

The Happy Station Show Returns

Press Release

February 17, 2009

After an almost 15 year absence on the shortwave dial **The Happy Station Show** returns this March.

What is Happy Station? The Happy Station is one the longest running shows ever on shortwave. In March of 1927 when Philips Radio started broadcasts over station PCJJ as a way to reach the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). Sometime in 1928 a very young Edward Startz created the Happy Station, he changed PCJJ to PCJ, which he said stood for Peace, Cheer & Joy. The show continued until the start of war. During WW2 the only shortwave done by the Dutch was via the BBC in London broadcasting back to Holland with Radio Orange.

After the war around 1946 the Dutch Government founded Radio Nederland Wereldomroep and Edward Startz returned to microphone as presenter of The Happy Station Show. Edward remained with the show for 43 years, way past the legal age to retire in the Netherlands.

In January 1970 Tom Meijer who was working for the Dutch section of Radio Nederland took over as host. This was a major transition. With Tom the show took on a new life and energy. The Tom Meijer era was one of fun, with Tom making you feel that the Sunday broadcasts were bringing all the listeners together for a family gathering. It truly was your Sunday family show of smiles across the miles.

Tom Meijer stayed with Happy Station for 21 years until he retired. After he left the show it was first taken over by long time Radio Netherlands announcer/producer Pete Myers and then by Jonathan Groubert. The Happy Station Show was canceled in 1995.

Why return Happy Station? The Happy Station had and still has a very loyal audience and now the time is right to return with the same message of Peace, Cheer & Joy and Smiles Across The Miles that Edward and Tom brought listeners every week.

What is different? One of the major changes with the Happy Station today is it won't be a Radio Netherlands production. Instead it will be independently produced and distributed. Radio Netherlands has given permission for the new producer and presenter to use the name Happy Station, as long as it's made clear there is no affiliation with Radio Netherlands.

The new Happy Station host will be Keith Perron a Canadian broadcaster who has been based in Asia for almost 10 years. He has worked as an announcer/producer with CKUT Montreal, Radio Canada International, and Radio Havana Cuba, CHMB Vancouver, China Radio International and has freelanced for Monitor Radio, CBC Radio and others over the last 17 years.

The new Happy Station Show won't be produced in Holland, but will be based in Taipei, Taiwan and will be distributed using many different channels and all aspects of technology, new and old to bring the show to the audience. The first will be shortwave on the frequency of 9955khz via WRMI (Radio Miami International) for listeners in North and South America. After the shows first transmission on shortwave, it will be uploaded as a podcast so fans of the show not in the target region will be able to tune in. A plan is in place to bring it on shortwave to other regions of the world; this will be announced at a later date. A facebook page has also been set up where listeners can send in pictures and recorded messages, which will be used on the show.

With the revival of The Happy Station Show there will also be a Happy Station youtube channel, where listeners will be able to upload videos from where ever they are in the world. The new host of the show will also present videos and a behind the scenes look at the new show and it's new surrounding.

For listeners who remember the Spanish version of the show La Estación de la Alegría, Keith will at a later date present both editions. At the beginning the show will be bi-weekly, when the Spanish edition comes at a later date, it will rotate with the English Happy Station.

For those who fondly remember Tom Meijer you will also have a chance to hear him again in guest spots as well as some of the songs he recorded at Radio Netherlands over the years. The first edition will be a tribute to Tom and the original Happy Station with contributions from listeners from around the world and some very famous voices from the shortwave dial.

For more information, audio samples and pictures contact:

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