

# *SAVE* JAZZ.FM91

## **Audio Script -- Ralph Benmergui**

The time has come for profound change at JazzFM.

I don't come to this public statement easily. I appreciate all the good things that have happened to position JazzFM as one of the handful of great 'all jazz' stations in the world. So it is with great disappointment that I say that there is something profoundly broken and in rapid decline at JazzFM.

Like so many other past employees, I can attest to what many have called a toxic environment -- one that has become so corrosive that the very future of the station is now at stake. Many others who, like me have worked at JAZZ FM91 have spoken of their own experiences of toxicity at the station, and to demand a change to its work culture and to corporate governance at JazzFM.

In reaction to those public and valid grievances, I have observed a Board and senior management retreating into what might be characterized as a siege posture; walled in by 'nothing to see here' messaging.

In this process, the member/donors have been left with a vastly inferior on-air product. Despite claims to the contrary, funding is evaporating, good will has been exhausted. It is time for a new era to begin. This new era must involve respect for the listeners, the artists and the staff. This Board, though well-meaning and with a difficult task, have not proven that they understand the depth of the problem or the right remedies for the quickly collapsing situation.

It is time for change to win back the respect of advertisers, major donors, and the artists who are the life blood of Toronto's great jazz community.

You can help to bring about the positive change that is desperately needed to save JAZZ FM. Please join me by signing the attached proxy vote and returning it to save jazz fm at gmail dot com. You'll be voting to replace the Board with a group of experienced, dedicated people better connected to and qualified to serve this great jazz community.

Your Proxy can be the gateway to a reinvigorated and exciting way forward for the station that we love.

Thank you.