

- A & E
- TV/Radio
- TV
- TV Q&A
- TV Links
- TV Listings
- Reality TV
- Soap Summary
- Sports Listings
- Radio
- Radio Links

## Radio

### Artists transmit their creativity on radio airwaves

Friday, December 02, 2005

By Adrian McCoy, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A handful of artists are exploring unusual uses for radio waves -- as a creative and expressive medium and as a means of transmitting more than pop music and talk.

"MF/fm: (secret) Messages & (cryptic) Communications," billed as a "radio and sound-based event," will illuminate some of the alternate applications for radio technology with a performance and lecture at 7 p.m. tomorrow at The Mattress Factory. The event runs in conjunction with the museum's ongoing "Messages and Communications" exhibition.

The event opens with a lecture on a little known use of shortwave broadcasting. So-called "numbers stations" are shortwave frequencies used by government and intelligence agencies to transmit coded information. Often consisting of repeated numbers or letters or words, the encrypted messages work on several levels: as a mesmerizing sound collage for the casual listener -- and as an uncrackable code.

Sound artist Akin Fernandez extensively documented some of these transmissions, which were captured by shortwave listeners over the past 30 years, in the four-volume CD "The Conet Project: Recordings of Shortwave Numbers Stations."

Fernandez, broadcasting live on shortwave from London, will give the audience a sample of the sounds and will talk about the basics and uses of the numbers stations. Following the lecture is an Interactive Sound Performance featuring three artists from free103point9, along with WRCT-FM DJ Steve Boyle.

The group free103point9 is a nonprofit, New York-based organization devoted to the "transmission arts" genre -- radio, citizen's band, walkie-talkie and other forms -- in which artists use sound transmission as a means of creative expression.

The performance, titled "Radio 4X4," will be led by three of their artists -- Angel Nevarez, Valerie Tevere and Tom Roe -- along with WRCT's Boyle. In the collaborative work, four simultaneous sound performances will be broadcast through transmitters placed around the space. The movements of the audience will affect the four signals, creating a unique

 **MOVIES**  
CLICK HERE

 **Travel**  
CLICK HERE

post-gazette.com  
**Headlines by E-mail**

**Today: Only in Print**



- **Health:** There's help on the way for Internet addicts.
- **Opinion:** Was clemency for death row inmate shrewd politics?
- **Sports:** Why Steelers fans are better than fans in any other city.
- **My Generation:**

sound mix.

Audio from both the performance and lecture will be streamed live on the group's Web site, [www.free103point9.org](http://www.free103point9.org).

*"MF/fm: (secret) Messages & (cryptic) Communications" begins at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Mattress Factory, 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side. Tickets are \$7 (\$5 for members, students and seniors). There will be a Family and Youth Workshop with free103point9 artists tomorrow from 1 to 4 p.m. The fee is \$5 (\$4 for members, students and seniors); registration is required. Information: 412-231-3169.*

(Adrian McCoy can be reached at [amccoy@post-gazette.com](mailto:amccoy@post-gazette.com).)

the Berenstain Bears creator.

■ **My Generation:** Sculptor Selma Burke contributed to U.S., Pittsburgh culture.

For more information:

■ [Subscribe today](#)

■ [Buy a copy near you](#)

■ [See today's front page](#)

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®**

---

PAID ADVERTISING

**SSB Shortwave Radio \$85**

Digital AM FM shortwave, Dual conversion, 1kHz fine tuning.

**Radio Transmitter**

Radio Transmitter for sale. aff Check out the deals now!

Ads by Goooooogle

[E-mail this story](#)  [Print this story](#) 

---

[Search](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise](#) | [About Us](#) | [Help](#) | [Corrections](#)

Copyright ©1997-2005 PG Publishing Co., Inc. All Rights Reserved.