

*Asiko Phantom Pyramid*  
**Hosted by Minister Faust**  
 Thursdays, 8-10pm

As DJ (and Gateway alum) Minister Faust announces occasionally throughout the program—"From Algeria to Zimbabwe, from Togo to Tobago ..."—African music can't be pigeonholed into one over-generalized category.

Indeed, *Asiko Phantom Pyramid's* playlist is definitely a mosaic of styles. There are songs sung in African languages and songs sung in English. You'll hear music filled with ancient African influences as well as songs with Western-born styles such as rap and hip-hop. Less popular genres or those not so easily associated with African music are also included: songs with classic rock vibes by artists like Peter Gabriel along with classically beautiful-sounding *kora* music, which is based on a 21-string harp.

*Asiko Phantom Pyramid* plays songs dealing with issues largely untouched by music you'd hear on, say, the Bounce: songs about fathers telling their daughters to throw away the old notion of what women should be like. Then, there are artists like K'naan describing what life in his native Somalia was like. Indeed, the *Asiko Phantom Pyramid* shows us there's far more to African music than rappers bragging about their cars and bling, underscored by heart-thumping bass beats.

—Kristina De Guzman

*Smilin' Jay's Happy Hour*  
**Hosted by Smilin' Jay**  
 Fridays, 2-3pm

*Smilin' Jay's Happy Hour* is a good way to celebrate the end of the week. The show is recorded live in and around Edmonton, with a variety of (mostly local) acts putting on an hour-long showcase of their music.

Recording the show live means that all of the mistakes are left in, technical or otherwise, and thus there's the occasional delay while an amp is acting up. But Smilin' Jay keeps it all together, nice and smooth. He makes a seamless transition to the live setting with quick, hilarious banter that keeps any pauses in music from becoming lulls in the show.

The quality of the music depends on the band performing, but to namedrop a bit, the show has hosted local rock giants Whitey Houston and punk-rockers Our Mercury, among a plethora of others, so the subject matter is fairly diverse.

Overall, Smilin' Jay knows how to keep a live audience happy, and provides an entertaining showcase of budding talent that shouldn't be missed. Happy hour, indeed.

—Paul Blinov

*Catch the Beat*  
**Hosted by CameronSound and Ben Jammin'**  
 4-6pm Saturday

Anchored by CameronSound and Ben Jammin', *Catch the Beat* plays the kind of music your mother warned you about: the kind that will move your body and your soul. You'll find one common thread in all the songs from all the sub-genres perused on the show—breaks. Big breaks. Break beats that, try and resist as you may, will find you succumbing to head-nod factor of songs from acts like Venetian Snares (a house producer from Winnipeg), Frank Zappa, and Diplo.

This isn't your parent's radio show; where else besides *Catch the Beat* can you find Feist sandwiched between local act Red Ram and British DJ Danny Breaks? The show does an admirable job of pulling from a wide array of (admittedly related) genres, with everything from drum and bass (DJ Krinjah) and Philadelphia soul (courtesy of The O'Jays) to indie rock (courtesy of perennial hipster favourites Pavement).

But perhaps the best reason to tune into *Catch the Beat* are the hosts themselves. CameronSound and Ben Jammin' are funny dudes; they pull off uncanny accents and even freestyle a song—in Jack Black fashion—dedicated to a listener (thanks Jack!) who donated \$500.98 to CJSR's annual FunDrive fundraiser.

If the music sucked, it would still be worth catching the beat just to hear the amusing antics of the hosts.

—Renato Pagnani

*House Underground*  
**Hosted by DJ Xu**  
 9-10pm Saturday

Treating what is played in mainstream clubs around Edmonton as a fairly indicative sample for the rest of North America doesn't reveal a healthy prognosis for dance music. Then again, what is popular in other places (I'm looking at you, supposedly cooler Europe) isn't always that much of an improvement. This is why CJSR takes it to the underground on Saturday nights.

*House Underground* (known from here on in as *HU*) is one of the most fittingly titled radio shows on CJSR—don't expect to hear anything that doesn't fit in the house or underground realm.

Garage, drum and bass, house, and break-core is what you'll find on *HU*. If you're looking for something to shake what your momma gave you, and are sick of hearing the same four songs every weekend at the bar, *HU* will provide an hour of non-stop dance music (and house edits of songs from such artists as Justin Timberlake and MIA) that's decidedly better than the crap on the rest of the FM dial.

The only downside to *HU's* hustle is that with few interjections by any hosts, you won't know what you're listening to—not that it'll matter when your grinding with that pretty girl from History class, anyway.

—Renato Pagnani

*Jazzology*  
**Hosted by Steve MacLeod**  
 Sundays from 9-11am

According to the CJSR website, this show runs Sundays from 9-11pm, but the time has now switched to 9-11am on Sundays. *Jazzology* is a soothing program, featuring different styles of jazz. This show focuses on artists who will be soon appearing at the Yardbird Suite, and does a good job of promoting these artists.

Unfortunately, this emphasis doesn't allow for a very broad range of jazz eras to be covered, which is something the show's website description promises. Last Sunday, for instance, there was one piece from the 1960s, and one piece from 2005. Despite this, the styles of jazz presented in this show were fairly varied, and faster and energetic pieces were interspersed among slower and more mellow tunes. Host Steve MacLeod provides enough background on the pieces to give them a context, yet does not overtake the amount of music that can be played because he's too busy talking. It's a good program, and its time slot on Sunday mornings makes it a nice and relaxing show that jazz lovers can listen to while getting ready for their day.

—Maria Kotovych

