

*Argonaut Sounds – Best Specialist Music Programming (Subcity Radio)*

Argonaut Sounds programme on Subcity Radio has been running under various guises since 2000, but took on its present form, with selectors Neil Harris, Wayne Fortune and Jack Archer, in 2003. Focused on providing listeners with a reggae soundsystem experience in radio format, the show's musical policy centres around Jamaican and Jamaican-influenced styles. Typically several different genres of Jamaican music may appear over the course of a show, including ska, rocksteady, roots reggae, dub, dancehall, ragga and soca. Argonaut Sounds also operate a reggae soundsystem in Glasgow, and we bring extensive knowledge of soundsystem culture to bear on our production, including authentic sound effects, MC dubplates and 'shout-outs'. We also provide news and event information on the reggae scene in Glasgow and beyond, and attempt to give our listeners an insight into aspects of Jamaican music such as riddim culture.

The music featured on our show is sourced and researched in a variety of ways. The vast majority of our music is played from vinyl, usually obtained from reggae distributors in America, Germany and France, and by regular trips to London to search record shops and exchanges for crucial cuts. Several record labels send us pre-release promotional CD copies of new albums/compilations, and connections with studios and artists means we can often play brand new material from up and coming reggae producers and artists around the world sent to us direct in MP3 format. We also produce our own material, and from time to time will spin exclusive new tracks featuring reggae MCs from Glasgow. Finally, nothing beats keeping your ear to the ground for the latest tunes tearing up the dancehall, and having an extensive collection of reggae music to draw upon.

Reference to websites such as [www.riddimbase.org](http://www.riddimbase.org) and [www.rootsarchives.com](http://www.rootsarchives.com) allows us to identify the artist/producer/label/riddim/year of tracks, and in addition to helping identify new tracks to be bought, this also informs our programming. The general structure of a particular programme will usually loosely involve two sections, one of mainly 70's roots and reggae (but also including rocksteady, ska and dub), and one of dancehall, ragga and soca. Then the final 20-30 minutes of the show are taken up by one continuous soundsystem-style mix, with music in a variety of the aforementioned reggae styles, fast mixing and sound effects. During the programme there will normally be a few occasions where we mix 2-4 tracks on the same riddim, and in this case we try to highlight the name of the riddim, the original track, the producer, etc. In the case of individual tracks similar information may be provided in order to give the listener an idea of their context within reggae music.

The programme aims to appeal to listeners new to reggae music and those already interested in it. Playing a mix of new and old Jamaican music, both popular and less well known, and providing hints and tips for further listening achieves these aims. We are also keen to encourage the growth of the reggae scene in Glasgow and beyond, and hopefully by running competitions and announcing event details we manage to get more people involved. Finally, it is worth mentioning that we refuse to play any tracks which contain homophobic lyrics, since we believe that the primary message of reggae music is against discrimination of any kind.

