

# American Archive

## OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

### Latino Empowerment through Public Broadcasting & Remembering Stephen Sondheim

#### [Latino Empowerment through Public Broadcasting](#)



*Radio Cadena engineer in Seattle studio, from Realidades: Los Medios de Comunicacion y la Comunidad Latina: <https://americanarchive.org/catalog/cpb-aacip-a6c496a73d1> (WNET, 1977).*

The American Archive of Public Broadcasting has launched a new digital exhibit, “[Latino Empowerment through Public Broadcasting](#),” that draws on Spanish, English, and bilingual programming in the AAPB collection, exploring ways that public radio and television over the past fifty years has provided Latinos with opportunities to communicate their cultures, histories, hopes, and concerns.

Featuring more than 650 digitized public television and radio programs online, the exhibit chronicles the origins of [Latino community radio](#) and [Latino public television](#), as well as perspectives on the [immigrant experience](#), [life and challenges in the Latino community](#), and [Latino identity and culture](#).

The exhibit was curated by Alexandra García and Gabriela Rivera, two interns in the Library of Congress' Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program.

An accompanying [two-part episode of “Presenting the Past,”](#) a podcast collaboration between the AAPB and the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, features interviews with Latino public media pioneers Hugo Morales, Executive Director and Co-founder of Radio Bilingüe, and Jesús Treviño, television director, author and creator of Latiniopia.com, along with scholars Dolores Inés Casillas, Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies and Director of the Chicano Studies Institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Gabriela Rivera Marín, a doctoral student at the University of Florida studying Hispanic Linguistics and co-curator of the Latino Empowerment exhibit.

The AAPB is constantly expanding. We have instituted an initiative to collaborate with stations and producers to add more Spanish-language content to the archive. As we add programs to the archive, we will update this exhibit. A Spanish-language version of the exhibit will be forthcoming with additional content.

[Visit the Exhibit](#)



*Stephen Sondheim on The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, October 24, 1984: <https://americanarchive.org/catalog/cpb-aacip-507-kk94747j0c?start=2918.47&end=3510.81>*

#### Remembering Stephen Sondheim

While we remain deeply saddened by the loss of celebrated musical theater creator Stephen Sondheim, who died last week the day after Thanksgiving, we can be thankful for the body of work he has left us on recordings that will remain available to inspire generations to come. The AAPB collection includes the following interviews, profiles, and discussions of Sondheim's work from the past 40-plus years.

- John Weidman, the librettist of three Sondheim musicals, discusses their first collaboration, *Pacific Overtures*, in an episode of the WGBH series [Pantechinon broadcast on October 12, 1975](#).

- [On October 24, 1984, The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour](#) profiled Sondheim as revivals of *Pacific Overtures* and *Sweeney Todd* were in rehearsals in New York, and *Sunday in the Park with George* was one of the hottest tickets on Broadway. The piece includes rehearsal scenes and interviews in which Sondheim discusses the songs “Color and Light” from *Sunday* and “Someone in a Tree” from *Pacific Overtures*.
- Pulitzer Prize winning music critic Tim Page, who wrote the *Washington Post* obituary of Sondheim, interviewed him for the [episode of the WNYC series Meet the Composer broadcast on February 13, 1985](#).
- On [February 26, 1998, Sondheim recorded an interview for the American Masters program Leonard Bernstein: Reaching for the Note](#).
- [The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer from April 3, 2000](#), includes an essay by Richard Rodriguez on Sondheim and the American musical theater.
- For [The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer broadcast of July 3, 2002](#), during a six-play retrospective of Sondheim shows at Washington’s Kennedy Center, Jeffrey Brown interviewed Lynn Redgrave, Barbara Cook, and Christine Baranski on the challenges and pleasures of performing Sondheim’s songs.
- On [September 24, 2007, Sondheim spoke at length about collaborating with Jerome Robbins](#) in the *American Masters* program *Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About*.
- On the occasion of the publication of *Finishing the Hat*, the 80-year-old Sondheim talks with Jeffrey Brown on lyric writing, the subject of this first of two books he wrote on the subject, in a segment broadcast on the [PBS NewsHour on December 8, 2010](#).
- At a MacDowell Arts Colony tribute honoring Sondheim, Jeffrey Brown interviewed him on new challenges at age 83 for [PBS NewsHour Weekend on September 8, 2013](#).

We also recommend a [Library of Congress Blog post](#) by our colleague, Senior Music Specialist Mark Eden Horowitz, on his friendship with Sondheim over the past few decades.

The [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#), a collaboration between the Library of Congress and GBH Archives, coordinates a national effort to digitally preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media over the past seven decades.



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