

A FOND FAREWELL TO MUSICAL STAGES

For nearly 25 years, *Musical Stages* has taken a theme common to a number of Broadway musicals, compiled performances under that theme, and presented a unique musical theater experience. Saturday, Dec 27 will be the last broadcast of the show on KXPR.

"I pitched the idea to the station in 1983 and it was my idea to retire it, as well," said host Stephen Peithman.

The show will not be gone completely though. The *Musical Stages* page will remain on our website (www.caprado.org/stages) with links to show archives. Plus, Peithman will continue to keep in touch with the musical theatre community by blogging on that page.

"While there are new musicals all the time, far fewer are being recorded, and not all of them translate well to our hour-long radio format. I think we've done a very good job over the past 25 years, and I don't really want to start repeating myself," said Peithman.

The show, compiled solely from his own library of recordings, has been a labor of love for Peithman.

"In the nearly 25 years we've been on the air, I've done all the shows as a volunteer. It's been a joy to do that—made all the more rewarding because of Mark Jones' work as recording engineer from the very first program. There would be no *Musical Stages* without Mark. I can't say it more simply than that."

Jones, Capital Public Radio Production Manager, is equally complimentary of Peithman.

"Stephen is a renaissance man. He has a long history as a writer, director, and performer. He has taught college-level courses on the American musical theater, and really loves to share his knowledge and love of theater," said Jones.

"On top of that, he's very easy to work with. Stephen is one of the last of the true gentlemen, a class act. I've really enjoyed working with him."

"Stephen has done a tremendous job producing *Musical Stages*. His knowledge and passion really comes through to the listener," said Classical Music Director, Cheryl Dring. "Now that he's retiring *Musical Stages*, we're eager to keep him involved with KXPR."

His future involvement with KXPR will allow Peithman to pursue his other great love ... classical music.

He is developing a new limited series for KXPR, tentatively titled *Classical Connections*. The show will explore links between composers or pieces of music that might otherwise seem unrelated, and is scheduled to premiere in January 2009.

"Connections like these have always fascinated me, and I think they help listeners appreciate these works even more—and perhaps introduce them to music they might not have heard before," said Peithman.



STEPHEN PEITHMAN



MARK JONES