

## Letter of reference : Randy McElligott

Come by CHUO on a Sunday morning and you are sure to see a man wearing a red cap, white gloves and a colorful running outfit sporting a bright smile, and hosting an indepth jazz program in the most professional fashion. His energy and positive outlook rubs off on everyone who crosses paths with Randy, host and producer of long running jazz program In Transition.

Apart from being an Ottawa Marathon Runner, Randy McElligott is also a current volunteer for CHUO 89.1 FM. He was one of the first group of volunteers to contribute to CFUO, which became CHUO when we were granted our FM license in 1991. Since 1988, some 31 years thisnow 61-year old radio host has been an important part of the CHUO team. His show, “In Transition”, demonstrates his desire to present Canadian and international talent in need of greater exposure in a thoughtful and professional manner. With this aim, he has interviewed many musicians from around the world, from countries like Hungary, Israel, France, Argentina, England, USA, Canada, Japan, and Sweden, just to name a few. These interviews are all available for listening on his website [www.mcran.com](http://www.mcran.com).



Randy from 1988

A devout archivist, Randy has digitized over 6,000 vinyl records, an enormous undertaking for an individual volunteer. He gives his best to serve the community and help others at the station. In this vein, he has archived episodes of other CHUO programs such as “I’ve Heard That Song Before”, the German Show, the late Gordon Bennett’s At Jazz Band Ball, the Blue Display, and other jazz programs that originally aired on CHUO.

He is the voice and creative behind many of the production assets such as station IDs and promos for our jazz and classical programming, many of which can still be heard on air at CHUO 89.1 FM. He has trained new contributors by welcoming new contributors to observe his show and learn from him. Randy helps other show hosts to troubleshoot technical problems whenever he was around. He is an avid listener and real fan of CHUO, listening to so many programs. He has done all these things since he first started as a volunteer and continues to do so to this day.

Randy is a firm believer in CHUO as a platform to bring significant change and to engage fully with his community. He sees CHUO as a voice in the community working with different cultures to create a better understanding of how we can be more open and understanding to particular needs of others. He has always encouraged people who visited him at the station to sign up as volunteers because CHUO creates an open opportunity for each contributor to give what they have to give through their shows.

Remarkably, despite being diagnosed with a severe blood cancer (multiple myeloma) in 2007, Randy has done everything to make sure his commitment to CHUO stays strong! The harsh chemotherapy treatments are grueling, but he has never let his illness be a barrier. Randy is always positive, still continues to do his show, even making the 15 kms walk to the station when he can! He continues expanding into more genres of music, and still helps the other contributors. In fact, he once told our Station Manager, that CHUO was a factor that “kept him going”. He is well-loved by all here, deservedly so, which is why we are nominating him for the NCRA 2019 Volunteer of the Year award.



Betty Eyasu from Ethiopian Show (Left)  
Randy McElligot from In Transition (In the middle)  
Parujee Ak. (Mickey) from Radio Active: Asian Pop  
Stephanie George from I've heard that song before (In the front)