

MUSICALLY
ADVENTUROUS
COMMUNITY
FOCUSED

LISTENER
SUPPORTED



COMMUNITY IMPACT
REPORT FY2026

COMMERCIAL-FREE
INDEPENDENT
PUBLIC
RADIO



THE SUMMIT FM
91.3 FM AKRON-CANTON
90.7 FM YOUNGSTOWN
90.1 FM ATHENS



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90.7 FM YOUNGSTOWN
90.1 FM ATHENS

Mission Statement: *The Summit FM is a listener-supported, independent voice building community around compelling music and enlightened content.*

Full-Time Staff

Tommy Bruno General Manager
Matt Anthony Digital Media Producer
Andrew James Operations Director
Chad Miller Music Director
Brad Savage Program Director
Laura Smiley Development Director

Part-Time Staff and On-Air Volunteers

Rebecca Baird On-Air Volunteer
Taylor Blair Production Assistant / On-Air
Lori Dailey On-Air Volunteer
Bob Ethington On-Air Volunteer
Cornelius Gould Engineer
Ryan Humbert Marketing / On-Air
Linda Jackson On-Air Volunteer
Mike Jarosz Sales Representative
Nick Nicholis On-Air Volunteer
JD Smith Sales Representative
Marc Lee Shannon Wellness Contributor
Dave Swanson Content Contributor / On-Air
Sarah Swirsky Wellness Coordinator

THE SUMMIT FM
WILLIAM S. GRUBER STUDIOS
309 WOOLF AVE.
AKRON, OH 44312
WWW.THESUMMIT.FM

“We serve an audience that has never lost its love for music — or for each other.”

Twenty-five years is a long time to do anything. But when you love what you do — and, more importantly, who you do it with — it doesn't feel like work. It feels like a gift.

I'm privileged to lead The Summit FM, and I've learned that leading it well means staying close to the people who make it possible. This station is built collectively by people who believe in one simple idea: music brings people together.

That means the artists who trusted us with their music before anyone else was playing it. The members who show up, year after year, because they believe in something. The foundations and business underwriters who see public radio as an investment in our community. The volunteers who generously give their time. And our small, scrappy, extraordinary team, doing the work of a station three times our size.

When the federal government shut down the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and we lost over 10% of our funding overnight, I won't pretend it wasn't scary. But what happened next reminded me why we do this: we serve an audience that has never lost its love for music — or for each other.

Our members didn't flinch. Our partners leaned in. Our team found a way. That kind of loyalty isn't something you manufacture — it's something a community earns together, over time, by doing right by the people around you.

Thank you for being part of this story. The next chapter is going to be the best one yet.



Tommy J Bruno

OUR STORY *centered on music*

The Summit FM is a musically adventurous, community-focused public radio station serving more than 5,000 square miles across 21 counties in Ohio, including Akron, Canton, Youngstown, Athens, and beyond.

Our programming features an indie-driven blend of music that spans modern genres, including alternative, Americana, folk, grunge, reggae, with touches of blues and classic rock. It's a sound that's diverse yet cohesive—connecting generations through the world's most universal language: music.

There are no political talk shows, no sports, no breaking news, and no agenda. Instead, The Summit FM is dedicated to what we do best: delivering an extraordinary music experience. Ninety-five percent of our programming is devoted to thoughtfully curated music discovery, introducing listeners to emerging artists alongside familiar favorites, hidden gems, timeless classics, and today's most compelling new releases.

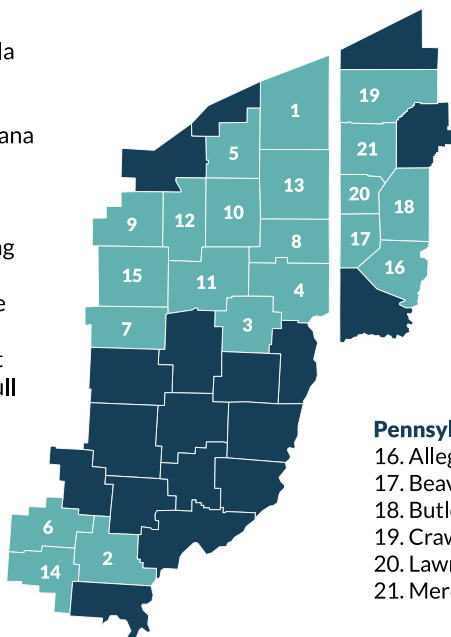
Our programming team is deeply connected to both the national and regional music scenes, constantly searching for the artists and songs that deserve to be heard. Since 1986, we've dared to be different, pioneering the modern AAA format in our region. Since becoming The Summit in 1999, we've continued to provide the soundtrack for discovery, creativity, and connection.

At The Summit FM, we don't simply broadcast music—we build a community around it. We believe our listeners are more than an audience; they're musical partners, explorers, and tastemakers who share our passion for discovering what's next while celebrating the music that has stood the test of time.

WHERE TO LISTEN

Ohio

1. Ashtabula
2. Athens
3. Carroll
4. Columbiana
5. Geauga
6. Hocking
7. Holmes
8. Mahoning
9. Medina
10. Portage
11. Stark
12. Summit
13. Trumbull
14. Vinton
15. Wayne



Pennsylvania

16. Allegheny
17. Beaver
18. Butler
19. Crawford
20. Lawrence
21. Mercer





A SAMPLE OF ARTISTS YOU'LL HEAR



Brandi Carlile	The Black Keys	The Avett Brothers
Jack White	Lucinda Williams	Olivia Dean
Peter Dinklage	The National	Blondie
David Gray	Patti Smith	The Rolling Stones
Noah Kahan	Teddy Swims	Tori Amos
Foo Fighters	CAAMP	U2
Adele	Norah Jones	R.E.M.
The Police	Bob Marley	Wet Leg
The Lumineers	Death Cab for Cutie	Nirvana
Jesse Welles	Molly Tuttle	Red Wanting Blue
The Clash	Radiohead	XTC
Spoon	Leon Bridges	Depeche Mode
Devo	Iron & Wine	Red Clay Strays
Elvis Costello	Margo Price	Lord Huron
The Killers	Mumford & Sons	The Indigo Girls
The War and Treaty	Ben Harper	Wilco
My Morning Jacket	Pearl Jam	Maggie Rose
Modest Mouse	The Pretenders	Dave Matthews Band
Jason Isbell	Mitski	St. Vincent
The Beatles	Samantha Fish	Sam Fender
The War On Drugs	Bruce Springsteen	Lola Young
Arlo Parks	Sheryl Crow	Tom Petty
Jon Batiste	The Cure	Arctic Monkeys



Supporting local music is at the heart of The Summit FM. Every day, our airwaves feature an impressive rotation of homegrown artists, while our dedicated local music stream, The 330, celebrates the past, present, and future of Northeast Ohio's vibrant music scene.

THE 330

The 330 provides a unique platform devoted exclusively to regional music, giving local artists unprecedented exposure while offering Akron Public Schools students hands-on broadcasting experience as program hosts. Available 24/7 through streaming audio and The Summit FM mobile app, The330.net connects listeners with the incredible talent emerging from our own communities.

THE 330 DAY CONCERT

Each March 30, The Summit FM celebrates local music with the annual 330 Day Concert. What began as a community celebration has become one of Northeast Ohio's signature music events, selling out for seven consecutive years.

Since its inception, the concert has showcased nearly 100 Northeast Ohio artists and welcomed nearly 10,000 music fans. True to our mission, the event remains free and open to the public, thanks to the generous support of regional sponsors and foundations.

The Summit FM's commitment to championing local artists and strengthening our regional music community remains unmatched across Akron, Canton, Youngstown, Athens, and Western Pennsylvania.



Photo by Roger Smith

FRIENDS OF THE SUMMIT FM



Left to right:

Morgan Lasher

Dave Glass Treasurer

Greg Kall

Erin Driscoll Vice Chair

Steve Cox

Andy Platt Chair

Tony Paparella

Brenda Cummins

Cheryl McMillan

Cliff Deveny

Linda Stepan

Tommy Bruno

Friends of The Summit FM is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the mission of The Summit FM through fundraising and community leadership. Its members bring a wealth of experience from business, law, finance, healthcare, and many other professions, united by a shared commitment to the station's future.

The organization led the successful \$1 million+ *ELEVATE* Capital Campaign, resulting in the creation of The Summit FM's new broadcast studios—an investment that will serve our listeners, artists, and communities for years to come.

The Friends' mission is to strengthen the future of The Summit FM as a premier public media organization by increasing financial support, cultivating community engagement, and providing thoughtful advice and recommendations to station management and its license holder.

17 YEARS OF FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

The Summit FM has built a world-class funding model that colleges and school districts nationwide are studying. For 17 consecutive fiscal years, the station has remained self-supported through membership, business underwriting, and regional foundations — meaning the license owner, Akron Public Schools, hasn't spent general fund dollars on salaries or benefits.

honoring JOE FELTES

Joe Feltes brought far more than legal expertise to The Summit FM—he brought vision, leadership, and a deep commitment to service.

A distinguished healthcare attorney and tireless community advocate, Joe was instrumental in the creation and growth of Friends of The Summit advisory board. Through his service, he provided station leadership with thoughtful counsel, steady encouragement, and quiet determination.

In 2025, Joe retired both from a remarkable 45-year legal career and from his longtime role on The Friends of The Summit advisory board. Throughout his professional life, he remained deeply committed to strengthening the organizations and communities he served. His guidance helped shape The Summit FM's future, and his generosity, talent, and belief in independent public radio continue to have a lasting impact.

We were proud to celebrate Joe's career, service, and retirement at our 2026 330 Day Concert at the Robins Theatre in Warren.





Since 2008, The Summit FM has been dedicated to preserving and expanding music education in our public schools through the Marilyn Stroud Music Alive Program, named in honor of longtime Summit volunteer Marilyn Stroud, whose passion and vision helped bring the program to life before her passing in 2018.

In partnership with Taylor Band & Orchestra and Milvet Guitar Repair, this initiative has made a lasting impact by collecting, repairing, and donating more than 800 musical instruments to students in need across the Akron, Barberton, Canton, Athens, and Struthers school districts.

The program helps expand access to music education for underserved youth by strengthening underfunded school music programs throughout our broadcast region. Music Alive continues to bridge the gap between musical aspirations and financial barriers, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to discover and develop their musical talents.

Through the Marilyn Stroud Music Alive Program, The Summit FM proudly reaffirms its commitment to nurturing young musicians and supporting arts education throughout the communities we serve while teaching confidence that extends far beyond the stage.

To donate a gently used musical instrument that is no longer in use, scan here. Your forgotten instrument could become a child's gateway to the enriching world of music education.



RISING STAR: TAYLOR BLAIR



Taylor Blair is an on-air host and an integral member of The Summit FM team, supporting programming, audio and video production, and social media. A proud Akron Public Schools graduate, she is a shining example of the success of our longstanding partnership with APS. Taylor hosts a weekend show on The Summit and helps capture live Studio C performances for social media and our partnership with PBS Western Reserve. Her energy, creativity and passion for music help connect listeners with the artists and stories that make The Summit FM unique.



(Pictured here with Summit FM mascot, Dexter)

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION THE SUMMIT FM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



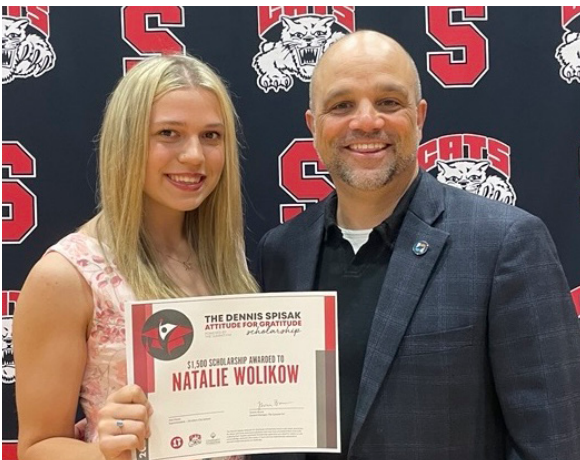
The Summit FM is committed to investing in the future of our communities through two transformative scholarship funds: the Jim Chenot Attitude for Gratitude Scholarship (Akron Public Schools) and the Dennis Spisak Attitude for Gratitude Scholarship (Struthers City Schools). These scholarships help college-bound seniors pursue higher education while celebrating resilience, gratitude and hope.

Administered through the Akron Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, the scholarships recognize students who have overcome adversity, particularly physical and mental health challenges. Applicants are encouraged to share their stories through essays, poetry, songs, podcasts, videos, or other creative formats.

More than financial assistance, these scholarships encourage meaningful conversations about perseverance, mental health and gratitude while empowering the next generation to succeed.

TOP: Akron student-athlete **Jramayne Williams** receives the Jim Chenot Attitude for Gratitude Scholarship from The Summit FM and Friends of The Summit. Jramayne inspired the selection committee with his remarkable resilience, balancing a 3.5 GPA, participation in four sports, and working more than 50 hours a week to help support his family.

BOTTOM: Natalie Wolikow, recipient of the Dennis Spisak Attitude for Gratitude Scholarship, is honored by The Summit FM and Friends of The Summit. A graduating senior from Struthers City Schools, Natalie shared a deeply moving story of courage, healing, and self-worth that left a lasting impression on the scholarship committee. Pictured with Summit FM General Manager Tommy Bruno.



AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1955



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF THE MAHONING VALLEY

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that 5 of our 6 full-time staff members started as volunteers? That says everything about the culture here. Our Summit Amplifiers carry that same spirit — an irreplaceable crew of dedicated super-volunteers who show up week after week, on-site, sleeves rolled up, getting it done. They are not just helpers. They are the heartbeat of this station. Become a volunteer of the Summit FM today at thesummit.fm.





THE SUMMIT FM WELLNESS



the healing power of music

The Summit FM's Music & Wellness initiative harnesses the power of music to strengthen the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of the communities we serve. Built on the belief that music can reduce stress, inspire hope, encourage movement, and foster meaningful human connection, the program extends The Summit FM's mission beyond broadcasting by creating opportunities for people to experience music as a tool for healing and resilience. Through live events, workshops, on-air programming, and digital content, Summit Wellness makes the benefits of music accessible to listeners of all ages and backgrounds.

Throughout the year, Summit Wellness brought people together through interactive *Music & Movement* workshops, community performances, wellness-focused radio features, public service announcements, curated playlists, and our dedicated Wavelengths streaming channel.

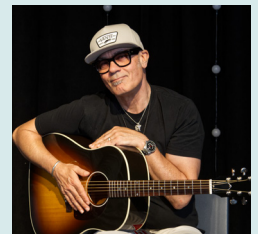
Guided by licensed mental health professionals and community partners, these programs encourage healthy coping strategies, creativity, self-expression, and social connection while helping reduce feelings of isolation. By meeting people where they are—in community centers, churches, recovery organizations, schools, and neighborhoods—the initiative reaches audiences both on the air and in person.

As a trusted public radio station, The Summit FM is uniquely positioned to use music as a catalyst for community well-being. Summit Wellness reflects our commitment to serving listeners in meaningful ways beyond entertainment, creating experiences that strengthen connections, promote mental health awareness, and remind people that music has the power not only to enrich our lives, but to help us feel a little "better-er."



FEEL BETTER-ER

Feel Better-er is The Summit FM's signature wellness feature, hosted by musician and wellness advocate **Marc Lee Shannon**. Through thoughtful stories about gratitude, resilience, recovery, and human connection, the series offers practical encouragement and reminds listeners that music, compassion, and small daily steps can help us all feel a little better-er, one story at a time, every day.



WAVELENGTHS

MINDFUL MUSIC
WITH YOU IN MIND
thesummit.fm



PARTNERSHIPS

PBS WESTERN RESERVE

Since 2017, The Summit FM and PBS Western Reserve have partnered in a collaboration unlike any other in public media. Local and national artists perform before live Summit audiences, with each performance professionally filmed and broadcast on PBS affiliates throughout Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. This one-of-a-kind partnership celebrates and preserves our region's rich musical heritage.



STRUTHERS WILDCATS FOOTBALL

For more than 12 years, The Summit FM has partnered with Struthers City Schools to operate WKTL-FM. Beyond music programming, students gain hands-on broadcasting experience covering home football games alongside General Manager Tommy Bruno, while Chad Miller and Wildcat legend Dennis Spisak provide play-by-play commentary. This real-world experience equips students with valuable broadcasting skills.



COUNTY OF SUMMIT ADM BOARD

Through Summit Wellness, The Summit FM is pioneering recovery-focused programming in public media, strengthening listener engagement while addressing critical community needs. Our partnership with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board provides valuable resources and best practices, allowing us to deliver trusted support and wellness information across all of our platforms.



AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT

Our partnership with Akron-Canton Airport introduces thousands of travelers to Northeast Ohio's vibrant music scene every day. The Summit FM curates playlists featuring local and regional artists from The 330, filling the terminal with the sounds of our community. Whether arriving or departing, travelers experience the best of Northeast Ohio through its music.



OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

The Summit FM is a proud recipient of Ohio Arts Council grants for the past four years, providing vital support for general operating expenses and our commitment to local music, including the annual 330 Day Concert celebrating Northeast Ohio's vibrant music community.



STUDIO C: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

For more than 15 years, our iconic Studio C has been the beating heart of live music in our community. We've proudly welcomed more than 500 bands and artists, giving listeners front-row access to unforgettable performances by both legendary acts and rising stars.

Our intensely loyal member audience has enjoyed exclusive, intimate sessions with Grammy-nominated folk-rock favorites The Avett Brothers, alternative rock pioneers Pixies, country-noir queen Nikki Lane, multi-platinum singer-songwriter David Gray, indie folk darlings Iron & Wine, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Zombies, punk legends X, Scottish sensation KT Tunstall, soul-stirring Americana duo The War & Treaty, and countless others.

These one-of-a-kind performances reflect our commitment to connecting listeners with the artists they love in a way few stations can. Studio C isn't just a performance space—it's where unforgettable musical moments happen, right here in your own backyard.

Learn more about
Summit FM member
benefits:





FUNDING FAST FACTS

Our nonprofit public radio station is sustained by a diverse network of support, including members, businesses, foundations, bequests, stock gifts, vehicle donations, and more. Together, these contributions preserve our independence and strengthen our mission.

FEDERAL SUPPORT ELIMINATED

In July of 2025, Congress rescinded federal funding for public media, eliminating more than \$135,000 in annual support for The Summit FM through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Our listeners responded in extraordinary fashion, rallying together to replace the entire funding gap in just five days. Their generosity reaffirmed the strength of our community and the vital role independent public radio plays across Northeast Ohio.

SUMMIT MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Listeners who donate to The Summit FM are considered members. Overall member revenue accounts for nearly 55% of all earned revenue. Of that, 52% of the revenue is from sustaining members. Sustaining members commit to a monthly pledge that automatically renews year after year, allowing the station to rely on this steady income.

A HIGHER LEVEL OF GIVING

Since 2012, The Summit FM's Red Guitar Club has united music lovers who invest in independent public radio. These generous members provide nearly 50% of membership revenue, fueling music discovery, wellness initiatives, and regional musicians while enjoying exclusive perks like Life and Lyrics recordings, concert tickets, and private events.



FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Foundation support plays a vital role in The Summit FM's success, providing nearly 15% of our operating budget. These unrestricted grants, along with investments in our programming, help sustain our mission and ensure a strong future for independent public radio in Northeast Ohio, while enriching the lives of listeners across the communities we proudly serve.

LOCAL BUSINESSES. LASTING IMPACT.

Business underwriting provides nearly 32% of The Summit FM's annual operating budget. Local businesses, nonprofits, and agencies support our mission through on-air underwriting, with just four live-read acknowledgments each hour and nearly 50 organizations heard on the station every day. As a 501(c)(3), underwriting may also qualify as a philanthropic contribution.

Our Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency showcases our commitment to openness, instilling confidence in funders and donors alike.

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.



Photos by Owen Varga

BY THE NUMBERS

Our loyal audience makes The Summit FM more than just a part of their day; they make it part of their lives.



17 YEARS

of financial
independence
from license holder
Akron Public Schools



musical instruments donated to
area students through our
Music Alive program



community
events
supported
annually



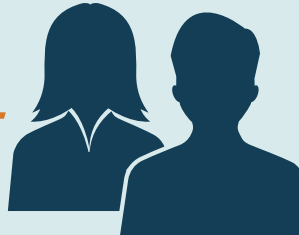
10,000+

hours of local
music annually



Studio C
Sessions
& member
events
annually

2,200+
current
members



\$20,000

in student
scholarships awarded

25+

Music & Movement
Summit Wellness Events



**FISCAL
YEAR
2026**

For the year ended June 30, 2026. Amounts are presented in thousands and are unaudited.

\$626

Membership

\$360

Business
Underwriting

\$168

Grants

Hear it.
Love it.
Support it.



THE SUMMIT FM

91.3 FM AKRON-CANTON

90.7 FM YOUNGSTOWN

90.1 FM ATHENS