



## Programming Matters – Dec. 2009

*Fred Waterer, 4 St. Julien Drive, St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 2G2  
(905) 687-1861*

[programming\\_matters@yahoo.ca](mailto:programming_matters@yahoo.ca)

<http://www.doghousecharlie.com>

*Also available via Facebook and Twitter*

*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



**Voice of Russia**

"I'll chime in a bit here too. (Voice of Russia), IMHO, has some excellent music programming, as well as nicely produced cultural and historical documentaries. And--given its geopolitical importance--it's not a bad idea to hear their perspective on international issues. Add to this that the shortwave signal they put into North America (intentionally, btw) makes the audio quality better than average.

"An observation if I may? We SWLs and DXers are a funny lot. We complain bitterly when a station ceases broadcasting to us; however, when one continues to do so we also complain bitterly, it seems." (John Figliozzi, DXLD)



*Are we as SWLs turning into these guys? I sometimes wonder. I don't think so, but it would be worth it if Ann-Margaret turned up at a DX camp. Having said that the biggest positive news I can think of in the hobby, is the return of a program from 20 years ago (a version) of the Happy Station Show. Keith Perron has lined up some really cool interviews with broadcasters from the past, including Vasily Strelnikov and Dodie Cowan/Deborah Rey. I listened to both of them regularly in the 70s and 80s, and listen to the New Happy Station just as regularly, online.-FW*

United States

London-Based Broadcaster to Zimbabwe Takes Exception to Harare's 'Pirate' Label

SW Radio Africa founder Gerry Jackson says her station broadcasts legally to provide Zimbabweans with the news to which they are entitled

Sandra Nyaira | Washington 27 November 2009

The founder of a London-based radio station that broadcasts to Zimbabwe took exception this week to a statement by Industry Minister Welshman Ncube saying talks within the Harare unity government focused on “pirate” radio stations as well as Western sanctions and top-level government appointments.

Ncube is a negotiator in the intra-governmental talks for the Movement for Democratic Change formation led by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara, a rival to the larger MDC formation of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

The latest round of talks, urged by leaders of the Southern African Development Community and South African President Jacob Zuma in particular, are aimed at resolving a number of issues which were left unresolved at the inception of the unity government in February, or which have cropped up since then.

Short-Wave Radio Africa founder Gerry Jackson said her station, which like the Voice of America's Studio 7 provides news to Zimbabweans from outside the country's borders, is operating legally and is not controlled, as Zanu-PF has maintained, by the MDC, or aligned with the former opposition party.

"Guys – please – get a grip," Jackson stated in an editorial broadcast this week and published on the station's Web site. "We're not controlled, owned or are even members of the MDC...Our broadcasts on shortwave and via the internet are completely legal and we want nothing more than a free, peaceful, democratic Zimbabwe. And yes we do believe that Zimbabweans have an absolute right to the information that has been denied them for so many years."

Jackson told VOA Studio 7 reporter Sandra Nyaira that she tried to launch her station in Zimbabwe in 2000 but it was quickly shut down by the government, obliging her to operation from London and broadcast on shortwave.

<http://www1.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/africa/Zimbabwe-Pirate-Radios-27Nov09-76284292.html>

#### Zimbabwe Takes Botswana to Task Over Foreign Radio News Transmissions

The state-controlled Herald newspaper quoted Foreign Affairs Secretary Joey Bimha as saying Harare objects to the transmission of "hate messages" to Zimbabwe from transmission facilities in Botswana

Patience Rusere | Washington 02 December 2009

The Zimbabwean government is reported to have said it will lodge a diplomatic protest with neighboring Botswana for allowing what Harare calls "pirate" radio stations to transmit into Zimbabwe from its soil.

The state-controlled Herald newspaper, closely aligned with the former ruling ZANU-PF party of President Robert Mugabe, quoted Foreign Affairs Secretary Joey Bimha as saying Harare objects to the transmission of what Bimha called "hate messages" to Zimbabwe from transmission facilities in Botswana.

VOA Studio 7 broadcasts to Zimbabwe over a medium-wave or AM transmitter in Botswana whose signal Harare has jammed since mid-2006. The nightly program is also broadcast over three shortwave frequencies.

Bimha said the foreign-based stations, which include London-based Short Wave Radio Africa, jeopardize the power-sharing unity government established in February by ZANU-PF and the two formations of the Movement for Democratic Change, one led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

The issue of foreign-based stations was included in the September 2008 Global Political Agreement, which said Zimbabwean operators of such stations should be encouraged to return and broadcast from Zimbabwean soil. But managers of such stations including SW Radio Africa founder Gerry Jackson say media reform has not progressed far enough to make such a move advisable.

ZANU-PF has raised the issue of what it calls "pirate" stations, as well as that of Western travel and financial sanctions or restrictions on Mr. Mugabe and many other ZANU-PF officials, in response to MDC complaints that it has not adhered to the terms of the power-sharing pact in numerous respects.

Harare's démarche in Gaborone comes as negotiators for the unity government parties are reportedly agreed to accelerate lagging media reform.

Media commentator Francis Mdlongwa, former editor of the Financial Gazette in Harare and now director of the Sol Plaatje Institute for Media Leadership at Rhodes University, told VOA Studio 7 reporter Patience Rusere that the foreign stations issue is a red herring to draw attention from more pressing issues.

Meanwhile, the British Broadcasting Corporation made its first live broadcast from Zimbabwe in a decade on Wednesday as BBC Radio 5 Live host Victoria Derbyshire went on air from the Meikles Hotel in Harare.

BBC editor Lois Crompton told VOA that there were no government restrictions whatsoever on the content of the lengthy broadcast.

<http://www1.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/arts/Zimbabwe-Botswana-Radio-Broadcasts-02Dec09-78353022.html>

VOA'S STORY 'THE DAILY SHOW GOES TO IRAN' GRABS BIG AUDIENCES  
"Different view of the country" enjoying huge online success

Washington, D.C., November 25, 2009 – A Voice of America (VOA) story about the humorous experiences of two staffers from The Daily Show with Jon Stewart in Iran is enjoying huge online success, with the producer saying it gives viewers a different view of the country.

As described in a VOA story, "The Daily Show Goes to Iran," has been viewed more than 100,000 times across multiple sites, including Vimeo and YouTube, in English and Persian. The Daily Show is a satirical television program that airs on Comedy Central.

Sahar Sarshar, a producer for VOA's Persian News Network (PNN), said she's received comments "from all over the world" about her story in which The Daily Show staffers talk about their trip and the similarities they found between Iranians and Americans.

"Iranians and Iranian-Americans have been particularly pleased, and tell me they have heard many positive comments about it from their friends and family inside Iran," Sarshar said.

"A lot of people have commented on how refreshing it is to see something positive about the people of Iran, versus what can so frequently be seen in the news," she said. "That surprised – and pleased – me the most."

"Truly, some of the most accommodating people I've ever met in my life," said The Daily Show's Jason Jones of the Iranians he worked with. Added his colleague Tim Greenberg, "They remain in our minds, and I think the minds of the whole world. They are not forgotten, and we all hope things work out."

VOA's Persian News Network has the largest combined radio and television audience of all international broadcasters in Iran, with one in four adult Iranians tuning in to a VOA program at least once a week. VOA's PNN produces six hours of original news and information television programming daily, repeated in a 24-hour format, along with five hours of radio broadcasts. Programs are available on demand at [www.VOAPNN.com](http://www.VOAPNN.com).

**VOA LAUNCHES NEW INTERNET-BASED ENGLISH LESSONS FOR CHINA**  
Now available for Mandarin speakers, soon for Persian

Washington, D.C., November 25, 2009 – GoEnglish.me, a new, interactive Voice of America (VOA) Internet site, is available for Mandarin speakers learning colloquial American English. The site will soon be available for Persian speakers.

The site is designed around 24 modules that represent a variety of everyday cultural situations. Each module has three lessons—beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Topics include "College Schedules," "Retail Shopping," "Apartment Hunting," "Greeting Friends," and "Going on a Hike."

In each goEnglish.me lesson, students use a headset and microphone to converse with avatars about everyday situations in the United States. Each lesson has phrases and sentences along with short exams.

The program bars students from progressing until their pronunciation and answers are correct. As students move from beginner to advanced, they hear more English and less of their own language.

Users can register their ID and password on goEnglish.me and take advantage of the site's English lessons as well as blogs, forums, groups, and RSS feeds.

"Today's technology gives our audiences worldwide the tools to learn our language in an entertaining way, using a variety of American accents and

situations," said Rebecca McMenamin, director of New Media. "We wanted to give our audience a truly interactive experience when they learn colloquial American English."

Initial promotion for goEnglish.me began in early November in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China with advertisements in Facebook. VOA Mandarin will give away T-shirts, posters, and handbills with two-gigabyte flash drives in on-air promotions and also send these items to U.S. Embassies.

### Christmas Programs

While last year's effort was hampered due to ongoing family health issues here at home, I plan to dedicate a page of my website to Seasonal Christmas and Holiday programming. You can access the page by going to my home page <http://www.doghousecharlie.com> or the direct link is <http://www.doghousecharlie.com/christmas-programming-2009/>

### Radio Prague Christmas contest rules

Have you ever managed to take a Christmas photo which really captured that one-of-a-kind yuletide atmosphere? Share your memories with us, go through your family albums and send us one of your old Christmas photographs affixed to a short story. We will select 10 of the most interesting photos and reward them with small prizes.

Photos sent electronically must be .jpg format and should be between 100 kB and 2MB in size.

Send us your Christmas pictures by no later than December 31, 2009.

either by email to [cr@radio.cz](mailto:cr@radio.cz) or by post to

Czech Radio 7 – Radio Prague

Vinohradská 12

120 99 Praha 2

Czech Republic

The photos you send will be published on the Radio Prague website.

We will be releasing the results of the contest the week after it finishes.

Merry Christmas!

<http://www.radio.cz/en/static/christmas09/competition>

Canada

As It Happens – CBC Radio One, CBC Northern Quebec

Fireside AI

“In 1974, Alan Maitland joined As It Happens as co-host, staying until 1993. During that time he became affectionately known as Fireside AI and Front Porch AI, tempting listeners to pull up a chair to the fire or on the porch (depending on the season) and listen. He read stories by a long list of authors, and they were a delight for audiences, whether the story was a humorous or a poignant one. His reading of The Shepherd, by Frederick Forsythe, has become a Christmas Eve tradition on As It Happens.”

“Here at As it Happens, one of our most cherished holiday traditions is Alan Maitland's annual reading of ‘The Shepherd.’ For twenty-five years now, AI's voice has been a part of Christmas Eve celebrations around the world. (During the recent 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for As It Happens, it was reported that The Shepherd was not the first choice for a Christmas story. Maitland wanted to read a story about the Christmas Truce of 1914, but for whatever reason couldn't find a copy. The rights to The Shepherd were expensive, so the AIH people contacted the author and “talked him down in price” then had to go to the CBC board and justify the still considerable expense. It has become one of the most requested program features.-fw)

“Frederick Forsyth originally wrote ‘The Shepherd’ as a gift for his wife. It's the story of an RAF pilot flying home from Germany on Christmas Eve, 1957. But while heading to England over the North Sea, fog sets in and all radio communication is lost. (It was first broadcast in 1979.”

[http://www.cbc.ca/insite/AS\\_IT\\_HAPPENS\\_TORONTO/2004/12/24.html](http://www.cbc.ca/insite/AS_IT_HAPPENS_TORONTO/2004/12/24.html)

The other part of Christmas Eve on As It Happens is the annual check in with Canadian Forces personnel around the world.

“Home, hearth and fire... a bird in the oven and family around the dinner table... for millions of Canadians those are the ingredients for a merry Christmas. There are hundreds of men and women in our military, though, who will be a couple of fixings short of the perfect holiday.

“The Canadian Forces have more than fourteen-hundred pairs of boots on foreign ground this (2004) yuletide season. Members of the forces are all around the world, keeping an eye on the peace in places from Bosnia-Herzegovina to Haiti.

“This time of year, we here at As It Happens, like to check in with some of our boys and girls overseas. So tonight, we will begin with the soldiers of Operation Athena. The commander of the National Support Element in Kabul, Afghanistan, is Colonel Jim Ellis...

“And now, a continent away, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the men of Operation Crocodile. They are posted all over the vast central African country. Their commander is Colonel Brian Walsh. He is based in Kinshasa, but we have also hooked up members of the operation in Kisangani, Bukavu and Bunia.”  
[http://www.cbc.ca/insite/AS\\_IT\\_HAPPENS\\_TORONTO/2004/12/24.html](http://www.cbc.ca/insite/AS_IT_HAPPENS_TORONTO/2004/12/24.html)

CHML 900 carries a wonderful program called “A Paul Reid Christmas” hosted by broadcasting legend, the late Paul Reid. Two hours of stories and music. It airs at 2300 UTC on Christmas Eve. Then throughout the evening, one can hear many hours of Christmas episodes of the old radio shows. Also tune in New Years Eve from 9pm-3am. Can’t hear CHML? They stream at <http://www.900chml.com/>

David Marsden’s Marsbar Theater

Christmas Eve special 7-Midnight, Eastern

The Rock 94.9 FM Oshawa

<http://www.therock.fm>



David Marsden

More info:

“Begging your collective indulgences here for something special in my heart.

"I just wanted to mention that tonight for 5 magical hours starting at 7:00 p.m. David Marsden will be doing his annual live Christmas Eve program at 94.9 the Rock ([www.therock.fm](http://www.therock.fm)) until midnight. It is a show for all ages and a lovely way to await Santa's arrival. The chat room will also be open during this time as well. If you would like to join us, there is a link from <http://www.marsdenglobal.com>

"I hope you will be able to help us celebrate.

"But most of all I hope you all have a very Merry & Magical Christmas. "

Sistah Mar  
The Official Roving Ambassador  
For the David Marsden Radio Program

Treasure Island Oldies

The Treasure Island Oldies Christmas Special, will go out December 20 at 9pm Eastern, 6pm Pacific (0200 UTC Dec 21). 4 hours of Christmas music with a rock and roll beat.



Czech Republic

Radio Prague

In many ways, Radio Prague can be called your "Christmas Station" of the international bands. Of all the stations on the world band, our friends in the Czech Republic bring you stories of Christmas in Prague, contests and spirited renditions of carols sung by the staff. I could probably do without the traditional Czech Christmas dinner of fried carp and potatoes, but that's just my bias. Radio Prague seems to embrace the season like no other station. If anyone could entice me to eat carp, it's the people at Radio Prague

<http://www.radio.cz/en/article/86580>

Through Radio Prague you can send your friends and relatives a Christmas greeting via the internet. Choose a picture to accompany your greeting.

[http://www.radio.cz/en/html/christmas\\_greeting.html](http://www.radio.cz/en/html/christmas_greeting.html)

WWW.RADIO.CZ



BBC

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus which is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for Christmas Eve (24 December) 1880 in Truro, Cornwall. It has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the

world. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge.

Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches, and in some Roman Catholic and Lutheran parishes and institutions. However numerous Christian churches have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations.

Live from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

Ninety years ago, shortly after the end of the First World War, the then Dean of King's, Eric Milner-White, devised and led the service in the College Chapel for the first time.

Ten years later, in 1928, it was first transmitted by the British Broadcasting Company. The pattern of the Festival, based around nine Bible readings which tell the story of the loving purposes of God, has remained the same and for many people all over the world, it heralds the beginning of Christmas.

Radio 4

24 December 15:02-16:30

Repeated on Radio 3

25 December 14:00-15:40 (BBC)

This annual tradition continues on the BBC World Service as well as the domestic Radio 4 and Radio 3.

Tune in on Wednesday, Christmas Eve, as follows (this schedule, via Richard Cuff) was accurate for 2007 and appears to be so this year as per the BBC website:

1500 UT - Radio 4 / World Service live webcast / Europe SW / US public radio webcast including WGBH / KXPR / Vermont Public Radio / WKAR 90.5

2130 UT - West Africa shortwave (15400, 6110 khz)

0100 UT Thursday - Americas XM BBCWS

1400 UT Thursday - BBC Radio 3

2300 UT Thursday - Vermont Public Radio



New Years' Greetings from Tashkent.

My 2006 Monitoring Times article on monitoring the New Year around the world.

<http://www.monitoringtimes.com/Around-in-24-hrs.pdf>

Honda's New Year Tracker

<http://world.honda.com/link/>