

Matthias Tanzmann Interview for WWW.IBIZA-VOICE.COM (04-2007)

1. So Moon Harbour, you founded the label in 2000, What is your role there now, how involved are you with the day to day running of the label still?

My job at Moon Harbour is to take care of artists and repertoire. I listen to new music and demos and decide on upcoming releases. And i am involved in the development of the products, especially artwork decisions.

2. It says on your website that Moon Harbour was originally designed to be releasing deep house productions. How would you describe the style of music that you're releasing now....do you think that the genres of music have become more blurred in recent years?

Yes, definitely. The classic organic deep house sound of a few years ago is almost not existing anymore. At least it is not played by many djs nowadays. Moon Harbour still refers to that style, but electronic influences have become much stronger in our releases during the past years.

3. Do you think that your DJ style is representative of the label, or the other way round? Or neither maybe?

I think there have always been parallels between the label sound and my DJ sets. This is because on Moon Harbour we release music we like and we want to dance to. So it's clear that many tracks of this style can be found in my dj sets.

4. You recently celebrated 5 years of the label with a series of parties. How was the tour? The Sonar week looked great...any plans for Sonar this year?

The "Five" tour was great. We played numerous nice parties and have been to beautiful cities and countries. Now, in spring / summer 2007, there is a tour for our new compilation "Moon Harbour Inhouse Volume 2". The CD version is mixed by Luna City Express. They will also be the label's main representative during the tour. Sonar will be one of the events we visit in that context. This year the whole moon harbour crew will be attending again. I will stay for one week and play at the Intergroove party on friday 15th in Fellini.

5. And Ibiza? You played DC10 last year. How did that go and do you think you'll be playing again this year

I played DC10 on New Years Day for the first time. It was amazing. For the summer season 2007 i will play there regularly. Really looking forward to that!

6. Tell me about the other artists on the label. It looks like a pretty close family...

Yes, we are almost like a family. The main artists are Daniel Stefanik, Marlow, Luna

City Express and me. We are all good friends know each other for years. Luna City Express are from Berlin, Marlow lives in Weimar now and Daniel and me work in Leipzig. We also had some guest appearances on Moon Harbour, for example Audio Werner, Martin Landsky, Michal Ho or Phil Stumpf.

7. You've just signed Samim from Fuckpony to the label for a solo ep, Eternally Collapsing Object, what are you looking for in new artists, what makes you decide to take someone on board?

The most important thing is the music of course. We are always looking for new talents to sign, but i am very picky on that. the label is receiving lots of demos, but most of them are not very good.

8. You work a lot of the time with other people, for example Daniel Stefanik for one. How did that relationship come about and how do you produce together...who does what in the studio?

We know each other from Leipzig, our hometown. We once met in a party and were talking about music. After that, we instantly decided to go to studio together. Still in the same night. I love to work with other people in studio. It is widening the scope to see different approaches on making music. Daniel and me are producing together for a few years now, but still there is no routine in our way of production.

9. You also produced a lot in the past with Daniel Scholz under the name Gamat3000. What happened with that project? Are there no more plans for future releases there?

In 2001 Daniel moved to Berlin to work. At this time I was already living in Weimar to study. So it was just the problem with the distance. Maybe one day we will be in studio together again, but there is no certain plan yet.

10. You are very closely associated with Steve Bug's label Dessous, and have released various tracks there. How did that come about?

We got to know in 1998 when he was playing in Distillery club Leipzig. I gave him a demo cassette and two days later he called to sign the first Gamat 3000 release to Dessous. After that we did lots of stuff for the label including an album. It was a perfect start for us to release there.

11. And how do you decide to pass tracks on to him, or keep them for your own label?

For the last years i kept almost everything i did for Moon Harbour. The main focus is on my label now. But i think there will always be collaborations with poker flat or dessous like the two ep's i did with Steve Bug in the last two years.

12. You recently launched a new label Cargo Edition. What's the idea behind that?

How does it differ from Moon Harbour?

Cargo Edition was founded to give an own platform to Daniel Stefanik. It is his musical playground. He is responsible for the music that is released and the artists that appear.

13. So you're based in Leipzig still. You haven't been tempted to move to Berlin like everyone else?

We are really close to Berlin. If i want to go there, i can easily do it in 1,5 hours. So i don't need to move. I love Leipzig. It is nice city that relaxes me during the weektime.

14. You've been a resident of a party in Leipzig at the Distillery. How long have you been playing there, do you have any other residencies?

I've been playing there for ten years now. And for six years we do our Moon Harbour label nights at distillery. It is a great club, nice people and atmosphere. I have another regular night at Harry Klein in Munich. I play the Flokati night three or four times a year.

15. Can you give me a current top 5 with a couple of lines about each track please.

1. Shlomi Aber - Freakside - Ovum
2. Marlow & Claudia Nehls - Water (Jackmate Remix) - Moon Harbour
3. Lazy Fat People - Pixelgirl (C2 Remix) - Planet E
4. Pan-Pot - What Is What / Wake Up - Mobilee
5. Jackmate - Nomads - Phile

16. And any tips for the rest of the year? Which producers should we be looking out for?

Certainly Daniel Stefanik. He is currently remixing a lot, but there will be own releases coming up soon as well. Another favourite of mine is 2000 and One from Holland.

www.matthiastanzmann.com

www.moonharbour.com