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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Outstanding programs are the core of Michigan Television's Winter Pledge Drive Nov. 26-Dec. 15

FLINT, Mich.—Michigan Television, the public television station for the University of Michigan, offers exceptional news and information, children's, music and performance programs as part of its Winter Pledge Drive core programming schedule Nov. 26 through Dec. 15.

A year ago, Michigan Television made the decision to keep the majority of its core program schedule intact and significantly reduce the number of pledge specials it airs during pledge drives.

Michigan Television is determined to maintain the integrity of its program schedule through pledge drives in order to better serve its regular viewers.

“When we made the decision to maintain our core programming schedule in lieu of the traditional pledge specials, Michigan Television committed to maintaining the excellent shows members and viewers expect from us,” Michigan Television interim station manager Jennifer White said.

Viewer support is Michigan Television's single largest source of income accounting for 44 percent of the operating budget.

During the past year, Michigan Television also invested in unique local programming in the form of interstitials—3-5 minute mini-documentaries that feature community topics. This investment paid off as Michigan Television received three Emmy Awards for interstitials in March.

Michigan Television provides the best programming that PBS has to offer, including high quality documentary and dramatic entertainment. PBS' premier kids' TV programming and Web site, PBS KIDS Online (pbskids.org), continue to be parents' and teachers' most trusted learning environments for children.

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Highlights of Michigan Television's Winter Pledge Drive include:

9 p.m. Nov. 26 "Michigan Football Memories"—This original Michigan Television documentary tells the stories of the legendary coaches, players, athletic directors and broadcasters who have made Wolverine football what it is today.

9 p.m. Nov. 28 Masterpiece Theatre "Pollyanna"—A new adaptation of Eleanor H. Porter's children's classic about an orphan who teaches grown-ups how to look on the bright side.

9:30 p.m. Dec. 1 Great Performances "Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival"—This two-hour special features a once-in-a-lifetime showcase of guitar luminaries performing rock'n'roll and blues classics. Host Eric Clapton and his pals shake it up in an all-star guitar festival that includes Santana, B.B. King, Joe Walsh, ZZ Top and more.

9 p.m. Dec. 2 "George Jones, 50 Years of Hits: A Soundstage Special Event"—According to 'Billboard' magazine, George Jones has charted more singles than any artist in any format of music. This one-of-a-kind event, recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, in September 2004, featured Trace Adkins, Kenny Chesney, Harry Connick, Jr., Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Merle Haggard, Emmylou Harris, Alan Jackson, Kris Kristofferson, Patty Loveless, Shelby Lynne, Martina McBride, Aaron Neville, Randy Travis, Tanya Tucker, Wynonna, and many others.

10 p.m. Dec. 3 Great Performances "Haley Westrena"— Making her American television concert debut, Haley Westrena showcases the pitch-perfect talent that has made her the fastest-selling local artist in her native New Zealand's history. Highlighting the evening are selections from her runaway-hit album, "Pure," including "Pokarekare Ana," her signature song, and "Amazing Grace."

9 p.m. Dec. 4 "Go Tell it on the Mountain: Blind Boys of Alabama"—This special holiday concert performed in New York City at the Beacon Theater stars the Gospel group the Blind Boys of Alabama along with vocal guests Aaron Neville, Chrissie Hynde, Mavis Staples, and musical guests Michael Franti, Robert Randolph, Charlie Musselwhite, and Duke Robillard.

8 p.m. Dec. 5 "Rock N Roll Forever: Ed Sullivan's Greatest Hits"—The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles and Janis Joplin, in long-unseen performances headline this celebration of America's ultimate Sunday night host.

9:30 p.m. Dec. 5 "Great Performances Concert for George"—Filmed on Nov. 29, 2002 before a sold-out audience at Royal Albert Hall, the "Concert for George" is a beautifully filmed, joyous celebration of some of the most significant music of the 20th Century. Includes breathtaking performances of George Harrison's songs from rock's most influential artists and pop culture icons including Eric Clapton, Jeff Lynne, Paul McCartney, Tom Petty, Billy Preston, Monty Python, Anoushka Shankar, Ravi Shankar, and Ringo Starr.

8 p.m. Dec. 6 "Germany: Visions of Bavaria"—This show showcases the diversity of Germany's southeastern region—from the old world charm of castles, fortresses and gardens to the Mediterranean flair of the bodensee, the "German Riviera". Stunning aerial visuals are set to a soundtrack of local German compositions.

8 p.m. Dec. 8 Great Performances "Josh Groban Live at the Greek"—Josh Groban is back on PBS in a new concert recorded at Los Angeles' famed Greek Theatre. Highlights include "You Raise Me Up" and two Groban-penned originals, "Per Te" and his current hit single, "Remember When It Rained."

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10 p.m. Dec. 9 “Loretta Lynn in Concert”—America’s queen of country performs a collection of her greatest hits and an array of classic country songs including, “Don’t Come Home a-Drinkin’ (With Lovin’ on Your Mind),” “You Ain’t Woman Enough” and “One’s on the Way.”

10 p.m. Dec. 10 “Soundstage Chris Isaak”—Chris Isaak is most well known for his classic pop and rock sounds. He successfully integrates modern touches into timeless songs such as “America Boy” off of his most recent release “Always Got Tonite”. On this episode of Soundstage, Chris will perform a variety of hits like “Wicked Games,” “Somebody’s Cryin’” and “Baby Did a Bad Bad Thing.”

12 p.m. Dec. 12 “Broadway The American Musical” Marathon—All six hours of this new six-part documentary series chronicles the Broadway musical throughout the 20th century and explores the evolution of this uniquely American art form.

7 p.m. Dec. 12 “Great Performances “Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella”—Julie Andrews stars in and hosts the first-ever repeat broadcast of “Cinderella”. Also starring in the 1957 production are Edie Adams, Kaye Ballard and Alice Ghostley, with Jon Cypher as the Prince.

Also on Michigan Television:

- Outstanding news and information including, “Washington Week”, “Wall Street Week”, “Now with Bill Moyers”.
- Entertaining and educational shows for kids such as, “Arthur”, “Sesame Street”, “Clifford”, and “Maya and Miguel”.
- Fun and instructional “how-to” shows including, “American Home Cooking”, “Baking with Julia”, “Martha’s Sewing Room”, and “The Joy of Painting”.

For membership information call 800.728.9386 or pledge online at michigantelevision.org

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