

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Pittsburgh TV Show Gets Green Light

Something Pittsburgh has wanted for a long time has come to pass as cable channel A&E has picked-up the locally shot TV series “Those Who Kill”

A&E Television Networks is owned as joint venture between **Hearst Corporation** and the **Walt Disney Company**, both of which have assets in the region. The news was first reported by Michael O’Connell in *The Hollywood Reporter* with a detailed

article the next day in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* by Rob Owen.

“Those Who Kill” is an American adaptation of a popular Danish series about a special police unit that investigates serial murders. The U.S. version stars Chloe Sevigny as a detective and James D’Arcy as the forensic psychiatrist.

The series “is not a crime procedural about serial killers” A&E’s Bob DeBitetto told O’Connell. “It’s a deep serialized character portrait of two compelling yet damaged individuals coming together through the revelation of their dark past.” In his article,

Owen describes the decision as “a milestone in Pittsburgh TV: production: The largest, scripted, prime-time TV series order in the region’s history.”

Other shows, notably “The Guardian” filmed establishing shots and a few scenes in Pittsburgh but were otherwise produced in Los Angeles. Dawn Keezer of the **Pittsburgh Film Office** told Owen that she’s thrilled. “This means long-term employment for our extremely talented film crew.”

The ten episodes will begin production later this year for a 2014 debut.

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Pittsburgh A&E Group

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Convention Registration

At press time, it was still possible to register for the **Americans for the Arts** (AFTA) national convention.

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Americans for the Arts, formed through the merger of two non-profit organizations, focuses on advancing the arts in the United States. The national convention is

being held June 14-16 at the David Lawrence Convention Center. It is being hosted locally by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council**.

More than one thousand leaders from around the country are expected. To learn more, and to register, visit <http://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/2013-americans-for-the-arts-convention>

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COA/P To Anchor New Development

Around the time *Pittsburgh Applause's* April issue was completed, **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh** announced that it will anchor the new Garden Theater development on the city's north side.



Founded in 2004, City of Asylum/Pittsburgh (COA/P) provides sanctuary to endangered literary writers, so that they can continue to write and their voices are not silenced, among other cultural programs. The Garden Theater development involves converting a defunct movie theater, a former

fraternal hall and other vacant buildings along West North Avenue into a mixture of businesses and residences.

COA/P was originally going to place their Alphabet City project a few blocks away when this opportunity became available. The project is described by the organization as a "year-round hub for literary, musical and community programming."

"We think this is just great," COA/P's Henry Reese told Kelsey Shea of the *Northside Chronicle*. "What could be better than to be a part of the most important gateway to our neighborhood." Initial plans for a Japanese restaurant and a co-op food store to be anchors had fallen through.

Details can be found at <http://www.cityofasylumpittsburgh.org/2013/03/18/city-of-asylumpittsburgh-to-open-alphabet-city-literary-center-in-allegheeny-city-centrals-garden-theater-block>

QED's 5-Year Plan

The board of **WQED Multimedia** has unanimously approved a new five-year strategic plan, reports Maria Sciuillo of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



At the center is the creation of an in-house program called the Center for Innovation &

Entrepreneurship in Media that is seen as way to develop new media projects.

"It's still being designed" CEO Debra Acklin explained to Sciuillo. "One of the things we realized is that we had pockets innovation throughout the company." Examples cited include the station's successful digital sub-channel, Showcase, and popular "iQ Kids" programs.

Expansion In Doubt

One of the city's favorite gathering places --- and concert venues --- the **Thunderbird Café** wants to grow into a larger, more exciting music center. Unfortunately, the residents in its Lawrenceville neighborhood are less than thrilled.



In an article published on April 3, *City Paper's* Lauren Daley laid out the situation: Thunderbird's owners want to bring together various properties to more than double the café's capacity. "I didn't buy this place because I wanted to own a bar," co-owner John Pergal told Daley. "I do it for the love of live music."

The bar, as in other nightclubs, is a major revenue stream making the live music possible.

Residents are concerned that Lawrenceville could become like the city's South Side, which has seen a rise in bars over the years with the resulting issues. To learn more, read Daley's full article at <http://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/spreading-its-wings-thunderbird-caf-owners-want-nightclub-to-grow-but-expansion-plans-dont-sit-well-with-lawrenceville-residents/Content?oid=1634869>



New Hall Of Fame Coming

Plans are underway to establish a new institution, the **American Pop Hall of Fame** --- in Canonsburg.



That may seem a strange place to some. Canonsburg is a small town of less than 10,000 people in Westmoreland County. It is known mostly for its steel mills and coal mines. But it's also the birth place of stars such as pop singers Perry Como, Bobby Vinton and even up-and-coming rapper Cameron "Wiz Khalifa" Thomaz.

The hall has been in development for some time and in March named its first inductees, as reported by KDKA-TV and is posted at <http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2013/03/15/pop-music-hall-of-fame-inductees-named-in-canonsburg/>. They will be formally inducted in a ceremony to be held at a regional hotel ballroom in July.

"As we know, tourism is probably the number one industry in Washington County, and we want Canonsburg to part of that" Canonsburg's mayor, David H. Rhome, told the online newspaper Cannon-McMillan Patch's Amanda Gillooly.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Terry Hazlett reports that a former restaurant in downtown Canonsburg is being renovated into a temporary home with the help area college students. "The board also is working with the **Vocal Group Hall of Fame** in Sharon, Mercer County, to obtain memorabilia for a projected October opening."

More information is available online at <http://americaspopmusicchalloffame.org/>

Brigade Enjoys 35th B-day

Local radio program and non-profit organization **Saturday Light Brigade** (SLB) recently celebrated its 35th anniversary.

Begun in 1978, SLB's radio show is broadcast live from the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** every Saturday on six college radio stations as well as **Comcast's** community television channel. SLB also serves some 2,000 students annually off-air workshops and after-school programs. The show can also be heard online at <http://www.slbradio.org>

Yet, despite the digital age, "we still really believe that audio and radio are great forms for people to express themselves and find out about other people," founder Larry Berger told the *Northside Chronicle's* Kelsey Shea. "We don't expect that to change."

SAG-AFTRA Ok's Deal

The national board of **SAG-AFTRA** has approved recently negotiated commercial agreements as well as a number of internal matters.



Formed through a merger in 2012, SAG-AFTRA is a union representing over 160,000 film and television performers. The union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh and Cleveland areas and maintains a full-time office in downtown Pittsburgh.

The board unanimously approved the deal reached on April 7 with the ad industry on new television and radio commercial contracts. Members benefit from nearly

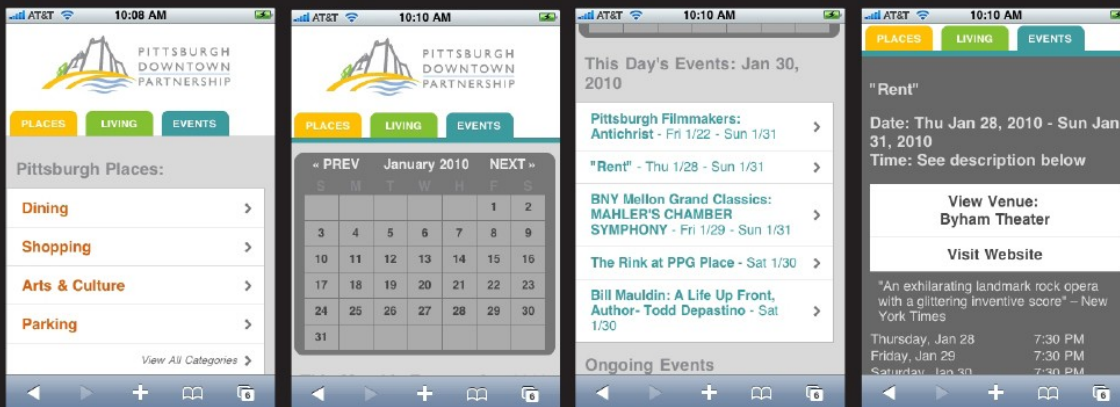
\$240 million in wage increases and other payments and improvements in other areas. Members can read summaries of the agreements by visiting <http://www.sagaftra.org/commercials-contracts-be-ratified-electronic-voting>

"We made important gains on these contracts," co-president Roberta Reardon says in a press release, "that provide our members with the solid foundation they need to sustain their careers and families."

SAG-AFTRA is also restructuring by consolidating or closing ten of the union's 25 regional offices. (*Pittsburgh Applause* spoke to the local office on April 30 and confirmed that they will remain).

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Cox's Prez Hayes Retires

Jimmy W. Hayes is retiring from **Cox Enterprises** after 33 years with the company, a press release issued on April 23 announced.



Cox Enterprises own Pittsburgh television station WPXI.

Hayes began with Cox in 1977 as an internal auditor and moved up the ranks to be named president in 2008. "Jimmy has led an impressive career at Cox and I consider it a privilege having worked alongside him for so many years," company chairman Jim Kennedy said in the press release. "I thank Jimmy for his loyalty and service to Cox."

John M. Dyer, the current chief operating officer, has been named to succeed Hayes who will retain a seat on Cox's board.

The
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Jazz Leader, Pitt Professor Retires

After more than four decades of promoting jazz and training young musicians, Dr. Nathan Davis is retiring from the **University of Pittsburgh** (Pitt), reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Bob Karlovits.



Davis is credited with starting the jazz

studies programs at the university as well as seminar and concert programs, a jazz hall of fame and a journal on jazz.

"Nathan is an extraordinarily creative individual," Dean N.

John Cooper told Karlovits. "He is an institution builder."

Davis is set to step down as of June 28 and a search has begun for his successor. For more information on Pitt's jazz programs, visit <http://www.pitt.edu/~pittjazz/>



Images

Photos Celebrating Pittsburgh's
Arts/Entertainment History & Community



Can there be any doubt why Pittsburgh is so often selected as a location for film and television productions? This image is from James Richards' archives.

To have an image considered, email Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com

THU
2 Slip into your tight polyester suit and join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at **Heinz Hall** for some disco mania!

FRI
3 Expect the headline: "Teens Take Over **The Warhol**"

SAT
4 Have some fun at the **ToonSeum** for Free Comic Book Day.

SAT
4 One of Pittsburgh's leading cartoonists — Rob Rogers of the *Post-Gazette* —


appears at the **Frick Art & Historical Center** to talk of humor's healing powers.

SUN
5 Students, faculty and alumni from the University Of The Philippines perform a wide-range of acoustic songs at the **Kelly-Strayhorn**.

FRI
10 Openly gay comedian Kate Clinton lights up **Cruze Bar** with her smart, politically-informed humor.

SAT
11 Comedy continues with Pittsburgh native Anthony Jeselnik delivering at the **Andrew Carnegie Music Hall**.

SAT
11 This year's Silk Screen Film Festival starts tonight. Check out our special section for details.

SUN
12 

SUN
12 We also have a special section dedicated to this year's Pittsburgh International

Children's Festival (which begins today).

MON
13 Stop by **Bricolage** for a staged reading of the groundbreaking play "A Raisin In The Sun."

MON
13 He calls himself Iron & Wine, but whatever his name he'll be at the **Andrew Carnegie Music Hall** tonight.

WED
15 Expect that big red dog Clifford to be running around the **Children's Museum** as a new interactive exhibit opens.

WED
15 *Post-Gazette* history writer Marylynn Pitz is offering a genealogy seminar at the paper's headquarters.

FRI
17 YouTube sensation Valentina Lisita joins the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at **Heinz Hall**.

SAT
18 Country music superstar Tim McGraw opens the **First Niagara Pavilion's** 2013 season tonight.

TUE
21 The amazing quartet Fall Out Boy brings stand-up pop tunes to **Stage AE**.

SAT
25 The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra embraces Beatlemania (sort of) with the music of Sir Paul McCartney filling **Heinz Hall**.

MON
27 

TUE
28 **Mr. Small's Fun-house** celebrates a decade of music with a multi-week series of concerts starting tonight.

THU
30 The Pittsburgh Public Theater closes its 2012-2013 season at the **O'Reilly Theater** with the poignant play "Other Desert Cities" and its tale of a family struggling to deal with a thirty-year-old tragedy.

FRI
31 The **First Niagara Pavilion** heats up with the help of Dave Matthews and his band.

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www.post-gazette.com/events

National/World A&E News Round-Up

Museum Gets Billion Dollar Gift

Philanthropist and cosmetics mogul Leonard A. Lauder has promised the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** --- he's donating his acclaimed collection of art, reports Carol Vogel of the *New York Times*.

That art consists of nearly 80 Cubist works by artists like Pablo Picasso and Fernand Léger worth an estimated \$1 billion. Lauder has been building this collection since his youth.

"In one fell swoop this puts the Met at the forefront of early 20th-century art," the Met's Thomas P. Campbell told Vogel. "It is an unreproducible collection, something museum directors only dream about."

Lauder has not put any restrictions in how they can be displayed and the pieces are being delivered to the museum in installments. An exhibition showcasing them is expected in 2014.

Third Time Is The Charm

"Dallas" fans are rejoicing: the revived series has been renewed for a third 15-episode season, reports Tim Kenneally of TheWrap.com.

The show did initially see a ratings drop from its June run to its January second season. But each week, from January to April, saw the numbers rise. Nearly half of its audience is between the ages of 18 and 49, the demographic that most appeals to advertisers. This gave

Time-Warner's TNT confidence that the show still has legs.

"Dallas" has built a passionately loyal following with its expertly woven storylines, clever twists and turns, and numerous outstanding performances by a cast that spans generations," TNT's Michael Wright told Kenneally.

Production will resume on location later this year.

An Art Revolution --- On The Arabian Peninsula?

During the golden years of the Ottoman and Persian empires, the Arab-Islamic world led in areas from science to art. Now, a Saudi artist intends to make his own contemporary contribution by establishing the first artist-run institution in Riyadh.

That artist is Abdunnasser Gharem, who specializes in conceptual work and tells Gareth Harris of TheArtNewspaper.com that an "art revolution [is] taking place in Saudi Arabia."

"We have so many good artists here. The galleries and, unfortunately, auction houses are starting to move in but there are no institutions or foundations here to help the younger artists." He'll need permission from the kingdom's government but thinks that is very possible. "This country is full of people who have the [necessary] money . . . [but] such art foundations are not part of our culture."

Pix Kicks Out Staff

The international special effects company **Pixomondo** --- best known for earning an Academy Award for the effects created for

the 2011 film "Hugo" --- has decided to shut its Berlin office.

Founder and CEO Thilo Kuther told Brent Land of TheWrap.com that "Berlin is not such an important market."

This the second time in as many months that Pixomondo has shuttered an office. Only weeks earlier, their Shanghai branch was closed. Between the two, more than 40 people have lost their jobs.

Gay Communist Film Leader Dies

Alfredo Guevara, the man who effectively built Communist Cuba's film industry after the revolution has died. He was 87 and a life-long friend of Fidel Castro.

Writing for the *New Yorker's* web site, Jon Lee Anderson explains that Guevara founded "the Cuban Institute for the Arts and Cinematography, which sponsored Cuba's state-funded, leftist 'new' cinema."

"Paradoxically," Anderson points out, "Guevara was also the preeminent homosexual in a Communist regime where, during the early years of revolution, being gay was regarded as a sign of decadent individualism, and homosexuality was brutally suppressed." Cuba finally decriminalized homosexuality in 1979 and Fidel Castro made a public apology for the treatment in 2010.

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Noms For Schell Games

Two creations of local firm **Schell Games** --- “Tunnel Tail” and “PlayForward: Elm City Stories” --- have been chosen as finalists for the 2013 Design, Art & Technology (DATA) Awards, sponsored by the **Pittsburgh Technology Council**.

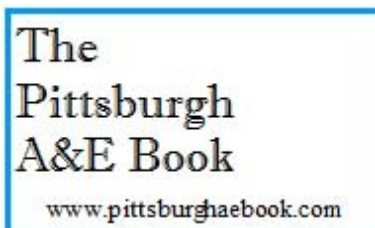


In its fifth year, the DATA Awards honor projects that demonstrate the highest levels of creativity in a technological pursuit.

Schell Games developed “Tunnel Tail” in association with the **BEST Foundation**, an organization dedicated to drug use prevention. The game helps young teens

develop the skills necessary for eluding and diffusing unsafe social situations. Made in partnership with **Yale University School of Medicine**, “PlayForward: Elm City Stories” is a role-playing game for the iPad aims to prevent HIV infection among ethnic minority adolescents.

Winners will be announced on Wednesday, May 15.



Major Promotion At Comcast As NBC Goes More Digital

Greg Butz has been promoted by **Comcast** to lead the firm’s consumer marketing for cable television, internet and phone as well as investing in new channels and increasing subscriptions.



In Pittsburgh, Comcast operates the city’s cable television franchise. The company also owns and runs entertainment giant NBC-Universal.

“Greg’s leadership, strong experience and focus on our customers

make him uniquely qualified to step into this role,” Dave Wilson, chief of the cable division, says in a press release. “He . . . is crucial to our success as we continue to innovate and deliver the best products and services to our customers.”

In other news, NBC-Universal is launching new initiatives in the digital realm. Gavin O’Malley of MediaPost.com reports that among these is live stream component of the new game show “The Million Second Quiz” allowing audiences to play along with the contestants.

CMA’s New Photo Program

On April 18, the Carnegie Museum of Art --- part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** --- announced the launch of the Hillman Photography Initiative.

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| OF PITTSBURGH

According to a press release, the initiative “aims to be a living laboratory for exploring the rapidly changing field of photography and its impact on the world.”

The initiative is being supported by the **William T. Hillman Foundation** and will operate out of the museum’s photography department. It will offer “an adaptable framework for engaging with [today’s] provocative issues [such as the veracity of images found online].” Five staff members called “agents” will work with a program manager to “identify a key theme that will inspire a wide range of activities such as exhibitions, programs, collaborations, publications, commissioned works of art, artists residencies and online experiences.”

You can follow its progress by visiting <http://www.initiative.cmoa.org>



CBS Buys Into Tech Firm

After taking full ownership of TV Guide Network, **CBS Corporation** continues its buying spree by taking what it calls “a strategic minority investment” in technology company **Syncbak**.



In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation owns two television and four radio stations, most notably KDKA. Syncbak uses location-based authentication technology to enable local stations to stream their signals on mobile devices as seamlessly as your television receives broadcast signals.

“Across the country broadcasters are looking for the best way to respond to consumer demand for streaming their content,”

Syncbak’s CEO Jack Perry explains in a press release. “Syncbak’s technology provides the right solution at the right to make that happen. I am particularly pleased that CBS has recognized the role that Syncbak can play as the broadcast model continues to evolve.”

The affiliates are apparently on-board, reports TVNewsCheck.com’s Andrew Dodson. “As far as the affiliate board is concerned,” board chairman Chris Cornelius told Dodson, “we’re happy that [CBS] is taking steps to work with Syncbak.”

Support Jim Today!

Jim Richards does many great things for Pittsburgh’s arts & entertainment community with little or no compensation and despite health issues. You can show your support through comp tickets, cash gifts and advertising in *Pittsburgh Applause* among many other ways.

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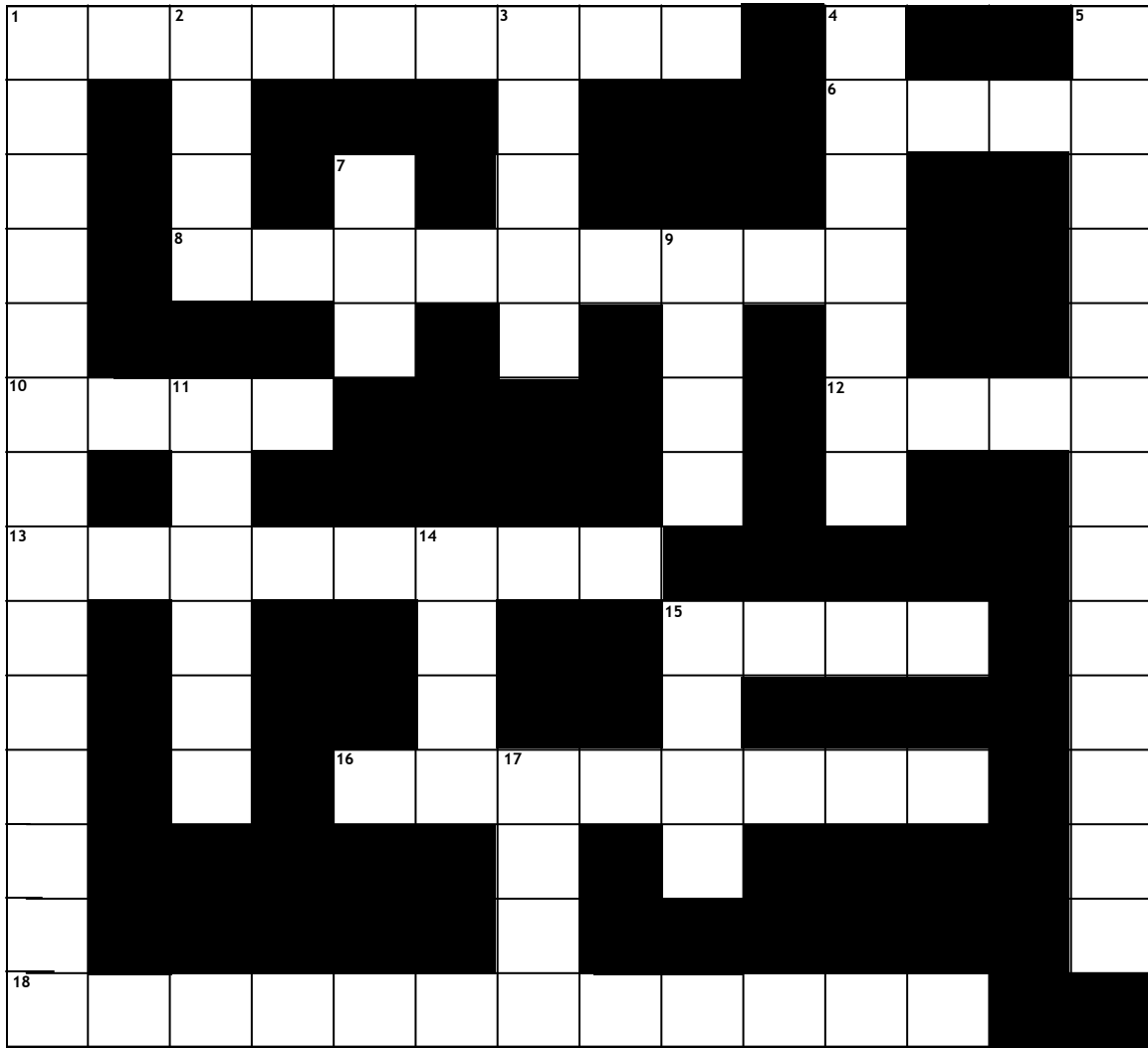
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6. Hawaiian dance
8. Where the PSO always hopes for an SRO
10. Some rockers perform this way
12. It has a fickle finger, per Dan and Dick
13. Wexford superstar
15. They often play local acts
16. Everyone's favorite "Neighborhood" singer
18. Pittsburgh neighborhood once famous for its jazz scene

Down

1. He truly made the Pops pop
2. How most cover charged are paid
3. He played Caruso in 1951
4. Second half of the other hip-hop/rap dude
5. The little girl with the big voice
7. First half of the other hip-hop/rap dude
9. What you often hear at the Benedum Center
11. He books lots of big acts
14. He books lots of big acts
15. They play the classics
17. Your music enjoyment tools

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Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

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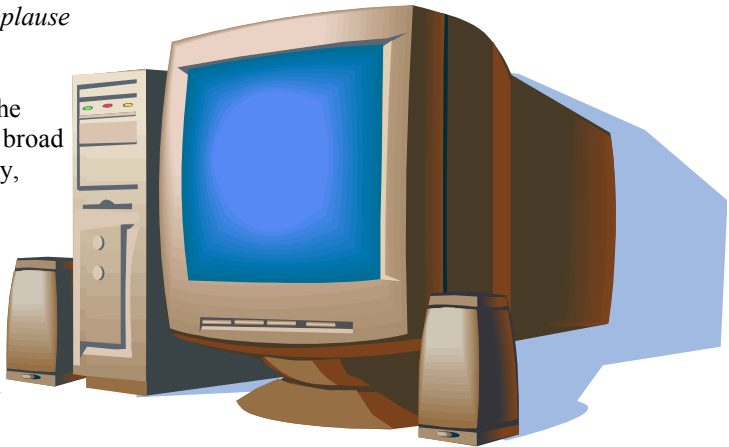
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