

Programming Department Year-End Review 2022  
Christopher Currie

### **Nicky Dread and The Crooked Beat**

Without a doubt, the most significant and most tragic event that the programming department experienced in 2022 was the death of Nicky Dread (Nick Taylor), who had been a station volunteer since 1979 and the host of *The Crooked Beat* since 1981. *The Crooked Beat* was a flagship program on our schedule, and Nicky was universally respected at the station. We were honoured to feature a live broadcast from his Celebration of Life, and we are planning to feature an End-of-Year tribute on December 31. We have also continued to broadcast archival episodes *The Crooked Beat* on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 pm.

Discussions have taken place between CFRU and Nicky's friends about continuing *The Crooked Beat* with a new host or hosts. We hope to have an announcement soon.

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### **New CFRU programs**

A general comment: CFRU has added several new programs to its schedule in the last few months, including a number of shows by current or recently graduated students. Finding and retaining new student programmers has been a challenge in recent years (pre-dating the pandemic), and we hope this development is a harbinger of longer-term change.

New programs added to CFRU's schedule since the last AGM include:

**Bel Araby with CAWA**, an Arabic-language music program produced in conjunction with the Kitchener branch of the Canadian Arab Women's Association (CAWA).

**Big Sis Radio**, hosted by CC, alias Casey, redefining the boundaries of indie rock.

**Cyber Lich's Gothic Castle**, a mostly goth-industrial-metal program hosted by the Cyber Lich, otherwise one of the co-hosts of *Android's Dungeon*.

**Ear Candy**, hosted by Adrian Straatsma, featuring new and classic indie rock.

**Ensoleillement**, a French-language program hosted on an occasional basis by Theresa Martin.

**Global Rare Grooves**, an international music show hosted by Sam Cee, featuring new and classic material intersecting with the worlds of jazz, funk, and disco.

**Here Today**, hosted by Aaron Badgley, a mostly rock and mostly indie show, with a focus on new artists and new music by established artists.

**The Illest**, hosted by Caelen McCabe, with a focus on 1990s hip hop history.

**It's Time to get satis5d**, a late-night program with one hour of premium audio mashups.

**Listen Up**, hosted by our co-op student Jack Zamin, with a specific focus on new music by Canadian artists.

**New Frontiers**, hosted by Aaron Wrixon, with two-hours of experimental jazz and creative music.

**Paradise Valley**, hosted by Dirty Dabs, featuring a panorama of international beats.

**Parallel Careers**, produced and hosted by Claire Tacon with musical contributions from Amadeo Ventura, featuring diverse conversations with creative writers.

**Sundowner**, hosted by Matthew Hollingshead, featuring rock, shoegaze, indie, folk, and country, framing the perfect sunset.

**Turtle Island Underground**, aka The Indigenous Alternative, by Mac Kemp, featuring new and classic music from indigenous artists. TIU has featured several artist spotlights and a number of guest host musicians during its time on the station.

**Wind-Down**, hosted by Serra Willow, a mostly indie rock show with the perfect setlist to end the day.

We have also welcomed back to the schedule **Alegria Latina** (now hosted by Mango/Carlomagno), **Couples' Retreat** (for a brief run in the summer and early autumn), and **It's a Vibe** (during the summer) ... and we are pleased to note that **Terrible Horrible Breakfast** is now back on the schedule on a full time basis.

In addition, we have featured monthly installments of **Guelph Community Connections** hosted by Cinthuja Leon, and we played a number of Ron East's **Promote the Vote** interviews prior to the municipal election. We have also added the syndicated show **Café International** on Thursday afternoons; in recent weeks, we have been featuring the show's extended spotlight on music by Ukrainian artists.

And ... last but not least, we are currently making plans to feature a version of Friendly Rich's **Industry Tactics** on the station.

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## Special Broadcasts

As the world continued to emerge from the pandemic throughout 2022, CFRU was able to return to featuring live, offsite broadcasts. We featured live transmissions from the the Nicky Dread Celebration of life, the Guelph & District Multicultural Festival, Hillside, the U of G Move-In Days, and the Guelph Jazz Festival, with live programmers taking to the airwaves remotely for the first time since early 2020.

CFRU also featured a number of other special broadcasts over the course of 2022, including:

- programming for National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia (January 29)
- programming for Black History Month (February)
- programming for International Women's Day (March 8)
- programming for the International Trans Day of Visibility (March 31)
- programming for Earth Day (April 22)
- programming for International Jazz Day (April 29)
- programming for Global Accessibility Awareness Day (May 19)
- programming for Drone Day (May 28)
- programming for Pride Month (June)
- programming for Juneteenth (June 19)
- programming for National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21)
- programming in conjunction with A Day to Listen on (June 30)
- live coverage of the 2022 provincial and municipal elections
- programming for the International Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval (July 28)
- a live Emancipation Day broadcast on August 1 (hosted by Keon; this was unfortunately marred by some technical difficulties)
- programming for International Youth Day (August 12)
- programming for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30)
- the annual Spanish Day of Programming (October 8-9)
- several hours of Hallowe'en-themed programming produced by CFRU programmers (October 31)

[And my apologies if I've omitted anything.]

We also ran a virtual concert from Gianna Lauren on March 21 (as part of her nation-wide 'virtual tour'), and we've featured a number of notable interviews, including Mac Kemp's interviews with Tomson Highway and Digging Roots, Scotty Hertz's interview with Tragedy Ann, and Amy Ward's interview with Jon Bryant.

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## Logsheets

Overdue logsheets have been a problem at CFRU (and other campus-community stations) for quite some time. This year, we made an effort to improve the situation, with the introduction of increased monitoring and penalties for shows that have fallen several episodes in arrears. For the most part, the situation has improved due to these changes.

I've drafted a Logsheets Help Sheet, which I've sent to programmers on the [shows@cfpu.ca](mailto:shows@cfpu.ca) mailing list. This document has also been included in the Programmer Tool Kit, which will be sent out soon. (I've also worked on drafting other parts of the Programmer Tool Kit, including its document on show promotion.)

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## Station access

Obviously, one of the most noteworthy events at CFRU in recent months has been the fact that programmers (and other volunteers) are beginning to access the station again.

We've been pleased to feature shows like *Ensoleillement*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Thanks for Listening* ☺, *Viejoteca*, *The Underground*, *Caribbean Anthology*, *Clan na gael*, and *La Buena Onda* live on the station (and/or pre-recorded from the station) once again.

I've also been hosting more in-person trainings at the station in recent months, ensuring that new programmers are familiar with the Training Studio soundboard. We hope that programmers will be able to safely access CFRU in greater numbers in the upcoming year.

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## Staff leave

While this isn't a Programming Department matter as such, I should mention that I also oversaw the union aspects of Jenny's leave and Aimee's hiring as interim Volunteer Coordinator.