WBEZ 91.5FM LAUNCHES NEW LOCAL PROGRAMMING:

**THE AFTERNOON SHIFT WITH STEVE EDWARDS**

TO AIR WEEKDAYS 2-4PM, STARTING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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**VOCALO ON WBEZ**

TO AIR SATURDAYS 8-10PM, STARTING FEBRUARY 18

*Fresh Air, All Things Considered, and select weekend programming gain new airtimes*

(February 7, 2012) WBEZ will launch two new programs on WBEZ 91.5FM the week of February 13: *The Afternoon Shift with Steve Edwards*, a live talk show featuring in-depth interviews and conversations with newsmakers, artists, writers, and innovators, to air weekdays from 2-4pm; and *Vocalo on WBEZ*, a mix of featured content from Vocalo (WBEZ’s sister station), with host Jesse Menendez, to air Saturdays from 8-10pm. The two syndicated programs which currently air weekday afternoons between 2-4pm will gain new time slots: beginning February 13, *Fresh Air* will air at 11am (with repeats at 9pm Monday-Thursday) and *All Things Considered* will air at 4pm, immediately following the *Afternoon Shift*. A complete program schedule can be found at [www.wbez.org](http://www.wbez.org) starting next week.

Hosted by veteran WBEZ talent Steve Edwards, *The Afternoon Shift* will feature a series of expert contributors from WBEZ (and beyond) in lively, thoughtful dialogue with newsmakers of the day. In addition to news, *The Afternoon Shift* will delve deeply into arts and culture, media, technology, science, human behavior, and the workplace. Music and social media will also figure prominently.

Offered Edwards, “We’ll aim to unpack the important news of the day – what it means, what’s the context – but also examine the fascinating trends, ideas and questions in our lives today. The goal is to create a conversation that builds on the very best traditions of public media – depth, context, curiosity, intelligence, fairness and humanity— but to do so in a way that more directly involves our community and leverages the many tools and platforms in WBEZ’s digital media.”

*Vocalo on WBEZ* will be a two-hour ‘mix tape’ of music, stories and conversation from Vocalo which broadcasts on 89.5FM (and vocalo.org online). *Vocalo on WBEZ* will showcase the station’s youthful ensemble of personalities, including Brian Babylon & Molly Adams of *Morning AMp*; Luis Perez & Shantell Jamison of *The Overdrive*; and, of course, host Jesse Menendez of *The Music Vox*. Popular segments, such as *The Barbershop Show*, hosted by the Chicago Reporter’s Kimbriell Kelly and WBEZ’s Richard Steele live from Carter’s Barber Shop in North Lawndale, are certain to be a part of the mix.

“*Vocalo on WBEZ* will showcase diverse cultural perspectives from artists to activists, musicians to musicologists,” said Silvia Rivera, Vocalo Managing Director. “This will be a great opportunity to introduce Vocalo’s storytelling and musical content to the WBEZ audience.”
Steve Edwards most recently served as the Content Development Director at Chicago Public Media, overseeing new digital content innovations, and prior to that, as Acting Program Director of WBEZ. From 1999 until 2007, Edwards served as host of Eight Forty-Eight, which was named “Best Public Affairs Show” by Chicago Magazine and “Best Morning Radio Show” by New City. In addition, the weekly edition of the show was voted the best of its kind by public radio stations nationwide. Edwards’ reports and interviews have been honored by the Society of Professional Journalists, the RTNDA, the Associated Press, UPI, and the Public Radio News Directors, Inc (PRNDI). Edwards is also the recipient of the Grand Award from the National Headliner Club and a 2007-2008 Knight-Wallace fellowship for mid-career journalists at the University of Michigan. A native of the Kansas City area, Edwards resides in Oak Park with his wife and sons.

Jesse Menendez, a Chicago native, has appeared in various commercials, films and plays, in addition to working as a TV reporter and producer for WYCC and WOCK-Azteca America. Menendez, who started at Vocalo as an intern in 2008, is currently the host of the station’s The MusicVox (weekdays from 6-8pm), and Live from Studio 10 (Wednesdays, 8-9pm).

WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country’s premiere public radio stations, is operated by Chicago Public Media, a non-profit institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation, and our world. In addition to Eight Forty-Eight, Worldview, and Radio M, Chicago Public Media produces nationally-distributed programs such as This American Life, Sound Opinions, and Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me! (a co-production with National Public Radio in Washington DC). In addition to WBEZ, Chicago Public Media operates Vocalo 89.5 FM, a next generation service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, visit www.chicagopublicmedia.org.

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