

NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

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For immediate release

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MPT to present *Sound the Bells: A Holiday Celebration* on December 24 at 8 p.m.

***Concert special recorded live at The Lyric in Baltimore anchors more than 30 hours of
holiday programming on MPT's primary broadcast channels***

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television](http://MarylandPublicTelevision.org) (MPT) will premiere *Sound the Bells: A Holiday Celebration* on Wednesday, December 24 at 8 p.m. on MPT and the [MPT livestream](#). The one-hour concert special is among more than 30 hours of programming offered by the statewide public TV network in December to recognize the winter holidays. A preview of the program is available on MPT's YouTube channel [HERE](#).

Recorded live this month at [The Lyric in Baltimore](#), *Sound the Bells* features the U.S. Army Field Band – the “Musical Ambassadors of the Army” – showcasing the musical talents of active-duty soldiers and celebrating the magic of the holidays. The family-friendly program is hosted by WBAL-TV personality [Jason Newton](#), features a guest appearance from the University of Maryland Steelband, and includes shout-outs from service members around the globe.



From the dynamic energy of the U.S. Army Rappers to the acoustic stylings of Six-String Soldiers and powerful performances of the Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus, *Sound the Bells* is a musical journey through the spirit of the season. Packed with beloved classics, new holiday favorites, and messages of hope and togetherness, the festive celebration brings the warmth and joy of the holidays straight to viewers' homes.

Following its December 24 premiere, *Sound the Bells* will air again on MPT and the MPT livestream on Thursday, December 25 at 12:30 a.m., 4 a.m., and 3 p.m. The program will also be available to view live and on-demand using [MPT's online video player](#) and the [free PBS app](#).

MPT will also present *Spirit of the Season* on MPT2/Create® on Monday, December 22 at 9:30 p.m. The half-hour special features the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America celebrating the holiday season with festive musical selections including “Mary, Did You Know?,” holiday classics such as “Let it Snow” and “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree,” and other seasonal favorites – all performed by American airmen. Following its December 22 premiere on MPT2/Create®, *Spirit of the Season* will air on MPT at 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 25. The program will also be available to view live using [MPT’s online video player](#) and the [free PBS app](#).

Sound the Bells: A Holiday Celebration and *Spirit of The Season* are among dozens of holiday-themed programs airing on MPT and MPT2/Create® in December. For more information about MPT’s primetime holiday program lineup, visit mpt.org/holidayprograms or consult MPT’s [on-air schedule](#).

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member offering entertaining and educational content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices via its [online video player](#) and the [free PBS app](#). A state agency operating under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, MPT also produces local, regional, and national programming and frequently earns regional Emmy® awards for its work. MPT’s commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through its [Maryland Center for Media Literacy & Education](#) and Thinkport.org. MPT’s year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources covering a wide range of topics. More information is available at mpt.org.