

MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT 2011

1. YEAR IN REVIEW

How has it already been a year since the last AGM?

2010-2011 went by at break-neck speed and there are no signs of the pace letting up as we move towards one of the busiest times of year with back to school, training weekends for new volunteers, the AGM, Funding Drive and an Existence Referendum keeping us working hard and facing the music till mid November. Volunteers from the International Language Schools of Canada, The Katimavik youth programme and independent interns from Montreal and abroad have been an immeasurable help in keeping the music department a float this past year. The Emploi Quebec Subvention Salariale programme funded a six-month contract, which enabled the hire of Amber Goodwyn from June to The end of December. Amber is dealing with the music library and working super hard on raising the music department and music programme profiles in the local scene using social media platforms, the music department blog and putting together a three-day music festival in October (20-22) called Total Eclipse. Joe Winer was hired through the Work Study McGill programme from September 2010- May 2011 and was an immeasurable help to the day-to-day operations of the music department. An impressive amount of volunteer hours were put to work in the music department this year, having taken on The Great Cassette Tape Challenge of 2011 which kicked up a lot of dust as we opened up bin upon bin of cassette tapes that had been boxed up in the library for at least a decade. We put ourselves to organizing them and took stock of our holdings by cataloguing the cassette tapes in the library's database. Music department staff and volunteers also got to the bottom of thousands of vinyl records that had been stored up in the department's loft, filing some back into the library and relieving ourselves of many at the fall garage sale that took place out in front of the CKUT's headquarters on September 16. The music department is always looking for feedback on how we are doing, and how we can ensure that we are meeting the needs of volunteers. Get in touch and schedule a meeting if you have some ideas that you'd like to discuss.

WE'RE NUMBER TWO

Wedge between Classic Rock and a Virgin, CKUT is proud to be voted number 2 radio station in the Montreal Mirror's Best Of Montreal Reader's poll, without campaigning on or off the air. Revolution, Buddha Blaze and Flow's Off the Hook is voted # 6 in the best radio show category, with the Venus Collective coming in hot on their heels at #7, Ill Groove Garden's DJ Blaster scoops up number 5 on the best club DJ poll, And Country Classic's Katie Moore lands in the # 1 spot as best Folk/Country Act with co-host L'il Andy coming in at # 4 in the same category.

NEW MUSIC SHOWS

Jet Discotek brings 60's/70's Crime Jazz, Bossanova Soundtracks that span the heavens Tuesday mornings from 3-4am alternating with the sludge -core rock and roll programme **The 27th Hour**.

William Shatner's Whiskey Tears, a collective of McGill student members brings a different taste of free form to the airwaves every Thursday morning from 4-6am.

SHOWS THAT HAVE GONE INTO RETIREMENT

Astronautico's collective ship brought film soundtracks and electronica to the airwaves on a biweekly basis Thursday mornings from 4-6am from fall 2008 to March 2011.

Charles Desbien's **The Hydra's Lair** brought a free-form grab bag of solid tunes to close off Monday nights from 11pm -midnight from 2006 to November 2010.

Near East Beat hosted by Damon Hankoff brought a steady stream of folk music and beats from the near east to the wee hours of Thursday mornings from 4-6am from April to June 2011.

THE MONTREAL SESSIONS

The Tuesday 3-5pm Montreal Sessions show is an artist-in-residency programme curated by the music department and features a different musician/band/music label to host for a month with a focus on music in Montreal, with a lot of live performances and creative use of the studio.

In 2010-2011, The Montreal sessions was hosted by Chantale Laplante (October), Andy White (November), Francis Rossignol (December), Julie D.& Nico (January), Hobo Cult Records (February), Nightwood (March), North My Love (April), Katalyst (May), Suoni Per il Popolo (June), Emilie Mouchous & AJ (July), Cadence Weapon (August), and Pop Montreal (September).

We have Vergil Sharkya, Natasha Li-Pickowicz and Fixture Records lined up to close the year. We are looking to book artists for January 2011 and onwards, if you have any suggestions - let us know.

CHARTS

Indeed, we compile charts every week and send them out to industry reps, post them to Earshot Magazine, dusted magazine, CKUT's website and the music dept. blog, as well as have a programme that airs on Thursday mornings from 6-7am called Total Eclipse of the Charts. Production of this programme is open to all members and happens on Wednesday mornings from 11am to 1pm in the production studio. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who submit specialty charts on a weekly basis - we are currently seeking volunteers to compile our weekly hip hop and international charts - get in touch with us if you would like to be the first one to get your ears on these releases, before they reach the stacks.

FREE MUSIC ARCHIVES

The people need to hear what's happening in Montreal Music and what's happening on CKUT's airwaves! Amber, Joe and AJ worked hard researching and preparing recordings made in CKUT's studios in the last year or so to pitch to WFMU's Free Music Archives. I mean, if CBC is a Curator on the Free Music Archives site, why aren't we? And so after many months of work - we did it! Check it: <http://freemusicarchive.org/curator/ckut>

We will continue to add to the archive and ask that programmers notify the department if you are going to have live bands in to play on your show. We will be placing release forms in MCR that you can get the bands to sign, which gives CKUT permission to post the recordings to the Free Music Archive. The site works to promote innovative music and is used by thousands for personal use and by many radio stations for programming purposes. Because it is linked to WFMU, the site gets a lot of traffic and is a prime source for creative music.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

CKUT participated in lots of local music festivals this past year, providing coverage, listings, interviews, co-presentations and even live broadcasts for events including:

- Mutek
- Elektra
- Reggae Festival
- Cool Fest
- Festival de Musique Haitienne
- Folk Festival on the Canal
- Unpop
- Super Synth Montreal
- Festival under the snow
- Suoni Per Il Popolo
- L'Off Jazz
- Osheaga
- Pop Montreal
- Akousma
- Festival du Monde Arabe
- Jazz Festival
- Nuits D'Afriques
- Meg Montreal
- Piknic Electronik
- M for Montreal
- Heavy Montreal

We are always looking to organize more unique live broadcasts and co-present interesting musical events around town, especially events that feature CKUT members or programmers. Email music@ckut.ca with the details and we will try to make it happen.

COLLECTIVE SHOWS

Several music programs continue to operate as collectives, with evolving groups of hosts:

If You've Got Ears, Wednesdays at noon

Jazz Euphorium, Wednesdays at 8pm

World Skip the Beat, Mondays at noon

William Shatner's Whiskey Tears Thursday mornings 4-6am

These shows are always looking for contributors, so talk to AJ if you are interested in joining.

2. DEPARTMENT GOALS

The library (ever an unending project) - There are some shelves that are falling off the wall and the stacks are bursting at the seams. In the year to come much help in the form of musical knowledge will be needed to go through the stacks and decide what we can cull and put into storage to make the library a little less cramped.

Live guests in studio - The music department is really excited when programmers have live musical guests performing in the studio, however we often find out after the fact, we would like to work with you to promote live guests and to make nice recordings of the sets for the artists, our personal archives and the Free Music Archives. If you are having live music on your programme, please get in touch so we can help out in the form of technical assistance, publicize the event, and help raise the artist's profile through the free music archive.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Music Department staff are here to answer your questions, provide you with resources and contacts, help you set up timely and relevant giveaways, interviews, features, and programming, tip you off to hot new releases in your genre of choice and help you to make CKUT's music programs the best that our city has to offer. If there is something music or radio-related that you are curious about or need help with, please get in touch!

The Music Coordinator sends out bi-weekly "CKUT MUSIC" updates via email, that include information about upcoming fill-in opportunities, interview possibilities and concert listings. If you are not receiving these updates and want to get on the list, email music@ckut.ca

We also make an effort to promote upcoming and recent special programming on our website. If you have an upcoming interview or feature airing on you program, email music@ckut.ca with the details and ask that we add it to our site.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND BLOGGING

The music department is on-line! In order to promote our music shows to the great wide world web we've been running a popular blog (music.ckut.ca) and using social media (Twitter and Facebook) to reach out to existing and new listeners. This on-line component is important for folks who listen to our radio shows by downloading them from the archives and who get their cultural updates on-line. Lots of those users are new and/or young listeners who we're excited to have join our listenership and join our ranks as volunteers. If you or anyone else you know is interested in write for our music blog (show reviews, album reviews, music news) do get in touch: library@ckut.ca

PROMOTING YOUR PROGRAMMING

In order to reach out to current and potential listeners in the real world, the music department has been popping up in the community whenever the time is ripe: as part of our CD sale, at the Pop Montreal Record Fair where we also facilitated the Vinyl Show & Tell and our first annual Total Eclipse, the funding drive music series. Total Eclipse is a particularly jaunty feather in our cap as we've planned three amazing shows in collaboration with three of our music programmes (Underground Sounds, Venus, Duck Truck) in order to benefit the station and kick off a new monthly donor program called The Monthlies. The Monthlies is an exchange of a sort: donors give what they can afford each month and in return we send them a newsletter with a music mix download. Fresh!

In addition to this, Amber and music intern Karen Robins have developed, pitched and succeeded in setting up a bi-monthly podcast called This Is Not A Lecture for the hip McGill on-line arts magazine, Leacocks.com. More events and fun promo projects like photos/videos/rambling poems to come! Do check music.ckut.ca for more details or e-mail library@ckut.ca to get involved.

TRAINING

We are always looking for volunteers to help train new volunteers on the use of portable recorders, production studios and the music library during our Volunteer Training Weekends that happen 4-6 times a year.

We are also looking for programmers who are available to provide MCR training to new volunteers during their programmes.

RESOURCES

The Music Department works hard to ensure that music resources are available to CKUT programmers. We are making a concerted effort to ensure that new releases are processed and available in a timely way; that music related to upcoming shows is kept in the appropriate section in MCR; that current, alternative music magazines are available for your perusal in the music office; and that the listings posted outside and in MCR are kept up to date. However, we could always use some extra help in this area, so if you've got special information or knowledge to share about upcoming releases or performances, let us know. And if you would like to lend a hand compiling concert listings, and preparing the upcoming show section – we could really use you!

2. POLICY UPDATES

After many hours of editing put in by Don Wilkie, Jessica Grossman, Courtney Kirkby and AJ, CKUT's policy book (a.k.a. The Blue Book) will be reprinted! If you'd like to pick up a copy get in touch, and digital copies in PDF format are available on the CKUT website.

New policies put in place are:

The Remuneration Policy: which addresses payment for programming, re-distribution of programming, grants for programming, joint ownership of programming, and use of station resources.

The Free Chat Policy and Guidelines: addressed issues related to ad-libbing on the air.

Clarification of Grievance Procedures

PROGRAM LOGS

A reminder that the CRTC requires us to keep completed program logs for EVERY show and to keep them for one year after the date of broadcast. We also rely on these logs to complete our weekly charts. PLEASE remember to complete and submit your logs!

NEW VOLUNTEERS

If you have new people collaborating on your show or helping you out, please ask them to contact the Music Coordinator for training, becoming a member, and to receive weekly music updates. Thanks!

GUEST LISTS & PRESS ACCREDITATION

Requests for guest list spots or media accreditation for music events/festivals are handled by the Music Coordinator. Please review the updated guest list policy in the red Guest List Book in the reception area. We try to accommodate people's requests, but signing up is not a guarantee, so if you really want to see the show, buy a ticket!

-LASTLY, WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS, SO GET IN TOUCH! AND PLEASE CONTACT US WITH YOUR HOLIDAY 2011/2012 SCHEDULES.