

Get in the Van

Get in the Van is the result of my passionate conviction that Glasgow enjoys one of the most dynamic and exciting live music, club and performance scenes to be found anywhere in the world. In order to celebrate the incredible vitality and diversity of musical performance in Glasgow, for the past year on Get in the Van I have selected a weekly playlist that consists exclusively of work by artists who will be performing in the city over the coming fortnight. While Get in the Van regularly showcases work by emerging local or British artists alongside established, international acts, the only particular criteria for inclusion in the show is that the music must strike me as being exceptional in some way; I favour eclecticism and quality, rather than any specific genre or style.

While I strictly adhere to the rule that I will only feature work by performers who are playing in Glasgow within the next two weeks, Get in the Van has no other formal music policy. The show is named after Henry Rollins' memoir of his years spent touring with influential American hardcore band Black Flag (A reference to an area of specific personal interest.), but the playlists I create for each show are designed to reflect the breadth of my personal taste, and constantly encourage me to venture further into the sonic unknown in search of the most interesting, entertaining, cutting-edge, weirdest and most wonderful content.

Every week I try to fill each hour-long show with as much music as possible, usually preferring to maintain a fast pace by keeping links brief, and letting the music do the majority of the talking. While I have featured longer spoken sections, an example being the interview between myself and Dutch dubstep producer Martyn, broadcast in January, most of what I say on the show is intended to convey my enthusiasm for the music, in the hope of encouraging listeners to further explore the work of the artists featured, and above all to take the opportunity to catch them performing live. During the past year at Subcity I have also enjoyed having an opportunity to contribute towards, and perform at some of the station's live events, my DJ sets for Subcity again reflecting my enthusiasm for great, off-the-beaten-track recordings from across the musical spectrum.

The beauty of music performed live is the unique ability it has to reflect a particular mood in the presence of an audience for whom this reflection becomes a life-affirming experience, both intimate and shared. While it is hard to convey this extraordinary quality in a radio broadcast, there have been times when the format of Get in the Van has enabled the kind of fortuitous instances that can make live performances such a magical events. My favourite example of this has been when Leonard Cohen's performance in Glasgow permitted me to play his anthemic "Democracy is Coming to the U.S.A." at the end of Get in the Van on the night of November 3rd last year, the day before the U.S. Presidential Election.

For me personally, the experience of developing Get in the Van has continually rejuvenated and nourished my love of contemporary music; it has

constantly exposed me to artists that I may not have otherwise encountered and I have been to more gigs over the past year than I ever have before. I sincerely hope that my own, personal experience of the show has been shared, at least partly, by those who have been listening.

Colin McKean