

PRESS RELEASE:

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**Hosted by Journalist Tommy Tomlinson, WFAE’s New Podcast “SouthBound”
Features Conversations with Some of Today’s Most Notable Southerners**

Charlotte, N.C. (Nov. 9, 2017) – WFAE introduces a new podcast about the South called [“SouthBound.”](#) featuring conversations with people who grew up here, live here and have spent time thinking about how this place has molded them. Hosted by journalist Tommy Tomlinson, “SouthBound” features interviews with notable Southerners from all walks of life – from artists and athletes to preachers and politicians.

“For those of us who were born and raised here, the South will always have a hold on us. I want to explore that hold; I want to find out how the South shapes who we are and what we do,” said Tomlinson, a native Southerner who was raised in Georgia and has lived in Charlotte for 30 years.

The name “SouthBound” was chosen for its double meaning -- southbound, in terms of a journey to the South, and South-bound, in terms of the things that tie us to this place.

“I want to get beyond that first impression that people have for one another. I found that the more you talk to someone, the more they become who they really are, and that’s a more interesting place,” said Tomlinson. “I hope by having conversations that extend for a little while that we get to those interesting places and the audience can hear that conversation developing. Get to those moments I’ve always loved getting to as a journalist and having people hear it happen.”

Harvey Gantt, John T. Edge and Dolph Ramseur kick off the 10-episode series. Tomlinson and his guests talk about civil rights, food, music, politics and more.

“Tommy Tomlinson’s more than two decades as a reporter and columnist in Charlotte makes him the perfect host to guide listeners and interviewees through conversation about how the South influences those who have called it home,” said Ju-Don Marshall, WFAE’s chief content officer. “Through this podcast, I expect we will all have a better sense of what makes this place and the people who reside here special.”

“SouthBound” listeners can submit suggestions for Tomlinson to feature in future episodes. Send an email to tomlinsonwrites@gmail.com.

“SouthBound” is available at WFAE.org and the WFAE app, as well as through [iTunes](#) and other sources for podcasts.

Episode Descriptions:

Harvey Gantt -- the man who integrated Clemson University, and later ran against Jesse Helms in two bruising U.S. Senate campaigns, talks about his life in civil rights, politics and architecture.

(more)

John T. Edge – the head of the Southern Foodways Alliance talks about how Southern food serves as a glimpse into our history, and a lens into the modern South.

Dolph Ramseur – the man who discovered (and still manages) the Avett Brothers talks about plunging into the music business with no experience, finding the Avetts, and pursuing the sounds he first heard growing up on a dirt road.

For interview opportunities, please contact Renee Rallos. Photos and logo available upon request.

About Tommy Tomlinson

Tomlinson has written for publications including *ESPN the Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Forbes*, *Southern Living*, *Garden & Gun* and others. He spent 23 years as a reporter and local columnist for the *Charlotte Observer*, where he was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in commentary. He teaches magazine writing at Wake Forest University. His memoir “The Elephant In the Room,” about life as a fat man in a growing America, will be published by Simon & Schuster. He’s a graduate of the University of Georgia and was a 2008-09 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

About WFAE

WFAE 90.7 FM is a non-profit public radio station, licensed to the University Radio Foundation Inc. With 90.3 in Hickory, 106.1 in Laurinburg and 93.7 in Southern Pines, WFAE serves over 230,000 weekly listeners in the greater Charlotte region with an award-winning mix of local, national and international news, and entertainment programs from NPR® and other content partners.

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