

Programming Department Year-End Review 2021
Christopher Currie

A general comment:

As I was preparing this end-of-year review, I looked over several of my work emails from the beginning and the end of 2021. When I did so, I realized that there was a significant change between the two time periods. While this has obviously been a challenging year for everyone, CFRU is now taking on more projects and reaching more of its potential than was the case a year ago. The fact that we've had a full staff team since March 2021 is a significant part of this, and everyone agrees that Odesia has been an incredible addition to the station!

We're all looking forward to the prospect of the station re-opening soon – and, once CFRU becomes an interactive space again, we're hopeful that more new programming initiatives will launch on our airwaves.

But that's not to say we didn't feature any new and exciting programs in 2021 ... [and so begins the year-end review proper] ...

New and Returning Shows!

Over the last year, CFRU has featured the following new programs:

B Siide Radio by Mike Kivell (Wednesday 7-8 pm), with the best in hip hop, R&B, and everything in between. B Siide Radio originated at Ryerson Radio, but the version featured on CFRU is unique to our station.

Beyond the Lyrics by Sam and Amanda (Monday noon-12:30 pm), featuring long-form interviews with up-and-coming artists in Canada.

The Big G Podcast (monthly on Mondays, 2:30-3 pm), with long-form interviews from the City of Guelph.

Gryphon CAST by Michael Lim (monthly on Fridays, 3-3:30 pm), featuring long-form interviews with U of G researchers.

The Independent Show by Kaitlyn (Monday 5-6 pm), with a mix of indie and alternative music from the 1980s to the present, including the ever-popular game of Guess That Song.

It's a Vibe by Sherice (Sunday 8-9 pm), featuring soca and other music of the Caribbean, as well as discussion segments on abuse, trauma, consent, and mental health.

Melonaut Radio by Alia Synesthesia (Friday 10-11 pm), an open-concept progressive music show, with elements of drama, interviews, and storytelling.

Neighbouring Sounds by Joseph Shea-Carter (monthly on Fridays, 11 pm-midnight), an uninterrupted music flow, with complementary, neighbouring music from the global scene.

New Wave Surfing by Philip Walsh (where Wednesday becomes Thursday, midnight-1 pm), with music and commentary on the punk/new wave scene and its descendants.

One Turntable and a Microphone by Mark Hallman, set to launch this Sunday from 11 am to noon, featuring deep-dive album reviews.

Orange Grove Radio by Jenna Marie (Monday 1-2 pm), a syndicated program from Canada's leading jazz publicity firm.

Rainbow Country by Mark Tara (where Monday becomes Tuesday, midnight-2 am), an LGBTQ+ show syndicated on several campus radio stations across Canada.

Tales from the Bridge by Tristan, Marty, Kevin, and Sam (Thursday 9-10 am), with long-form discussions and interviews from the world of sci-fi.

Thanks for Listening ☺ by Megan Arnold (Friday 9-10 am), featuring updates on the U of G's studio art program and some new (and not-so-new) music from across multiple genres.

Time Machine (Friday 4-5 pm), an extension of CFRU's museum exhibit, hosted by Harrison Tieman (although it may become a multiple-host venture in time). Featuring highlights of CFRU's broadcasts from yesteryear.

Wild Combination by Jake Parker Scott (where Tuesday becomes Wednesday, midnight-1 pm), a late-night radio venture with a variety of sounds strange and beautiful.

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And we were glad to welcome back:

Couples Retreat by Nicole and Justin, featured on Friday mornings during the summer months.

Guelph Multicultural Radio, a series of shows hosted by Cinthuja Leon in the buildup to the Guelph & District Multicultural Festival.

The Hong Kong Student Radio Association, hosted by a collective (Wednesday, 10 pm-midnight), with music, news, interviews, and radio dramas in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Raccoon Radio (formerly known as C.J.R.), hosted by a collective led by Natalie Vasilivetsky (Thursday 4:30-5 pm; currently on hiatus), produced by the Sustainability Department at the U of G.

We also featured:

- The Change Must Start Now**, a series of programs hosted by Kween Gerber and others;
- Synths Always**, a four-part series by Aimee Copping on the history of electronic music;
- a series of shows hosted by Claire, focusing on new francophone music;
- Pause with Lore Arts**, by Halley Roback and Fan-Ling Suen, featuring interviews with artists, scholars, food growers, and community leaders on responses to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Rialto**, an extended radio drama hosted by John Southworth.

I'd also like to highlight Omorowa Eguakun's presence as a new co-host on **RadiOPIRG**, and the work that Anya and Longfei have done in editing **Breezy Breakfast**. And I apologize in advance if I've forgotten anyone.

CFRU also broadcast special programming features for Asian Heritage Month, Black Heritage Month, Drone Day, Election Day 2021 (with an all-major-candidates debate a few weeks earlier), Emancipation Day from Heritage Hall, Food Day, Global Accessibility Awareness Day, Groove with the 'FRU, the Guelph Black Heritage Society's Anti-Racism Summit, the Guelph Jazz Festival, *IF 2021*, Hillside, International Women's Day, Juneteenth, the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, National Indigenous People's Day/Month, Pride Month, Prisoners' Justice Day, Spanish Day of Programming, the Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project, Trans Day of Visibility, and the U of G's Move-In Day (which was actually stretched out over four days this year). Including the highlights for each broadcast is a daunting prospect (and would invariably leave out many important things) – suffice to say that I'm grateful to have contributed to all of these broadcasts.

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As Alex mentioned in her year-report, we have been putting a greater focus on logsheet compliance over the last few months. The situation has improved during this time.

I've once again been in contact with the River Run Centre about arranging interviews with upcoming performers at the venue.

Perhaps my greatest moment of detective work over the last year was finding CFRU's original website on the Internet Archive, during our preparations for our museum exhibit. I also put together a tribute to CFRU's programs with the greatest longevity at around the same time ... and I understand that Jenny may be planning to feature this at the AGM.

Yours,

C.