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• Enjoy an eclectic mix of music specials featuring entertainment icons Barbra Streisand, Luciano Pavarotti, Lawrence Welk and Marvin Hamlisch

• Eye on the Sixties: The Iconic Photography of Rowland Scherman offers an intimate portrait of the former Life magazine photojournalist

• Explore the story of North Carolina’s gold rush in Gold Fever and the Bechtler Mint

• Check out this month’s complete history programming on Western Reserve PBS and Fusion

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How Sherlock Changed the World

Monday, Dec. 30, at 9 PM

Also airs on Fusion on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 8 PM

This new two-hour special about the world’s most legendary fictional detective reveals the astonishing impact Sherlock Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and forensic techniques. From blood to ballistics, from fingerprints to footprints, Holmes was 120 years ahead of his time, protecting crime scenes from contamination, looking for minute traces of evidence and searching for what the eye couldn’t see.

Embraced by the public from his very first appearance in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s literary creation is more popular than ever, with multiple contemporary film and television series introducing new generations to the detective’s keen observations and lightning powers of deduction. Narrated by actor Andrew Lincoln, How Sherlock Changed the World features dramatized excerpts from several of Doyle’s stories, along with scenes from “Sherlock,” the wildly popular Masterpiece series starring Benedict Cumberbatch, which returns with a new season on Sunday, Jan. 19.

In an era when eyewitness testimony and “smoking gun” evidence were needed to convict and police incompetence meant that Jack the Ripper stalked the streets freely, Sherlock Holmes used chemistry, bloodstains and fingerprints to catch offenders. In many ways, the modern detective can be seen as a direct extension of Conan Doyle’s literary genius. Using interviews and archival materials, this documentary explores real crimes that were solved thanks to techniques, equipment or methods of reasoning that Holmes used.
Great Performances, Barbra Streisand: Back to Brooklyn

Sunday, Dec. 1, at 6 PM

Also airs on Fusion on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 4 PM

Barbra Streisand makes a historic homecoming “Back to Brooklyn” at the new Barclays Center arena, marking the superstar’s first Brooklyn concert since her childhood years. Joined by special guests Il Volo and Chris Botti, Streisand performs an extensive selection of songs from throughout her five-decade career, including a touching duet with her son Jason Gould.

Great Performances, Pavarotti: A Voice for the Ages

Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 PM

Repeats Sunday, Dec. 8, at 5 PM and Monday, Dec. 9, at 9:30 PM

Like Enrico Caruso before him, Luciano Pavarotti extended his presence far beyond the limits of Italian opera. Quickly establishing his trademark rich sound as the greatest male operatic voice of the 20th century, he expanded his reach to stadium concerts and pop collaborations that brought him fame beyond measure. Audiences adored his larger-than-life personality, childlike charm, generous figure and happy-go-lucky style.

This program celebrates the 50th anniversary since his career debut in Amsterdam, Vienna, Zurich and finally London, where he substituted for the ailing Giuseppe di Stefano as Rodolfo in “La Boheme.” Even today, it is his powerful sound with its natural grace and brilliant color that still leads many to consider him the world’s greatest voice. Pavarotti: A Voice for the Ages includes beloved arias, Neapolitan songs in arrangements by Henry Mancini, favorite sacred songs and popular duets with Bono, Sting and Eric Clapton.

The Lawrence Welk Holiday Special: Great Moments and Memories

Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 8 PM

Repeats Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 PM

Nine stars of the Lawrence Welk Musical Family are reunited to host this special, which features outstanding highlights spanning 30 years of Christmas holiday shows. The cast includes Norma Zimmer, Myron Floren, Jo Ann Castle, Mary Lou Metzger, Bobby Burgess, Ron Anderson, Sandi Griffiths, Ken Delo and Gail Farrell.

All the traditional and favorite Christmas songs, plus performances by the children of the Welk Musical Family.

American Masters, Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did for Love

Friday, Dec. 27, at 9 PM

By age 31, Marvin Hamlisch had won four Grammys, an Emmy, three Oscars, a Tony and a Pulitzer Prize. Hit after hit made him the go-to composer for film and Broadway producers, and the go-to performer for every president since Ronald Reagan. His streak was unprecedented.

A child prodigy accepted at Juilliard at age six, Hamlisch’s classical training laid the groundwork for his popular compositions. A rich archival legacy, interviews with his A-list collaborators and cooperation from his family combine to tell the rich, engrossing story of the musician, who died in 2012 at age 68.
Eye on the Sixties: The Iconic Photography of Rowland Scherman

Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 10 PM

Famed Life magazine photojournalist Rowland Scherman captured some of the most transformational political, cultural and musical events of the 1960s — from the March on Washington to the first American Beatles concert to Robert F. Kennedy’s ill-fated presidential campaign to Woodstock.

At the sites of some of his most famous photos, Scherman reveals candid and insightful anecdotes from his storied career, reflects on his life and his legacy, and muses about his medium’s relevance in the digital age.

Scherman also shares seldom-seen images of politicians and celebrities of the 1960s, including President Lyndon Johnson, Special Olympics founder Eunice Shriver, folk sensations Joni Mitchell and Judy Collins, tennis great Arthur Ashe, TV journalism pioneer Barbara Walters, a young Bob Dylan and John F. Kennedy with the very first Peace Corps volunteers of 1961. The program also features interviews with singer Judy Collins and legendary Life magazine journalist Richard B. Stolley.

Gold Fever and the Bechtler Mint

Friday, Dec. 27, at 10:30 PM

For many it is a surprising story: that North Carolina was the site of America’s first gold rush, and that a German immigrant living in the small mountain town of Rutherfordton created a successful private mint that produced the first $1 gold coin in American history.

This documentary explores the story of North Carolina’s gold rush and tells how one talented, determined man filled a need and transformed an entire region by changing the economy, and instilling a pride that is still evident to this day.
Great Performances: Barbra Streisand: Back to Brooklyn
Sunday, Dec. 1, at 6 PM

Courage, New Hampshire
Monday, Dec. 2, at midnight, 1 AM, 2 AM & 3 AM

Great Performances, Pavarotti: A Voice for All Ages
Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 8, at 5 PM
Monday, Dec. 9, at 9:30 PM

The Illuminator and a Bible for the 21st Century
Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 2 AM
Sunday, Dec. 29, at 7 PM

The Lawrence Welk Holiday Special: Great Moments and Memories
Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 8 PM
Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 PM

Independent Lens, Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines
Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 PM

Plastic Paradise: A Swingin’ Trip Through America’s Polynesian Obsession
Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 3 AM

Eye on the Sixties: The Iconic Photography of Rowl Scherman
Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 10 PM

American Masters, Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did for Love
Friday, Dec. 27, at 9 PM

Gold Fever and the Bechtler Mint
Friday, Dec. 27, at 10:30 PM

Secrets of the Tower of London
Saturday, Dec. 28, at 6 PM & 11:30 PM

She-Wolves: England’s Early Queens
Sunday, Dec. 29, at 8 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 4 AM

Song of the Dunes: Search for the Original Gypsies
Monday, Dec. 30, at 1 AM

How Sherlock Changed the World
Monday, Dec. 30, at 9 PM

Carol Burnett: The Mark Twain Prize
Sunday, Dec. 1, at noon

Pioneers of Television: Funny Ladies
Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 PM

Great Performances, Barbara Streisand: Back to Brooklyn
Sunday, Dec. 1, at 4 PM

The Illuminator and a Bible for the 21st Century
Monday, Dec. 2, at 8 PM
Saturday, Dec. 7, at noon

Independent Lens, Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines
Monday, Dec. 2, at 10 PM
Saturday, Dec. 7, at noon

American Experience, Clinton
Saturdays, Dec. 7-14, at 9 PM

Secrets of the Manor House
Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 PM

Pedro E. Guerrero: Portrait of an Image Maker
Thursday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 PM

Secrets of the London Tower
Friday, Dec. 13, at 8:30 PM

Plastic Paradise: A Swingin’ Trip Through America’s Polynesian Obsession
Monday, Dec. 23, at 8 PM

How Sherlock Changed the World
Saturday, Dec. 28, at 8 PM

DaVinci: The Lost Treasure
Saturday, Dec. 28, at 10 PM

Out of Many, One
Sunday, Dec. 29, at 4 PM

Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus
Sunday, Dec. 29, at 9 PM

Muddy Waters and the Rolling Stones
Sunday, Dec. 29, at 10 PM