

The logo for RADIO.COM, featuring a stylized 'R' icon followed by the text 'RADIO.COM' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

How RADIO.COM used social listening to crown the #ArtistOfTheSummer

17 million

engagements in two months

168,000

new Twitter followers in two months

Every year, the debate over who's the artist of the summer is contentious and artists' ride-or-die fans happily join the conversation. This year, [96.5 \(WTDY-FM\) Philadelphia](#), a RADIO.COM pop radio station that's part of the massive Entercom brand, launched a competitive voting poll so fans could crown a decisive winner.

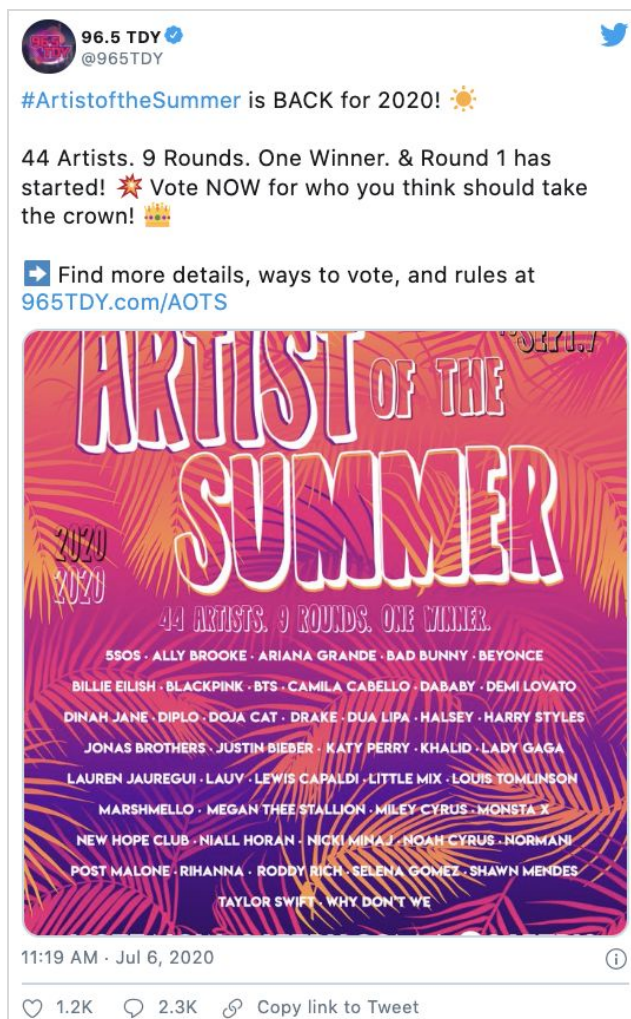
Online fandoms are notorious for being extremely impassioned groups, and on social media that passion often translates to engagements. When WTDY-FM Philadelphia announced the contest using the hashtag #ArtistOfTheSummer, they unleashed the power of those fan communities, engaging fans of nearly every Top 40 artist and/or group.

Using [Sprout's Social Listening](#) through nine rounds of the competitive voting poll, the radio station wrangled millions of messages, measured their poll results and converted social engagement into growth for each brand platform and touchpoint.

Social listening meets loyal listeners

For the #ArtistOfTheSummer initiative, 96.5 (WTDY-FM) Philadelphia chose 44 artists to kick off the voting. Then, over the course of nine rounds, they used social listening to narrow the field.

To vote on Twitter and Instagram, fans had to tag the radio station's handle, include an artist's name and include #ArtistOfTheSummer.



Those requirements aligned with the station’s query set up in Sprout’s Social Listening, so all submissions on social were automatically captured. To drive even more fan engagement and expand their social communities, they incentivized Retweets and follows, making them worth additional points toward an artist.

At the end of every weekly round of voting, they used the Conversation Overview table in Sprout to tally the messages received and aggregated by keyword. Every message received and recorded in volume counted as a vote for that Artist in that round.

2020 Artist of the Summer
 Archived | Data available from Jun 1, 2020 - Oct 26, 2020

7/6/2020 - 9/7/2020 | Export | Filters

Performance	Conversation	Demographics	Messages
2020	7,779,678	#laurenjauregui	165,541
2020 year's louis tomlinson year's		vote final qt louis tomlinson	
year's	6,922,040	#monstax	160,258
year's 2020 louis tomlinson bts		round final qt louis tomlinson	

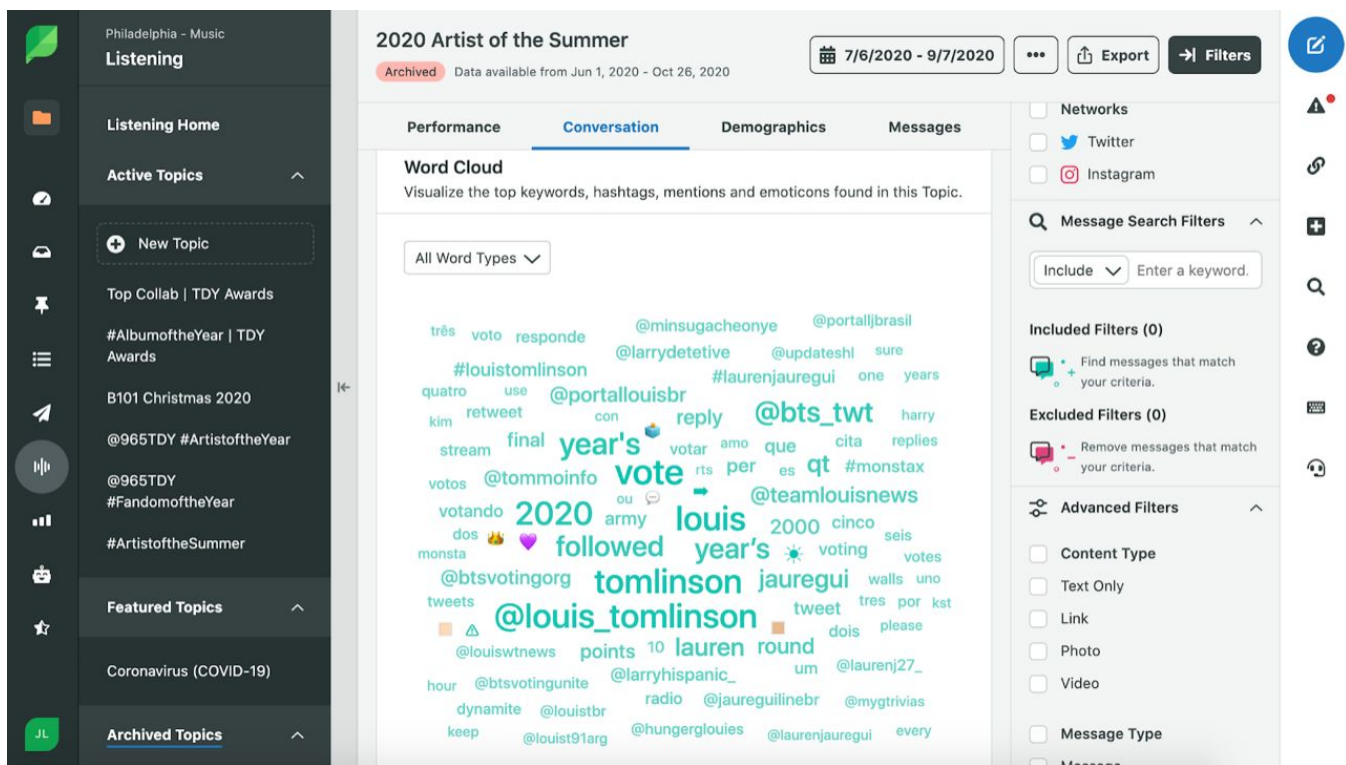
Show more results

Conversation Overview
 Explore key metrics for specific keywords and hashtags in this Topic.

Keyword/Hashtag	Volume	Engagements	Likes	Comments	Shares	Potential Impressions
#artistofthesummer	20,654,252	11,445,314	3,451,138	4,262,472	3,731,704	19,695,282,718
vote	20,367,781	11,018,033	3,280,997	4,178,303	3,558,733	19,522,925,806
louis	15,292,691	5,859,802	1,173,473	2,934,657	1,751,672	15,227,086,156
tomlinson	15,289,453	5,856,365	1,172,150	2,933,611	1,750,604	15,224,036,958
2020	7,779,678	5,544,046	1,897,230	1,646,366	2,000,450	8,490,771,980
year's	6,922,040	4,829,806	1,778,367	1,381,435	1,670,004	6,276,253,674
bts	3,302,210	4,121,454	1,866,905	755,729	1,498,820	2,194,244,668
year's	2,997,713	1,237,187	253,869	423,491	559,827	3,901,064,731
followed	2,642,360	1,702,426	393,261	794,094	515,071	2,693,616,542
qt	1,558,270	520,019	232,752	123,705	163,562	1,852,843,991

1-10 of 200 Results

In addition to filtering results to focus on each artist in the competition, the station's social team examined the conversation around #ArtistOfTheSummer as a whole, even beyond insights that directly related to their poll. The topic query also aggregated messages and keywords for **MTV's Hottest Summer Superstar** competition, which also used a hashtag-based voting system. This is a great example of how brands can use social listening to surface insights about simultaneous, competing events and a shared audience, which in this case is Top 40 fans.



And the winner is...

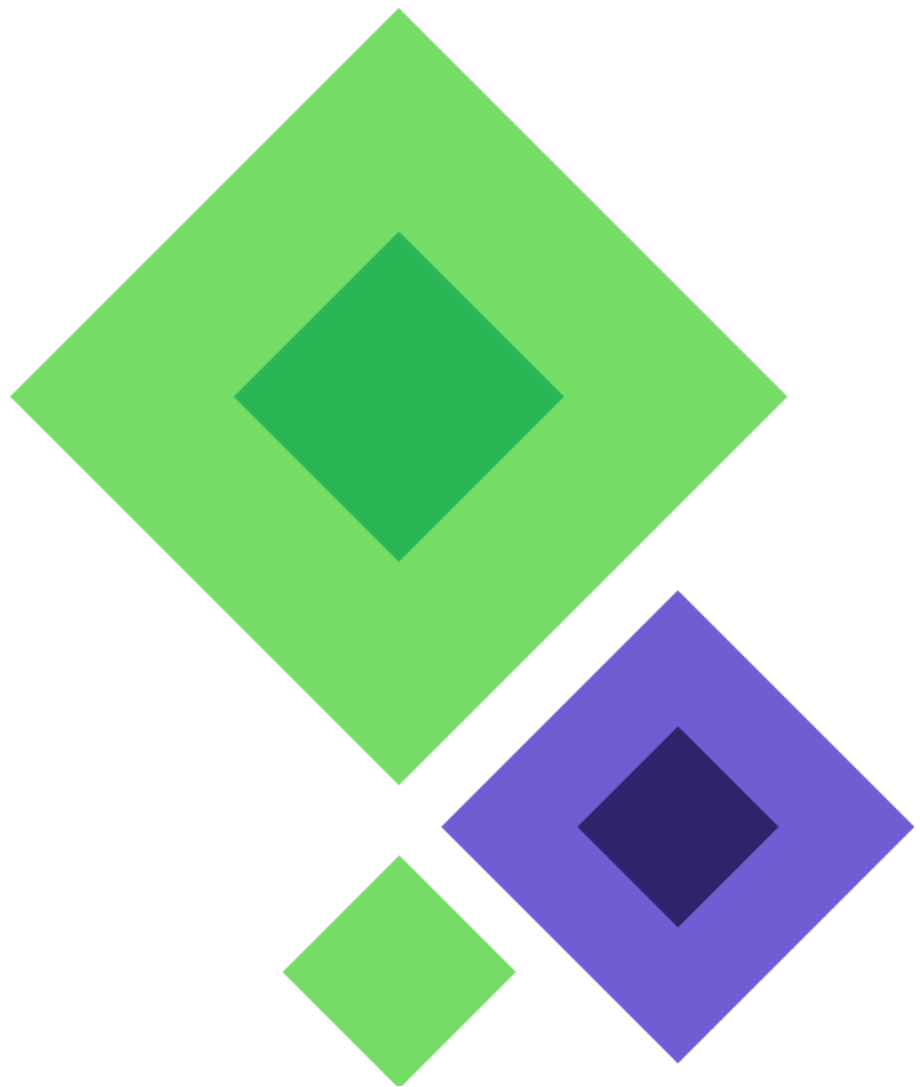
By the end of the contest, the radio station's Sprout Listening Topic captured a total of 21.9 million messages shared by over 637,000 unique authors, and the hashtag had trended on Twitter multiple times. Former One Direction member [Louis Tomlinson](#) was ultimately crowned the 2020 #ArtistOfTheSummer.



And the station won big as well. During the course of the competitive voting poll, 96.5 (WTDY-FM) Philadelphia gained more than 168,000 new followers on Twitter, garnered more than 17 million engagements on Twitter and Instagram and gained immeasurable insights about their listeners and can fine-tune their content to exactly what their new audience enjoys.

With social listening, 96.5 (WTDY-FM) Philadelphia and Entercom find ways to reach far beyond local markets and gain new fans around the world. And when it comes to choosing the right tool, it's no competition.

Create, manage and analyze your winning social media strategy with Sprout Social. Request your [free demo](#) today!



Sprout Social offers deep social media listening and analytics, social management, customer care, and advocacy solutions to more than 25,000 brands and agencies worldwide. Sprout's suite of solutions supports every aspect of a cohesive social program and enables organizations of all sizes to extend their reach, amplify their brand and create the kind of real connection with their consumers that drives their businesses forward. Headquartered in Chicago, Sprout operates across major social media networks, including Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram and LinkedIn.