

How has my station helped the local music scene?

In 2021 CJLY FM, also known as Kootenay Coop Radio, launched KCR Live! with the purpose of reconnecting live musicians with the community. Due to Covid restrictions, many musicians hadn't played live in well over a year, and local audiences hadn't been able to see a show in just as long.

The format is simple - it's an hour long live show hosted by rotating volunteer programmers with in depth knowledge of the specific musical genre or the musicians themselves. The interview section takes a deep dive into the musicians' lives and artistic process, while the lengthy performance section allows the artists to delve into their catalogue to showcase all angles of their musical talent.

There were many challenges in ensuring all Covid protocols were followed, and that everyone involved felt safe and supported. The volunteers, staff, and musicians regularly overcame all obstacles to produce a quality program every week.

From spoken word poetry to doom metal; with folk, blues, electronica, jazz, punk, world music, country, blue grass, and garage rock in between, the artists have spanned across all genres and shown the diversity and talent of the Kootenay region.

By providing a safe and inclusive space, the show has hosted musicians from the music program of Selkirk College, a band from the local high school, local BIPOC and LGBTQ+ artists, French and third language artists, along with more established nationally recognized acts from the community. The focus is on talent development, and acknowledging and supporting the artistic process for all music and sound artists throughout our region.

The success of the show has inspired KCR to build a dedicated performance space in the basement of our building so we can continue to provide an artistic outlet for our community.

The program has garnered rave reviews from artists and audiences alike, both for its content and sound quality:

Thank you very much for having us on KCR Live last night! It was a very valuable experience for these young musicians to perform and be interviewed on live radio. It was also a great opportunity for the music program and college to connect with the community. This has been a challenge this past many months.

This show is a great thing for the Kootenays. We appreciate you!

**MELODY DIACHUN** (she/her), BMus  
**Instructor of Voice, Songwriting, Stage Performance Techniques, Business of Music, Labs, Ensembles**  
**Contemporary Music & Technology**  
Selkirk College, West Kootenay & Boundary Region

Born on a Wednesday here. We wanted to pass on a THANKYOU for your excellent work on sound. We're not an easy band to capture and you did an awesome job. Super impressed with the overall quality.

**Simon de la Salle**  
**Musician, Born On A Wednesday**