

## Music Director's Annual Staff Report - 2022 AGM

In addition to my regular, ongoing responsibilities, much of 2022 in the Music Dept. was devoted to strengthening the resources and supports for volunteers, and finding new ways to foster their engagement and contributions at CFRU – both remotely and in-person.

### **Quick Facts:**

- We added ~2000 new albums to the digital music library.
- We completed and submitted our SOCAN audit reports for all four quarters.
- I had the pleasure of working with 17 different volunteers in the music department on various projects and tasks, 12 of whom are/were **UofG** students.
- We upgraded both of the music department computers - mine and the music volunteer/Apple Music library computer.
- I attended (virtually) the **Anti-Racism Summit**, organized by Guelph Black Heritage Society, in May.
- I'm grateful for the Board's decision this year to increase our Alternative Health Care fund!

### **Return to the Station**

We worked out new COVID protocols and scheduling for the phased re-opening of the station – now in phase 2b, and about to move to **phase 3!**

This was not the easiest thing to navigate, with the province and the university changing or eliminating various mandates over time. But it's allowed us to welcome back volunteers while working as safely as possible – which is also helping us during the current flu epidemic.

With all this careful planning, the station is now staffed **Mon-Fri** again.

And music volunteers are working both remotely as well as at the station now too!

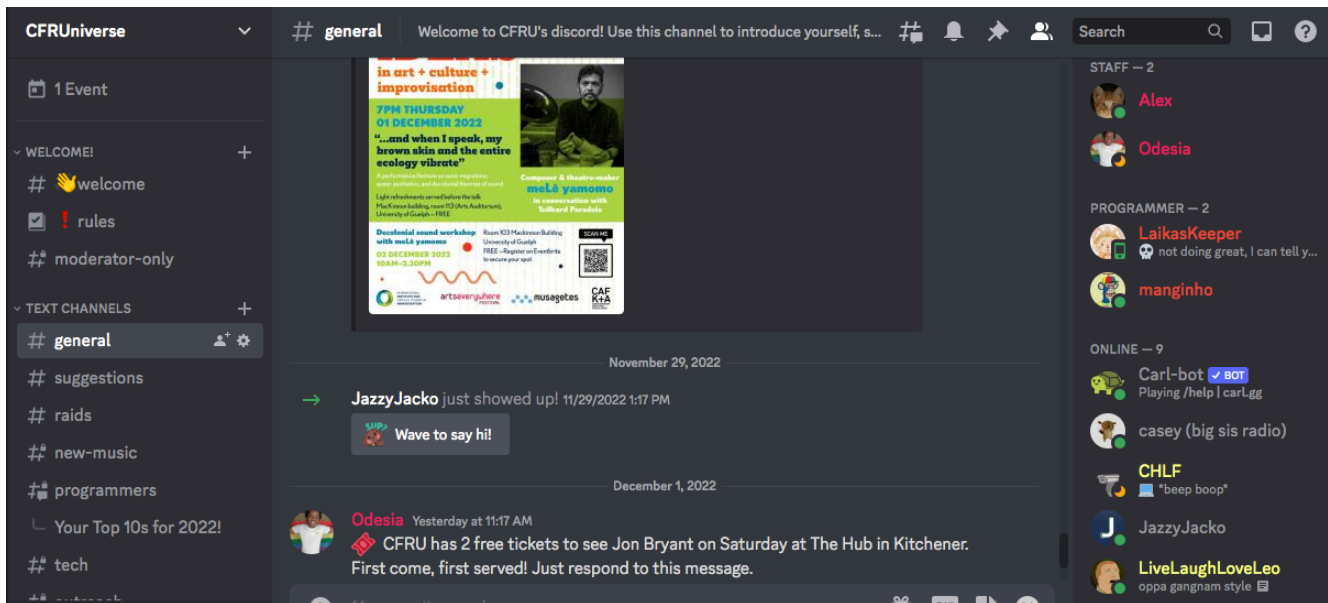
### **A New Music Workshop & New Shareable Resource**

In March, I conducted a workshop on new music, and co-presented along with CFRU volunteers, Bruce and Megan. It was an opportunity for current and aspiring programmers to learn about accessing new music in CFRU's libraries and about using online music resources to find music relevant to their interests.

With several programmers contributing, we also compiled a list of current music magazines, blogs, review sites etc, divided them up by genre, and created the "**Online Resources for Discovering New Music**" - a [Google doc](#) to share with new, incoming programmers & anyone interested in discovering new music!

## A Discord Server

We wanted to create more opportunities for volunteers to share their music recommendations with each other and promote a sense of community at CFRU. So we **surveyed** our volunteers regarding the platform they'd prefer, with the majority of respondents choosing Discord. So Odesia and I set to work on developing CFRU's Discord Server, the [CFRUniverse](#)!



This allows volunteers and staff to talk with each other, post about their shows and about upcoming events on campus & in the community, **share their music recommendations** etc. We are also able to create and post our own events in Discord, such as for the AGM, which act as handy reminders to members.

We also currently have a year-end thread open for programmers to share their **Top 10 music picks of 2022**. If you're interested in participating or checking out the thread, please do!

## And a Volunteer Hangout!

We officially launched the CFRUniverse during our 2022 Volunteer Hangout in early October - which Odesia and I designed to be **more music focused**. We asked attendees to bring their new music recommendations, introduced many of them to Discord, and delighted them with raffle prizes for Royal Cat Records gift certificates, and for a subscription to **Ableton Live** – for the blossoming music producer.

## Digital Music Library

This continues to be a growing project with many ups (eg. a new way of promoting local music festivals and the performing artists! Music for our remote broadcasts! More volunteer opportunities!) and downs (random network connection issues!).

*Access to music in the digital library is available remotely via the web, or by requesting download links, or at the station using a file manager, or at the station using Apple Music – with some conditions.*

**Apple Music Library** - Bryan and I successfully moved the iTunes version of our digital music library to a new M1 mac computer. This required the BIG UPGRADE from iTunes to Apple Music - very nerve-wracking as a lot could break and a lot of hard work could be undone. But after some testing and troubleshooting, it was a **success!** However, we still have some ongoing connection issues (due to a weakness with macOS) to try and solve once and for all before it be made available on a reliable basis to volunteers.

Music volunteers have been invaluable with keeping this version of the library up to date in the meantime. And I've also improved the organization of the music in Apple Music recently, which will hopefully provide a **more enjoyable experience** when users are browsing our library.

The screenshot shows the Apple Music application interface on a Mac. On the left is a sidebar with a 'Playlists' section containing a list of folders: 'All Playlists', '1) NEW RELEA...', '2) CANADIAN', '3) LOCAL', '4) FEMCON', '5) INDIGENOUS', '6) INSTRUME...', '7) LANGUAGES', and '8) GENRES'. Under '8) GENRES', there is a list of music genres: Blues, Celtic, Children's, Classical, Country, Electronic, Experimental, Folk, Hip Hop, Jazz, Metal, Pop, and Punk. The main area displays a 'Last 6 Months' section with a grid of 15 album covers. Each cover includes the album title and artist name. At the bottom of the grid, it says '11,465 albums, 322 days, 1.37 TB'. The album covers include: 'Good Enough EP' by Fake Friends, The; 'The Great Awakening' by Shearwater; 'Happy Accident' by Big Little Lions; 'Havana Meets Kingston Part 2' by Mista Savona Presents Havana Meets Kingston; 'Heat Haze' by SUSS; 'I Keep Floating Away' by TOVI; 'I'd Rather Be Asleep' by Red Handed Denial; 'Il Bene Comune' by Ghost Horse; 'In The Wild' by Jasmyn; 'In This Year: Hierophant' by Praises; 'Inside Problems'; 'ISAN Demonstration Taoses'; 'Kina Cobra'; 'La clarté dans la confusion'; and 'LANDTRUST: BENEFIT FOR NORTH EAST FARMERS OF COLOR' by ERICA DAWN LYLE and VICE COOLER.

## New Show Recruitment

I have been working with Christopher and the other staff members to recruit new programmers and **add more music shows** to our schedule.

- We asked current programmers to recommend their friends and made some new connections
- We have done newsletter & social media callouts for specific show types
- We designed a fill-in show, **CFRU Selector**, that enables all volunteers to easily create a half hour or one hour of new music programming, regardless of their experience.

This concerted effort has started to pay off, with the recent addition of more hip hop, jazz, and indie rock shows, which then supports other areas like our ability to generate & publish **weekly music charts!**

## A Music Library Policy, and a Committee

Staff created a committee to be able to effectively discuss the best course(s) of action whenever CFRU is confronted with potentially **problematic artists and/or music** that we have in our library. This is also to follow through on our public commitment we made this year to examine how CFRU can improve our practices and reduce the potential for harm to marginalized communities, and communicate these practices with transparency.

- We drafted a **policy document** (awaiting board approval) for how new music is considered and how existing music in our library can be reconsidered if/when allegations or concerns are brought to light.
  - We created a form that lets volunteers submit requests (anonymously or not) to have existing music in our library reconsidered by the committee if they have a concern.

## Programmer Toolkit

We created a PROGRAMMER TOOLKIT document, to compile the **ultimate, shareable resource** document – to give to our programmers, particularly when they are developing a new show, or are new to CFRU and still figuring out how everything works. It includes:

- Our Logsheet Guide
- The aforementioned “Online Resources for Discovering New Music” doc
- A new guide to navigating our Digital Music Library – database and music files
- A new doc offering tips for promoting your show
- A link to our How-To Videos on cfriu.ca
- and more!

This will be ready to share very soon, as we are working on the final touches along with help from other staff members. Hooray!