

Volunteer Profile: Joyce's Eclectic Voice

Joyce Cobb has had many great accomplishments, including a #42 Billboard hit, a #3 R&B hit on the British charts, starring roles in various theater productions, a brass note on Beale Street's "Walk of Fame," her own club, Joyce Cobb's, on Beale Street, and much more. But when she greets me at WEVL's studio for our interview, she is as humble and accepting as a new friend.

Her voice alone tells a story rich with musical history. She exudes a laid back, calm presence of knowledge and deep-running talent. In addition to being a singer, Cobb is a music teacher privately and at the University of Memphis, where she currently teaches Jazz Vocal and The Styles of Jazz.

A versatile vocalist with an imposing command of jazz, blues and pop, Cobb started out singing country in Nashville, and came to Memphis with a country deal at Stax Records, which fell through when the label folded. Her favorite aspect of what she does is performance. "I love singing live. The stage. Intimate clubs where the lights are soft and colorful, and every song is an expression of emotion. It makes people happy or sad."

She says she is indebted to Nashville for giving her her first jobs in music, but it's Memphis she will always call home. The rich culture of music in Memphis drew her in, especially the jazz clubs that flourished in the '70s. "Memphis was a totally different musical experience, and it kind of took over my existence," she says.

Her most recent musical achievement is a just-released jazz album, Joyce Cobb with the Michael Jeffrey Stevens Trio, on Archer Records. Cobb and the trio will embark on a European tour this fall, starting in Prague, Czech Republic and ending in Chur, Switzerland. She is looking forward to "getting into the quiet clubs in Europe and hopefully making people feel something."

For three decades, WEVL has been a haven for Cobb's varied

musical interests. She loves the freedom the station gives her to play what she wants. "I can't ever imagine being involved in a radio station that dictates a song list for you to play," she says. "Every day you come in, it's like a blank canvas."

Cobb hosts three radio shows on WEVL. She created *Songs for My Father* (Wednesdays 8-10 p.m.) to celebrate the music she grew up with. She calls it "a tribute to my parents and their influence on me. My father was a jazz buff, and he was always saying, 'Learn the American Song Book. Learn Cole Porter. Learn George Gershwin. These songs will carry you through your whole life.' So far, he's right." Her mother taught dance in high school and college, through which Cobb was exposed to classical music. Years of singing second alto in the school choir in Nashville also had a big effect on her musically.

Voices (Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.) showcases a soulful array of individual singers and songs from a variety of traditions. It represents Cobb's belief in the "importance of songwriters." Cobb inherited "World Music Dance Party," (Sundays 4-6 p.m.) which celebrates music from around the world.

Cobb considers her association with WEVL one of the highlights of her life.

"I've seen volunteers come and go, but as far as the staff, they are the strongest people I've ever known." She serves on the board in addition to hosting her three shows. She calls Judy Dorsey, Station Manager, and Brian Craig, Program Director, "some of the strongest influences" in her life. "Volunteer radio is hard work, and in my opinion the station is held up by these two people."

After our interview, Cobb walks back into the air room to start her Wednesday night show, *Songs for My Father*. As I drive home, the sky is turning dark and the lights of Beale Street punctuate the night with their many colors. From my radio tuned to 89.9, Cobb's smooth voice narrates the end-of-summer Memphis night, and fills it with jazz.

—Joan Biddle



Photo by Murry Riss

Joyce Cobb hosts *Songs for My Father* (Weds. 8-10PM), *Voices* (Tues. 2-4PM) and *World Music Dance Party* (Sun. 4-6PM)



Support independent volunteer radio with your membership pledge!

Fall Pledge Drive November 5-13

Pledge online at wevl.org or call (901) 528-1990



Mission Statement
The mission of WEVL is to entertain and inform its audience through diverse music programming with an emphasis on the culture of Memphis and the South.

Operating Info
WEVL broadcasts to the Greater Memphis area at 89.9 FM and is licensed to Southern Communication Volunteers, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational corporation.

In its fundraising practices, WEVL complies with the laws and regulations of the IRS, the Communications Act, the laws of the State of Tennessee, and the regulations of the United States Postal Service.

Listen Online
<http://wevl.org/webcast.php>

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P.O. Box 40952
Memphis, TN 38174

How to Reach Us
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901-528-0560
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Judy Dorsey, Station Manager
Brian Craig, Program Director
Cicely Crawford, Office Assistant

SCV Board of Directors
Timothy Taylor, President
John Fox, Vice President
Todd Daniel, Treasurer
Joyce Cobb
Jim Lattimore
C. Yorke Lawson

Program Guide
The WEVL Program Guide is published four times a year.
Editor: Judy Dorsey
Design and Production: Show & Tell, Inc.

Thanks to:
Memphis Flyer readers for voting WEVL Memphis' Best FM Station once again!
Paste Magazine for naming us one of the 40 Best Little Radio Stations in the U.S.

RiverArts Fest
Stop by our table outside the studio at 518 S. Main during the South Main RiverArts Fest Oct. 23 & 24

Saturday

6-10 am
Bluff City Barn Dance
Bluegrass and old-time from way back then to here and now. With the Ridge Runner.

10 am-1 pm
Strands of the Celtic Knot
Folk music and culture of Scotland, Ireland, Britain, and Wales, hosted by Robert Campbell.

Friday

6-8 am
The Modern World
Punk, post-punk & new wave from the late '70s through the '80s with Scott.

8-10 am
Blues Today
Contemporary, up-tempo blues with Chuck Porter.

10 am-Noon
Down in the Alley
Rhythm & Blues from the '40s to the '70s, hosted by Eddie Hankins.

Thursday

6-8 am
River City Reveille
Country, rock and blues with Melanie.

8-10 am
Memphis Mystery Train
John H. hosts a mix of Memphis soul, '70s funk, rock, world roots music and the occasional nugget from the '80s.

10 am-11 am
E•Town
An encore presentation of E•Town.

11 am-Noon
WEVL Album Feature

Wednesday

6-8 am
Janet's Planet
Start your day with modern rock hosted by Janet.

8-10 am
Varied Music

10 am-1 pm
The Best of Sho-Nuff Country
Country music from the WEVL archives with Bashful Bob.

Tuesday

6-8 am
The Jukebox Graduate
Rock with Kevin.

8-10 am
Varied Music

10 am-11 am
WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour
Contemporary folk music from blues to bluegrass.

11 am-Noon
Beale Street Caravan
Blues music and interviews.

Monday

6-8 am
Welcome to the Working Week
John B. jump-starts the work week with a dose of good old rock 'n' roll.

8-10 am
The Deep Blues Show
Classical and traditional blues with Steve.

10 am-Noon
The Midnight Special
Folk music from Leadbelly to Joni Mitchell, hosted by Rich Warren.

Sunday

6-10 am
Singing Down in Dixie
Charlie May presents old and new recordings of Southern gospel quartet music.

10 am-Noon
A Fistful of Records
Tune in for the good, the great, and the strange as J.B. mines the record closet in search of buried treasures. Featuring many forms of folk and rock music.

Noon-2 pm
The 1st Church of Rock!
A Sunday service of hard rock, metal, punk and psychedelic hymns of the past 40-odd years from here and abroad. Praise the Loud!

2-4 pm
Chick Habit
Lea features women in music.

4-6 pm
World Music Dance Party
Music meant for dancing, from every corner of the world.

Noon-2 pm
Acoustic Café
Mostly "unplugged" rock, folk and blues. Interviews too! Rob Reinhart is your host.

2-4 pm
Hi Fidelity
Modern rock and pop with Doug.

4-6 pm
Car Tunes
A little bit of everything that twangs with Nancy Apple.

3-4 pm
E•Town
Music from the historic Boulder Theatre in Boulder, Colorado along with interviews and information about our environment.

4-6 pm
Pajama Party
Eclectic selections of listening confections. From the Velvet Underground to the Velvet Fog to Golden Smog, etc. Hosted by Rebecca.

Noon-2 pm
Out on the Side
Traversing the back waters of 40 years' worth of pop music: garage, folk, punk, country and R&B-oriented rock with Jeremy.

2-4 pm
Whatever
Well-written songs well sung in a wide variety of genres, some very old, some very recent, from here and abroad, presented by Yves Beauvais. From Merle Haggard to Memphis Minnie, from M. Ward to Caetano Veloso, from Leonard Cohen to Edith Piaf, it's all just air moving.

4-6 pm
New Orleans Big Beat
Musical selections from the Crescent City with Tom.

Noon-1 pm
The Skank NEW
Reggae and other assorted Jamaican sounds with Yves Beauvais.

1-2 pm
Varied Music

2-4 pm
Pathways
Rock, pop, folk, country and sounds in between, hosted by Nancy T.

4-6 pm
Janet's Planet
Modern Rock hosted by Janet.

1-2 pm
The Country Club
Country music with Harry.

2-3 pm
Hillbilly Jazz
The Ridge Runner showcases the best new bluegrass releases.

3-4 pm
Old-Time Country Music Hour
Judy presents Southern string bands, white boys singing the blues, comic songs, and fiddle favorites from the '20s and '30s.

4-6 pm
House Bayou
A southwest Louisiana dance party. Zydeco & Cajun music hosted by Susan.

Noon-1 pm
Midday Country Merry Go Round
Country music with Ken Ward.

1-2 pm
Memphis Beat
Memphis music, new & old with Andrew.

2-4 pm
Voices
Vocal selections, presented by Memphis singer Joyce Cobb.

4-6 pm
Lost In The Shuffle
Modern Rock shuffled with myriad genres and eras. Hosted by Amanda and Nick.

Noon-2 pm
Acoustic Café
Mostly "unplugged" rock, folk and blues. Interviews too! Rob Reinhart is your host.

2-4 pm
Hi Fidelity
Modern rock and pop with Doug.

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The 1st Church of Rock!
A Sunday service of hard rock, metal, punk and psychedelic hymns of the past 40-odd years from here and abroad. Praise the Loud!

2-4 pm
Chick Habit
Lea features women in music.

4-6 pm
World Music Dance Party
Music meant for dancing, from every corner of the world.

6-9 pm
Soul Stew
Blues, rock, rhythm and soul with Brett Fleming.

9 pm-Midnight
The Hitchhiker's Dance Guide
The latest and greatest in electronic dance music with Buddy.

6-7 pm
The Many Moods of Ben Vaughn
Ben plays a variety of music from across the decades.

7-9 pm
Rock House
Classic rockabilly with Lonnie.

9 pm-Midnight
The Best of Cap'n Pete's Blues Cruise
Stone cold blues from the WEVL archives, hosted by the late Dee "Cap'n Pete" Henderson. Winner of the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive Award.

6-8 pm
The Deep Blues Show
Classic and traditional blues with Steve.

8-8:30 pm
A World of Possibilities
A weekly exploration of critical global issues produced by the Mainstream Media Project.

8:30-9 pm
Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Music

9 pm-Midnight
Night Train
Blues, jazz, folk and rock with Steffen.

6-8 pm
Swing Shift Shuffle
Punch in for the best swing, jazz and big band from the '30s and '40s with Tim.

8-10 pm
Songs for My Father
Mellow jazz with Joyce Cobb.

10 pm-Midnight
In the Basement
Rhythm and blues, soul & funk with Eric and Andrew.

6-8 pm
Pathways
Rock, pop, folk, country and sounds in between, hosted by Nancy T.

8-10 pm
Bebe's Berserkathon
Bebe plays whatever the voices command him to play.

10 pm-Midnight
Hi Fidelity
Modern rock and pop with Doug.

6-8 pm
FlowRadio
An eclectic trickle of musical textures and soundscapes from around the world and somewhere just beyond the horizon. Mary Jane is your host.

8 pm-Midnight
Into the Deep
Progressive ambient beat, electronica, ethereal, and space with Allan Bogle.

6-8 pm
Lost In the Shuffle
Modern Rock shuffled with myriad genres and eras. Hosted by Amanda and Nick.

8-10 pm
Out on the Side
Traversing the back waters of 40 years' worth of pop music: garage, folk, punk, country and R&B-oriented rock with Jeremy.

10 pm-Midnight
Audio Exotika
Mike Honeycutt continues to bring obscure audio gems out from the dark recesses of Indie mines around the world.

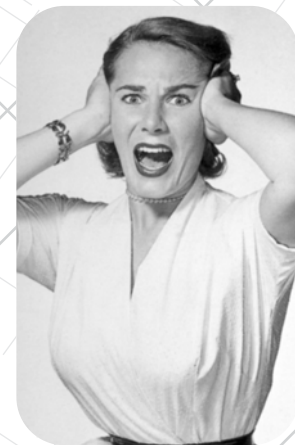
MORNING



AFTERNOON



EVENING



Recommended Listening



- ❶ *1963 In Japan* – Thelonious Monk (Four Star)
- ❷ *It's Me* – Abbey Lincoln (Verve)
- ❸ *Man In The Air* – Kurt Elling (Blue Note)
- ❹ *The Hottest New Group In Jazz* – Lambert, Hendricks, & Ross (Sony)
- ❺ *River: The Joni Letters* – Herbie Hancock (Verve Special Edition)
- ❻ *Into The Blues* – Joan Armatrading (429 Records)
- ❼ *Abbey Road* – The Beatles (EMI)
- ❽ *Small White Town* – Danielia Cotton (Thirty Tigers)
- ❾ *Yell Fire* – Michael Franti and Spearhead (Anti)
- ❿ *The Sellout* – Macy Gray (Concord)

Joyce Cobb
*(Voices, Songs For My Father,
World Music Dance Party)*

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What Members Receive

For 34 years WEVL has been providing the Mid-South with volunteer programming that is diverse, educational, fun, and different from anything else you will hear on the air. Become a member of WEVL and support an alternative voice in Memphis area radio by making a donation of \$40 or more. In return, you will receive a WEVL bumper sticker and a year's subscription to the WEVL Program Guide—plus your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send in your membership today!

For Members Only

Help WEVL save \$\$ and trees! Get the program guide by e-mail as an attached PDF file. Just send a message to wevl@wevl.org with *Email Program Guide* as the subject.

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