To all who donated to KOPN during our summer pledge drive: **THANK YOU**! If you are not able to donate monetarily, you can support us by tuning in to your favorite programs, spreading the word, and giving us your comments and feedback.

We raised **$841** during our sidewalk record sale on June 12, pictured right! It got hot out, so thank you for braving the heat and stopping by to browse. Our most sedulous shopper went home with five bags stuffed to the brim with records and CDs!

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**Become a National Programming Announcer!**

We offer beloved national news programs like Democracy Now!, Fresh Air, Ralph Nader Radio.
Hour, and more every weekday.

We are seeking volunteers to serve as National Programming Announcers during these programs. If you want to learn how broadcasting works and be heard on KOPN as you give our listeners the time, weather, and other important announcements, you can apply for this position by sending an email to tim@kopn.org.

The available shifts for national broadcasting are Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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This newsletter is brought to you by Mid-Missouri Kickball League

Faithful listeners have probably heard the new spot we’re running for Mid-Missouri Kickball League and wondered what it’s all about. MMKL is kickball, just like you remember from your childhood, but for adults! The focus is on fun and friendship, and people are encouraged to bring their own favorite adult beverage. Games last an hour, and they take place on Sundays between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Teams are made up of 12 to 14 players. You can enroll with a team, or you can enroll as a “free agent” or smaller group, and the organizers will find a team for you. Each season (spring, summer, and fall) includes five weeks of play, a free team t-shirt, and the chance to win championship medals.
The league began in the fall of 2017 with 87 players and has quickly grown, with 192 people playing this past spring. Organizers Adriana and Louis Nieman met playing kickball in St. Louis, and when they moved back to Columbia, they decided to start a league here. Creating the community and space for adults to make new friends was a priority. As we get older, our social circles can be limited to work and home; it can be difficult to meet new people. Mid-Missouri Kickball League is a great way to make new friends and be more active. You can find registration for the upcoming seasons at midmissourikickball.com. Be sure to tell them you heard about it on KOPN!

“We don’t care how old you are, we don’t care about your ability; anyone and everyone is welcome.”
-Adriana Nieman, MMKL organizer

Ask a Programmer: Laird Okie
You can hear Laird on Tuesday evenings from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. during **Accent on Swing**. Laird also hosts **The Good Sounds of Jazz** on alternating Wednesday evenings, also from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

**How did you wind up in mid-Missouri?**

I’m from Pennsylvania originally. I went to college in Maryland and then went on to Penn State for my Master’s degree. Kansas University in Lawrence had a strong history department, so I went there for my Ph.D. I spent two years in England, in Sussex and Birmingham, so altogether I was enrolled in five different colleges at one time or another. Eventually, I moved to Moberly from Lawrence in 1993 for a job at Moberly Area Community College. I lived in Moberly until the very start of 2007 when I came here to teach at the Columbia branch of the college. I taught basic bread and butter courses: American history, western civilization, and geography.

**Our listeners can hear you during Accent on Swing and The Good Sounds of Jazz. As a history buff, have you ever thought about doing a talk show? Or do you like music because it is a step away from your profession?**

I never thought about doing a talk show, but I have collaborated with Daria on her talk shows [Anything Goes and Pandora’s Box]. I always liked jazz, and my parents had jazz records when I was growing up. When I was in Lawrence, they had great jazz programming that really raised my consciousness of modern jazz. I taught at a small college in Kansas for a while, and I was on the student radio station once as a guest. In the back of my mind, I thought, *it would be fun to be on the radio!* I gradually got to know a lot of music as a fan.
About a year after moving to Moberly, I met the guy who managed and owned the local radio station. Chatting with him, I floated the idea of coming and doing a show of jazz and swing. He said I could try it, and I came up with the name Accent on Swing. For six months I did the show for free, then I asked to get paid. I did the show for three hours each week, and I kept doing it even after I moved to Columbia. And then a big company bought out the station and changed everything, and that was the end of that. Almost two years later I approached KOPN, and Accent on Swing was reborn. All I had to do at Moberly was play records and CDs: there were no public service announcements or underwriting. It was very simple, so I had to learn about operating the broadcast console at KOPN.

**What do you like about jazz?**

I like virtuoso musicianship from a lot of instruments. A lot of jazz is based on standards from the 20s and 30s, which is the golden age of popular music in my opinion. Jazz is not predictable due to the improvisation, and there are singers who have great vocal technique and expressiveness.

*When you speak to expressive vocalists, do you like jazz when the subject matter of the song focuses on a certain theme, like love? A program on KOPN once posited that something like 90% of all lyrical songs focus on love. Do jazz songs tend to focus on social issues or any other themes?*

There are not many jazz songs on social issues. There are some writers, like singer Abbey Lincoln who died a few years ago, who wrote songs that were kind of political. Charles Mingus, for example, would write music with a political import. There were no lyrics, but one jumping tune by Mingus was “Remember Rockefeller at Attica,” which refers to a huge issue 40 years ago, the Attica Uprising. Prisoners took over this prison in upstate New York and it was a top story for days. They took people hostage, and it ended in a bloodbath. Mingus also wrote “Fables of Faubus,” which was about a segregationist governor in Arkansas. So you would have jazz artists with some political title or theme but you couldn’t tell by listening to the music, it was just music.

**What else do you do outside of volunteering with KOPN?**

I’m retired and involved with political stuff. I was on the board of the organization Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. I was the co-chair of the local chapter, and now I take the minutes. A bit more controversially, I am a member of the group Mid-Missourians for Justice in Palestine, and we seek an even-handed policy in the Middle East. I’ve heard really great programming on these issues during Evening Edition [Tuesdays at 5 p.m. on KOPN]. I read and watch too much TV, sit at the computer, all of that. I published some academic work back in the day but got out of the habit. I also used to play tennis in college.

**Do you make music?**

I play a few guitar chords, and fiddle around on a harmonica, but not with any level of skill.
Laird also revealed that he is a fan of Joni Mitchell, and he got the chance to see her live in California back in the late 60s. Lucky Laird! Mitchell's album *Blue* just had its 50th anniversary.

Thank you for jazzing up our music programs, Laird!

Upcoming Events in our Broadcast Range

**Columbia:**

- **Fri, July 2:** First Friday is happening in the North Village Arts District. Stop by Serendipity Salon & Gallery at 1020 E. Walnut St for an opening reception and discussion with artist Kevin Ritchie from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Fri, July 2:** Odyssey Chamber Music Series, the only chamber music nonprofit organization in Mid-Missouri, presents *COMO Bicentennial* at First Baptist Church at 7 p.m. The concert is open to the public.
Sat, July 3: The Columbia Historic Preservation Commission invites you to a local history walking tour to celebrate Columbia's bicentennial. The tour begins at 5:30 p.m. at the keyhole plaza outside City Hall. The brick streets of downtown will be the topic of this walking tour.

Sun, July 4: The City of Columbia invites the public to enjoy activities, entertainment, and food trucks from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Flat Branch Park.

Thurs, July 8: The City of Columbia continues its concert series at Stephens Lake Amphitheater. A community band will play at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public. Concessions will be available, but carry-in food and drink are also allowed.

Sat, July 10: Dismal Niche presents a local artist showcase with Rae Fitzgerald, Vulvette, Oxherding and the Distant Blooms, and J. ARTiz. This concert will be held at Stephens Lake Amphitheater and it begins at 7 p.m.

Jefferson City:

Thurs, July 1: Odyssey Chamber Music Series, the only chamber music nonprofit organization in Mid-Missouri, presents COMO Bicentennial at First Christian Church at 7 p.m. The concert is open to the public.

Sat, July 10: Steve Earl & The Dukes play at Riverside Amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. Tune in to KOPN on Sunday, July 4 for a chance to win tickets to this show! More details to come.

Rocheport:

Fri, July 16: Western States performs at the A-Frame Winegarden at Les Bourgeois Vineyards. Showtime is 7 p.m.

Sun, July 18: Jackson Stokes performs at the A-Frame Winegarden at Les Bourgeois Vineyards. Showtime is 5 p.m.

Do you enjoy our newsletters? Consider sharing with a friend who is not yet signed up to receive them! If you have upcoming events or radio-related comics, poems, recipes, or anything else you'd like to share, you can send these to ally@kopn.org for inclusion in our next edition. Stay tuned!