



A NOTE FROM VPR'S PRESIDENT

Dear VPR Listener,

As we approach the end of another year at Vermont Public Radio, I want to thank you for making VPR a part of your life. At a time when newsrooms are shrinking and classical music is disappearing from the radio, VPR is more essential and relevant than ever. Here are just some of our accomplishments in 2013, thanks to listener support:

VPR News enhanced its digital reporting through projects like Mapping The Money and the expansion of Public Post, which provides local news from Vermont's cities and towns. We also expanded coverage of the Vermont Legislature and produced in-depth series on topics important to our community, including a look at newcomers to Vermont and fire codes in the state's rental properties.

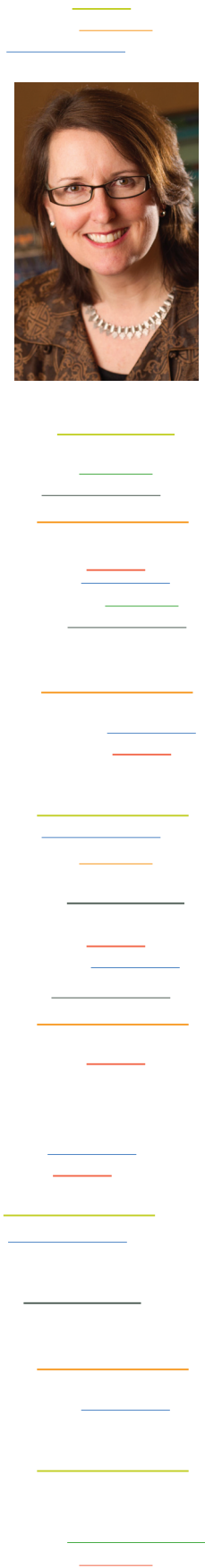
Vermont Edition continued to be a place for Vermonters to come together and explore our culture and issues important to us. The show provided ongoing and multi-faceted coverage of Vermont Yankee, an extensive series on the state's mental health system, and welcomed several Vermont bands into the studio for live performances, including Kat Wright and the Indomitable Soul Band, Dwight & Nicole, and Dave Keller.


During the partial shutdown of the federal government, two days of special coverage from NPR headquarters in Washington, D.C. provided listeners with the rare opportunity to understand the reputation and influence that Vermont's delegation has on Capitol Hill. For the first time ever, Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and Rep. Peter Welch came together for a joint 90-minute interview to reflect on their own roles in Washington. And listeners heard the unvarnished observations of Capitol Hill reporters on how these three men are perceived inside the beltway. VPR was the first member station to broadcast from NPR's new headquarters in a project that will serve as a model for other stations to follow.

VPR Classical collaborated with the Burlington Ensemble to record and provide free downloads of all five of Beethoven's sonatas for cello and piano. We also hosted 20 live performances in our studios, spotlighting the rich classical musical community that exists in our region. And, our monthly Student Composer Showcase featured original music by young Vermont composers.

A new VPR Classical station in Montpelier went on the air at 99.5 FM in November. The station covers a population of 36,000 and fulfills VPR's long-time goal of serving Vermont's capital with our 24-hour classical music service.

VPR introduced lively new programs, including *The Moth* on Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings, the *TED Radio Hour* on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday evenings, and the *VPR Café* on Sunday mornings. NPR's *Tell Me More* moved to weekday afternoons at 2 p.m., replacing *The Story*, which ended production when Host Dick Gordon returned to his native Canada.





VPR's digital services continue to provide access to Vermont Public Radio where and when you want it. This year, we upgraded our iPhone app, and introduced a VPR Classical mobile site that offers a clean interface, playlist, and simple listen controls.

Several **community partnerships** helped strengthen VPR's programming in 2013. In collaboration with colleges across the region, VPR Presents recorded and featured compelling speakers at VPR.net, included Richard Russo and Tom Bodett. Additionally, VPR partnered with the *Rutland Herald* and *Times Argus* to share news content, the Young Writers Project to bring attention to talented writers from across the state, and the Vermont Humanities Council on their Vermont Reads Poetry project.

Vermont Public Radio was honored this year with four Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards by the Radio Television Digital News Association, including recognition for Overall Excellence. Nationally, VPR received two 2013 Public Radio News Directors Inc. awards for a *Vermont Edition* program on tiny houses, and for best newscast. Reporter Charlotte Albright received a Gracie Award for excellence in programming created for women, by women, and about women.

VPR also was named one of the Best Places To Work In Vermont by *Vermont Business Magazine*. This recognition is especially important to me because it was based on anonymous feedback provided by VPR employees. In my opinion, the VPR staff is the smartest, most talented, passionate, and caring of any public radio station in the country!

Support for VPR is higher than it's ever been. This year, our membership topped 28,000 for the first time in our history. The number of sustaining members of VPR also grew to an all-time high of almost 11,000 listeners who support VPR on a monthly basis. We are also fortunate to have strong support from the business community. In 2013, more than 325 companies and organizations supported VPR through underwriting.

The programs and projects from VPR are diverse, but the common thread is you. Your financial support has had a real and powerful impact, making Vermont Public Radio an extraordinary resource for independent news, conversations that shape your understanding of the world, and music and culture to nourish your spirit. All of these things are rare in today's world, but thanks to our listeners, they flourish here at VPR.

Again, thank you for being a part of our community. I wish you the best for the season and all of us at VPR look forward to serving you in 2014.

Sincerely,



Robin Turnau
VPR President & CEO



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