

Locusts in December! Those listening to Classical Wyoming on Saturday, December 29 at 10 a.m. were treated to an unusual event – A Wyoming opera about locusts. *Locust: The Opera – An Environmental Murder Mystery* premiered in Jackson on September 28, and on radio on Classical Wyoming in December. Composed by Anne M. Guzzo, with a libretto by Jeffrey A. Lockwood, the Opera addresses the mystery of the disappearing locust from the Rocky Mountains. WPM's London Homer-Wambeam produced a feature about the Opera that further explores the making of this purely Wyoming work. <https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/you-heard-right-opera-about-locusts#stream/1>. WPM was proud to bring this Wyoming-based work to a broad audience. The magic of radio can make that happen!

One item that didn't make our November/December newsletter involved an informal discussion about the future of Russian politics. Friendship Force of Cheyenne hosted four young Russian delegates working to reform Russian politics. They were in Cheyenne to observe American local government through the U.S. Congress's Open World Leadership Center. Presentations by Olga Zhulimova and Ruslan Rudenko, Regional Coordinators of the Open Russia Public Network founded by former Yukos oil magnate and Putin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky. This was the second year I was happy to participate in this program and share some American/Wyoming perspectives on media and politics.

Coming up, there are many projects in the works. You can look forward to WPM reporting from the Legislature as well as links on our website. The State of the State Address will be carried live on Wednesday, January 9 at 10 a.m. Programming focusing on the Women's Suffrage Celebration is in the planning in partnership with UW departments and Wyoming PBS,

Just around the corner the annual I Love WPR campaign is looming, offering a wonderful opportunity to collect Wyoming voices via short testimonials and stories.

Congratulations to all Wyoming musicians who were part of the Listener Picks of Best Music of 2018, on Wyoming Sounds. You can view the lists on our website at <https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/poll-results-listeners-pick-best-music-2018>.

In closing, I invite you to listen to a story you may have missed over the Holidays. It's about teaching civics in the classroom, and a timely topic as Wyoming inaugurates its 33rd Governor, and 65th Legislature convenes on January 8th. (See <https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/civics-education-makes-come-back>.)

Happy New Year!

Christina Kuzmych

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