



www.melodicbeatspodcast.com
info@melodicbeatspodcast.com

A Chat with the DJ

MB.. You Have very kindly agreed to do a mix for the podcast but I feel it's always good for listeners to get to know you a little with a 5 step Q & A.. So we know that you play the deep, melodic and progressive style but when did you start to DJ and what made you take the step from punter to player ?? (as in the DJ kind)

DJ Joma:

So how did I get here? Well, 25 years ago (1995) a friend put into my hands on a Sasha BBC Radio One Essential Mix-tape, and that's when it all started to change.

I started to take a real keen interest in what DJ's like Sasha, Digweed and the Renaissance DJ's were playing at this time; and started to buy records each week and it sort of progressed from there. Really the main reason was simply to play good tunes to friends; I used to make weekly mix-tapes for my mates and it became something I really enjoyed even though it was an expensive hobby for a student!

I didn't want to be a DJ to avoid dancing in public, to attract girls and get free drinks, I just liked playing good tunes to friends. In the years since I've DJ'd out and about occasionally and had the best night ever each and every time, but I'm honest enough to know I'm not really a high talented DJ and I really have been lucky to see a few at work and I'm glad for that.

MB.. If you can share one musical memory with us, as a DJ or punter, which has lodged itself in the memory bank, what is it??

DJ Joma:

September 1997 – some friends and I were going to Ibiza for a week's holiday. As a poor student living in Belfast though, the cheapest way we could travel was from London, so we had to travel on the boat from Belfast to Stranraer



www.melodicbeatspodcast.com
info@melodicbeatspodcast.com

(Scotland), pick up another good friend waiting for us in Stranraer, then travel down by coach to London which took 10 hours. We arrived in London, shattered after 16 hrs solid travelling and quite a few beers on the way too; only to hear that Sasha & Digweed were playing a Northern Exposure 2 Launch Party at the Ministry of Sound; off we went for an extended 6-hour Sasha & Digweed Back2Back set.

We were shattered beyond belief, but it was still one of the best nights ever. We can still remember quite a few tunes played that night, including some of the brilliant atmospheric breakbeat tracks that Sasha was really caning in those days; there was also a sensational mix of Pako "Western Approaches" into the Nalin & Kane remix of Lustral "Everytime" that was also played during the night.

To my complete astonishment, last year my good friend Scott, who was also there that night, found on the internet a recording of the night, just 2 hours of it; but it still sounded so fresh and brought back such memories.

MB.. Tell us about a significant moment in your Dj'ing career?? (A warm up slot for a name, release of a track, the moment we asked you to do a mix 😊 !!)

DJ Joma:

In Croatia last year, myself and my best friend Scott, took a notion to hire a boat for a sunset cruise boat party. We had never done anything like this before, doubly hard as we don't speak Croatian! But somehow, we pulled together a boat, sound-system, decks, alcohol and filled it with a mixture of Croatians, Slovenians and even a few Americans who really didn't know what they had signed up for!

Unbelievable night, the boat was booked for 3 hours, but the captain enjoyed the music that much, he let us party on for 5 hours. I dropped an old classic – Dr Atomic 'Schudelfoss' and everyone onboard stripped off and jumped into the Adriatic Sea and raved in the water for 10 minutes or so before the captain fished them out. Later in the evening, Scott dropped Moony – Dove (I'll be



www.melodicbeatspodcast.com
info@melodicbeatspodcast.com

Loving You) – an old track from around 2000; maybe a bit commercial and not our normal style – but just at that particular moment, at that particular setting with that particular crowd, it was just absolute perfection.

I think those DJ moments are what you live for. The perfect track in the perfect setting at the perfect moment.

I remember seeing an interview with Sasha from 2-3 years ago, where he said, “Never be afraid to look back for inspiration, rather than always trying to kill yourself finding the next exclusive unreleased white label”. A brilliant point that I always try and follow; I spend a lot of time listening to old tracks from 1995-2002; always searching for something that still sounds fresh today and enjoy the reaction what people are surprised to discover that a track that I played in the mix is maybe 20 odd years old.

MB: What are your 5 all time significantly important and memorable house tracks, ever..... The ones which you hear and it takes you to a time and place and just makes you smile !!!!!

DJ Joma:

Sasha & Marie – Be as One

From 1995, the true epic house sound and the first track that really made me want to buy decks and DJ. It is over 13 minutes long, and a masterpiece with lush atmospherics, vocals, build and drops throughout. I don't think I have ever met anyone who doesn't like this track after hearing it once.

Horse – Careful (Sasha & Brothers in Rhythm Mix)

Same era and same epic house sound as 'Be As One'; but it has such an intense build-up and breakdown towards the end of the track; I have seen grown men cry during the breakdown!

Marlena Shaw – Touch Me In The Morning (Disco Mix)



www.melodicbeatspodcast.com
info@melodicbeatspodcast.com

I only got steered onto this track 3 years ago. An old disco track from the 70's I believe, with a New York disco sound. Each and every time that I play this track, I will always get people asking me what it is. It can be dropped at any time, in any set and will make people dance and smile. As a DJ that simply is our job – essential listening to anyone with an interest in house music

Paul Van Dyk – Forbidden Fruit (Album Mix)

This is buried down deep on the Paul Van Dyk 'Seven Ways' Album from 1996. There was also remixes of this track that came out in 1997 – but ignore those and hunt down the album version.

The perfect set-opening track; a beautiful lush, melodic, dreamy intro that lasts over 3 minutes before the track really alights. A very simple track, but as a set opener, it is one of the best ever.

Paul Van Dyk around the 1995-1997 time, produced some of the finest progressive house, before he took a more trance orientated direction. The 'Seven Ways' album that this track is from, is also essential listening; easily his finest work.

DJ Sakin & Friends – Protect Your Mind (Van Bellen Mix)

From 1998 – but it is deep house track in my opinion. Lush, deep, atmospheric and dreamy – it would put many current deep house producers to shame. Van Bellen produced some exceptional music in this period – straddling trance-progressive-deep house; but this track is a stunning deep house production that Sasha included within his legendary Global Underground Mix Album from San Francisco.

MB.. What is your favourite place in the world and what makes it so special to you ??



www.melodicbeatspodcast.com
info@melodicbeatspodcast.com

DJ Joma:

Croatia – The climate, the food, the people, the scenery, and the wine! Plus, I have been very fortunate to DJ there with some of my best friends in some stunning beach clubs, VIP lounges, cocktail bars as well as exclusive boat parties.