

DIC 70510

PR

Received & Inspected

Steve Blake  
Box 21288  
Douglas, MA 01516

APR 01 2014

FCC Mail Room

March 26, 2014

Media Bureau - Audio Section  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Room TW-A325  
Washington D.C. 20554

and

The Trustees,  
WGBH Educational Foundation  
One Guest Street  
Boston, MA 02135

RE: License Renewal Applications of  
WGBH-FM (#BRED 20131202BIA)  
WCRB-FM (#BRH 20131202BIR)

To the FCC and the Trustees,

I am writing to protest the actions taken by the owners of WGBH-FM (and now WCRB-FM as well) to dismantle what had been the Boston - and regional - music powerhouse at 89.7 FM (WGBH-FM), and to say that I agree with the Committee for Community Access' *Petition to Deny* the renewal of the licenses of WGBH-FM and WCRB-FM.

For many years 89.7 FM has been a high-powered beacon broadcasting great music: classical music of both European and American origins, including jazz, folk and blues. It billed itself as Boston's "NPR Arts and Culture Station" - in distinction to Boston University's WBUR-FM (90.9 FM), which is an NPR news and talk station.

Listener contributions helped the Trustees make WGBH-FM one of the most powerful signals on the dial and to build state of the art studios, including a small concert hall used regularly to stage and broadcast live music performances, which members of WGBH's Classical Club and its Jazz Club were invited to attend. Members paid \$100 a year to join those clubs.

WGBH also regularly carried live remote broadcasts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

With the purchase of WCRB-FM, a weak suburban station, five years ago, WGBH banished classical music from the airwaves of 89.7, and banished folk and blues entirely the same year. In the daytime, WGBH became a near-clone of WBUR.

The only music that remained on 89.7 was jazz, which it had carried on an all night, every night basis from 7pm until the morning NPR news, though it began moving the start time back a little at a time until it got it to 9pm.

Then, in the summer of 2012, it announced "a new focus on jazz" - which translated to eliminating all evening music during the week, using WGBH's evening hours to rebroadcast the same talk shows it had aired in the daytime.

The only music still on WGBH is on weekend evenings after 9 pm.

I cannot believe that the trustees of the WGBH Educational Foundation, which has always put quality before financial concerns, have decided to abandon their long-time commitment to quality music - a commitment in which they were supported financially by members of the public - to duplicate the programming of the other NPR station, and to duplicate their own daytime programming in the evenings.

Have they sunk so low that they have succumbed to the lure of easy money in the hopes of syndicating their local talk shows nationally? What other cities would want them? WGBH-TV can do this, because it is producing shows of national and international interest, but the same can't be said of their local talk shows.

Are they hoping to bring in lots of advertising revenue in and around the talk shows? What kind of "public broadcasting" is that?

This must be fixed - either by WGBH restoring the great music it used to air to 89.7, or by letting someone else do so.

Very truly yours,  
*Steve Blake*