



Now an internationally recognised producer, Moonharbour's Martinez (Martin Swanstein) originally came from a small town in Sweden. From an early age he was interested in dance music, and, whilst listening to house and techno at home, would often sneak into local raves to get his fix. As he grew older, his musical cravings grew as well, and a move to the more cosmopolitan city of Copenhagen was a natural progression. There the clubbing scene was much larger and fresher. With his finely tuned ear and great passion for house music, things soon started to take off for Martinez. He immersed himself in the music scene and started working on his own productions. Since his debut release in 2001 his sound has become slightly more experimental and techier, and releases on Guidance Recordings in Chicago followed in 2003. It wasn't long before one of Houses biggest names, Steve Bug, welcomed him into the fold, and Martinez released the 'Skywalker EP' on Bug's Dessous imprint. Around this time, Martinez also set up his own label, Out of Orbit Recordings. Adding some further jewels to his already sparkling crown, Martinez then released 2 tracks on the seminal Get Physical label in 2005. In 2006 he released a mix compilation for Steve Bugs Audiomaticque imprint. At the same time he also released the Re-connected series, which focused on the minimal techno sound that was blowing up at the time. Martinez is a member of the Moonharbour family alongside the likes of Matthais Tanzman and Daniel Stefanik. He's just mixed Moonharbour's 'In-house' Vol 3, which is due for release mid March and 'draws a bow between classic house and the development of the club scene.' Sounds like one for the collection!

You're originally from Sweden, how did you get involved in the club scene and subsequently end up living in Copenhagen?

I was born and raised in the most southern part of Sweden, very close to Denmark. There's a bridge connection between Malmö and Copenhagen, in a way they almost seem like one city more or less. My mother is danish so I had natural connections to Denmark and Copenhagen. It a much bigger than Helsingborg with a more interesting and creative music scene/club life, so for me with my background, it was very natural to move to Copenhagen after I finished school, in seek of a more free and inspiring climate for my music. I got into club music at a very young age. I was around 13 years old when I started to listen to electronica from artists such as Future Sound of London. I found this music so exciting because there were no rules and no predictable sounds. I started to dig deeper within the genre and stumbled across the Frankfurt trance sound, records by people like Sven Väth and Pascal Feos, on label like EYE Q and Harthouse, caught my attention and around the age of 14 to 15 I was deeply into the trance sound. At that time I was still a bit too young to go to clubs, but eventually I started to work my way passed the door man at some local techno clubs, I also got to know some local DJs and they would let me into their parties as well. It was a magical experience to hear this music in a club and just getting lost to it dancing for hours. First time I felt like time and the everyday life stood still and didn't really matter that much right there and it was a liberating feeling for sure. I really do love that about electronic music, you can just let go, dance in your own way and be yourself. Especially back then it was so underground and no one cared about who you were, what you look like or had to say, it was all just about the music, the feeling and the vibe. After a while, the tempo and melodies of trance were getting a bit boring and I started to look more towards Detroit techno and Chicago house. Especially house music out of Chicago, there was more funk on those records, though still with a heavy dance floor feel, which I fell in love with. I started buying more and more records and after a while, I started to think, "I can produce beats like these." Eventually I saved up enough cash from a summer job for a sampler and started to produce music. So, that's pretty much the story on how I got into this music and club scene.

How would you describe your sound?

The Martinez sound has always been very dependent on my current inspiration, there is always a quite solid rhythm rooted in house and techno, coupled with a deep hypnotic feel. Sometimes I've been more minimalistic and driven by a simple hook line, were as other times I've been feeling in a more melodic mood. I've released many different sounds over the years that I've been producing. From my early releases on the Chicago based: Guidance Recordings, which was very jazz influenced deep house and broken beat stuff, to my Out of Orbit days which recalled my early love for trance melodies and pads, which I mixed with more tech-house rhythms. Then in 2007 I released a series called "re-connected", which was based on more minimal influences and then last year I felt a strong inspiration again for house music, which can be heard on my latest release on Moon Harbour and Lomidhigh Organic.

How are things going at Moonharbour?

Locally love working with these guys. And the label message is such a small community. It's

of picking out just the right tracks from what I send him and combines them in a way that gets the maximum out of a release! We all share a common idea of modern dance music, but still with our own vision, which I think was a big part of making my two 12's on Moon Harbour so successful. I'm really happy to be a part of their family and look forward to working closely with them in the future.

You've produced some great music recently - all with great depth, and nice layers, which are also often quite hypnotic. Would you agree this is a fair description, and who has been an influence in the development of your sound?

Yeah definitely, it sounds like a good and fair description! The inspiration for these new tracks and 12 inches came from combining my experience of more minimal and techno oriented sounds and mixing the idea of that music with the feeling of classic house music rhythms.

Your Le Cirkus release got you some nice feedback from some quite big name DJs. What do you think it is about this one that struck a chord with so many?

I think it was a very good groove and feeling to it and it works on quite a few levels, both as a peak time party track, but also as a more twisted after party tune. perhaps, I really don't know.

What do you think of London?

It's a great city!! I had an discussion with a friend of mine about it, and he was really anti-London and find the city not at all charming or interesting, just noise and dirty. But, I'm very pro-London for sure!! We came there often when I was a kid, so I have only good memories from the city.

I always get a great feeling when I arrive there, its has such a wicked combination of everything, its so multi cultural. Great party atmosphere and clubbing scene, as well great shopping. Also amazing architecture with a mix of big city metropole and old english charm. Oh, and great restaurants.. I actually remember this funny quote on the intro of an old Herbert record, sampling an old man saying: 'When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life...'

What's your latest purchase for the studio?

I just bought a Technics 1210 turntable for my studio. I didn't have a turntable out there before, I just had them at home. It was a real shame not to be able to sample and listen to records in the studio, so I had to get one. Besides that I got a roland SH-101 a while back which definitely filled me with inspiration and help me to produce many tracks.. I don't buy that much gear for my studio actually, I'm working more with modification of sounds that I sample or record from my synth.. that is my way of finding new interesting sounds instead of just using synthesizers and drum machines.

What sort of effects do you feel new technology having on the DJ'ing industry?

Well, I think its great! many people are always against new technology, but my feeling is that it just pushes the boundaries of dj'ing into something new and people get more creative. I myself play digital with Traktor, but still using the control vinyls, so its pretty much like playing old skool records but I can Carrie sooooo much more music with me. I learned to DJ using vinyl records and the CD's was never my thing, but thanks to new technology I can now play all unreleased new tracks and edits of a vinyl record, its great! I also feel that stuff like the loop functions, which are so tight and user friendly these days are great, cause I can manipulate the records more like this, extend the intro or looping the outro making the mix over more smooth, which I really like.

With the closure of DC10, and the general closing down of parties on Ibiza, some say the Island has had its day. In contrast, clubbing in Eastern Europe is fresh and exciting & more importantly its increasing in popularity- what are your thoughts on this?

In the last year Ibiza has definitely been a different island, but I think that the island will live on. I was on a few Cocoon parties last summer and they were jam packed people so I'm not worried at all! Though of course it's sad to see a place like DC10 close, cause it's such a key club in Ibiza, with such an inspiring and magical vibe. I hope they will get a break in 2009 and can open. I could feel last year that there were less people on the island and that the government is trying to make it hard for the clubs and clubbers, I guess they want to change the islands reputation, but I don't think that closing places like DC10 and Circoloco will do that. Eastern Europe has really been blossoming in the past years, with countries like Romania and Croatia offering wicked festivals and club nights. It is always really good when things start to grow in new places. I'm excited to see how it develops... perhaps there will be a new place that could have a bit of that Ibiza vibe as well... Who knows!?

What's the best thing about being a DJ and Producer?

To be able to express myself creatively is amazing. As a producer it is all about that. The best thing about DJ'ing is the fact that I love to play new music for a crowd, to take them on a journey and create a special vibe and connect with people in a room just through music! I also love travelling part, meeting new cultures and people, seeing different clubs around the globe, it's just an amazing job and I'm so happy that I'm able to live from my biggest hobby.

What is the most unusual place you've played?

I think it must have been a few years ago when I was visiting a friend in Stockholm. We some how ended up spinning records at another friends party in his very small summer house which was located right in the middle of the city near the water. It was really unusual in the idea that I never play private parties really. I ended up playing in the garden until sunrise and people were going crazy, right in the middle were everyday swedish people have their holiday sport.. hehe.. it was truly an unusual and fantastic party.

Are you a person who regularly makes it to the after parties? Tell us about a memorable after party experience?

It depends on were I am and which after party. In Ibiza for example I try to make the after hours. I think one of my most memorable times was a Cocoon afters in Ibiza in 2006. It was my first time on the island and I had a great day at DC10, followed by an all nighter at Amnesia. At the end of the night Loco Dice slapped this wrist-band on me and said "Yo vato... follow this car..." and I did. It was at a villa, with a swimming pool, drinks, the most amazing view and the some of the best music I've ever heard! I also met Sven Väth for the first time. I was hanging out at the side of the swimming pool, dipping my feet to cool off for a while. At this time Sven started off a great after hour set, I think it must have been like 3 pm in the afternoon. Suddenly I recognize the beat that was mixed in, I was like, "I know this track.." and after a while I realised that it was "Time Illusive" from my first LP. I went up and introduced myself and thanked him for playing my tune, and he seemed quite shocked to see me at an afters and was all, "You are Martinez?? Ahhh, very good music!!" It was quite a big moment for me, being such a big fan of his... and definitely a memorable experience.

Finally, what is the most satisfying thing about making music?

To be able to express myself creatively, by just playing around with sounds & rhythms, and letting my imagination run wild.

UK dates

22.03.09 Fabric, London.

11.07.09 mUmU, Liverpool.

Release