WWOZ 90.7 FM’s mission is to be the worldwide voice, archive, and flag-bearer of New Orleans music. Owned by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, we proudly preserve the culture of the Crescent City.

For over 41 years, WWOZ has been deeply committed to all things New Orleans.

Since 1980, WWOZ has grown from a small station operated out of a beer storage room above Tipitina’s music club to an ever-expanding multimedia organization followed locally and worldwide via our radio waves, live video streams, and social media platforms.

In 2021, WWOZ’s global presence continued to grow as millions tuned in. Our global impact received international, national & local recognition and press.

WWOZ continued to meet the multiple challenges of the pandemic and hurricanes and we never missed a beat.

We are proud to share many of ‘OZ’s programs and services in this report.

Highlights Include:
- Community Voices
- Jazz Festing in Place series
- WWOZ Video
- Groovapedia
- WWOZ OnlineWire
- WWOZ LiveWire
- A Closer Walk
- Takin’ it to the Streets
- WWOZ Virtual Music Events
- Tributes to Legends
- Awards
- Testimonials

Our local and worldwide listenership continued to skyrocket this year, a testament to WWOZ’s worldwide impact.

Since the pandemic started, WWOZ has received unprecedented acclaim and support from around the country and the world.

We have been ambassadors promoting the music, history and culture of Louisiana and New Orleans to record audiences.

Millions of people have tuned in, shared our social media, accessed our online archive, Groovapedia, and Jazz Festing in Place safely from their homes.
Community Voices – Guardians of the Groove

WWOZ is a community public radio station powered by the voices of over 75 volunteer show hosts, a small dedicated staff and dozens of committed behind-the-scenes volunteers.

WWOZ has not missed a beat since the beginning of the pandemic. We quickly responded with a new, safe way of broadcasting which included a combination of some staff & show hosts coming into the station and broadcasting live with strict adherence to CDC guidelines. Others create their shows and work from their homes.

In 2021, our Show Hosts, many with decades of experience, volunteered more than 8,400 hours to WWOZ.

WWOZ Show Hosts independently decide what to play to craft their broadcast presentation. Each host brings his or her own unique musical sensibility, knowledge, experience and community perspective to share with our local and worldwide audience.
Jazz Festing in Place

In 2021 WWOZ continued to present our Jazz Festing in Place series in the Spring and again in the Fall due to the cancellations of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

These wildly popular worldwide celebrations featured the best artists from Heaven and Earth. Performances by Dr. John, Fats Domino, Allen Toussaint, Irma Thomas, The Neville Brothers, Ella Fitzgerald with Stevie Wonder and hundreds more.

Millions of people from around the world Jazz Fested in Place with us!

They pulled out their festival shirts, hats, flags and chairs and joined us to celebrate the best of New Orleans music from their backyards, front porches, and air-conditioned living rooms all over the world. Everyone was invited!
Our On-Air Festival of New Orleans Music and Culture made it possible for us to celebrate and groove together while remaining safely apart.

We received hundreds of emails, donations, posts and pictures from fans around the world Festing in Place. From Gentilly to Germany, from Lakeview to Japan, from Uptown to Serbia, from the 9th Ward to Australia, from the Fairgrounds to France, from California to South Korea, from New York to New Zealand, and more.... Click here to check out some of the amazing and creative pictures Jazz Festing in Place listeners sent in from around the world!
WWOZ Video

WWOZ’s videos attracted more than 3 million views in 2021 between Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter, and Instagram.

Early in the year, our video team hit the streets to capture what was happening for a Mardi Gras with no parades, including stopping at many of the Krewe of House Floats homes. This was an immediate hit, and a number of national news organizations quickly followed up with their own stories about the house floats in New Orleans.

Good use was, again, made of our huge archive of music and documentaries filmed in the last seven years which were remade into new programs for online viewing.

We also began to safely produce major new streaming productions for our worldwide audience. Some of those include:

- WWOZ’s Piano Night: From Our Homes to Yours (all new recordings by pianists in their homes)
- Live streaming from the 2021 Danny Barker Banjo & Guitar Festival at the New Orleans Jazz Museum balcony
- Coverage of the Pride Month house floats in June
- The increase in outdoor performances throughout the city, from private porches to outdoor venues
- “Chanteuse: Celebrating New Orleans Women in Music” and Fall Concert series at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Center
- Return of the Louisiana Cajun Zydeco Festival at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Center
- The return of second line parades to the streets of New Orleans
- Memorial second lines of notable New Orleanians, including Lois Andrews Nelson, Norman Batiste, Bennie Pete, and Action Jackson
- The in-person return of “Sync Up,” a series of sessions focused on the educational and business development for the entertainment industry
WWOZ.org

WWOZ’s website continues to be a growing and powerful platform. Last year, 929,128 unique visitors explored WWOZ.org, generating 5,450,184 million page views.

WWOZ was one of the first radio stations in the country to start streaming live (1994), and has since grown into an information hub providing visitors access not only to our live stream, but also to New Orleans musical and cultural content unavailable anywhere else.

**WWOZ 90.7FM Live Stream**

Our internet audience continues to grow every year, helping New Orleanians from around the world feel connected to the city (whether they were born here or feel like they should have been). In 2021, listeners tuned in to WWOZ’s live stream from all 50 states, Washington DC, and more than 200 countries.

**Two Week Archive**

Fans can go back and listen to a running Two Week Streaming Archive of all the shows and performances on WWOZ. The Two-Week Archive includes every show every week. It has been especially popular during the weeks after Festing in Place Events. During 2021, the Two-Week Archive was the third most popular page on the site with 429,006 page views, following only the Live Stream player and the home page.
WWOZ Livewire & OnlineWire – New Orleans Live Music Listings Calendar
During January – May 2021, we continued publishing the WWOZ OnlineWire as a replacement for our popular Livewire Music Calendar. The OnlineWire was a calendar of virtual gigs so people around the world could enjoy and support live local musical performances safely from their homes. During the first half of 2021, OnlineWire garnered over 101,000 page views, connecting musicians and music lovers. During May 2021, we re-launched the Livewire Music Calendar.

WWOZ Blogs
WWOZ show hosts and staff collaborate to generate posts surrounding events, music news, and other cultural information of interest to our audience. In 2021, the most popular blog post at wwoz.org was “Second lines return to New Orleans” with over 13,894 page views.

Support for Local Creatives during the Pandemic
Regularly updated as new resources become available.
Groovapedia

In 2021, WWOZ continued to expand GROOVAPEDIA during the pandemic so that people around the world could experience our comprehensive collection of all things New Orleans in one straightforward portal. Groovapedia presents WWOZ’s award-winning multimedia and is accessible 24/7 to everyone, everywhere, on any device. This includes thousands of compelling and unique performances, interviews, history, photos, videos, audio programs and more. Check out Groovapedia here.
Takin’ It To The Streets

Takin' It to the Streets® is WWOZ's multi-platform program celebrating New Orleans' social aid & pleasure clubs, second lines, Black Masking Indians, Baby Dolls, and brass band traditions. Takin 'It To The Streets includes a weekly podcast of interviews with social & pleasure club officers and Black Masking Indians, Baby Dolls, brass band musicians, and more. These award-winning, peer-level interviews are important documentation of an aspect of New Orleans culture that no other media outlet covers with such consistency, detail, or authenticity. The resulting WWOZ programming is authentic and far deeper than the “outsider looking in” perspective that is often given to the clubs and Indians on this unique aspect of New Orleans culture.

We began the year with longtime Takin’ It To The Streets host and producer Action Jackson creating weekly podcasts with culture bearers, even though no parades were hitting the streets. These interviews were conducted via telephone, to maintain Covid protocols at the radio station.

By June, the city decided that second line parades were allowed again. Clubs began to hit the streets and, in the latter half of 2021, guest hosts ensured that Takin’ It To The Streets continued to connect and document the second line community during this exciting time.

In August, Action Jackson passed after complications from cancer. WWOZ's social media and video department covered second lines and a jazz funeral for Action, in a fitting tribute to a beloved personality who had done so much for the community.
As the parade season began again in late summer, we continued our interview series, conducted by multiple figures at WWOZ and in the parading community. The program also continued to cover the loss of many New Orleans culture bearers this year. Takin’ It To The Streets has been, perhaps, more important than ever this year as the communities it covers are finally able to come together again to keep their traditions alive.

Interviews have covered topics including the effects of the pandemic, how decisions are made internally within clubs and tribes, the importance of mentorship, a renewed focus on brass bands, and hopes for 2022. [Listen to the 2021 Takin’ it to the Streets interviews here.](#)

Page 1 - All photos by Ryan Hodgson-Rigsbee: (1) Action Jackson in the WWOZ Studio. (2) Da Truth Brass Band at the pop-up second line for Action Jackson, Aug. 9, 2021. (3) Chantrell Trahan, Action Jackson’s daughter, at the pop-up second line for Action Jackson.

A Closer Walk:
Interactive New Orleans Music History Map

WWOZ continues to expand on this important Interactive New Orleans Music History Map! A Closer Walk maps more than a century of New Orleans’ great musical moments and historical sites. It's an indispensable guide to exploring New Orleans music history, either via the curated tours, or by exploring “a la carte” any of the individual music history sites. The website is optimized for mobile devices so users can head out with smartphones or tablets for a self-guided tour. In 2021, we were excited to expand this initiative adding and highlighting several new locations and tours including:

- Good Rocking Tonight: Rock ‘n’ Roll Roots in New Orleans Tour
- Club Desire
- Rhythm Club/Club Rocket
- Foster’s Hotel
- The Brass Rail
- Louis Armstrong Park
- South Rampart Street
- The Roots of Rock ‘n’ Roll in New Orleans

Our award-winning Closer Walk project was created in partnership with the Ponderosa Stomp Foundation, Randy Fertel, Bent Media, and e/Prime Media. Explore the site at ACloserWalkNOLA.com
2021 was a year of continued growth for WWOZ’s social media. We use our social presence to bring Louisiana and its musical culture to our worldwide audience.

Approximately half of our followers are in Louisiana and the other half are from across the country and world.

Our engagement with the social media audience has consistently risen across platforms. When deciding how to use social media, our guiding principle is to bring New Orleans and its musical culture to our audience no matter where they live. We post on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram several times a day, with over 1500 posts a year on each platform. In these posts, we share photos, videos, and links that foster connection with our listeners. Since WWOZ relies on donations from listeners for the bulk of its support, these relationships are crucial. Video is used extensively throughout our social media platforms.

**TOP FACEBOOK VIDEOS: Views**
- Mardi Gras House Floats: 341,800
- Treme Brass Band for Danny Barker Fest: 23,000
- WWOZ Piano Night: 18,800
- Bennie Pete Memorial Second Line: 16,500
WWOZ Virtual Events

In years past, WWOZ’s sold-out fundraising events were limited to the capacity of the host venues. In 2021 we were presented with a unique opportunity to open our doors to a worldwide virtual audience. We had room for everyone to groove together no matter where they were!

**WWOZ Piano Night**
On Monday April 26 WWOZ showcased our 34th annual Piano Night and fans were treated to performances by twenty-four phenomenal pianists! Piano Night 2021 featured Jon Batiste, Marcia Ball, Jon Cleary, Ivan Neville, Joe Krown, John Gros, Yoshitaka Tsuji, Lilli Lewis, CR Gruver, Oscar Rossignoli, Courtney Bryan, Jesse McBride, Mari Watanabe, Keiko Komaki, Tom Worrell, Kris Tokarski, Josh Paxton, Joe Ashlar, Michael O'Hara, Tom McDermott, Larry Sieberth, Kyle Roussel, Craig Adams, and Davell Crawford!

**WWOZ Groove Gala**
We were scheduled to hold our Groove Gala in person once again in early September. However, due to the pandemic we had to cancel the event. Instead, we presented an encore of last year’s concert featuring superstars Irma Thomas, Tank and the Bangas, John Boutte, Samantha Fish, Kermit Ruffins, Amanda Shaw, Rockin’ Dopsie, Jr., and Tuba Skinny! The Groove Gala was hosted by John Goodman and Norman Robinson. Together we united and gathered virtually so everyone could safely celebrate WWOZ’s decades of broadcasting and Guarding the Groove!
WWOZ Awards

WWOZ was once again honored to be recognized with several awards which were voted on by our national and local peers as well as our listeners in 2021! Our station also received unprecedented local, national and international coverage for our Festing in Place series.

**Louisiana Association of Broadcasters**
WWOZ was named *Station of the Year* by the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters during their Prestige Awards Virtual Ceremony. Here is [WWOZ’s Station of the Year Video](#)

WWOZ Chief Engineer Damond Jacob was named *Broadcast Engineer of the Year*!

**Press Club of New Orleans**
WWOZ was awarded 5 top awards at The Press Club of New Orleans' 63rd Annual Excellence in Journalism Awards.

First Place:
**Best Radio Show**
WWOZ’s Jazz Festing in Place

First Place:
**Best Social Video**
WWOZ GROOVE GALA

*Judge’s Comments: "Impressive multi-camera set up, slick graphics and clear audio. High viewership and engagement on the original post reflect the value this livestream provided to the audience."*

We also won Second Place in this category for our WWOZ PIANO NIGHT production!
First Place:
**Best Social Media Campaign**
WWOZ’s Jazz Festing in Place
Judge’s comments: "Great comprehensive package. Generated lots of engagement. Greatly needed service to the community during these dark times."

First Place
**Best Feature Videography**
WWOZ’s Telephone Grooves
Judge’s comments: "8 cameras working in unison to tell an incredible story."

First Place
**Best Use of Twitter**
WWOZ’s Jazz Festing in Place
Judge's comments: "What a creative way to salvage the spirit of Jazz Fest!"

WWOZ also won Second Place Honors for Best Use of Facebook and Third Place in the Digital Special Category for our OnlineWire!

**Gambit’s**
**Best of New Orleans**
WWOZ once again voted top Radio Station by Gambit readers!
WWOZ Tributes to Legends

In 2021 WWOZ and New Orleans lost many important musicians and culture bearers, including several from within the WWOZ family.

**WWOZ host and producer Action Jackson**

WWOZ’s Charles “Action” Jackson passed on August 8, at 59. He was a beloved long-time show host best known for his work on Takin’ It To The Streets, WWOZ’s program celebrating New Orleans’ social aid & pleasure clubs, second lines, Black Masking Indians, Baby Dolls, and brass bands. Action also hosted the late night blues show from Thursday night to Friday morning on WWOZ for several years, first from 3-6am and then from 12-3am. In 2020, he moved to host the Thursday afternoon blues show from 2-4pm each week. WWOZ listeners recognized Action from his always enthusiastic greeting, “It’s ya boy!” and everyone in the second line and masking communities knew Action.

**WWOZ host Suzanne Corley**

Longtime WWOZ host Suzanne Corley passed in April, at 52. She had been part of the WWOZ family since 2002, and over the last decade was the host of the World Journey and Tudo Bem shows on Saturdays, and for many years was the host, for half the year, of the Thursday afternoon Jazz from the French Market show. She was also a regular host of WWOZ’s annual live broadcast from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. She was an athlete, a Rhodes Scholar, a writer and novelist, and a teacher who spoke and taught many languages.

**WWOZ host Ron Phillips**

WWOZ show host Ron Phillips passed suddenly in April, at 63. He had volunteered at the station for almost ten years, serving as a substitute host for several years, before settling into Saturday mornings as the host of Weekend New Orleans from 10 am to 12 noon. Ron loved music, especially New Orleans music, and cared deeply about WWOZ and his show, always trying to connect to his listeners on more than just a surface level. He worked hard on the air to encourage positivity, especially during the pandemic this last year.
New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival Producer George Wein

George Wein, founder of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival, and the Newport Folk Festival, died in September at 95. Wein has long been regarded as a true visionary and pioneer of the modern festival. Over the course of his seventy year career, Wein produced hundreds of festivals around the world, including the JVC Jazz Festivals in New York, London, Nice, and Newport; the Verizon Music Festival in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, and Tampa; the Aurex Festivals in Japan; the Playboy Jazz Festival in Hollywood; the Boston Globe Festival; and more. “I never went into it as ‘a business,’” he said. “The music was in my head, in my heart, in my soul. And it still is.”

Carol Fran

Blues singer and pianist Carol Fran died in September, at 87. Her distinctive voice and piano-playing style afforded her a musical career spanning more than six decades. Fran was associated with Excello Records and the “swamp blues” genre, characterized by a mixture of laid back vocals and Cajun and Zydeco rhythms. Fran was a Lafayette native well-known for her wit, storytelling, stage presence, and big heart, and she performed in both English and her native Cajun French. She was a friend of WWOZ for many years, and often performed at our annual Piano Night benefit concerts. She toured the world, and in 2013 was named a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts.
Ike Stubblefield
We lost Hammond B3 organ virtuoso Ike Stubblefield in June, at 69. He began his career in the late 1960s, playing keys for Motown artists like the Four Tops, Martha Reeves, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and Rare Earth. In the 1970s, Stubblefield hit the stage with George Benson, B.B. King, Ike and Tina Turner, Curtis Mayfield, Al Green, Eric Clapton, Rod Stewart, the Jerry Garcia Band, Johnny Adams, and many more. Stubblefield helped create the classic B3 sound that others would imitate for generations to come. He was a regular performer in New Orleans, and a perennial guest at WWOZ and at our annual Piano Night concerts.

Bennie Pete
Bennie Pete, sousaphone player and Hot 8 Brass Band co-founder, died in September, at 45. Pete was respected by everyone in the New Orleans community and was well-known for his gentle nature and talent. From an early age, he was a tireless advocate for New Orleans culture and brass band music. In 1995, he co-founded formed the Hot 8 Brass Band, becoming one of the most sought after bands as they reinvented funk, R&B, rap, and pop songs into upbeat brass band music perfect for the streets. Hot 8 toured the world, and was also nominated for a Grammy Award in the "Best Regional Roots Music Album" category in 2013. They’ve also collaborated with some of the entertainment industry’s biggest names, including Lauryn Hill, Mos Def, Spike Lee, and the Blind Boys of Alabama. Pete always expressed gratitude for the opportunity to travel, and the chance to spread their music across the whole world.

Others lost in 2021 include: Lois Andrews Nelson, JD Hill, Lloyd Price, Jack Fine, "Miss Teen" Augustine Germaine Lewis, Big Chief Dump of the Young Maasai Hunters, WWOZ volunteer Louis Holmes and Norman Batiste. Read more about these artists and culture bearers on the WWOZ In Memoriam Page.
Dear WWOZ,
I was born in Hammond, Louisiana but have been living in Canada for the last 20 years or so. I'm a firefighter up here and have been battling some pretty big wildfires over the last few weeks. On our last deployment, we were in a pretty bad situation with fire rolling all around us. I tuned into WWOZ (as I did the whole time) and it calmed us all down. It was nice listening to some sweet New Orleans jazz while all around there was panic. We made some food and kept our cool. Thank you for being out there making the world a little sweeter with the sounds that sooth my heart. Love to all of the WWOZ family, especially after the tragic loss of Action Jackson. Thoughts go out to all of you.
My best, Kirk

WWOZ is the one thing that brings happiness to our entire family. Your programming has help us make it through the pandemic. Thank You! -Jason K.

I could go on and on about why I support WWOZ. You guys do it right! You've changed our lives for the better through music. THANK YOU. <3 Member for life! -Cat P.

Love the music, excellent DJ's and cherish New Orleans! -Trisha C.

You keep us believing in the groove!! Thanks!! -Pamela S.

We love OZ!!!!!!! -Jadah C.

Love the music and the feeling of being a part of this crazy town (NOLA) we call home! :) -Beth W.
Thank you for keeping the music on air through a terrible ordeal. Special thoughts are with all the OZ hosts, volunteers and people of New Orleans. Keep Marching. -Michael H.

I support the channel that supports the musicians. -Gail F.

I give to WWOZ because music has saved my a** many times. I love you Nola and wwoz. -Cindy J.

You all bring joy to a troubled world! Thank you so much!!! -Mary E.

Today is my birthday, so this membership is a birthday gift to myself! -Tarana L.

You take me where I can’t go myself. Be well! -Patrick H.

Lets me know there’s life out there. -Ron M.

WWOZ is pandemic-proof. Play on, play on play on… -Bruce Y.

When I turn on WWOZ and close my eyes I'm immediately transported to the Fairgrounds. -Caroline R.

I love OZ, love how it keeps New Orleans music alive and expanding. -Michael C.

I love your support of new artists! I have discovered many great current performers on WWOZ. I love the historic perspective too. But I want some new funky music, and O-Z has got it! -Mark S.

I miss New Orleans, and supporting WWOZ is one way that I can stay connected. -Glenn M.

Music feeds my soul, and the soul of New Orleans -William W.
I've been listening non-stop since I moved here in 2017 and always wanted to support, but could never afford it until now. Y'all play the best blues and funk and you even got me into zydeco (I used to hate accordions). Also the livewire calendar is fire. -Matthew W.

Thanks for so many kitchen dance parties during this difficult pandemic time! -Charlotte N.

You make me happy! love towards the end of day when you start rocking out. Love learning about music. Love Saturday afternoons! -Jon B.

Constant inspiration in the background and foreground of my life! -Dorie C.

Listening to WWOZ is a music and culture educational experience. Can't get enough. -Richard H.

I'm a tuba player in Las Vegas, with a small tuba repair shop in my garage. WWOZ is always playing when I'm out there bringing horns back to life. Thanks for the constant source of inspiration. -Peter F.

WWOZ is my utopia during the pandemic. -Andrew B.
2021 Local Content & Service Report

Photo Credits

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Jazz Festing in Place

WWOZ Video

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Lower 9th Ward Steppers and Nine Times Kids by MJ Mastrogiovanni.

Groovapedia
Benny Jones with Treme Brass Band at Satchmo Summer Fest 2019. Photo by Louis Crispino.

Tributes
Benny Pete by Leona Strassberg Steiner.