

It seems that the radio industry has gone the way of the major labels, in that there are monopolies....One or two giant companies taking over all the majority of the stations, and playing the same songs over and over, rather than offering slots for independent artists and labels. The "payola" theory seems to have gotten worse, as the major labels have merged.

There are some so-called "promotion" companies who will ask independents to pay so much per song to get it presented to stations for play, but are not guaranteed anyway. This really goes against the performance royalty policy with ASCAP and BMI. Also one must have a "bar code" to register with Soundscan, and those who don't have one (which is extremely pricey), do not get royalties....and even those who do, have to have a minimum number of plays to get paid by ASCAP or BMI, or even noted. (that part of it is not so bad, as long as an independent is at least getting exposure...which they don't have the opportunity to do). The monopolies are unfair. Some of the content of the "hits" that get played repeatedly are sexually explicit., or even degrading to women.....and it seems they'd rather play that stuff than allow good music, that has meaningful lyrics.

PBS does not really offer opportunities for local artists either.

It is also reported that female artists only get about 20-30% of all airplay...the ones that do get played are the same ones, over and over... and small percentage of overall female artists..

The only radio stations that seem more open to independent or local artists are a few college stations, whose signals are sometimes weak.

With "internet radio", an indie has more of a chance of getting played, , but the new technology has allowed computers to download even streaming files, and this has made it more difficult for independent artists/labels to sell CD's..

The download sites have seemed to get more predominant after Napster....and file sharing has for the most part become more rampant. More people want free music, it seems than are willing to buy independent artists' CDs. This hurts not only the artists, who have to eat the costs themselves, but also the "mom and pop" record shops that are open to selling local music and/or independent music.

I have seen foreign companies, boldly advertise CD's for sale of artists they have downloaded from the internet, without the artists knowledge, and no royalties going to any of them.

There seems to be no regulations followed anymore, and no fair trade.

I have been a member of BMI for several years.

Got a few radio plays on college stations, and in Germany and Norway. Never received royalties, and it didn't seem to help CD sales.

I am an unsigned artist, self-released. I have 4 CD's released, with different collaborators (2 of them EP's)...and they are priced below average. The costs for releasing them, and promoting them are getting worse and worse. I have over 50 songs written or co-written.

About 12 songs have been in the charts on MP.com australia, a now defunct website in England, and on soundclick.com. One was No.1 in Ambient Charts on soundclick.com.

Four of them have been in the charts on soundclick for several months.

CD sales are minimal... and it is disillusioning, especially since a large cut 35% goes to the online distributor. (up from 20% a year ago). The distributors have fallen victim to internet credit card fraud, as well.

I have contacted many college stations for play in different states, but did not get a response, nor indicated play on their websites.

The one local station here, WPRK, which does play local musicians and has some interviewed live, had a problem recently with someone putting the CD's received out of order, so that the dj's had trouble finding them.

(even when requested by phone calls).

They have been about the best for local artists, aside from this.

Most of the other radio stations I hear play the same music over and over, and its all major label artists.

(orlando)

I think the FCC should try to come up with a definition of local programming.

If a station gets government funds, and claims to have local programming, then they should do just that, and be open to local music, as well as , interviews, independent human interest stories, and community service announcements.

I have been doing some charity work with a local community, and it would help these charities as well.

Yes the FCC should define local programming, and adopt a definition that should be measured by Locally originated, and locally produced both.

Yes all programming decisions should be made at the local station level.

The station should be open to anything local....including local artists.

yes, anything that the radio stations do to help the community, and especially charities, poverty, the homeless, etc.

If an artist does a free concert for a radio station, that should not be considered payola.

As stated above, there are so-called indie promo companies who make an artist pay just to "plug" their songs (per song and per station as I recall).

Any payments made to radio stations for airplay, whether major or indie, i think is payola. It limits the variety of music, as well.. They should prohibit accepting payments from people who do music research or make programming suggestions. Why should they pay to do that?

It seems that radio stations are accepting payments for announcing songs and artists...as most of the time, I don't know who the artist is that is played,.

Announced ads are different, in my opinion to payola, depending on the length. Most ad spots are 30 seconds or less.

The existing rules are deficient, if all this is going on.

I didnt know about this...and find it objectionable.

Syndicated shows are different...and people are aware of that. IF someone fakes being local, it is fraudulent.

This is a complete hindrance to local artist timeslots and exposure.

It should be required that all programming decidions are made at local

level, with a small percentage of national playlists used, instead of the other way round.... (ie percentage of local content).

Would definitely like to see more LPFM stations, if they benefit small businesses, or independent artists, and community service.

Thank you for addressing these issues and asking musicians for their opinions.