER 17:

STUDIO ONE:

An Irish Christmas In America

1 - 4 pm on Studio One online

This beloved and heartfelt show delivers a fascinating mix of Irish music, song, dance and stories. Backed by evocative photos depicting Irish winter traditions, the production provides a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas, as well as a fun-filled, family-friendly start to the holidays.

DECEMBER 22:**CLASSICAL:*****Concierto Christmas Special***8 - 10 am on [IPR Classical](#)

Frank Dominguez hosts a special holiday edition of the national bi-lingual program that features music by Spanish and Latin American composers and performers presented in English and Spanish.

All is Bright: Contemplative Music for Christmas4 - 5 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Lynne Warfel hosts an hour of gorgeous, contemplative choral music that tells the traditional Christmas story with songs about angels, the star and the manger scene. Featured artists include Cantus, Chanticleer, Cambridge Singers, and more.

Chatham Baroque5 - 6 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Ring in the holiday season with Baroque music performed by the internationally renowned Chatham Baroque. Since 1990, Chatham Baroque has excited local, national, and international audiences with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17th and 18th century music played on instruments of the period. Each year, the members of Pittsburgh-based Chatham Baroque present a Baroque holiday program. This year's broadcast is titled "Chatham Baroque: A Jubilant Season."

Christmas with Morehouse and Spelman Glee Clubs6 - 7 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

One of the great holiday traditions in America, the choirs of Morehouse and Spelman Colleges - two of the most prestigious historically black institutions in the nation - get together to present a spine-tingling concert program. It's a joyous celebration of the schools' tradition of singing excellence, with their trademark mixture of spirituals and carols.

wcfsymphony's "A Baroque Holiday" concert8 - 9 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Join Iowa Public Radio as we present the wcfsymphony's "A Baroque Holiday" concert, a performance of several of Bach's holiday pieces. The performance features pieces from each of the venues where the composer performed during his most productive period.

DECEMBER 23:**CLASSICAL:*****wcfsymphony's "A Baroque Holiday" concert***4 - 5 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

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Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir5 - 6 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

The world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir continues its tradition of great artistry this holiday season, with touching arrangements of familiar carols, and lesser-known melodies that are fast becoming the new classics.

STUDIO ONE:***A Folk Tree Solstice***1 - 2 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

Join IPR's Karen Impola for music celebrating the winter solstice. Featuring a range of Folk music in celebration of the season, you'll be sure to enjoy the start of the holiday week.

A Christmas Celtic Sojourn2 - 3 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

First launched in 2003, A Christmas Celtic Sojourn reflects the compelling and diverse offerings of the weekly national radio program. With legends of music, song, and dance from the Celtic world and beyond poised to take the stage together, this show is one of the chestnuts of live holiday music.

The Christmas Revels: In Celebration of the Winter Solstice3 - 5 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

A two-hour musical celebration of the winter holidays - Christmas, the Solstice, New Year's, and Twelfth Night - featuring traditional carols, anthems, hymns, motets, wassails, spirituals, children's game-songs, and folk dance tunes excerpted from live Christmas Revels productions presented around the country.

DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve:**NEWS:*****IPR Presents: Doug Brown's reading of A Christmas Carol***9 am - 12 pm on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

Doug Brown, a beloved public radio voice in Iowa for 37 years, recorded a rendition of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This classic holiday tale tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey through Christmas past, present, and future as he rediscovers the Christmas spirit in time to share it with family and friends.

It's a Wonderful Life12 - 2 pm on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

In its sophomore season, Iowa Stage Theatre Company presents its first touring show, "It's A Wonderful Life: The Radio Play" by Joe Landry. This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. An ensemble of 5 actors, with the help of live sound effects, brings a few dozen characters to life on the stage, sharing the story of idealistic George Bailey as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

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CLASSICAL:***A Baroque Christmas in the New World 2018***

8 - 9 am on [IPR Classical](#)

In celebration of the holiday season, *A Baroque Christmas in the New World* brings you music from 17th- and 18th-century Mexico, Peru and Bolivia, including a cantata and three free-standing works by Sumaya. Listen as the musicians of the Historical Performance Institute at the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University, under the direction of Dana Marsh, bring these sparkling works to life once again.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

9 - 11 am on [IPR Classical](#)

This broadcast from the chapel of King's College, in Cambridge, England features the 30-voice King's College Choir as they perform the legendary Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service, including Biblical readings and music.

In Italia: A Renaissance Christmas

11 am - 12 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

In the sixteenth-century, the splendor of the Renaissance blossomed across Italy as a new Holy Roman Empire stretched its wings from the Urals to the Atlantic. This special broadcast brings listeners wonderful sixteenth-century Christmas music from the Venetian world of Giovanni Bassano and Gioseffo Zarlino, moving westward to the Milan of Franchinus Gaffurius, and southerly to the Naples of Diego Ortiz.

It's a Wonderful Life

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Christmas at Luther

2 - 3 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Christmas at Luther, now in its 37th year, features performances by Luther College's six choirs and three instrumental ensembles.

Christmas with Morehouse and Spelman Glee Clubs

3 - 4 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

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Welcome Christmas4 - 5 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

The perennial Christmas favorite from VocalEssence, one of the world's premiere choral groups. An hour of traditional carols and new discoveries.

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Bob Dorr's Rockin' Christmas Eve7 - 10 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

Every year Bob hosts his "Rockin' Christmas Eve." This year's broadcast is the 44th out of the last 46 Christmas eves that Bob's hosted on Iowa Public Radio. The music is all holiday songs from all eras and all music styles, some of it picked out by listener request. Join Bob and Iowa Public Radio this Rockin' Christmas Eve!

DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day:**NEWS:*****Tinsel Tales: NPR Christmas Favorites***9 - 10 am on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

This program features stories from the NPR archives that touch on the meaning of Christmas. David Sedaris, Bailey White, John Henry Faulk - these and other NPR voices, past and present, tell stories of the season.

Tinsel Tales 2: More NPR Christmas Favorites10 - 11 am on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

NPR fills millions of homes each holiday with humor, warmth, and a host of festive voices. Continuing with the tradition of the first *Tinsel Tales* program, this is another collection of the best and most requested holiday stories. Joy, hope, and childhood memories overflow as NPR voices, past and present, tell stories of the season.

Tinsel Tales 3: Even More NPR Christmas Favorites

11 am - 12 pm on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

In keeping with a well-loved holiday tradition, hear the third collection of extraordinary Christmas stories that will transport you to unexpected places. Audie Cornish, Ken Harbaugh, Nina Totenberg and other voices from NPR's past and present tell stories of the season in this hour-long special. Some tales are funny; some are touching; some are insightful or irreverent or nostalgic or surprising. You might recognize them from our broadcast archives - or you might fall in love with them for the first time.

Tinsel Tales 4: So Much More NPR Christmas Favorites

12 - 1 pm on [IPR News](#) and [News/Studio One](#)

In keeping with a well-loved NPR holiday tradition, hear the fourth collection of extraordinary Christmas stories that will transport you to unexpected places. NPR's past and present tell stories of the season in this hour-long special. Some tales are funny; some are touching; some are insightful or irreverent or nostalgic or surprising. You might recognize them from our broadcast archives - or you might fall in love with them for the first time.

Tinsel Tales: NPR Christmas Favorites

7 - 8 pm on [IPR News](#)

This program features stories from the NPR archives that touch on the meaning of Christmas. David Sedaris, Bailey White, John Henry Faulk - these and other NPR voices, past and present, tell stories of the season.

Tinsel Tales 2: More NPR Christmas Favorites

8 - 9 pm on [IPR News](#)

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CLASSICAL:***Gloria in Excelsis: Christmas with the New Jersey MasterChorale 2018***7 - 8 am on [IPR Classical](#)

The New Jersey MasterChorale, accompanied by musicians of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Friends, with the Philadelphia Boys Choir and mezzo soprano Deidra Palmour presents music of the season, including John Rutter's festive Gloria, the Te Deum by William Gorton, and other much-loved carols including 'I wonder as I wander' and the 'Coventry Carol.'

A Chanticleer Christmas8 - 9 am on [IPR Classical](#)

A celebration of the season as told through the glorious voices of Chanticleer, the 12-voice San Francisco-based men's choir. The program spans the globe and the centuries - from England in the 1300s to new arrangements of classic and contemporary carols to Chanticleer's popular Gospel medley of Christmas tunes.

St. Olaf Christmas9 - 11 am on [IPR Classical](#)

A service in song and word that has become one of the nation's most cherished holiday celebrations. The festival includes hymns, carols, choral works, as well as orchestral selections celebrating the Nativity and featuring more than 500 student musicians in five choirs and the St. Olaf Orchestra.

Carols and Cheer11 am - 12 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Host Scott Blankenship reviews his favorite carols this holiday season. You will love singing along as he shares his top picks for the Christmas season, performed by today's leading artists and ensembles.

A Choral Christmas with Stile Antico12 - 1 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Celebrate Christmas with the sound of soaring voices. Stile Antico, the award-winning choir from London, pays a visit to St. Paul's church on Harvard Square for a concert of radiant sacred music for the Christmas season by the most acclaimed composers of the renaissance. Hear the group's luminous blend of voices sing the intricately woven music of Thomas Tallis and William Byrd.

Hollywood Holiday1 - 2 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Lynne Warfel, host of Saturday Cinema, takes you on a one-hour musical retrospective of some of Hollywood's most cherished Christmas themed movies.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Messiah2 - 4 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Handel's much adored oratorio, *Messiah*, expresses the religious story of hope, inspiration, and timeless expression. Performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, this masterpiece is traditionally associated with the holiday season and celebrated worldwide in performances throughout December.

Christmas at Luther4 - 5 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

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STUDIO ONE:***Bob Dorr's Rockin' Christmas Eve***

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The Big Tiny Desk Special

9 - 10 pm on [IPR News/Studio One](#) & Studio One online

Celebrate the season with amazing holiday performances from The Tiny Desk Concert series, including Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Steve Martin, Hanson, The Polyphonic Spree and more!

DECEMBER 26:**STUDIO ONE:*****Studio One Tracks: "A Conquered Christmas"***

7 - 9 am on Studio One online

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The Big Tiny Desk Special

9 - 10 am on Studio One online

Celebrate the season with amazing holiday performances from The Tiny Desk Concert series, including Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Steve Martin, Hanson, The Polyphonic Spree and more!

December 31 - New Year's Eve:**NEWS:*****Capitol Steps: Politics Takes a Holiday***

10 - 11 pm on [IPR News](#)

Has it been a rough year? Did you buy stock in Sears? Or invest in Ivanka's clothing line? Did you take a job as a public relations spokesperson for Kanye West? Then you may feel the need to laugh at 2018, and the Capitol Steps could not agree more! Now is your chance to finally enjoy the headlines you were too scared to read. After all, the Capitol Steps won't tell you any actual useful information, but they will tell you what rhymes with Beto O'Rourke and Omarosa.

JANUARY 1, 2019 - New Year's Day:**NEWS:*****Capitol Steps: Politics Takes a Holiday***

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CLASSICAL:***New Year's Day From Vienna***

10 am - 12 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

The Philharmonic presents its ever popular annual New Year's Day concert from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna. You'll hear your favorite waltzes, polkas, and more - a festive way to start off the New Year.

Quad City Symphony, featuring Joshua Bell

12 - 2 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Join host Jacqueline Halblom for a broadcast of the Quad City Symphony's concert featuring world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell. The symphony performs Beethoven's Egmont Overture and Symphony No. 7, then Bell joins the symphony to perform Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. This is a beautiful concert with a heart-warming performance by one of today's great Classical violinists, and is sure to lift your New Year's Day afternoon.

Brucemorchester XI

2 - 4 pm on [IPR Classical](#)

Join IPR and Classical host Jacqueline Halblom for a broadcast of Orchestra Iowa's Brucemorchester XI, "The American Rhapsody." This performance features classics from Gershwin, Bernstein, and others from Classen and Grofe, in addition to the Star Spangled Banner. Dr. Rene Lecuona, piano professor at the University of Iowa, is featured on piano throughout the show.