

# WRUR 88.5



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## A Letter From the Station's General Managers

*Molly Robins '20 & John Pinto '20*

Hey all!

We're Molly and Pinto, WRUR's GMs for the 2019-2020 school year! Molly is studying audio and music engineering and minoring in music. Previously, she served as music director and chief engineer. Pinto is studying creative writing and minoring in audio and music engineering. He has previously served as director of the Sting and productions. Both of us have DJ-ed on FM and the Sting, and we have been members of WRUR since the first semester of our first year.

We are excited to lead WRUR into the 2020's! In just the past few months, our FM DJ roster has more than doubled in size, our fleet of computers has gone through extensive updates, and our unruly CD library has finally begun to be organized. Along with our killer e-board, we look forward to further renovating and innovating our station.

But even with all that is new, WRUR continues to foster the same sense of community and camaraderie that made us want to join in the first place. As we write this, our IT director Ryan is making jokes about *A Star Is Born*, our chief engineer Nate is playing ragtime in the other room on our (new! in tune!) piano, and our music director Ben is probably burning more CDs for us. This sort of togetherness is what makes WRUR special.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter! Feel free to contact either of us to learn more about what's happening this semester.

Meliora,  
Molly and Pinto



## Productions

*Gianna Cicileo '20*

2019 has brought WRUR into a new era of live events and studio productions. The semester started off with a productions closet face-lift, reorganized to a point where there were several VHS players found. Not too far into the semester, a dozen new members of the station became trained in live events and several more expressed interest in working further with the department. As the usual nice-weather-only-for-the-first-month provided, Productions put on two Music on the Quad events, bringing joy and good tunes to the outdoor-venturing folks, with hopes to have more days of nice weather in the spring.

In October, Productions had the station's biannual Eastman on Campus co-sponsorship with Alpha Delta Phi. The show went really well, with new and old members alike mixing music for Lake St. Helens, The Recall, and The Group. The great turnout literally rocked the house. Our members are looking forward to EOC next semester and are looking to potentially broadcast the show on the Sting.

Finally, the newest section of the productions department is underway—podcasting. Members have demonstrated interest in creating a podcasting program, so we are going to give them one. While still in the logistical stage, we hope to begin demo-ing and editing the first few episodes before the end of the semester. Stay tuned for updates on our progress, as well as upcoming events, hockey season, and podcasts!

## New Year, New Sting

*Kayoung Kim '22*

Time's unrelenting march towards the future brings us yet another fall semester at the University of Rochester. New faces bring new shows, of which we have plenty! There was a huge increase in first-year DJs, and we've welcomed new shows like "The Sit" with Blaine Doyle (Mondays at 8 PM), "Monday Meld" with Emanuel Koo (Mondays at 9 PM), "Fool's Garden" with Lauren Novosat (Mondays at 10 PM), and so much more—this list only covers the new arrivals on one day of the week.

We also have a number of sophomores and juniors who began their Sting shows this past year, all with a variety of music tastes and interests. "Softgirl Wannabe" with Aimee Pina invites you to sit back and relax (Tuesdays at 4 PM), while "Forbidden Emo" with hosts 000, x14x, and 13 presents their audience with a myriad of angsty throwbacks from the 2000s (Wednesdays at 5 PM).

A crowd favorite, "The Chronicles" with Joel Mackzum, Laurette McNabb, and Erin Dietrick has also returned for another year (Mondays at 7PM), as well as John Pinto's "And The Tiger Poster" (Thursdays at 8 PM) and Ben Shissler's "Permanent Waves" (Thursdays at 5 PM). There's a show for everyone to follow and more are coming your way, so be sure to keep your eyes and ears open.

Though some shows have changed their times, be sure to show support and keep tuning in for another year of bops at [thesting.wrur.org!](http://thesting.wrur.org!)

## Clearing Out the Engineering Closet

*Nate Nickerson '20 & Ryan Mournighan '22*

This semester at WRUR Engineering, in addition to the normal barrage of repairs and improvement projects we complete every year, the department has taken on a major overhaul of the computer infrastructure in the station. The impetus for this undertaking was informed primarily by the impending cessation of support for machines running older operating systems, as well as by taking apart a few computers at a meeting and finding hard drives older than most of the first-year students here.

Over the past few months, almost all of our computers have been replaced with help from University IT by reallocating decommissioned, gently-used machines from computer labs across campus to our station. The Engineering department has also been able to acquire a few computers with much greater processing capabilities for use in situations requiring more computational power. The new computers have been set up for functions ranging from general use in the studios and offices to hosting content tracking and monitoring systems in the engineering closet.

After we replace a few more computers around the station, we'll shift our focus as a department to getting new machines from WXXI to host our ENCO servers. Keep an eye out for those in our 2036 newsletter!



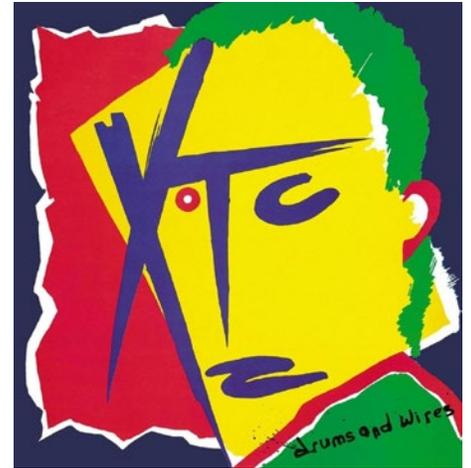
## Music Update & Album Review (*Drums and Wires*)

Ben Shissler '22

The 2019 fall semester has brought some exciting changes and updates to the music department! We're currently in the process of attempting to catalog our massive CD collection. This has proven to be a pretty big undertaking, but will definitely be a worthwhile one when done. Additionally, we have plans to sort through and dispose of the many boxes of unwanted CDs that are currently piled up in the station. As per usual, we're working on expanding our music collection through artist promotions and CD requests with the help of our ever-growing cast of DJs. This is shaping up to be a productive and successful school year for the WRUR music department.

### Album Review:

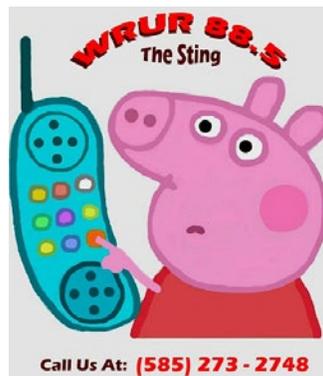
*Drums and Wires* was XTC's breakthrough album in the late 70s, and it's not really hard to see why. Andy Partridge and Colin Moulding's songwriting ability really shines through here, as this album is overflowing with fantastic and well-written art-pop and new wave tracks. As the title might suggest, *Drums and Wires* puts more of an emphasis on guitar tones and booming, expansive drums than XTC's previous work, and this is perhaps best exemplified in "Roads Girdle the Globe." From the iconic opener of "Making Plans For Nigel," to the super catchy and upbeat "Life Begins At The Hop" and "Scissor Man" to the existential freak out of "Complicated Game," *Drums and Wires* maintains an energetic and accessible feel throughout its duration, all overtop of the musical quirks and complexities that XTC were known for. Overall, *Drums and Wires* is a fantastic and worthwhile listen, and a very important and wildly underrated classic from the late 70s.



## Creative

Lauren Sigda '22

The fall of 2019 has been a great semester for the creative department! We have worked hard on new publicity, fundraising, and social media undertakings. One design we are especially proud of is our new live events banner, which is as informative as it is eye-catching. Additionally, we made four new stickers to promote the station during our Trick or Beats annual Halloween fundraiser. These included a "Peppa Pig" design, a bold "WRUR" sticker, a swimming dog design, and a large NASA-style vinyl sticker (which have been very popular!). We have also prepared club hoodies featuring a WRUR-ified rendition of a Led Zeppelin cover. Another new addition has been the creation of a Redbubble account to further expand our efforts to fundraise for the station. One effort which we hope to broaden in the coming months is advertisements for our DJs and their shows. Stay tuned for updates on our progress and events throughout the spring!



## This Semester With FM

Michael Gallagher '21

WRUR currently has 9 hour-long weekly FM shows, which is nearly double the amount of shows on air last year.

### MONDAY

8-9 PM "Bread Time" w/ Molly Robbins

9-10 PM "Open Mike" w/ Mike Gallagher

### TUESDAY

8-9 PM "Say When" w/ Lauren Sigda and Ryan Maciel

10-11 PM "Sonic Highways" w/ Celia Konowe

### WEDNESDAY

8-9 PM "Arctic Sounds" w/ John Pinto

9-10 PM "The Mixed Tape" w/ Stella Wilkins

10-11 PM "Closer to the Door" w/ Ben Shissler

### THURSDAY

8-9 PM "Loony Tunas" w/ Kayoung Kim

9-10 PM "Two Sets of Headphones" w/ Joshua Copperman

Stay tuned for next semester's FM lineup!

## Radio After College

*An Interview with Alumna Abi Milner '19*

**Q: How did you discover WRUR, and what was your role here?**

I started reviewing albums for the music department my first year after one of my friends told me to check out a “huge CD library in Todd” that he had found. WRUR quickly became a home for me; the community was exactly what I was looking and provided seemingly infinite opportunities to explore music, technology, and collaboration. I was elected music director my sophomore year, where I was able to experience a tiny slice of the media industry through conversations with promoters and artists. My junior year, I revived the position of creative director by combining the marketing and aesthetics departments with a few operational duties. Senior year, I was blessed to be elected co-general manager alongside Nate Nickerson '20 and to spend the year with an especially incredible e-board and membership. I also had a few different shows on The Sting and FM over my four years—two of my favorites were “Egge,” a talk show about conspiracies with Hailie Keliuotis '18, and “Breadtime,” an FM show with Molly Robins '20 where we played our favorite alternative/indie rock songs (with a few experimental electronic and ambient sets scattered around). Molly has continued “Breadtime” without me this year, Mondays 8-9pm!



**Q: What are you doing now?**

I moved to Brooklyn almost immediately after graduating and started working at *The New York Times* in September. I'm on the R&D team, which explores new technologies and ways that the company can apply emerging tech to the newsroom. This is broad, but most recently we've been working on spatial computing (VR + AR), media transmission, computer vision, natural language processing, and addressing misinformation. My team is a unique blend of creative technologists, journalists, engineers, and designers, and it's been incredible to jump into the wonderland that is the intersection of tech and news media! I do a lot of random stuff day to day, but generally, I'm on the team to keep everyone from going crazy. I work on things like team synergy, navigating bureaucracy, organizing conversations and visits with other organizations, and looking for ways we can improve in any aspect.

**Q: Do you have a favorite WRUR memory or tradition?**

I remember almost all WRUR traditions fondly—I've even incorporated a few into my life in NYC—but I think my favorite memories from my time at the station were the in-between times: doing homework in the conference room between classes, staying late after the station meeting on Sundays to talk about life or impulsively reorganize a closet, picking CDs for shows, and enjoying the energy and comfort of the station. There's something really special about being in a cozy, grungy, underground art space with people you feel connected to. It's especially comforting when you're overwhelmed by classes or missing your family and friends from home.

**Q: How did your experiences at WRUR help you with what you're doing now?**

I could write a six-book series about what WRUR has taught me about myself and the skills I gained there, but overall, there are two main things. First, I learned a lot about team and group dynamics—a lot of my job now involves communication, meta-communication, and looking for problem spots. In my positions at WRUR, I developed my understanding of how to (and how not to) communicate. At work (and in non-work life, too), people will go months without realizing they're on different pages. WRUR was my first time trying to build better organizational systems for a group—I learned a lot about the different ways people express themselves and how to make sure everybody is being not just listened to, but understood. Second, WRUR was great exposure to media as a field! I studied political science at UR, and my job at NYT has turned out to be a great blend of the current events relevant to my major, media, and the skills I gained at WRUR.

**Q: What was the most valuable lesson that you learned during your time with WRUR?**

When I joined WRUR, I was a little intimidated by everyone. I spent a lot of high school feeling isolated in my interests, and when I met everyone at WRUR, I was so excited to find people who cared about what I cared about. As I got to know more members, I realized quickly that community is one of the most beautiful things that life offers—and WRUR's is special. No matter your interests, how much experience you have, or where you're from, WRUR provides a place to explore and grow. The station is also well-integrated with Rochester's art and music scene, and building our relationship with the community was really meaningful to my experience at UR. I didn't realize how much meaning and satisfaction 'community' would bring to my life, but it has remained a priority for me since graduating.

## TV

*Samantha Torrellas '21*

WRURTV is having an amazing semester. We have entirely overhauled the station and it has a new, modern look. Our department size has also dramatically increased. It now has over 20 members and a lot of new equipment to work with.

We have four videos currently in editing, including a spice challenge, news coverage, Hal-  
loweekend interviews, and a commercial for the station. There are also many videos with scripts being written or are currently in production, including a talk show and a ghost hunt. We are also working with both hockey and student council on live-streaming.

The station has also had movie nights, talks from members of the community, and is currently attempting to organize a trip to a local production studio.

Keep an eye out for us filming on and around campus!



## Fundraising Note

The University of Rochester's radio station, WRUR, serves the campus with programming aimed at students, faculty, and staff, and provides quality public radio broadcasting that enriches the greater Rochester area. In addition to providing a public media service, WRUR also gives students leadership and radio experience and opportunities. Tune in for music selected by our very own students, news about campus events and activities, live broadcasts of club sporting events (hockey is a fan favorite!), and so much more.

All this would not be possible without your support! This year, we're looking to raise money to help update the equipment in the station—in particular, we're hoping to buy a new console for our FM studio. Please help us by contributing to our organization and becoming a friend of WRUR. You can donate using the following link: [rochester.edu/giving/WRUR](http://rochester.edu/giving/WRUR)

The University's online giving form allows you to make an online gift quickly, conveniently, and securely.

### FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

- 1) Choose an amount to give under **Gift Information**
- 2) From the drop down list titled **Please designate my gift**, select **Other (please specify)**
- 3) In the **Other gift designation** box, write **WRUR**
- 4) You will receive an official receipt from the University and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

*We thank you from the bottoms of our FM hearts!*

## Contact Us

Comments, questions, or feedback? Contact the Alumni Coordinator directly at [wrur\\_alumnicordinator@u.rochester.edu](mailto:wrur_alumnicordinator@u.rochester.edu). Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @wrur for more updates!

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