

red bull music academy radio.com

Established in 1998, the Red Bull Music Academy is a cultural exchange like no other. The first academic year saw 50 DJ/producers from Germany and Austria convene in Berlin for two fortnight-long workshops, encompassing music history, technology and business. Truly transnational, the RBMA has since landed in Dublin, New York, London, Sao Paulo, Cape Town, Rome and Seattle, inviting a broad spectrum of music industry professionals – from ill turntablists, to skilled producers and industry insiders – to meet RBMA students and share their experiences, ideas, theories and stories.

The Academy has been bumping assorted beats 'n' pieces via its own internet-based radio station since 2005. Red Bull Music Academy Radio is an invaluable gateway to the wealth of knowledge and expertise nestling within the RBMA. Broadcasting 120 hours of dope music every month, RBMA Radio showcases exclusive mixes, live feeds, tribute sets and interviews from the global Academy family – you can't say fairer than that.

Kicking back with the RBMA Radio team is Karen Pearson, or Karen P as she is better known (DJ and producer of Gilles Peterson's wonderful 'Worldwide' show on Radio 1 for the last three years). You know how it goes – we ask the questions and she provides some enlightening answers...

Who is behind RBMA Radio then? Have you got yourself a crack team of Oompa-Loompas working behind the scenes?

The Red Bull Music Academy program is sequenced by label heads, DJs and incorrigible music maniacs. Those keeping the radio output rotating include: Gerd Janson – music journalist, producer, DJ and co-owner of deep house label Running Back. He sorts out the content and schedule.

Yannick Elverfeld – DJ/producer, co-owner of record label Needs, former editor-in-chief of Groove magazine. He deals with content management, and scheduling, and is based in Frankfurt.

Kut-L – DJ and mixing/mastering engineer for artists on labels like Groove Attack, Stones Throw and Sonar Kollektiv. He's an engineer/producer and runs the radio studio based in Cologne.

Oh yeah, and me... I mess about with content, production and other bits and pieces.

How many people work on the station?

Four people fitting the schedule together, but RBMA Radio DJs can be found in 'hoods, hangars

How does RBMA Radio relate to the Academy?

RBMA Radio aims to keep the Academy vibe alive, every minute of every day, uniting both funk originators from the 70s and the aspiring music makers who sample them. The aim is to share the utopian ethos of the Academy with the wide world... all nations, all flavours of music getting down for the funk of it... with 'nuff info and schooling via our lecture podcasts. You can link directly from the radio site to the whole Academy cosmos, watch tons of session videos, and dive deep into oceans of background info and music history, told first hand.

What's the (music) philosophy of the station?

RBMA Radio's philosophy spins out of the Red Bull Music Academy. Each year, for the last nine years, this haven of beats, rhymes and life stories travels to a new locale. From Cape Town to Sao Paulo, a long roll call of music's most esteemed contributors have come to shake off the myths, and share wisdom with Academy participants from all over the world. Voices heard on the Academy mix include Brazil's national hero, Daktari and

music, in every format: from the shiniest new promo CDRs to the most dusty and desirable pieces of vinyl.

Tell us more about the station programming?

20 DJs around the world do shows across different genres of music. From the pioneers who first got closer to the edit, to today's most obsessed beat conductors, they've got their fingers at the roots of cosmic soul – gleaned 40 hours of music per month. The rest of the month is taken up with mixes and one-off shows from special guests ranging from ?uestlove to Todd Terje and John Tejada, and Greg Wilson to DJ Zinc.

Check www.redbullmusicacademy.com/PLAYLISTS.139.0.html for a full tracklist archive of all the mixes we've featured.

Do DJs mix live on air or are shows pre-recorded and sequenced?

Except during the Academy, from late September to November, all shows are pre-recorded. Some hosts mix live, others tear their work to pieces and add robot voices or FX (special nod to Todd Osborn of Ghostly International!) Regular hosts are also hands-on with their own jingles, to give each show its own twist.

What do you think of podcasting, and do you actually use podcasts?

Podcasting might be, at heart, a catchy name for an audio recording, but it's a good way to hear what our guest lecturers have to say about beatmaking and surviving in today's topsy turvy musical landscape.

Check our podcast site: www.redbullmusicacademy.com/PODCASTS.132.0.html

Edits of Academy sessions are being updated and



Waajeed (Platinum Pied Pipers/Bling 47)

RBMA REGULAR SHOW

- Marco Passarani/Pigna People – 'Dimensione Jack' (Italy)
- Andrew Mason aka Monk One – 'Go Bang! Radio' (Wax Poetics, Brooklyn)
- Daz-I-Kue – 'Vinyl Love' (Bugz In The Attic, UK)
- Tony Nwachukwu – NEPATism (Attica Blues/CD-R, UK)
- Patrick Pulsinger – 'From The Closet'
- Steve Spacek (Spacek/Steve & I, LA/London)
- Kirk Degiorgio – 'Sound Obsession' (The Beauty Room/As One, UK)
- Todd Osborn – 'Preset'; Morgan Geist (Metro Area/Environ, NY)
- Torsten Schmidt – 'Lullabies For Loves Long Lost/Rhein-Main-Express' (RBMA, Cologne)
- Mark Pritchard (Trouble Man/Harmonic 33)
- Osunlade (Yoruba Records)

...and that's just a handful. Check the website for the complete rundown:

www.redbullmusicacademy.com/HOSTS.136.0.html

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How has the station changed since it started in 2005?

RBMA Radio was launched at the Academy in Seattle, USA last November. Since then we've been streaming live sets recorded in Seattle, as well as mixes contributed by music makers worldwide, delivered fresh with the milk and morning paper every day. Our webpage has been re-vamped since March to highlight new mixes, as well as podcasts of lecture sessions.

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Edits of Academy sessions are being updated and uploaded each week with words of wisdom from Danny Krivit, Waajeed and Arabian Prince amongst many others.

In the future we'll have video podcasts and features to download too. Watch this space...

Do you do any outside broadcasts?

We come live from the Academy each year... last year the Emerald City – Seattle, this year Melbourne. We broadcast from the RBMA Lounge at this year's Sonar Festival in Barcelona too, and recorded a fair few hot little mixes, which we've been unleashing here and there.

What ways are there for listeners to interact with the station?

We have an email address promoted on the site and on hosts' shows (radio@redbullmusicacademy.com), as well as a radio forum on the site for people to post messages, comments or questions.

What are you particularly looking forward to in 2006?

The Academy in Melbourne, for six weeks of musical mayhem starting in late September... DJ sets live from club nights, live shows, interviews and general malarkey.

■ Alex Stevenson

- Daz-I-Kue – 'Vinyl Love' (Bugz In The Attic, UK)
- Tony Nwachukwu – NEPATism (Attica Blues/CD-R, UK)
- Patrick Pulsinger – 'From The Closet'
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Danny Krivit

TOP 7 UPCOMING RBMA RADIO MIXES

1. Marco Passarani and Pigna People (Pinga/Jolly, Italy)
2. Kirk Degiorgio (The Beauty Room/As One)
3. Mark Pritchard (Harmonic 33/Troubleman)
4. Steve Spacek (Spacek/Blackpocket)
5. Osunlade (Yoruba Records)
6. Theo Parrish (Sound Signature)
7. Daz-I-Kue (Bugz In The Attic)

www.rbmaradio.com
www.redbullmusicacademy.com
www.karenp.co.uk

