

THE LOCAL SIGNAL

WRIR 97.3FM

What's Inside?

Welcome to the latest edition of the WRIR newsletter! This month, we're diving into AI used in radio, introducing you to Inga Schunn, a talented artist and community advocate, who has recently joined our VCPP board. Get ready to tune in, as we also highlight some exciting new shows hitting the WRIR airwaves and a massive thank you to all who contributed to our incredibly successful Spring Fund Drive — your support makes everything we do possible!

As Richmond's independent voice, we're excited to keep you tuned in to everything happening both on and off the airwaves. Thanks for being part of the WRIR family — let's dive in!

Edited by: Rian Moses-Hedrick

We are moving to a new building and need your support! [page 4](#)



Do you want an AI DJ?

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the soundscape of radio and music, but not always for the better. This article explores how AI's growing presence, from automated DJs to undisclosed AI-generated content, raises questions about authenticity, intellectual property, and the very essence of human creativity in music.

Continued on page 2



Written by: Jenny Leidig aka dj x86

Image generated with AI

THE RISE OF AI DJs

As a lover of music and possible “cyber-hippie”, questioning “neo-luddite”, and all around retro technology evangelist, I’ve become increasingly aware of the rise of AI generated / assisted music. Spotify has released an “AI DJ” as well as an AI generated podcast about your listening habits. Apple is following suit and plans to release “AutoMix”, which allows for AI assisted “DJ-Like Song Transitions” (it replaces the time tested Crossfader btw) to Apple Music in the coming months. These features, which albeit I’m not the biggest fan of, are less egregious in the grand scheme of things as you can simply opt to not utilize the feature. However, where AI usage becomes downright harmful or misleading is when the “creators” neglect to inform the audience that the “content” they are consuming is AI generated.

Such is the case of “Thy” an AI generated radio host. As reported by The Verge,

“For months, a popular Australian radio station has used an AI-generated DJ to host one of its segments — and no one seemed to notice, as reported by the Australian Financial Review and The Sydney Morning Herald. The show, called Workdays with Thy, offers a four-hour mix of hip hop, R&B, and pop, with no indication that the voice of its host, Thy, is AI-generated.” This phenomenon is endemic on YouTube as well. Take the case of “Phantasia - Divine Incarnation”. I originally came across this video in May 2025, and at the time nothing in the description acknowledged that the “content” was AI generated. In fact, the uploader went through the trouble of “writing” a complete biography for the artist and album itself. I reported the content as misleading and they seem to have complied, adding a disclaimer at the very very bottom of the description of the video.”

2,111 views May 1, 2025 #futurefunk #lostmusic #lostmedia

PHANTASIA - DIVINE INCARNATION

After the departure of Ryo Kobayashi in 1976, Phantasia entered a period of silence. Two years later, in 1978, the band returned from the shadows with Divine Incarnation (神性の化身), the dawn of what fans now call their Golden Era.

Phantasia returns with an album that feels patient, luminous, and deeply assured. There’s no urgency here—just a quiet confidence, as if the band allowed the music to grow slowly, taking root and unfolding at its own pace. Rather than looking back, the album opens itself to total creative freedom. It begins in familiar terrain—lush tropical textures and Afro-jazz rhythms reminiscent of their early days—but slowly drifts into new territory, folding in waves of funk, soul, and psychedelia. All of it is filtered through a matured jazz fusion language the band had been quietly mastering.

Divine Incarnation doesn’t explain itself. It simply unfolds—delicate, radiant, and unknowable. It marked a rebirth for Phantasia, and the start of a mythos that would only grow deeper in the years to come.

Fun Fact:

After Ryo’s departure, the band had their first direct exchange with the artist responsible for their earlier album covers—an anonymous figure who had always worked through Ryo. With Divine Incarnation, the communication shifted, but the collaboration continued without pause. That moment quietly marked the beginning of a new visual chapter, one that would slowly drift from the jungle to the stars.

Track List:

00:00 - Divine Incarnation (神性の化身)
03:03 - Breathing Labyrinth (息づく迷宮)
07:07 - Sensory Mosaic (感覚のモザイク)
09:52 - Time and Chance (時と偶然)
13:31 - Prophecy of the Stars (星の預言)
16:45 - Hollow Lights in the Sky (空に灯る虚ろな光)
18:51 - Higher Organism (高次の生命体)
23:05 - Reflections of Life (生命の映し絵)
27:00 - Everlight (永光)
31:10 - Shadow of One (孤影)
33:24 - Hero’s journey (英雄の旅路)
39:03 - Starborn Chrysalis (星の繭)

Guitar/Keyboards: Takashi Yamada (山田 隆司)

Bass/Saxophone: Hiroshi Nakamura (中村 博)

Drums/Percussions: Shun Tanaka (田中 俊)

Produced by Zodiac Records (十二宮音録).

Trash

None of this is real!

This album draws inspiration from Azymuth, Caldera and Walter Wanderley.

This project utilizes AI technology to assist visuals and audio.

All tracks and images are the property of PhantasiaRecords.

This was only added after reporting the channel.

#jazz #jazzfusion #citypop #jazzfunk #playlist #futurefunk #lostmedia #obscurerecords #citypopmusic #instrumental #mixtape #jpop #funktysoul #jazzmusic #phantasia #japanesemusic #mixtape #80s #80smusic #vintage #lostmusic #freejazz #electrofunk

There has been a rapid increase in AI generated mixes on YouTube as well. Take the video “Rat Detective Boogie”, a completely fabricated “mix” of AI generated “tracks”. Taking a look below the video, we can see that there is no mention of AI anywhere in the description. This is the case for the video “s o u n d o f 1 9 8 4” too, no mention of AI. While just two examples, each of these videos has amassed a sizable audience. And up to this point, you may then be asking yourself “What is the harm in publishing these videos?”. Well, “Rat Detective Boogie” is a clear derivation of Louie Zhong’s “Rat Taxi” and “s o u n d o f 1 9 8 4” is clearly derived from the work of creators like [Jason Sanders](#). Thus the consequence is that these AI generated YouTube mixes are stealing the work of actual creators and absorbing views that they would otherwise receive, ultimately depriving them of revenue. The uploaders surely must be aware of this as they are making the active choice to mislead and withhold from adding any sort of disclaimer: If you’ve got nothing to hide, then you should have nothing to fear.

730,004 views Feb 11, 2025 #AnalogGrooves #SpaceMix #RetroFunk
Get down with "Rat Detective Boogie," a groovy 60-minute adventure starring our smoothest private eye, mixing funky disco beats with funky noir aesthetics. This cool rat detective who knows how to solve crimes AND bust a move.
70s Analog Funk: Trench coats meet dance floors
Pure Funk Power: Bell-bottoms in the back alley
Extended 1-Hour Mix: Non-stop groovy investigation
#RetroFunk #AnalogGrooves #SpaceMix

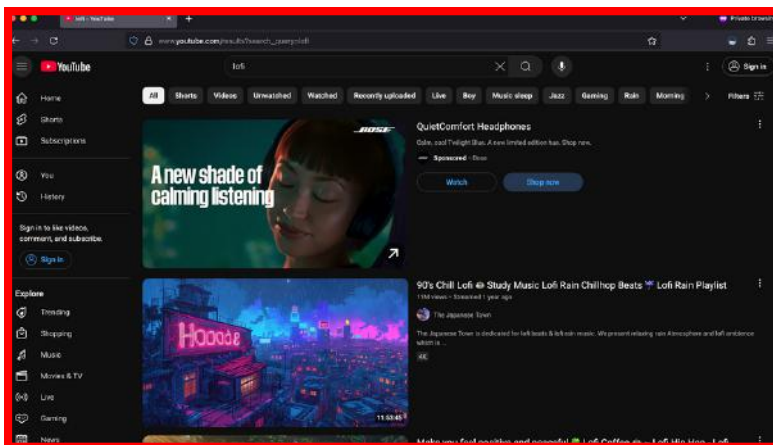
Track List:
0:00 Tail Feather Shake
3:59 Whiskers & Wah-Wah
7:59 Subway Serenade
10:38 Fedora Fever
13:37 Moonlit Mischief
16:35 Cheese Chase Boogie
19:46 Undercover Groove
23:46 Sewer Soul
27:46 Downtown Detective
30:00 Tail Feather Shake
33:59 Whiskers & Wah-Wah
37:59 Subway Serenade
40:38 Fedora Fever
43:37 Moonlit Mischief
46:35 Cheese Chase Boogie
49:46 Undercover Groove
53:46 Sewer Soul
57:46 Downtown Detective

1,398,254 views Oct 20, 2024 #liminal #vaporwave #calmmusic
Subscribe to support our channel and our work.
#vaporwave #synthwave #ambient #liminal #chill #sleep #calmmusic #relaxing
tags :
Vaporwave playlist, Ambient music, Dreamcore vibes, Synthwave journey, Retro-futuristic soundscape, Nostalgic ambiance, Chillwave experience, Lo-fi beats, Relaxing music mix, Ethereal melodies, Neon-lit atmospheres, Glitch aesthetics, Chillout session, Dreamy synth sounds, Atmospheric tunes, Retro nostalgia, Futuristic vibes, Lush soundscapes, Tranquil journey, Distant futurescape, Vaporwave chillout, Ambient dreamscapes, Dreamy electronic music, Synthwave relaxation, Chill beats mix, Retro electronica, Dreamy vaporwave sounds, Atmospheric chillwave, Synthwave chillout mix, Relaxing retro vibes, Lo-fi ambient tunes, Dreamy nostalgia, Vaporwave lo-fi mix, Ambient chillout session, Retro-futuristic chill, Dreamcore relaxation, Synthwave dreamscapes, Chillwave nostalgia trip, Ethereal synth sounds, and Tranquil retro vibes.

Chapters
0:00 Tail Feather Shake
3:59 Whiskers & Wah-Wah
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No mention of AI

The idea of an automated DJ is nothing new either, take [SomaFM](#) for example, a 24/7 no-interruption internet radio. Hell, I've even experimented with automated track selection over on my site [x86 Soundscape](#) (it's literally just random w/ a 10 second crossfader). The key difference here though is regardless of the technology being used, REAL PEOPLE are selecting the music and REAL PEOPLE have composed the tracks selected. I consider myself to be an enjoyer of “vibes based music”, i.e. music that encompasses a specific setting, feeling, or theme. I find that my attraction to mixes, radio shows, and DJ sets stems from this principle; the artform is in cultivating the vibe. I have observed that most of this AI generated “content” seeks to pray upon my fellow vibe seekers. But the machines cannot create a vibe, they cannot feel, they have no concept of emotion, thus anything “created” exclusively by a machine can only ever be a simulacra of art.



The first result when you search for “lofi” is AI generated.

Despite this, I truly believe that we are in a renaissance, especially in the DJ / Radio scene. The internet has enabled artists to be more connected than ever. I have particularly been enjoying [Humano Studios](#), [Everybody Loves to Boogie](#), and [Mihon Reko](#) as of late. And if things are seeming bleak online, you can always unplug and check out your local music scene!

Make sure to check out 56 kbit/s

56 kbit/s with dj x86
2nd & 4th Thursday- 11:00 pm - 1:00 am

Exploration into how technology has influenced music production, distribution and discovery—especially alongside the advent of home computers and the Internet. 56 kbit/s is the maximum theoretical transfer rate of dial-up modems. 56 kbit/s modems were widely available (and practical) to the consumer market as of 1998.



GoFundMe Urgent: Help WRIR-LP 97.3FM Richmond Relocate!

For two decades, WRIR-LP 97.3FM has been Richmond's heartbeat, a volunteer-powered, donor-funded beacon for underrepresented voices. We've proudly amplified local music, art, culture, and advocacy, operating 24/7 as the city's only community radio station. However, our current home, a century-old apartment above The Camel, is crumbling. Leaky roofs, hazardous entryways, and inaccessible studios are hindering our mission. We're relocating to a new, ADA-accessible space in Shockoe Bottom, but we urgently need your support to complete the construction and move before our lease expires in September.

Learn more about our move to 1806 E Main St. in Shockoe Bottom and how your donations can even name items in the new studio!!

Please share our story with your friends and family who are looking for opportunities to give back to their community.

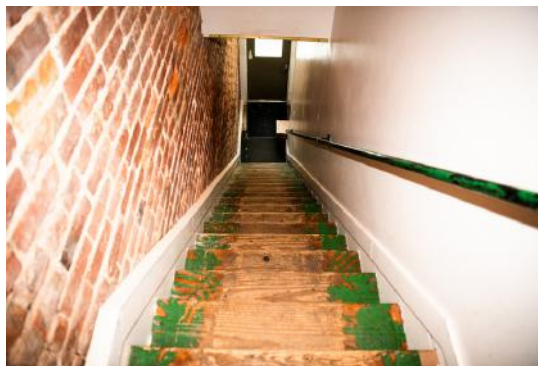
We appreciate you all!

www.wrircampaign.org/

We're facing a critical financial need of \$1,000,000 to finalize our new home at 1806 E Main St. Your contribution will directly fund a safe, clean, and inclusive space, complete with new equipment, studios, and a live performance area. This investment ensures WRIR's future, allowing us to expand community programs and workshops. We've always thrived on grassroots support, and now, more than ever, we need your help to transition from our deteriorating space to a permanent home where we can continue to amplify the voices of Richmond and beyond. Local artists, businesses, and nonprofits: let's collaborate and uplift each other! Learn more and donate to secure the future of your community radio station.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-wrirlp-973fms-urgent-relocation>

Donate Now



CURRENT SHOWS



CHECK IT OUT!

NEW SHOWS!

- Left Field w/ Duncan - Rotating with Daily Courtship- Wednesdays, 1pm - 3pm
- Richmond Counterculture w/ Jay Tubb
- Shockoe Sessions Live (Rebroadcast) - Mondays, 3pm - 5pm

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12am	House Music Sessions	Just Cause	Richmond Cryptoids	Dog Germs / PND (punk's not dead)	The Church of the Ecstatic	The Mix Room / 56 kbit/s	Guitar Inferno / The Lunar Orbit
1am	Hip-Hop for the Rest of Us	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows <small>encore airing</small>	Metal Box	FREQUENCY <small>encore airing</small>	A Drone's Life	Neighborhood Wide Web	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows <small>encore airing</small>
2am							
3am	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows <small>encore airing</small>		Encore Music and Local Talk Shows <small>encore airing</small>	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows <small>encore airing</small>	Encore Music and Local Talk Shows <small>encore airing</small>	Unicorn Power	Live from the Audience
4am							
5am							
6am	The Jaguar Morning Show	Biscuits 'n' Groovy w/ Bee Gee	Where The Bears Sing	Wednesday Breakfast Blend	Breakfast Blend w/ Galaxy Girl & Friends	Dream Thesis / MIDI Mornings	Mr. Dad's Storytime <small>encore airing</small>
7am							Clean House / Half Awake
8am		Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	
9am	The Sunday Morning Jazz Show	Big Picture Science	With Good Reason	Soljourner Truth	First Voices Radio	The Means of Production / Boom Goddess Radio This Way Out	The British Breakfast
10am		Radio Ecoshock	The Children's Hour	Civic Cipher	For the Wild	WRIR Presents: Black Coochie (1st)/Discussing Disability (2nd)/OPEN! (3rd)/Final Friday Signal Boost (4th)	
11am	Bebop and Beyond with Mr. Jazz	Food Sleuth Raging Skillet	Mr. Dad's Storytime	How 2 Human/Rising Up with Sonali	Richmond Boss Babes	Bumps N Banter SIFTER for the Ear	Paul's Boutique / Alley Oop's Nolde Oldies
12pm		Brain Box <small>encore airing</small>	Confetti Park A Grain of Sand	What Wakes Me Up/Moccasin Tracks	Women & Politics	Novel Film (1st & 3rd)/The Talking Machine (2nd & 4th)	
1pm	Global A Go-Go	Banji Kalcho	Finding Sounds / Outer Focus	Daily Courtship / Left Field with Duncan	Alternative Milestones	Head Empty Radio	Cause and Effect
2pm							
3pm	Ambiance Congo / The Other Black Music	Richmond Counterculture / Shockoe Sessions	Adrenal Gland Bandstand / Single Use	Dream Girl Radio / EXT SRC	Higher Consciousness	POP Goes The World!	End Of The Century
4pm							
5pm	The Motherland Influence	French Kiss / Flying Start	Wide Ear Folk/Life is a Mixtape	The Lotus Land Show	The Young Professional / Mid-Atlantic Jams	Friday Clock Out	River City Limits
6pm							
7pm	If Music Could Talk	The Edge of Americana / Time Again Radio	Handful Of Brains	Midtown Swing	Quantum Live Radio / Whatever I Want	Commonwealth of Notions / Deutscher Jam	Panoramic / Journey Through the Crates
8pm							
9pm	Club Unity / House of SWE	The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit / Nighttime Maneuvers	Kaleidoscopic Soul / Kristin Star	Mercury Falls	Sunrise Ocean Bender (1st, 3rd)/ Altered Circuitry: ReWired (2nd, 4th) / Various (5th)	What the Fontaine?!	FREQUENCY
10pm							
11pm	Just Cause	Richmond Cryptoids	Dog Germs / PND (punk's not dead)	The Church of the Ecstatic	The Mix Room / 56 kbit/s	Guitar Inferno / The Lunar Orbit	House Music Sessions

Stay up to date on current shows by viewing our schedule online.

www.wrir.org/schedule

SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

Cause & Effect

- 1-3PM every Saturday
- Cause & Effect explores the influences, associations and collaborations of a different artist each week. Sometimes we'll expand the topic to include a theme like a genre, a record label or an in depth topic of the rotating DJ's choice. Find them on Instagram/Twitter @causeeffectwrir and [Facebook](#)
- 7/19 - DJ Bob - Music from Israel
- 7/26 - Shannon Cleary - Oasis Part 2

Global A Go-Go

- 1-3PM every Sunday
- I describe Global A Go-Go as "music from around the world in the universal language of groove." In short, you could call it a world music program that emphasizes the danceable over the folkloric.

Outer Focus

- 1-3PM every Tuesday
- I want to start focusing on movie soundtracks and composers who focus/specialize in making music for film! If you have any recommendations, please feel free to send them my way! inga@wrir.org

Novel/Film

- 12-1PM every 1st & 2nd Friday
- Is coming back from the mid-season break with episodes on Dostoevsky's The Double and new Bong Joon Ho adaptation starring Robert Pattinson, Mickey 17. Excited to roll out season 1, part 2.

Finding Sounds

- 1-3PM every 1st & 3rd Tuesday
- Finding Sounds continues to explore the bleeding edges of music from the past to the present and beyond. Songs never played to the unheard whispers of giants. It is all considered and framed for the listener.

Frequency

- 9-11PM every Saturday
- Where the underground meets the airwaves" (Chicago/ House, breaks, techno, drum & bass - DNB) since 2005.
- It's pretty huge that LTJ BUKEM is finally coming to RVA in such a big way. Saturday night Radio vibes LIVE at Ember July 19th. Learn more [HERE](#)

SIFTER FOR THE EAR

- 11:30AM-12PM every Friday
- Interviews, news & reviews of film, TV & streaming by Jerry Williams, aka TV Jerry.

Dream Thesis

- Every 1st + 3rd Friday 6-8AM
- ISO local ambient, experimental, classical, folk music to add to my show! I'd love to hear and play your music, your friend's music, your neighbor's music... send it on over! Local to Richmond or Virginia. Send me an email with songs or recommendations at al.mcguire@wrir.org.

CLEAN HOUSE

- 7-9AM every 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday
- wake up with AL LUPO an eclectic mix of ambient/experimental/electronic/jazz/downtempo house and everything in-between

BE IN THE KNOW!

EVENTS WRIR WILL BE AT

LTJ Bukem at Ember Music Hall
July 19, 1PM at Ember Music Hall

Joanna O. from FREQUENCY (Saturdays at 9PM) will be DJing at this post-acid house concert.

Learn more:

<https://embermusichall.com/event/ltj-bukem/ember-music-hall/>

ICA's "Full House" Block Party
August 23, 1PM at ICA

Get ready for a vibrant celebration of art and community! WRIR will be joining the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) at VCU for their "Full House" party on August 23. This exciting event celebrates the opening of the ICA's three fall exhibitions with open galleries, a mini food hall, representatives from local art organizations, panel discussions, crafts activities, and WRIR DJs.

Come by our table from 1 PM to 4 PM to learn more about WRIR and say hello! We'll also have WRIR DJs spinning live, bringing the perfect vibes with sets featuring reggae, zouk, and dancehall. Catch their first set from 1 PM to 4 PM, and then again for a special cocktail hour from 5 PM to 6 PM.

Learn more: <https://icavcu.org/events/ica-full-house/>

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Single Use

For our debut episode, we had the pleasure of sitting down with Deau Eyes, the musical project of Ali Thibodeau. Ali weaves a delicate and thorough soundscape spanning country, indie pop, and blues seamlessly. She welcomes us into her journey of shifting and finding new forms with such warmth, insight and laughter.

<https://youtu.be/3kwxzrIDx24?si=3lh9Tc-2KbUJQSxY>



Stay Tuned In For More Information
www.wrir.org

SHOUT OUTS!



- Welcome Inga Schunn to the VCPP Board!! You all have gotten to know them over the past year because of their tireless efforts updating our social media presence and being a driving force behind our Engagement Committee. In their spare time you can catch them out and about capturing artistic photographs or hosting their show Outer Focus with agnimaus every other Tuesday from 1-3 pm.
- Thanks Jim Nelson (WRIR volunteer) for coming into the station to troubleshoot which piece of equipment (UPS) was causing all the problems with the podcast recording/posting system!
- A big thank you to the community for a successful Spring Fund drive! We raised over \$47,500 to help keep our station running!!

NAME SOMETHING AT THE NEW STATION!

WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR LEGACY. **[DONATE NOW](http://www.wrircampaign.org)**
www.wrircampaign.org

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Thank you for supporting community radio and local initiatives!

THE CAMEL

Support for WRIR 97.3FM comes from The Camel, Richmond's go-to destination for live music, great food, and a welcoming vibe. With 28 local and craft beers on tap and a menu available late into the night, it's your social oasis. Don't miss their brunch shows and packed calendar of performances featuring musicians from near and far. At The Camel, the mission is clear: to be a home for artists, a hub for RVA's music scene, and a safe, inclusive space for all.

[Learn More](#)

UNDOING RUIN CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

Support for WRIR is brought to you by Undoing Ruin - Conservation Landscaping. WRIR and Undoing Ruin uplift the Richmond Ecosystem, be it supporting diverse voices or stewarding resilient land use choices.

If you are interested in gardening as non-violent direct action visit Undoing Ruin, to read more about their available services and ecological philosophy.

[Learn More](#)

AFTERGLOW

Support for WRIR 97.3FM comes from our underwriter, a fully worker-owned and operated coffee roaster and café right here in Richmond. With a team of nine members—founders and future owners alike—they've built a business rooted in equality, collaboration, and consensus. By embracing a horizontal structure and prioritizing mutual aid, they're creating a sustainable workplace while reinvesting in our community. It's more than coffee; it's a movement. [Learn More](#)

BECOME AN UNDERWRITER

Are you looking for a unique way to connect with a loyal, diverse, and hyper-local audience? Become an underwriter for WRIR 97.3FM! Underwriting is a non-commercial way to support Richmond's nonprofit community radio station while spreading the word about your business, organization, or events. Your customized on-air announcements will reach our dedicated listeners on broadcast radio, streaming, and archived programs—ensuring your message resonates far beyond a single moment. Plus, your contribution directly supports WRIR's mission to build an inclusive, community-driven radio station. Join us in amplifying Richmond's voice and become an underwriter today! [Learn More](#)



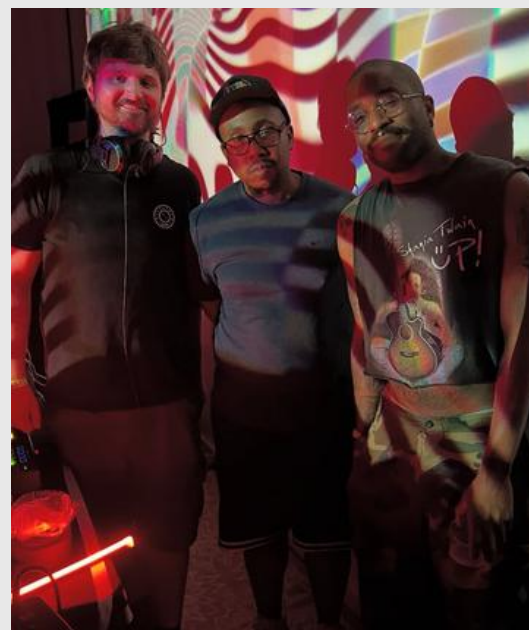
WRIR Gallery

Our amazing WRIR volunteers are the heartbeat of Richmond's community radio! From hosting shows to running events, their passion and dedication keep the station alive and thriving. Huge thanks to everyone who helps us amplify RVA's voice! 📻❤️

Connect with us on our social media channels: [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
@wrir97.3fm

WRIR is 100% volunteer powered.
Become a VOLUNTEER!

[Learn More](#)



Next edition of “The Local Signal”
coming October 2025

DONATE ♥

www.wrircampaign.org



AFTERGLOW
COFFEE COOPERATIVE