

Broke'n Blue Boogaloo – Best Specialist Music Programming (Subcity Radio)

“Good music will always be good music; new music is just music you have not heard before, regardless of its age.” (Will Holland 2006)

Broke'n Blue Boogaloo is a show that endeavours to revive a musical culture that is slowly being buried under decades of popular music. The show is the sound of a cotton field in Georgia, a prison in Mississippi, a church in Alabama, a parade in New Orleans, a studio in Memphis, a bar in Chicago, a factory in Detroit, and a basement in New York all rolled into one. Every week I serve up an hour chock full of chunky boogaloo, barrelhouse blues, sock hop swing, dancefloor jazz and dirty down home funk. I spin almost exclusively original 45rpm records varying from the slinky, sleazy, sultry and sassy, to the deep, dark, and downright depraved. Expect to find hip-shakin' hammonds, screeching horns and full fat breaks, alongside honky tonk pianos, gritty vocals and 12 string guitars. Harrowing gutter blues, and rough tough slabs of funk, sit with blissful bossa novas, and relentless boogaloo workouts; in an all encompassing celebration of *soul music*. It is the music of a generation of artists that were fuelled by passion, politics and a desire to sing and dance their way out of poverty. This is the music that inspires me, sets my mind at ease and more often than not entices me out onto the dancefloor.

Countless hours over the last few years have been spent hunting elusive records (on their original and best format – the 7" single) to make the playlists for the show as exciting and varied as possible. Many of these records were only pressed in tiny numbers several decades ago, the majority of them never being popular even at the time of their release. A number of the records I played this year took me several years to find a single, often rough, copy of, and this painstaking approach to record collecting is a testimony to my love for this music.

However the show is not exclusively dedicated to old music. I'm glad to say that many DJs, collectors, and a growing crop of new bands are still keeping this culture alive today. Their work is recognised in the show, as I do my best to arrange interviews with upcoming artists, encourage the submission of, and actively seek, new demos, which has resulted in playing many exciting new tracks prior to their official releases. I feel it is exceptionally important that these new acts that work so hard to promote a musical genre in decline are promoted wherever possible. That is why I chose to submit as an audio excerpt a clip that not only includes numerous oddball records from the late 60s but also an interview with DJ Format who himself is a great collector and promoter of this music.

In addition to the show, I can regularly be found DJing at bars and clubs around Glasgow. I also post regularly on numerous collectors forums and attend as many club nights and gigs as my student pockets can afford.

I think my broad-minded and unpretentious approach to collecting separates this show from other soul shows. Often collectors can mistakenly value rarity over quality, and too many times shows restrict themselves exclusively to one genre, be that northern soul, funk, jazz, or blues. It is truly only in the consideration of all these sounds that we find the essence of our past cultures. As Alan Lomax once said “When the whole world is bored with automated, mass distributed video music, our descendants will despise us for having thrown away the best of our culture”. That is why I will always try my best to keep this culture alive.

Tracklisting (all 45s) for audio excerpt:

artist – song (label) - description

The Peppermint Sticks - El Twisto (So-Char) – curious instrumental tittysaker out of Philadelphia

Johnny Parker and the Zirkons - Oongawa (CT Records) – wild novelty dancer

Noble "Thin Man" Watts - Hot Tamales (Baton) –superb instrumental from legendary sax player

The Tazmen - Crackajack (Taz) – obscure white group with 60s rockin' instrumental

Little Anthony Guardine and the Duponts - Must Be Falling In Love (Savoy) – traditional doo-wop influenced rnb sound with a great solo

Cleo Page - Goodie Train Part 1 (Goodie Train) –hauntingly basic rnb

John Lee Hooker - Think Twice Before You Go (Bluesway) – classic uptempo blues

Interview with DJ Format

Full playlists and listen again files for all episodes can be found at

<http://www.subcity.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=5949&start=18>