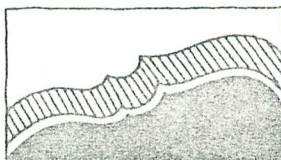


The  
Folklore  
Society  
of Greater  
Washington



Box 19303  
20th Street Station  
Washington, DC 20036

July 25, 1977

Charles Hobson, Program Director  
WETA-FM  
5217 19th Rd.  
North Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Hobson:

It may or may not be because Washington is the nation's capitol, but this city and its surrounding regions embody perhaps more interest than any other part of the country in folk music and the traditions it represents. For this reason, the Folklore Society of Greater Washington would like to express its serious concern about the decision to reduce the time allotted to WETA-FM's weekend folk music programming. We also understand that there will be a further reduction, beginning in October, to allow for the radio portion of a classical simulcast. Together, these two cutbacks suggest to us a real misjudgement of the community's interests.

Washington is rich in radio stations, but as you are surely aware, the redundancy of programming philosophies leaves a lot of music--and a lot of the public--out in the cold. WETA-FM certainly represents an alternative to the general racket, but it's our feeling that even WETA may be--is, in fact--over-homogenizing its programming at the expense of large numbers of listeners.

Washington is constantly demonstrating its interest in folk music, attending clubs, concerts and festivals, making music, and yes, listening to it on WETA-FM. A recent folk festival at Glen Echo, organized by the Folklore Society with the help of the National Park Service, attracted, by Park Service estimate, 12,000 people in six hours (a number that surprised even us). The Festival of American Folklife, the National Folk Festival and numerous other well-attended festivals in the surrounding area are constantly renewing interest in folk music, yet radio stations display little or no awareness of the oft-exhibited musical tastes of these many, many people. WETA has been an exception, yet it, too, seems to be turning its back.

The Folklore Society has had a chance to see the many thousands of people attracted to its hundreds of concerts, workshops and other events over the last 13 years. In many ways, it seems, people interested in folk music are involved much more deeply than are those who enjoy what are, by their nature, less participatory forms such as classical orchestral music. This is certainly no reflection on that very large segment of WETA-FM's audience--many of us share their tastes--and certainly there are technical realities that affect programming decisions (when WETA-TV wants a simulcast, a simulcast there will no doubt be), but we urge that the folk music programming affected by such needs be reprogrammed at other (but regular) times and/or days. A few more hours a week, in fact, would be heartily welcomed.

We'd be most interested, also, in your thoughts on the reception by the community of the folk music presented on WETA-FM (and, such as it is, on other stations as well). I encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

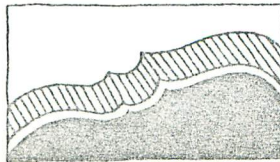
Yours truly,

*Jonathan Eberhart*

Jonathan Eberhart, President  
The Folklore Society  
of Greater Washington



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Yours truly,

*Jonathan Eberhart*

Jonathan Eberhart, President  
The Folklore Society  
of Greater Washington



TELEVISION 26 - RADIO FM 90.9  
BOX 2626, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013 (703) 998-2600

29 July 1977

Jonathan Eberhart, President  
The Folklore Society of Greater Washington  
Box 19303  
20th Street Station  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Eberhart:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 25, 1977. We all share your concerns about the folk program. The decision to cut its weekend time was made with some regret. The problem was that "All Things Considered", perhaps our most popular program, had been extended to an hour on the weekends. Also our listener survey strongly suggested that we should carry the complete "ATC" broadcast.

As for the planned simulcasts, that decision was made by the television scheduling department in conjunction with WGBH and PBS. Sunday evening was the only time available on the TV schedule for this program. Incidentally, the Boston Symphony Orchestra series will only run thirteen weeks.

We are, however, considering more programming hours for folk music and will make a decision within the next few weeks.

I would like to thank you again for your interest in this matter, and would also enjoy meeting with you to discuss folk music.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles Hobson', written in a cursive style.

CHARLES HOBSON  
Director of Radio

CBH:sas



**WETA 26**

TELEVISION 26 - RADIO FM 90.9  
BOX 2626, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013



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