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Dubstep magic from the Czech Republic

Side9000 is a producer, dj and head of Owntempo Recordings that represent Czech and Slovak dubstep sound all around the world. He collaborated on last record of Monika Naceva, as well as on UNITE project of Trans-Global Underground. Side appeared on stage alongside such names as Headhunter, Scuba, Mark One, Coki, Rusko, Skepta, Goth-Trad and Joker.



DUBSTEP.HU: How would you introduce Owntempo Recordings to someone who is already familiar with dubstep music?

SIDE 9000: Owntempo Rec. is label based on friendship and love for experimenting with forms of a genre. We involve alongside the genre itself so our first releases were deep percussive dub, and our latest are nearly techno.

DUBSTEP.HU: Nowadays it seems much practical and faster to put out music without any label. So why did you feel like starting a label and can you recollect some of your latest successes with it?

SIDE 9000: I started Owntempo 3 years ago to release my own tracks, but I found that there is quite a lot of good producers in Czech Republic and Slovakia, so I decided to put their releases out too. It helped the scene a lot, because it created team of promoters, producers and djs, that are significant part of Czech and Slovak dubstep scene. We also made lots of contacts abroad during the years and we are constantly trying to promote CZ/SK dubstep.

DUBSTEP.HU: Since when can you talk about a concrete 'dubstep scene' in CZ/SK? In Hungary it's still very young and not so big...

SIDE 9000: There were first parties around 2004-2005, I started playing dubstep in 2006 and we started Owntempo and released first vinyls and mp3 releases in 2007. It evolved into part of the biggest festivals and club nights, we had almost everyone important from dubstep scene djing here, but it is still quite underground in smaller towns.

SIDE 9000: What have you heard about the dubstep scene in Hungary?

I don't know much about your scene. I know Dubsta for few years, he gets our promos regularly and we changed a few tunes, but I never met him personally. I also have heard cOp and Ekaros... His LP was a true darkness...

DUBSTEP.HU: What about your label's latest release? Any reactions so far?



SIDE 9000: The latest release was an EP by Slovakian producer KeOSz, which made it again to Juno Dubstep Podcast and to top 10 dubstep bestsellers on Digital-Tunes.net. We also had huge response to single by Rhyan Harden, which was reviewed in Mixmag magazine.

DUBSTEP.HU: How do you usually evaluate feedback about a release? It is very hard to get proper feedback isn't it?

SIDE 9000: I personally don't care about feedback much, I get the best feedback from people in front of speakers, not in front of their keyboards. Sometimes it is very difficult to take time to respond to all demos, but we try. But it seems that kids nowadays don't understand, that dubstep production is quite a lot of engineering and nothing good comes easily, so they should maybe work on their stuff for some time and test it on party and friends before they send it out.

DUBSTEP.HU: How would you define dubstep's 'local sound' in Czech Republic and Slovakia?

SIDE 9000: We decided quite a long time ago, that we don't have to make money on our tracks, so we can experiment with forms and release whatever we like. You will probably never hear typical UK wobble bass tune from our artists. We all came from different musical backgrounds (from punk, hiphop, sound system culture to former dnb producers), so every artist has its own unique sound. We are more into broken beat meets 4/4, percussive tunes with unusual beats, not just a typical 140 BPM half-beat. But this is just our point of view as people who are into dubstep for more than 4 years and we are bit bored with former production.

DUBSTEP.HU: So you wanted to explore another genre. But what do you think: Why dubstep? E.g. many former dnb producers 'escape' to progressive minimal 4/4 or somewhere else...

SIDE 9000: I was into hiphop, dnb, house, techno, dub and all that music, so dubstep was a logical next step. I've always loved huge subbasses.

DUBSTEP.HU: Also, what do you think: what might be the reason behind that dubstep can include so many subgenres and you can create good mergers within it...

SIDE 9000: I think that dubstep now is not exactly a genre, it is more like definition of sound. Now you can call dubstep some breakstep heavy tunes or strictly dub tunes as well as some uk funky, house or even techno. It is the wide range of tempo and connection to many styles, that make it so universal.

DUBSTEP.HU: I completely agree! :) So, what is going to be next step of your label and its activities? You said that the scene has grown big. What would you like to see in the forthcoming months/years?

SIDE 9000: We will keep releasing premium material and maybe we will reconsider a possibility to provide free music to the people that do not make money on our music. There will be more and more house/techno/uk funky/dubstep blending I think. Next release is space techno dubstep EP by ANS.

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