



## Programming Matters – Apr. 2010

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***Programming is what we listen to on shortwave and this column presents and discusses programs. The presenters of these programs and the stations they speak from are also topics for coverage. We also delve into many other topics to see how radio impacts our lives.***

### **Quote of the Month**

“You may not hear from me again for a few months, I say, ich liebe Deutschland! Heil Hitler! And farewell...”

An obviously intoxicated William Joyce aka “Lord Haw Haw” signs off, April 30, 1945. Joyce was later executed for treason.

The Second World War ended a few days later. Many broadcasters will be saluting the end of that awful conflict in the weeks to come (see Russia below).

Easter will soon be upon us. This year as I understand it, the “Western” celebration of Easter and the “Eastern Orthodox” celebrations coincide on the same day. May I recommend that you check the websites and frequencies of the various international broadcasters for an opportunity to hear some fabulous church music at this time. You don’t have to be a believer to appreciate the beautiful music originating from The Vatican, Bulgaria, Russia, Greece and others.

Radio Prague's Magazine program Mar 27, 2010

“With Easter coming up in just over a week’s time the Saint Tropez chocolate shop near Prague’s Wenceslas Square is pulling out all the stops again - preparing a series of chocolate delicacies and Easter surprises for customers. Its biggest hit this Easter is a chocolate replica of a Faberge egg. The egg is 15

centimeters high and is decorated with real gold. Every decoration on it is edible and although the egg has a price tag of 5,000 crowns – it is not for sale. The chocolate shop will hold a lottery on Easter Monday and the lucky winner will get the Faberge chocolate egg for free.”




Bulgaria

**The Holy Week and Good Friday: Father Boyan Saruev**

Author: [Darina Grigorova](#)



© Photo: Darina Grigorova

 **The final days of Lent leading to Easter are related to the last days in the life of Jesus Christ and his suffering on the Cross.** This week is referred to as the Holy Week, and it represents the pain and suffering of all mankind through which the

Saviour went.

<http://www.bnr.bg/sites/en/Lifestyle/Life/Pages/2903boyanSaruev.aspx>

Check out Radio Bulgaria and Radio Ukraine International, both of which have aired examples of the wonderful choral music of the Easter season in the Orthodox Church.

Another potential source of Easter music is from Voice of Russia.

### **The Christian Message from Moscow**



**The Christian Message from Moscow** is a weekly program telling you about Orthodoxy, about the lives of the Saints, works by Orthodox Saints, sermons by priests and monks, spiritual prose by Russian authors. It covers the most interesting Orthodox periodicals, looks at the composers, performers and the history of the Russian church music, features stories by laymen and clerics recounting how they found their way to the Lord. It's about the believers' life and their effort bent for the sake of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are also trying to answer your questions and preparing a new series of programs about the history of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The program is prepared by **Tatyana Shvetsova**

***The Christian Message from Moscow*** weekly feature is on the air on Saturday and at 01.30, 05.30, 08.30, 16.30, 19.30, and Sunday at 00.30, 13.30, 18.30 and 22.30 UTC.

## **Australia**

### **Radio Australia celebrates 70 years of broadcasting.**

“For 70 years Radio Australia has been at the forefront of covering news and current affairs, political and social change and key events in Asia and the Pacific. During this time we’ve built up strong partnerships and provided of English language lessons to generations of listeners.

“Explore our timeline, galleries and features to learn more about Radio Australia’s history. “

<http://blogs.radioaustralia.net.au/70>

## **Bulgaria**

### **Radio Bulgaria has a spiffy new website.**



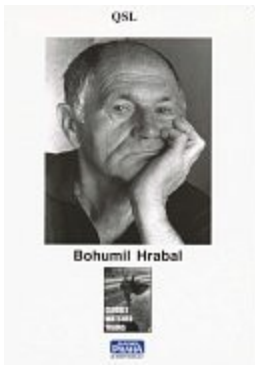
Radio Sofia, Bulgaria, as it was then known was the first shortwave station I ever heard, back in 1978, and as such it retains a warm place in my heart. Gone are the Soviet-era stories about tractor production and the wonderful exploits of President Todor Zhivkov, replaced by talks about a broader spectrum of topics, including many of a religious nature.

Check out the new pages at: <http://www.bnr.bg/sites/en/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Czech Republic**

*“How many messages did your station receive in 2009?”*

The number of letters and e-mails received by all the six language departments of Radio Prague combined was 20,440, out of which well over a third – 7,696 – were sent to the English section – all of them read and appreciated. So please keep them coming.



Speaking about listeners' messages – we are very much interested in you telling us about shortwave reception in your area. As you will know, Radio Prague has had to reduce its broadcast schedule due to budget cuts. At the moment we are running on a provisional schedule but we can fine tune it, so to speak, for the summer broadcast period, based on your feedback. So we very much welcome your reception reports from around the world – and as every year, there is a set of lovely QSL cards, this time featuring notable Czech writers. (Radio Prague Mailbag Feb 21, 2010)

<http://www.radio.cz/en/article/125203>

## **Germany**

### Education

#### Learning by Ear – The Skills to Succeed in Today's Africa

Education is the key to Africa's development. But schools and universities are still rare. "Learning by ear", Deutsche Welle's new multimedia distance-learning programme, brings knowledge to every corner of the continent.

Life is quickly changing in Africa: Internet and mobile phone usage continues to grow, yet thousands of people are still cut off from the digital world. Young Africans search for their perspective in a globalized, knowledge-based society and wonder which path will lead them to a successful career or education. For instance, many ask what opportunities for learning and studying are available online and what opportunities globalization has to offer. Thousands more want to study in Europe, but don't know what awaits them there.

### Informative and entertaining

Deutsche Welle wants to make a difference. The Learning by Ear program examines the challenges that young Africans face and engages listeners in an informative and entertaining way. The programming is a lively mix of in-depth reports, radio dramas and feature stories that will provide listeners with an opportunity to get the necessary skills to succeed in Africa today and to discover

a whole new world of knowledge. The target audience is girls and boys from 12 to 20 years of age.

Interactive

Programs are produced by African authors from across the continent, supported by dedicated Deutsche Welle staff. Learning by Ear is available in six languages: English, Kiswahili, French, Hausa, Portuguese and Amharic. Learning by Ear is supported by Germany's Federal Foreign Office.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,3121125,00.html>

## **North Korea**

### Seoul Broadcaster Smuggles Uncensored Voices Out of N. Korea

Shortwave radio broadcasting to North Korea is nothing new. The Voice of America has done it for decades, and many other organizations have sprouted up in recent years. The content is often a collaborative effort between South Koreans and North Korean escapees who have taken up residence in the South. But one broadcaster is giving North Korea residents an opportunity to hear from each other.

The broadcaster in Seoul, called Free North Korea Radio, is taking an innovative and risky step: it records the voices of people living in North Korea, then broadcasts those voices back into the North.

"We have at least one stringer, or reporter, in every North Korean province. We throw them issues to talk about, like 'currency reform', or 'market conditions.' They go out and do interviews, and put together a sort of news report," said Kim Seong Min, the broadcaster's director, who is himself a defector from North Korea.

The result is a program called "Voices of the People," an unfiltered sample of what some North Korean citizens have to say about their leadership.

"Kim Jong-il is such a hypocrite. He only cares about himself. He makes everyone obey him and praise him, as if that is such a good thing to do. Sometimes he hands out presents. But those presents all came from the sweat and blood of the people," said one person heard on the broadcast.

Such criticism of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il is a potentially capital offense.

Free North Korea Radio connects with North Korean citizens via mobile phones. But conversations have to be brief to avoid tracing.

Longer reports are recorded onto tiny digital devices similar to these. The devices are passed hand-to-hand in a chain that smuggles them across North Korea's border with China.

Director Kim says getting the sound to Seoul is accomplished in less than a month. There is risk, and stress, for everyone involved.

Voices are electronically distorted to protect identities. However, not all reporters are told their recordings will be broadcast back into North Korea. Kim downplays concerns about journalistic ethics. "We are doing this for the democratization of North Korea. Since what we are dealing with here is unlike any other ordinary state, and considering how much oppression the North Korean people are suffering from, we cannot condemn this as a violation of media ethics," he said.

Kim says all of the contributors to "Voices of the People" are individuals he and his team have known for at least five years. The recording devices, he says, are supplied by American and Japanese activists. (VOA News via Arnaldo Slaen, dxld yahoo group)

## **New Zealand**

RNZI 20 year anniversary programme

21 Jan, 2010 21:06 UTC

RNZI celebrated its 20-year anniversary on January 24 2010. On that date in 1990 Radio New Zealand re-launched the short-wave service with a new 100kw transmitter and a dedicated team of RNZI staff. The name used for the short-wave service was Radio New Zealand International (RNZI).

On Sunday 24 January a special programme marking the last 20 years was broadcast and this is now available through a link on the "About Us" page - under the section on "History". <http://www.rnzi.com/pages/about.php>

*January 24 was already an auspicious date, being the anniversary of the date of my birth, but I digress...(fw)*

## **Russia**

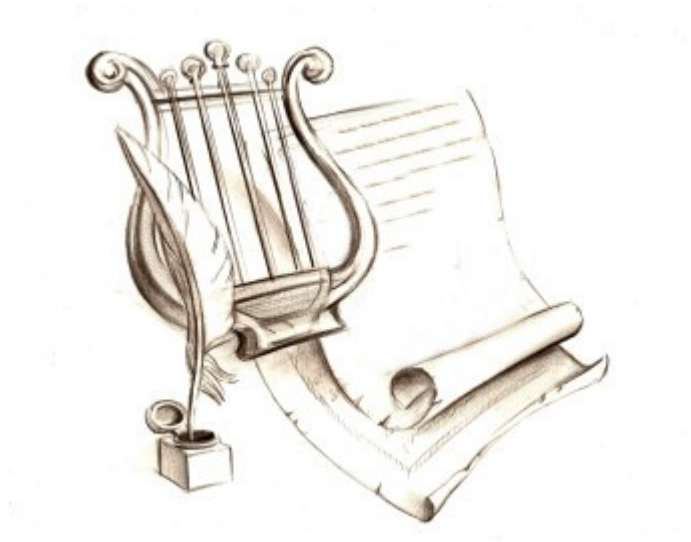
Voice of Russia commemorates the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II this month and next.



This anniversary will no doubt be covered in many Voice of Russia programs.

[http://english.ruvr.ru/tag\\_5556615/](http://english.ruvr.ru/tag_5556615/)

## The VOR Treasure-Store



On the **Voice of Russia Treasure-Store** weekly feature we offer you archival programs on various topics – historical, cultural, etc. You will hear radio versions of some novels, stories and plays by Russian prominent authors.

Tune in to **The Voice of Russia Treasure-Store** weekly feature on Monday at 03.30, 09.30, 13.30 and 21.30, on Tuesday at 05.30, 15.30 and 23.30, Wednesday at 08.30 and 10.30, Thursday at 01.30, 07.30, 14.30 and 19.30, Friday at 04.30 and 18.30, Saturday at 09.30 and 15.30 and Sunday at 05.30 and 19.30 UTC.

## Slovakia

Radio Slovakia competition with a catch. Win a visit to Slovakia, you just have to pay your own way there.

“As you may have noticed so far, the first weekend of every month is dedicated to the Slovak unique sites we try to introduce you in all their beauty. These rarities, which are all located only in our country, are of a great world or European importance. Once every month we will ask you a question concerning the introduced site, answering which you may then take part in the competition brought to you by our radio. Every month there is a prize waiting for one of those correctly answering the question and at the end of our competition, which will be

in July of this year, there is the main prize. This is a week stay in Slovakia for two couples. All you have to do is write a correct answer for at least one round of the competition. The winner of the main prize will be drawn from all the correct answers.

“The main prize to our competition was given by Aqua city Poprad and the High Tatras golf resort Black Stork International in Velka Lomnica.

“However, before you decide to take part in the competition, we have to underline the two important rules of the competition; both of them are given by the status of the competition. The travel to Slovakia is to be paid by the winner themselves. The other rule states, that only the listeners that don't have their main residence in Slovakia may take part in the competition.

“Those were the rules, but now let's concentrate on the place we are about to take you....

<http://www.rozhlas.sk/inetportal/rsi/core.php?page=showSprava&id=25338&lang=2>

## **United Kingdom**

BBC Radio 3 and World Service DJ Charlie Gillett dies

Charlie Gillett

Gillett turned down an offer to present BBC Two's The Old Grey Whistle Test

BBC Radio 3 and World Service presenter Charlie Gillett has died after a long illness, aged 68.

Known as a champion of world music, the Lancashire-born broadcaster passed away in a London hospital on Wednesday, his family has confirmed.

He contracted an autoimmune disease, and last week suffered a heart attack.

Gillett is credited with discovering Dire Straits in 1976 after playing Sultans of Swing from their demo tape on his Radio London show Honky Tonk.

'Sorely missed'

He also wrote an acclaimed history of rock'n'roll, The Sound of the City, in the 1970s.

World Service director Peter Horrocks said he was an inspiration whose spirit of adventure and passion for the rich diversity of global music opened the ears of the world.

"His broadcasts brought together music and radio fans from far flung corners of the globe," he said.

"His postbag was one of the biggest, most affectionate and diverse in Bush House, which confirmed his special place in listener's lives. He was a very special broadcaster and he will be sorely missed."

Gillett stood down from his regular slot on Radio 3's World on 3 for health reasons two months ago, with fellow presenters Lopa Kothari and Mary Ann Kennedy covering.

Charlie Gillett

Gillett was part of a panel who first coined the term "world music"

The station's controller, Roger Wright, said at the time: "Radio 3 has always valued Charlie's immense knowledge and passion for world music which has been much enjoyed by listeners."

Gillett, who was born in Morecambe and brought up in Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, discovered several stars of world music while on Radio London.

They include Youssou N'Dour, Salif Keita, and the young singer of Portuguese fado music, Mariza.

In the mid-70s he formed a partnership with his dentist and went on to manage Kilburn and the High Roads, whose lead singer was Ian Dury.

Notable successes on his label and publishing company, Oval Music, were Lene Lovich's Lucky Number and Paul Hardcastle's number one hit 19.

The DJ also turned down an offer to present BBC Two's live music show The Old Grey Whistle Test.

In 1979 he moved to commercial station Capital Radio, where he began to feature music from around the world. More recently he appeared on BBC London.

He was known to millions of listeners for his World Service programme Charlie Gillett's World of Music.

He is survived by his wife Buffy, their daughters Suzy and Jody, their son Ivan, and two grandchildren.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/8573682.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8573682.stm)

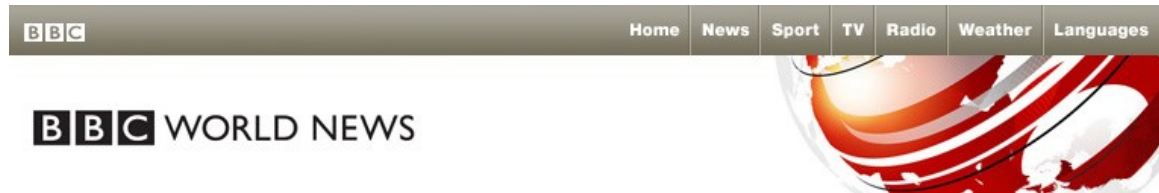
Mark LaMarr did a lovely tribute to Gillett on his Radio 2 "God's Jukebox" program on March 27, with may still be available if you read this early enough.



Mark LaMarr

Check it out at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00rkhmb>

## BBC World News TV



<http://www.bbcworldnews.com/Pages/default.aspx>

I recently subscribed to the digital tier on my cable television. A few channels come with it like CNBC, Teletoon (Retro) featuring all those cartoons I watched as a kid, Fox News Channel (neither as bad as those who hate it, nor as good as those who love it think it is) and BBC World News Channel. This channel had excellent coverage of Haiti and the earthquake in Chile. It is nice to have it but they repeat programming way too much. I noted the same newscast over and over on one day of viewing. Kind of reminds me of the World Service after they took away all the entertainment programming. I check it now and then. Its nice to have but I would not subscribe to these new channels JUST to get it.

The May edition of this column will either be a little bit early, or a little bit late, as I am having surgery on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. I'm not looking forward to it, but I'm not terribly worried about it either. Until May, Cheers!