



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WLRN Succeeds In Expanding Public Radio Coverage in Palm Beach County**

Miami, FL – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – WLRN has succeeded in expanding public radio coverage in Palm Beach County. WLRN Public Media has reached a programming agreement with California based Christian broadcaster Educational Media Foundation (EMF) that will allow WLRN to program the 101.9 frequency securing NPR and local programming for 700,000 Palm Beach County residents.

While listeners who live in south Palm Beach County can receive WLRN, residents who live farther north were at risk of losing public radio altogether when American Public Media, a subsidiary of Minnesota Public Radio, sold its Classical South Florida public radio network to EMF in June 2015. The radio network included 90.7 a full power FM station and 101.9 a 250 watt FM translator station in West Palm Beach.

“If the West Palm Beach market were to lose public radio it would be the most densely populated area in the country without NPR services,” says John LaBonia, General Manager of WLRN. “The idea that the most intelligent and professional news source on the air would be gone is just unacceptable.”

In July, EMF replaced the classical format with contemporary Christian music on 90.7, but left the National Public Radio (NPR) format temporarily in place on 101.9 at the request of WLRN.

“We are excited that a programming agreement has been secured,” adds LaBonia. “Now with this expanded coverage, we can proudly offer NPR for the Palm Beaches.”

The sale of Classical South Florida also meant the end of classical music on the airwaves. WLRN management made the decision to keep this important service flourishing in South Florida. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, WLRN’s HD-2 radio channel began broadcasting “Classical 24”. Listeners, once again, could enjoy classical music 24 hours a day through HD-capable radios, live-stream on [wlrn.org](http://wlrn.org), as well as, WLRN’s iPhone and Android apps.

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### **About WLRN**

WLRN Public Media is committed to being the most trusted source of information and entertainment in South Florida's diverse community. Licensed to the school board of Miami-Dade County, WLRN is best

known for its award winning public radio and television programs, but its services go well beyond the airwaves. It's a complex media enterprise consisting of radio and television stations, [www.WLRN.org](http://www.WLRN.org) and educational channels offering you a variety of high quality programming and advanced learning services making WLRN a valuable public media source.