“I listen to it in the car with my kids, and my 6-year-old always likes to ask questions about the discussion going on.”

— Amy Russel, Member, Fort Collins

“CPR helps inform my views of the world and my Colorado community. Plus, it provides great conversation topics.”

— Jessica Dixon, Member, Englewood
PEAKING to one another is a natural and basic human behavior, through which we gain knowledge, insight and pleasure. At Colorado Public Radio (CPR), we recognize the value of conversation, and this year, with the support of more than 50,000 members, we worked hard to provide news and music that inspired you to think deeply about the special place we live in and to communicate what you learned with others.

We asked the tough questions and looked beyond the surface to get people talking about things that matter:

In the break room: “I heard on CPR that a good portion of education funding in our state comes from property taxes. Does that surprise you?”

During your train commute: “I heard on Colorado Public Radio that Beethoven had lost his hearing when he wrote Symphony No.9. Can you believe that?”

On a hike in the mountains: “I heard about the new Gregory Alan Isakov album on CPR. Did you know he lives on a farm in Boulder?”

Your desire to stay informed is an important cause. It’s our cause here at CPR, and your financial contributions are vital to sustain that. Without Colorado Public Radio’s members and underwriters, your conversations would not begin with, “I heard on CPR …” Without your support, Colorado would have no single source to learn about meaningful news and relevant issues, to find context surrounding classical music, and to discover new and independent music. Without your support, we could not initiate and nurture the conversations that matter most.

This year, Colorado Public Radio continued to foster community through the voices of those who know Colorado best—the musicians who perform here, the community members who share their stories here, the passionate individuals who work here and the listeners and supporters who lend us their ears and trust us to keep them informed. These voices are a vital part of the conversation, as they demonstrate CPR’s value to the community. Leaf through these pages to hear some of these voices, as they paint the picture of another successful year at Colorado Public Radio.
Radio isn’t going away. It’s growing and evolving right alongside the people who listen. At Colorado Public Radio, we work to bring music, stories and information to listeners wherever they are, whenever they have time to listen, watch or read. CPR stimulates conversations that have changed our communities, transformed lives and inspired people to share and participate.

At CPR this year, we told hundreds of in-depth stories that not only gave listeners meaningful topics to discuss with others, but also initiated real dialogue among Colorado communities. We broadcast thoughtful stories, interviews and music that led to productive conversation among Coloradans.

When 3 million gallons of wastewater contaminated the Animas River in August 2015, CPR Energy and Environment Reporter Grace Hood spent a week in Durango exploring the science, politics and social implications of the incident in depth. Her efforts laid the groundwork for an examination of the Gold King Mine, as well as waterways statewide that have been affected by abandoned mines.

In February, CPR’s OpenAir debuted a new podcast, “OpenAir Sessions,” which amplifies the distinct sound that new, independent and local musicians are creating. With more than two dozen episodes to date, the podcast delivers exclusive performances that are strengthening Colorado’s burgeoning music scene.

Throughout the year, CPR Classical produced dozens of on-site radio broadcasts. These showcased Colorado as a hub of classical music, and provided hundreds of thousands of listeners with unique performances and important music that they would never be able to hear otherwise.

“We really haven’t been a place, platform or group that unites Colorado’s independent musicians before CPR’s OpenAir. My career has been in motion for years mainly outside of Colorado, but OpenAir has given my music airtime and reintroduced me into the Denver music scene. I have felt welcomed and encouraged by OpenAir.” — Braden Smith, a.k.a. Ancient Mith, Denver-based international hip-hop artist

We move mountains to do it

One morning this past winter, a power pump to a translator in Vail caused CPR Classical to go off the air there just after midnight. The engineering team worked through the wee hours to assess the issue, and the next day CPR Engineer Al Stewart used a snowcat to reach the rural, mountainous site and bring CPR Classical back on air for listeners in the Vail Valley.

Our engineers are truly exceptional, but they’re still human, and there are things that keep our network running that are just physically impossible for a human to do—like monitor all of CPR’s 30 broadcast sites at the same time. That’s where we rely on technology to spread the word. We have remote control systems to monitor and control the sites when we’re far away. These systems gather information on electrical power and security alarms and send that data back to our studios in Denver, where we are alerted to issues that might cause CPR to go off air. Our carefully maintained broadcast infrastructure makes Colorado Public Radio programming accessible.

With resources made possible by members and underwriters, the people you trust at CPR, people like Al, are able to put their expertise to work—traversing mountains, braving snowstorms and working hard to make your listening experience rich and authentic.
COLORADO Public Radio invested resources in our people and the knowledge and passion they commit to this work.

Member contributions supported the human touch that went into every ounce of our work examining matters of significance. We listened to reflect the needs and interests of the community, using our own thirst for knowledge to help our audience navigate the music and stories of the past year:

When “Colorado Matters” Host and Executive Producer Ryan Warner inquired about the rebuilding of Glenwood Springs’ Grand Avenue Bridge during one of his interviews with the Governor...

When Digital Music and Arts Editor Brad Turner explained the challenges cellist Matthew Zalkind faced in performing a fiery composition from Zoltán Kodály...

When General Assignment Reporter Megan Verlee filed on-scene reports of a lone gunman attacking the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs...

When CPR’s OpenAir host Alisha Sweeney asked about the creative process of punk band SPELLS and uncovered what it’s like to be a 21st-century band...

Our communities are stronger because you supported this work, and all of the people behind it at Colorado Public Radio.

“We live in a world of instant gratification, where a song can be found with a few keystrokes. But what the digital age has missed in the rush to provide an unlimited flood of music is a way to dissect, categorize and curate. Thank goodness! There’s still a reason for people on the radio to be human, with natural curiosity and the camaraderie that comes with similar cultural interests. Our music hosts don’t guess what a listener wants based on algorithms and studied patterns. Instead, they use the knowledge they’ve acquired to navigate the fabulous and exciting world of music. They are experts at anticipating surprise and conveying their musical passions into shared experiences with the listener.”

— Mike Flanagan, Program Director, CPR’s OpenAir

“As a musician myself, I gain inspiration from hearing other new and independent musicians on OpenAir! I love the variety, and the playlist is heavily influenced by the local scene. When I listen, I feel tapped into what our peers are doing musically, and I appreciate that immensely. I’ve gained new exposure to communities and audiences through OpenAir. I feel like OpenAir showcases Elephant Revival’s music within other genres, which helps introduce us to other audiences and music communities. Thanks for the support CPR!”

— Bridget Law, Elephant Revival Fiddler and Vocalist
Your donations at work

REPORTERS, hosts, producers and editors at CPR went above and beyond to produce high-quality programming and curate the year’s most important news and music. Thanks to the contributions of CPR’s many supporters, these moments of enlightenment and transformation were fully realized.

In June 2016, our engineering team completed significant upgrades to Colorado Public Radio’s studios. This work has allowed production staff to work more efficiently and continue to enhance the listening experience.

In June 2016, CPR Classical began a new contemporary music program, “Music Forward.” Every week, host Matt Weesner helps listeners demystify important pieces of the past century through musician interviews, contextual storytelling and discussions of Colorado’s contemporary composers, musicians and performances.

In March 2016, the Colorado Broadcasters Association recognized Digital Editor Brad Turner and Music Fellow Andrew Randall’s story about an Israeli-American composer who was inspired by a painter who died during the Holocaust—a story that brought new journalistic focus to online content for CPR Classical.

This past spring, CPR Education Reporter Jenny Brundin worked with the NPR Ed Team and reporters from 20 member stations on a three-week reporting series, “School Money,” which explored public schools’ finances and the inability of many schools to meet the needs of vulnerable students.

In October 2015, CPR News worked with NPR’s investigative unit to publish a groundbreaking look into the U.S. Army’s discharge and mistreatment of thousands of soldiers who were diagnosed with mental health disorders. In response to their report, the U.S. Senate ordered an official investigation into the issue. The story was later recognized with a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting.

In April 2016, CPR reporters collaborated to provide in-depth reports on the 2016 presidential primary elections, as well as an election issue particularly relevant to Colorado. CPR’s Megan Winters used her experience reporting on Colorado’s Republican caucuses to produce a national story about Colorado’s Republicans presidential delegates, and CPR Reporter Ben Markus contributed to a story about candidates and their strategies.

Listeners enjoyed improved quality and accessibility as CPR’s OpenAir began broadcasting on 88.3 FM in Fort Collins in July 2015.

In September 2015, CPR launched a new app, which users can download to access news and music on the go.

“Your donations at work

CPR went above and beyond to...curate the year’s most important news and music.

"Underwriting with Colorado Public Radio hits the demographic that’s particularly relevant to our business being a local coffee shop. It just feels good to support OpenAir, and that’s what it’s about: being a part of something really cool and awesome in the community and that’s, frankly, fun to listen to."
— Jason Cain of Pablo’s Coffee, Underwriter, Denver
A community-focused approach

This past year, CPR unlocked new ways for listeners to experience stories, music and the world around them.

CPR News wrapped up the year-long reporting project, “Growing Up Poor: Childhood Poverty in Colorado.” Reporters involved more communities impacted by this issue to uncover stories that weren’t being told, and to understand why Colorado has such a large number of children growing up in poverty and what can be done about it.

CPR’s OpenAir launched a new series that brought listeners inside concert venues across metro Denver highlighting live music from Colorado artists like Elephant Revival, A. Tom Collins and Land Lines in exclusive broadcasts.

Your support made all of these endeavors possible and fortified our ongoing commitment to connect listeners to the things that matter most in Colorado.

"I remember an interview this past winter, with the mother of Dylan Klebold [one of two shooters at Columbine High School]. I sat in my car for awhile afterward to process it. It was really brave of her and of CPR to put that conversation on the air. It allowed people to speak outside of the box about a tragedy that happened to all of us in Colorado.” — Evan Stevens, Member, Denver

"We really love the back-story of the musical pieces CPR plays. Not only does this information make it more interesting, but it helps us better understand the composer’s thoughts or the situation surrounding the piece. The hosts really seem to put a lot of effort into making their between-music talks helpful and compelling, not just idle banter.” — Bob Chemet, Volunteer & Member, Denver

"To create programming in a radio studio for thousands of listeners, you have to create instant intimacy with guests. You need to get them to open up and enter that comfortable storytelling space. ‘Instamacy’ is important, because it makes the voices sound authentic and real. The value of public radio is that we sound like real people. We’re clear, unscripted, someone you can identify with. This helps in our goal of informing listeners.” — Ryan Warner, Host and Executive Producer of “Colorado Matters"

For its investment in insightful stories and relevant news coverage throughout the past year, Colorado Public Radio received 10 awards from national and regional institutions. These stories covered topics such as:

- The U.S. Army’s discharge and mistreatment of thousands of soldiers who were diagnosed with mental health disorders
- Conversations at a Colorado barbershop a year after the police shooting in Ferguson, Mo.
- Colorado musician Nathaniel Rateliff’s new album and appearance on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon”
- Composer Shulamit Ran gained artistic inspiration from a painter who was murdered during the Holocaust
- The trial of James Holmes, the Aurora movie theater shooter who faced the possibility of the death penalty
Thousands of loyal Colorado Public Radio supporters enabled us to foster a healthy exchange of information, ideas and artistic expression that does not exist elsewhere in our state. Monthly donations from Evergreen Members provided continuous support to sustain CPR. Hundreds of devoted listeners have joined our Legacy Circle program, making a personal commitment by remembering Colorado Public Radio in their estate plans.

From Leadership and Community Partners to Vehicle Donors and Underwriters, our generous supporters deserve recognition and sincere gratitude for making this work possible. Thank you to all of you.

Donor support given during the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016:

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The Piion Foundation
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The Barton Family Foundation
Jeff Baldwin and Debra Perry
Anonymous (2)
Anonymous (37)

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DONOR SUPPORT

50,000 MEMBERS
23,000 EVERGREEN MEMBERS
2,500 VEHICLES DONATED
670 UNDERWRITERS
500 LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (In 000s)

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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (In 000s)

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