



*Resonance Radio Orchestra
featuring Sam Lee.*

The Urbanist:



The Globalization of Local Radio

From donga shows in Darwin, Australia, to choco deep cuts in Rio, all a click away.

IF YOU ASK SOMEONE what makes their city unique, they'll probably talk about food, or museums, or maybe public art. Rarely would they mention their local radio station, and yet listening to one is a surprisingly good way to get a read on the local culture, even if you don't speak the language. The community around each station shapes its broadcast sensibility, which in turn amplifies and analyzes the particularities of the city it broadcasts to. And with more and more local radio being broadcast online, listeners are no longer confined to their own station's milieu—or even to their nationally syndicated radio celebrities. Instead of tuning in to the informative whispering of Terry Gross, or downloading yet another episode of Marc Maron talking about his cats, you can now listen in on the local conversation from halfway across the globe, whether it be sound art from London or French DJs renowned for having the world's best free-form programming. Or even the latest hard-hitting investigative news from the Cook Islands archipelago.

BEN ELLMAN

Radio

You're Listening to...

Eleven local stations from London to Darwin, Australia.

Resonance FM

London

The volunteer-run station is known for "soundscapes." Imagine the way *Radiolab* is edited to be textured and to tickle the ear, then multiply by 100.

LISTEN: "Isotopica"

Visual artist Simon Tyszko takes listeners on "sonic detours." Half field interview, half guided meditations, he captures the sounds of the city, from a conversation on the way to a pub to the scrape of boots against the pavement. *Airs every Sunday, 9 a.m. resonancefm.com*

Radio Orange

Vienna

The community broadcaster for Vienna's ever-growing refugee community, with 150 programs in 25 languages.

LISTEN: "New Life in Vienna"

The closest thing to understanding the bureaucratic nightmare of being a new immigrant might be this weekly how-to bulletin, full of practical information, obtaining access to basics like medical and mental-health care and child care and filing asylum documents, broadcast in German, Arabic, Dari, and Somali, and English, one after another. *Airs Fridays, 11-11:30 a.m. o94.at*

FIP

Paris

The purist ideal of free-form DJ-ing: A 20-minute set could start with a movement of Mozart's Requiem and end with '50s boogie-woogie.

LISTEN: "Sous les Jupes de FIP" (Under the Skirts of FIP)

Themed playlists that coincide with current events, holidays, or



Lot Radio

commemorate the death of notable artists. *Airs every Monday, 2 p.m. fipradio.fr*

Berlin Community Radio

Berlin

A three-year-old online-only station heavy on Berlin's post-Kraftwerk electronic music and politically progressive English-language talk shows.

LISTEN: "You're Worth It"

Dedicated to relaxation—particularly through the soothing gentle-whisper

phenomenon known as ASMR ("autonomous sensory meridian response"). One post-US-election show featured poetry on self-determination and a breathy reading of Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. *Airs every other Tuesday, 1 p.m. berlincommunityradio.com*

106FM IDC International Radio

Tel Aviv, Israel

One of Israel's roughly 16 college radio stations, operating from the College of Management in Rishon LeZion, plays underground and emerging Israeli bands, alongside news, sports, and cultural programming, all in English.

LISTEN: "Only In Israel"

All of the 106FM stations invite students that tell stories of their experiences after completing their compulsory military service. "The most common topic is 'What am I going to do now?'" says Maya Kosover, a former station manager. *106FM.co.il*

Radio Chanson

Moscow

The unofficial station of Putin's

working-class base plays gritty, wistful ballads peppered with prison jargon. This is music designed to put hair on your chest and make you cry at the same time; Putin's reportedly a fan.

LISTEN: "Chanson of the Year"

A playlist of the 12 most popular hits of the previous week where listeners can vote for their favorite song via text message. It's sort of like *TRL* ... if *TRL* sounded like a vodka-soaked bar fight. *Airs Fridays at 10 a.m. radioschanson.fm*

105.7 ABC Darwin

Darwin, Australia

Howard Stern-style talk radio from the Australian outback. "I take the piss as much as possible," says Richard Margeton, the station's morning host. "I get gags in, I'll get a hook in the mouth to pull them away from standard political journalist conversation."

LISTEN: "Show Us Your Donga"

A double-entred home-tour show with a hillbilly edge. A donga is a small sheet-metal hut commonly used by

Puerto Rican Boogaloo to 1980s French ska in Twelve Steps

Paris's FIP DJ's take pride in their wide-ranging taste. Here, a sample playlist from Friday, December 2.

"I Like It Like That"

Pete Rodriguez

"Sad Nile"

the Polyversal Souls

"Feminine Feline"

Sophie Daumier

"Megapolis"

Robin Gael

"Blues Music"

G Love and Special Sauce

"All That Glitters"

Death in Vegas

"African Dialects"

Peter Kind

"Touchez Pas au Grisbi"

Jean Winer

"California Soul"

Marlena Shaw

"Dazed and Confused"

Hannah Williams and the Affirmation

"Funky Miracle"

The Meters

"Mi Ma Kpe Dji"

Picoby Band D Abomey

"Who Let the Let It"

Jim Murple Memorial



RADIO ON THE INSIDE,
COFFEE ON THE OUTSIDE.

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF THE LOT RADIO (EXTERIOR); CLAIRE YOON/HYPERALLERGIC (INTERIOR)

transient laborers and often impressively decked out. Episodes are uploaded to Facebook, so listeners can see every *Mad Max*-inspired architectural detail. New episodes premiere Friday and are archived online. www.abc.net.au/darwin/

Matariki FM

Avarua, Cook Islands

Like a tiki drink poured directly into the ear, Matariki FM, broadcasting from the capital city of the tiny archipelago nation of the Cook Islands, plays a daily rotation of Polynesian music. It's also one of the few places locals can go to hear accountability journalism aired during the morning show.

LISTEN: **"Manea Foods Kai-Ti Time"**

A breakfast show with a mix of headline news, local music, and hard-hitting political coverage, including interviews with local politicians and commentators. Hot issues right now, says William Framhein, the station's director, include "immigration, borrowing beyond our means, financial sector-offshore tax-haven facilities, and depopulation." Airs Monday

through Friday, at 12:30 p.m. www.matarikifm.co.ck

Lot Radio

Brooklyn

The Greenpoint station broadcasts electronic music, with video footage, live to the internet from a shipping container planted on a small triangle-shaped lot with plastic flamingos, a hammock, and wooden church pews. It's radio station as public gathering place. Since February, it's grown from a place where a local collective play weekly sets to a destination for international DJs. The whole enterprise, founded by the Belgian-born François Vaxelaire, sustains itself through a coffee kiosk, where every doughnut, latte, and espresso sold translates to an advertisement-free live feed.

LISTEN: **"Joakim"**

Hosted by the eponymous French DJ. The first hour is dedicated to a theme, such as "soul and jazz protest songs," or a question: "Is 1983 the best year for Italo disco?" During the second hour he DJs a set of new and up-and-

coming electronic music from around the world. Airs once a month, every second Wednesday and is archived online. thelotradio.com

94.1 Roquette Pinto

Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's version of a golden-oldies station plays deep cuts of samba, choro, and other traditional Brazilian genres.

LISTEN: **"Roda de Choro"**

Focusing on the roots of choro, which date back to the late 19th century. The word *choro* roughly translates to "cry," but there's nothing mournful about these jazzy, textured songs played on wind instruments and guitars by ensembles of up to ten people. Airs Sundays, 6 a.m., and is archived online. fm94.rj.gov.br

Hit 96.7, Dubai

United Arab Emirates

Middle-Eastern pop with an international flavor, DJs hopscotch across cultures and sometimes play globalized blends that can't quite be placed. An Euro-sounding pop song might have malayalam lyrics, with the occasional English "hey" and "yeah" dropped in.

LISTEN: **"Jam With Hit"**

The drive-time program hosted by DJ Nimmy is quintessential globalized radio, featuring Musicology With Nimmy, devoted to playing chart toppers from every continent, K-Pop to Taylor Swif. Airs Monday through Friday, 5AM to 8AM, and is archived online. <http://hit967.ae/>

Appalachia's Best Hip-hop Show

Direct from the Department of Corrections.

THE PRIME LISTENING time for WMMT, a tiny station broadcasting out of Whitesburgh, Kentucky, starts at 7 P.M. on Monday nights, when around 6,000 listeners tune in for the region's only rap show, "Hip Hop from the Hilltop." The station's audience comes largely from six nearby supermax prisons, who stay tuned in for "Calls From Home" at

10 P.M., a program that plays greetings from prisoners' families recorded earlier that evening. According to WMMT's station manager, Elizabeth Sanders, the idea started naturally. "One night in 1999, we got a call during the hip-hop show, and it was a woman who said, 'Hey, my brother is locked up at Red Onion state prison and he listens to the hip-hop show every night. Can I give him a shout-out?'"

Seventeen years and thousands of shout-outs later, "Calls From Home" has become a staple of regional broadcasting. "It's heartbreaking when younger kids call for their uncle or their dad. They will recite their ABCs or say that they can't wait to see them."

On architectural cohesion:
 "From my point of view, it's important for the DNA of a building to be easily read by the pedestrian on the outside. Reading a building is important, and if you can't read it, it's deceiving. It doesn't feel good." —Wayne Turett, architect

Who do Disc Jockey's Like to Listen to?

U.S. radio hosts recommend their favorite shows.



ANDREA SILENZI
Why Oh Why,
 new episodes every Tuesday

"There's this sense with live radio that anything can go wrong at any moment," says Silenzi, who produced shows for Jersey City's WFMU and now runs a podcast about dating in the internet age called *Why Oh Why*.



GAYLORD FIELDS
 WFMU,
 Sunday, 8 to 10 p.m.

Silenzi says:
 "I enjoy picturing him behind the microphone with his Buddy Holly frames, pastel cardigans, and vintage ties, spinning from his personal collection over WFMU's free-form airwaves and online streams."

MR. C
 "Mr. C's Soul Spectacular,"
 Saturdays, 3 to 5 p.m. in L.A.

Fields says:
 "He is one of the absolute experts in not just soul music but also soul radio! He's got the patter, he's got the platters, and that's all that matters!"



JOHN FUNKE
 "Backwoods," Saturdays,
 10 to noon on WMBR

Mr. C says:
 "The accent gets you first. It's the Mark Wahlberg voice in Scorsese's *The Departed* playing Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, Hawkshaw Hawkins, the Clovers, and thousands more lesser lights but still very bright moments in trashy rock and roll, country, and rhythm and blues."



PAUL CEBAR
 "Way Back Home,"
 Wednesdays,
 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on WMSE in Milwaukee

Porter Says:
 "Cebal's definition of 'back home' could mean anything from New Orleans R&B to the indigenous sounds of Brazil and Cuba, and he manages to tie it all together as if they all resided on the same block."



JAMES PORTER
 "Hoodoo Party,"
 every third Saturday,
 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on WLUW Chicago

John Funke:
 "A great mix of rock and roll, rhythm and blues, rockabilly, and all those wild sounds. James is a former staff critic at *Time Out Chicago* who always delivers the goods!"

HOT ISSUES ON LOCAL RADIO

According to hometown Leonard Lopates.



MARFA, TEXAS

Oil
 "The second that oil prices bounce back, it's gonna get real crazy-busy out here, in possibly more intense ways than we've seen before," says Travis Bubenik of Marfa Public Radio. The U.S. Geological Survey has found that there could be up to 20 billion barrels of untapped oil near Marfa.

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

Taxing backpackers
 It is a common practice for international travelers to spend some of their time in the country doing agricultural work in order to extend their visas, but beginning in January, they'll be taxed on their wages for the first time ever. Some officials fear that the new tax will shift tourists toward New Zealand.

SANTIAGO, CHILE

Immigration
 A new immigration proposal that would immediately expel foreign nationals accused of a crime has been labeled by the country's progressive leader as "worse than Donald Trump's."

STOCKHOLM

Caribou hit-and-runs
 "Vehicle collisions involving wildlife have reached a record level this year and will pass 50,000 by the end of 2016," reports Radio Sweden. It is the highest number of animal-related accidents ever recorded.

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Fire
 "Fires have broken out all over the country in both rural and urban areas," reports TLV1. While some of the fires were clearly naturally occurring brush fires, others seemed to be acts of arson that damaged homes and property.