

Chicago Public Media.

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For Immediate Release

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WBEZ 91.5FM NAMES NEW WEEKEND MORNING HOST: GRETA JOHNSEN

(Nov. 4, 2011) Chicago Public Media announced that **Greta Johnsen** has joined the Public Affairs Department of WBEZ 91.5FM as a new weekend host, handling on-air duties Saturday and Sunday mornings, from 7am to noon.

No stranger to wicked winter temperatures, Johnsen, 26, is a native of Fairbanks, Alaska, and an alum of Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. While enrolled at Saint Olaf, she was a Broadcast Engineer for WCAL Classical 89.3. Upon graduation, she returned to Alaska, and continued her public radio experience for four years at KUAC 89.9, the NPR affiliate station in Fairbanks, most recently serving as Operations Manager/*Morning Edition* host. In Alaska, she was a mentor with the Big Brothers & Big Sisters organization, and also a member of the Alaska Press Club. Johnsen relocated to the Chicago area this fall to pursue a Master of Science in Journalism at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, from which she expects to graduate in December 2012.

Notably, Johnsen is not the first WBEZ 91.5 hire from Alaska Public Radio; others include Gabriel Spitzer and Ashley Gross, WBEZ science and business/real estate reporter, respectively.

Said Johnsen, "I was born in Juneau and grew up in Fairbanks, where it is cold and beautiful. Public radio often feels like the only connection to the outside world in a place like Fairbanks, so it was valuable to work at KUAC. I've always been impressed with WBEZ and its programming, especially *This American Life*. While hosting *Morning Edition*, I got to take Ira Glass to a dive bar in Fairbanks, which was a career highlight! If I can find some spare time, which might be tricky with this job and being a grad student, I'm hoping to continue the hobbies I cultivated up north: knitting, reading, and cooking."

Chicago Public Media is an 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. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), *Eight Forty-Eight*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*. In addition to WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country's premiere public radio stations, 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.wbez.org.

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