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### Montana Public Radio changes news and classical schedules

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 22, 2009

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**MONTANA PUBLIC RADIO CHANGES NEWS AND CLASSICAL SCHEDULES**

**MISSOULA –**

Beginning Nov. 2, morning news on Montana Public Radio will run until 9 a.m. The extra hour of news won't be a repeat of NPR's "Morning Edition," but will provide more Montana news and the addition of "Marketplace Morning Report."

More time will be dedicated to Montana news between 7 and 9 a.m. "Montana Morning News" now will feature reports from Emilie Ritter in **Helena**, Katrin Frye in the **Flathead Valley** or Kevin Maki in the **Bitterroot Valley**, as well as from Missoula anchor Edward O'Brien.

"In the past two years, we have planned for and created a significant regional news team," said Station Manager William Marcus. "We want to make sure everyone hears their great work."

News Director Sally Mauk added, "We've gotten good response to the expanded regional reports during our evening newscast, and now we'll be bringing the same depth of reporting to 'Montana Morning News.'"

Two years of research and gathering feedback led to the decision to make a shift in the station's long-standing morning news schedule.

Program Director Michael Marsolek said, “It’s always been a bit of a controversy amongst our listeners wanting more news or more music in the morning. By retooling the morning program block, we have strengthened our news service and expanded our commitment to classical music.”

Classical music always has been the core of Montana Public Radio’s programming. The station’s commitment to it continues, with three to six hours of classical music programming each day. Some program times have changed, most notably “Morning Classics,” which now will air from 9 to 11 a.m. Other MTPR classical changes include local producer Marguerite Munsche’s “Sunday Musicale,” which will move to 7 a.m., and her “Saturday Music Hall,” which will gain half an hour, now running until 5 p.m. The national show “Performance Today” returns to Tuesday nights and now will be heard every weekday.

A news and information block will take place at midday following the popular “Freeforms” show. The BBC World Service will lead off at 12:30 p.m., followed by a variety of public affairs and information programs from 1 to 2 p.m.

“This new midday block will have a good mix of global, national and Montana perspectives,” said Marsolek. “I’m excited to be able to add NPR’s ‘Talk of the Nation – Science Friday’ to the schedule and to move public affairs shows like ‘Homeground,’ ‘Living on Earth’ and ‘Musician’s Spotlight’ to our midday schedule.”

The new weekday lineup:

- 2 to 5 a.m. – BBC World Service
- 5 to 7 a.m. – “Morning Edition” from NPR
  - 5:51 a.m. – “Marketplace Morning Report”
- 7 to 9 a.m. – “Morning Edition” from NPR

- 7:04, 7:33, 8:04 and 8:33 a.m. – “Montana Morning News”
- 7:51 a.m. – “Marketplace Morning Report”
- 9 to 11 a.m. – “Morning Classics”
- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – “Freeforms”
- 12:30 p.m. – BBC World Service
- 1 to 2 p.m. – Public affairs and information shows
- 2 to 4 p.m. – “Performance Today,” “The Folk Show” and “Jazz Sessions”
- 4 p.m. – “The Pea Green Boat”
- 5 to 5:30 p.m. – “All Things Considered”
- 5:30 to 6 p.m. – “Montana Evening Edition”
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. – “All Things Considered”

For the complete schedule, visit <http://www.mtpr.org>.

Montana Public Radio is a public service of The University of Montana, airing across western and central Montana. Its studios are located on the UM campus in Missoula, with a news bureau at the state Capitol in Helena. Montana Public Radio receives funding from its listeners, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and UM.

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