

38%/, & & 2168/7\$7,21 ,172 7+(%% & ¶ 6 352326(' 1(: '\$ %
STATIONS

My response to your Public Interest consultation will concentrate on BBC Radio 2 as I was a producer on that network in the 1980s and 90s.

Radio 2 in that era was a very different creature indeed. Its schedule included:

- * A weekly operetta programme
- * A weekly brass & military band programme
- * A weekly theatre organ programme (1)
- * A weekly dance band programme
- * A weekly big band programme
- * A six nights a week arts programme
- * Invited audience concerts including Friday Night Is Music Night more recently Sunday Night Is Music Night which fortunately is to be relaunched on Radio 3
- * Regular documentary series profiling popular (as opposed to pop) singers and entertainers as well as from time to time, specialist areas such as French chans and note that these programmes did not go out at midnight or sometimes 3 a.m. as they do now, with the Diana Ross 80 [the]-7(-)-69(Dia)4(n)-9(a)4() TJ ET Q 154.94 508.39 (n)sn3q4z1 Tm 0d4l W* n BT /FZ

DJH DQG EHRQG KDV JUHDWO\ LQFUHDVHG EXW WKH QH
music in the way that some younger folk graduate from Radio 1 to Radio 2; yet their kind of
music has been increasingly denied them. More recently the BBC has rid itself of specialist
music presenters - some of them long-serving - on its Local Radio stations, even though the
savings achieved must be minimal.

networks, which you have only to examine the Radio Times to realize are already running at an unreasonably high level. And does it honestly think that placing a few advertisements on podcasts will solve its financial problems?

My final comment is that I find it nauseating that the thinking behind these proposals is based almost exclusively on the perception that certain groups are perceived to be underserved by the existing offerings, leading to a polarisation in the extreme. There are very large numbers of middle class people who feel culturally abandoned by the BBC, once admired and whose services they still willingly pay for.

[Name withheld]

25th March 2024.

Notes

- 1) A BBC spokesman said at the time that organ music would still be available as part of the 5 D G L Choir Evensong.
- 2) Jo Whiley occasionally plays a Frank Sinatra or Ella Fitzgerald track.
- 3) Which technically meant that Rock Around The Clock was banned, though Buddy Holly was saved!
- 4) + D W F K D O V R D G Y L V H G S U H V H Q W H U V W e b h a t c h a D J H E U D D G Y L F H Z H U H I R O O R Z H G W R G D \ «