

Programming Department Year-End Review 2023  
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### **CFRU Programming – A General Comment**

In the first year of the pandemic, the physical space of CFRU was closed off to volunteers, and most active station programmers began recording their shows from home. While there are some exceptions, most veteran programmers are still recording from home as of late 2023.

This isn't problematic from a scheduling perspective, and I don't begrudge the hosts who have made this decision – but it does mean that a significant amount of my time each week is spent communicating with programmers about their shows, adding new show files to rotation in iMedia, setting up rebroadcasts and fill-ins, etc. I had anticipated this would be a temporary phenomenon, but it's increasingly becoming the "new normal."

As against this, I find that most new programmers are either hosting their shows live from the station or pre-recording at the station. Perhaps, over time, this will come to predominate again.

### **New CFRU programs**

CFRU has added the following programs to its schedule in the last year:

**A Multilingual Affair (AMA)** (Tuesday, 4-5 pm), hosted by Takeyce, with inspirational words and upbeat music in English, French, and Spanish.

**Down the Rabbit Hole** (Tuesday, 6-7 pm), hosted by Hans Haryanto, with artist spotlights, including catalogue deep-dives, artist influences, and related artists.

**Eclectic Selections** (Thursday, 2-3 pm), hosted by Karim Mosna, featuring in-depth interviews and a musical genre hop.

**Hellfire Radio** (Friday, 3-4 pm), hosted by Leonard Tindall & Saxon Rosauero, featuring classic metal and other genres + several interviews and live performances

**Industry Tactics** (Friday, 10 pm-midnight), hosted by Rich Marsella, aka Friendly Rich, this program has been around in podcast form for a while. More than simply a syndicated feature, this is now a partnership between the podcast and CFRU.

**New or Never** (Thursday, 7-8 pm), hosted by returning programmer Adrian Hoad-Reddick and featuring selections from CFRU's new music library.

**Off the Beaten Track** (formerly Thursdays 9-10 pm on alternate weeks), hosted by Jean and featuring textured surprises and experimental delights.

**Solipsistic Retreat** (Tuesday, 9-11 am), hosted by Justin Grignon, this is an updated version of the show **Couples Retreat**, which was hosted by Justin and Nicole Ferraro.

**What Do You Do?** (Wednesday, 1-2 pm), hosted by Gaon, featuring long-form interviews about different career and education paths.

**Worst Responders** (formerly Mondays from noon to 1 pm), a largely improvised comedy/advice show hosted by Renee and Charissa, both experienced stand-up comedians.

In addition, we are pleased to announce the recent debut of the talk program **Nature & the Garden** on Saturdays from 11 to 11:30 am. Hosted by Cordelia Spring (yes, that's a stage name), the show focuses on the importance of nature to our lives.

Our co-op students Cole, Andrew, and Gwen, have all put together music shows in the last year. Cole also put together some talk/interview-based shows, and Gwen is now doing the same. Along similar lines, Leo Brennagh-Mackie put together a one-time metal show in the summer called **Just Clowning Around**.

There is now a new host of **Bel Araby with CAWA** (Saturday, 3-4 pm) and a new editor for **Breezy Breakfast** (Monday, 9-10:30 am).

CFRU recently welcomed back **Night Beach** (Thursday, alternate weeks from 9 to 10 pm), hosted by Andrew Collins & Lisa Conway, after a hiatus of some months. The classic rock'n'roll show **Jitterbuggin'**, hosted by Adrian Jaye, has returned to the airwaves at midnight where Friday becomes Saturdays. The **Hong Kong Student Radio Association** team is once again producing shows (Wednesday, 6-7 pm) and new episodes of **A Dog's Breakfast** are once again running on Saturdays from 10 to 11 am, hosted by DJ Apostrophe (DJ').

I arranged for Alia Synesthesia (whose program **Melonaut Radio** is on an extended hiatus), to make a one-time return to the station, interviewing Piers Oolvai [Nicholas Cooper].

We recently featured a special one-time sound collage broadcast from J. Shea Carter called **Neighbouring Sounds: Manufactured Ecosystems**.

Notwithstanding all of the above, perhaps the most notable change to CFRU's schedule over the last year has been our focus on **CFRU Selector** shows and related volunteer playlists. Under this concept, both new and experienced programmers have been compiling playlists of music from our new release library. We are hopeful that most of the new programmers overseeing these playlists will eventually come to host to host their own programs – some, indeed, are already moving in this direction.

CFRU is featuring more live **Green Screen Dream Machine** concerts in the station these days. One of the better decisions I made in the past year was to encourage Amara Sheppard

to oversee the interviews for these events: Amara has been fantastic in this role. I've often been involved in overseeing the on-air control board during these performances.

## Special Broadcasts

The world continued to emerge from its COVID slumber throughout 2023, and CFRU found itself being physically present at more offsite events, including-but-not-limited-to the Guelph & District Multicultural Festival, Hillside, Riverfest, Bike the Night, and the U of G's Clubs Days.

My role in these events [other than working out the programming schedule] is usually to oversee the control board and remote stream at the station. I've often felt like Michael Collins in this role. (\*)

*(\*) The analogy is not to the Irish revolutionary leader Michael Collins but rather to the **astronaut** Michael Collins, who stayed behind in the space shuttle while Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin partied on the surface of the moon.*

CFRU also featured a number of other special broadcasts over the course of 2023, including:

- Art Not Shame (panel discussion)
- Asian and South Asian Heritage Month programming
- Black Heritage Month programming
- CFRBoo! (Hallowe'en broadcast)
- CSA Election forum (U of G election)
- Drone Day 2023
- Earth Day programming
- Feeding Tummies and Souls
- Global Accessibility Awareness Day programming
- IF 2023
- International Transgender Day of Visibility programming
- Juneteenth programming
- MADE Arts Podcasts
- May Day programming
- National Day for Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (W\*INGS broadcast)
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation programming
- National Indigenous Peoples Day programming
- Ontario Health Coalition broadcast
- Pride Month programming
- Prisoners' Justice Day programming
- Red Dress Day programming
- Snow Days: CFRU Birthday Bash
- World Radio Day programming

We were also pleased to feature a University Centre noon-hour concert with Svjata Vatra in February 2023. Sadly, these events seem to be few and far-between, these days.

In the immediate aftermath of the October 7 attacks, we featured a message from CFRU alumnus Lauren Stein, who is now living in Jerusalem.

I was able to arrange some special interviews over the past year, including Silver Pools (hosted by Mac Kemp), Rory Taillon (Sentinel's Marvelous Kaleidoscope), and the DIY Comedy Tour (Worst Responders).

### **Other updates**

I've continued to closely monitor CFRU's programming logsheets over the last year. The situation with overdue logs is greatly improved from two years ago.

I took part in two SOCAN audits in 2023. Compiling all of the information is always a challenge, and this year was no exception.

Over the course of the last year, CFRU has placed a higher premium on having programmers play new station releases, so as to ensure we have enough content for our weekly charts. There has been a noted improvement in the consistency of our chart reporting since the beginning of September, although getting programmers to play sufficient material for our speciality charts remains a vexing challenge.

### **Saying goodbye**

Recently, Madeleine Speed stepped down from her role on Alternativa Latinoamericana after almost thirty years with the station. Her presence will be missed.