

Student Radio Awards 2008

Best Specialist Music Programming – Rock N Roll Meltdown (Subcity Radio)

Rock N Roll Meltdown began in 2004 on *Subcity Radio*. It is a weekly two-hour show on Sunday afternoons, 3-5pm. It is written, presented and produced entirely by myself; Peter Howard. There have been four series (incorporating 99 shows) on Subcity, as well as an 'exchange' show on Edinburgh's *Fresh Air* and various DJ sets across central Scotland.

I have been a fan of rock n' roll music since I was a small child. My father was in several bands and this influence spread onto my older brothers and I. I followed various family members about as they played gigs, recorded and DJed in nightclubs. This gave me an early initiation into the world of music and an early start on assembling a huge collection of records, particularly that of a rock n' roll variety.

To me rock n' roll is about attitude, breaking boundaries and a mind-set that seems to exist in the raw, pounding beats, primal rhythms and grinding guitars of select artists throughout the last 50 years. I play dirty, grinding, pounding, gritty, nasty rock n' roll tunes, as well as obscure favourites from my own private collection. This can be Punk, Heavy Rock, Garage, Psychedelia, Surf, Trash, Mod, Metal, Glam, Blues, Grunge or Rockabilly – as long as it's got a slight edge to it. While I try to keep an upbeat and jovial nature, I also try to educate listeners about the music on my show in a not-entirely-serious way. Sometimes I'm joined by guests from local bands or other shows on the station, who I actively encourage to participate in that particular show's direction.

I incorporate two features into the show. These are: *Cobwebs & Strange* (a showcase for anything particularly rare, obscure, unusual or slightly embarrassing) and *Smoke 'Em If You Got 'Em* (an overly-long tune to conveniently play in the middle of the show, showcasing long songs that are never heard on radio). I often offer choices of Smoke 'Em If You Got 'Em songs for the listeners to vote for via email or text. Requests and messages are also often sent in during the show too. I try to accommodate my listener's rock n' roll needs as much as I can.

I mainly use CDs or occasionally MP3s or vinyl, depending on my sources. It is often easier to get an MP3 of a track than spend £200 on a scratched old 7", but some tunes are often only on an old LP I bought when I was 13. I also have a CD wallet with a large selection of popular classics in compilation format to satisfy any requests I may receive. I produced my own jingle for the show by chopping up songs by Twisted Sister and Queen (good to get them in somewhere) and mixing them with samples from the voice-type in Microsoft Word. I publicise the show with posters and stickers around town, and on social networking sites and forums.

I talk to the audience in the same chatty way I have always done, combined with growing confidence behind the microphone and improved production skills. I feel I give listeners a good idea what is going on regarding station information, events and the features in the show, and teach them the history and righteous path of all that is properly rock n' roll.

Running order:

Jingle - Intro,
AC/DC – rock n roll damnation
Johnny Thunders – Chinese Rocks - discussion
The Damned – Neat, Neat, Neat
The Dead Boys – Ain't nothing to do - emails
Heavy Trash – We Want Oblivian - guest chat
Metallica – Seek & Destroy