



anjunabeats

ARTISTS LIGHT UP NEW YORK CITY FOR THE VOLUME 10 RELEASE PARTY

There's something about the number "10" that makes it far superior than the preceding digit "nine" and the following numeral "11." Anjunabeats started out as just a label, but has since become a quintessential international trance community. Since the start of the new millennium, the highly influential record label, run by one of the greatest trance acts in history, Above & Beyond's Tony McGuinness, Jonathan "Jono" Grant and Paavo Siljamaki, Anjunabeats has tingled the eardrums and touched the hearts of thousands around the globe. Spinning the best in modern trance, progressive trance and big room beats, the label is about to put out the 10th edition of its renowned label showcase in March, as the compilation ventures into the next decade of existence.

"We started Anjunabeats as an insurance policy in some ways (for the more underground tracks we couldn't sign on and as a home for our friend's tracks) and we started a forum to talk directly to our fans," says A&B. "Little did we know those two things would become so important". The British record label is indeed a force to be reckoned with. Throughout the past 12 years, thousands have come and gone, but Anjunabeats has consistently proven itself to be one of the most prodigious labels in trance... hell, music in general, to date. The label is responsible for nurturing a wide range of prolific talents such as Mat Zo, Arty, Dusky, and Andrew Bayer.

Though Above & Beyond is a threesome, it is rare to see them perform as a trio rather than a duo. I was lucky enough to chat with A&B's Jono and Tony at the launch party of their 10th anniversary compilation about how their label has changed music, and more importantly, changed lives.

Naturally, to celebrate everything Anjuna stands for, label bosses chose New York City's famed Roseland Ballroom to host the official launch of their newest compilation. "New York has always been a great place for us to play and Roseland holds some brilliant memories for us." While there have been so many memorable performances, both Jono and Tony agreed that playing Electric Zoo's main stage in NYC this past year stood out as monumental. "There was a half an hour gap before we went on and people didn't go anywhere," says Tony. "At a festival, when there are loads of other acts on, you normally expect a little bit of leave but there were people as far as the eye could see. It was a very, very special moment."

"I remember the first time I saw posters of us up in New York; it was one of the most exciting days of my life. I mean this place, this city, is possibly the most famous city in the world, and I think for us to be successful here, means a lot," Tony remarks on how New York has become a significant place for A&B to play.

The celebratory affair, held on February 16th, sold out in less than three hours, several months in advance. The infamous trio brought along Andrew Bayer, Norin & Rad, and Beckwith to highlight their diverse, talented label family. "People like him, well, they don't come along very often, let's put it that way," says Jono in regards to Andrew Bayer. "His music has so much detail and so much beauty. I think in dance music especially, a lot of people are more concerned with keeping the floor moving. Andrew's music really comes from the heart and it shows. So of course we are going to have him play on our night if we can."

After Andrew Bayer's performance, I was able to catch up with him and get his thoughts about this historic event. Fresh out of the booth, it was undeniable that Andrew was on cloud nine; which made it easy to see why he is such a well-respected and loved member of the Anjunabeats family.

You have so much energy when you perform.

It's hard when you are just one person DJing. You don't have someone that is hyping up the crowd, so it is hard to work the equipment and also be the cheerleader. I try really hard so I'm usually covered in sweat by the time I'm done. It's gross.

Well we were talking with Jono and Tony before and they were just raving about you.



We are like this insane family. I love them; they are great.

Do you want to talk a little bit about the set that you just played? You are so willing to experiment. It was up and down, so many different tempos.

I have a bunch of exclusive material that I've been playing out. Now that I'm basically done with my album, I've been focusing on my club sets. I've put together a bunch of tracks that are set exclusives that probably won't come out for ages. But it's really fun to do that. It's going back to my roots because I grew up making club music. I've spent a lot of time writing this album, which is not like club music, so it is kind of nice to take a step back and work on stuff specifically for my set.

What are some of your earliest club experiences that drew you to the scene?

What's crazy is that I didn't step foot into a club until I was maybe 19-years-old and I had already been releasing records for like three years. The first time I was in a club, I heard Armin play "Love Theme Dusk" which is a track that I did with Mike Foyle. So yeah, the first time I was in a club, I heard one of my tracks getting played by Armin. It was surreal; an out of body experience.

What goes through your mind when you are standing out there in front of everybody- all so into your music?

It's just that in a really cheesy way. It's just so nice to be able to play. With electronic music, you don't get that much of a performance aspect, so DJing is your outlet. Seeing people's reactions to the music that I legit tweaked less than 12 hours ago and was working on just for tonight is incredible. There's not a whole lot of other ways to do that.

How did you become so involved with the label?

I signed with them when I was 18 years old, so I've been around for ages. I moved to England and started working with Above & Beyond directly right after I finished college and I think because I've been signed there so long, I've just been integrated. They are my family. I love them; they are great.

Who are some of your biggest influences?

I would say outside of dance music definitely Radiohead is my favorite. I just can't think of an instance in which I don't want to listen to Radiohead. I'm super into this ambient group called "A Winged Victory For The Sullen," they are amazing. Pretty much everything on their label, it's called Erased Tapes.

You have this album that's coming out titled, "If It Were You We'd Never Leave" - it's pretty ominous. Can you tell us anything about that?

It comes out in April, I'm so glad that we have a release date and it's all going into motion right now. The album title is another entertainment reference, that's what I'll say as of now. My first one was a Blade Runner reference, and my second album is going to have plenty of Blade Runner references on it as well. It's taken from a beautiful scene, in which a father and a son repair their broken relationship, and it's really just amazing.

You know, everything goes a step further with Anjunabeats. That's what we are trying to do with this record as well. It's not just about the music; we are trying to connect it with emotions, stuff that people can relate to.

Your track 'England' was handpicked to be on the compilation, how does that feel?

It feels great. I wrote it in England when I was working with them, so that's where the title comes from. I'm just super-pleased to be involved with volume 10. It's a great compilation, there's so much talent on it.



If you could pick any Anjunabeats release to remix, what would it be and why?

I would probably pick Oliver Smith's "Pacific," which was on Volume 6. It was one of those laid-back, groovy tracks, but the lead sound always reminded me of Aphex-twin or something. It was kind of bizarre for trance but still so uplifting and just amazing. I'm ready to remix it. One of these days when I get time, I'm going to do it and give it to him out of homage because it's such a great track.

If you weren't making music, what do you think you'd be doing with your life?

There would be two things; if I were being super creative, I would be into film. I'm obsessed with films; I would love to be a film director in another life. Or, I am randomly obsessed with real estate. I'm like really into houses, which is random and on the opposite side of the spectrum.

Do you have anything else coming up other than your album? Any big plans for WMC that you can tell us about?

I've got a bunch of club tracks that are exclusive for my set, but I'm going to try to leak some of these tracks

out for WMC. I have to figure out what to do with them because currently, I just have so much material, I don't know what to do with it. It's a good thing but it's definitely a luxury problem. I don't want to put all of it out right now but it doesn't make sense to keep it under wraps.

"Anjunabeats Volume 10," is a two-disc mega-mix organized by none other than Above & Beyond, and will be released by Anjunabeats on March 4th, 2013. The compilation features a blend of 30 exclusive handpicked tracks from over 20 artists on the label, including Arty, Andrew Bayer, Norin & Rad, Jaytech and many more. "One of the things that we try and do is make it listenable as a mix. We also try to include something from all of our artists; those two things are sometimes difficult to manage at the same time," says Tony. "It's nice to include everyone and make sure it plays well as a CD."

The release promises many tracks that we have been eagerly awaiting to be released, like the club mix of "Liquid Love" by Maor Levi; combining its bittersweet lyrics with uplifting electronic melodies, and the club remix of "Black Room Boy," is as catchy and explosive as ever. Jay Tech's "Inception" is inventive and fresh, characterized by its persistent thumping and rhythmic beat that sounds like, "boots and pants" if you say it fast enough. Volumes 10 has a different purpose and feel to

it; a bit edgier if you will; perhaps representing a new chapter, yet at the same time, upholding the familiar legacy we've come to expect from Anjunabeats.

"It's very easy to just follow the scene of 'EDM' or whatever you call it. There's always some reference point in music but I think it's important there's also a little bit of 'pushing the button' there as well," says Jono.

The 91-year-old building got a taste of what's to come on Anjunabeats Volume 10 and then some. Complimenting A&B's style well, Andrew Bayer has become an integral part of the Anjunabeats crew and was received ever so warmly as he set up the night. He prepared the New York City crowd for night's main event by playing a highly energetic set with huge, intense drops and contrasting beautiful transitions.

As two-thirds of the British trance group took the decks by storm, every thought in your mind was shut off and you were transported into another world consumed by music. We began our journey into the latest session of Group Therapy as "Small Moments," welcomed Jono and Tony to the stage. Being the official launch party, A&B treated those in attendance with a large selection of tracks fresh off Volume 10. Kicking off the night with Andrew Bayer's newest banger, "England," a funky string of electro-beats accompanied by a frenetic drop



and a relentless palpitating bass line. The beloved trance trinity filled the room with the beats of tracks off the new compilation such as Sunny Lax's "Isla Margarita," which has received many plays on their Group Therapy radio show. A&B paid homage to closers Norin & Rad with "Aldo," as well as dropping Ronski Speed's new track "Pink Skye," which got beautiful, united reactions from the crowd. "Particularly Pink Skye is my favorite track on the compilation because he's [Ronski Speed] kind of new school, old school - its got one of those break downs that just gives you goose bumps," Tony tells us. "It is one of those tracks that you just want to close your eyes and feel the dreamy melody seep into your soul."

A&B also showed us their darker side that night, dropping the highly anticipated ID, "Walter White." A heavy, more aggressive track that you might not expect from A&B, but you can be sure to expect it on Volume 10. Of course, they played some of their most beloved, and classic material, like "A Thing Called Love," "Alchemy," and "Sun and Moon," during which, the room joined together to belt out the tune's lyrics in unison.

There is great difficulty in putting into words what happens at an Above & Beyond "Group Therapy" show, the successful brand built out of their second artist album. If you've ever witnessed the musical intervention that

occurs, you know Group Therapy is nothing short of a spiritual experience. Above & Beyond's loyal followers put as much faith in the sonic therapy sessions as many do in their own denominations. The simple, beautiful messages, flashing upon the giant LED screen in front of the audience, reach everyone, as if speaking directly to each and every person in the crowd.

A&B of course played an encore, serenading us with what was undeniably the track of the night. Their remix of the classic trance tune, "When The Rush Comes," as the screen behind Jono and Tony read: "And by the way, your new tower looks fucking awesome," sent shivers down every single spine in the building. I was able to observe this beautiful musical moment and enjoy it at the same time; the sight of hundreds of diverse people, falling in love with the same track and moment together in complete sync was pure bliss.

After passing the torch to Norin & Rad, it was clear that no one was going home until the last beat. While a newer name to the label, Norin & Rad made their presence known by incinerating what was left of the night with cold hard trance. They kept everyone awake with filthy tracks like "Pistol Whip Traffic" and Gregor Salto's mix of "Like Home." The Anjunabeats Volume 10 launch party was a spectacular night in NYC - it was euphoric, enlightening, and quite frankly, magical, all whilst still

managing to be a crazy celebration. After interviewing Above & Beyond and catching up with Andrew Bayer I was finally able to chat with Bruce Karlsson and Nick Sember, better known as Norin & Rad, before their closing set. Their name is derived from the original name of the comic book character, Silver Surfer.

How does it feel to be playing alongside A&B tonight and closing out the night?

Nick: It's amazing - the vibes that they bring are the vibes that we're trying to keep up throughout the night. We weren't used to it in the beginning, but now we know what we have to play and what kind of energy we have to bring after them.

Bruce: But I think the hardest thing is deciding. When you get out there, you see the crowd, and the first thing you think is, 'do I want to start from scratch and build it up again, or do I keep their energy going?' We figured out it's a mixture of both. You want to have that first track that's really pumping but something to where you can build from it. It's a challenge. We like a challenge.

How did you first get into producing? What were your musical influences growing up?



Bruce: I've always been really into music but I never really touched producing until one of my friends said, 'just come with me to one of these festivals, I want to show you what it's all about' [Referring to EDC 07]. And literally I said, 'I want to be there. I want to do that.' And just kept working at it and eventually got it.

How did your relationship develop with Anjunabeats? What effect has this had on your career?

Bruce: The first contact we ever got from them was, 'can you guys do a remix for us?' And him and I were like 'Anjunabeats!' because it's the label that we looked up to. We loved Armada and everything but Anjunabeats to us was that special, set aside label. We did the remix and the very next email was 'do you guys have any original stuff?' From there, the first track we gave them was "Bloom." Ever since then, we've established our relationship with them and kept bonding with everyone on the label. It just seemed like the home for us.

How do you feel about being on the compilation? How did "Aldo" come about?

Nick: We are really excited. We had one on the last compilation, which was "Bloom" obviously. I'm sure a lot of people have noticed that we do change our sound around a lot. So what we did with Aldo, is we kind of wanted to bring back that feeling of Bloom, the epic trance leads, stuff like that, so we did that and they loved it and decided to put it on Volume 10. Then, we've got some others that are coming out on Anjuna this year that we will be playing tonight. But they aren't on volume 10; they are all too unique.

Are you guys working on a debut album? Anything you can tell us about?

Bruce: We've just started - hopefully it's going to be really great. Not every track is going to be in the house BPM range. We've been experimenting and we have a couple of glitch-hop tunes by us already.

Bruce: Him and I are obsessed with Koan Sound, Flying Lotus and all of those guys. We've always wanted to experiment in the lower BPM range, so we've been taking it down to like 100 BPM. We're working on some real different glitch-hop tunes.

Nick: We're actually working on an EP that we are going to push to different labels. That way when the EP gets released, people will be more prepared for what our album is going to be like. It's going to be very diverse with sounds. Influences like Flying Lotus, and Koan Sound, to influences from Above & Beyond and even influences like Bon Iyer, and M83. We've got a lot of ideas bouncing around.

We love your remix of Arrival, how did your ideas come about for that?

Bruce: Then you are definitely going to like the glitch-hop stuff coming out! I've always wanted to nail a glitch-hop track. They were like 'here's a Halo remix,' and I was like, 'ok, I'm going to go balls to the wall with this and completely flip the switch.'

Nick: The whole thing with the game too, we wanted that concept of, 'you know we could make it our normal trance sound but we kind of felt like the whole point of Halo is to kill aliens.' So we made something a little more rock-infused and went with that glitch-hop sound.

Other than working on your album, what else have you got coming up for 2013? Plans for WMC that you can tell us about?

Nick: We have a vocal tune that we've worked on with Andrew Bayer and we are really trying to get a singer for it. We've already literally produced the track. We were going to produce it as an alias for Musical Freedom, but then we all got our heads together and decided to rewrite the track, it's a little too pop-y. So we are sitting down now, and really hoping to get it done for WMC. We are playing at

Ultra so we really want to have something good to debut for the fans there. If anything, we will have something to debut there. We'll be bringing a lot of new stuff from our studio.

We wrapped up our chat with Above and Beyond as they dove into their plans for the upcoming year. "The main focus of 2013 is writing our next album which is going to be out in 2014 - if we finish it in time," says Jono. The trio has been writing songs for the last few months and already has an exciting amount of new material to work with. "But the Group Therapy thing is coming to an end. We've taken that name and transported it into the radio show and that's been really, really well received. It's quite a risk to do that, but we like taking risks, and now it's time to move on from Group Therapy as an album brand and work on the next project," explains Jono.

Indeed, it is sad to hear that the innovative "Group Therapy" live show concept is ending. At the same time, community, connection and the rest of the principles that define Group Therapy are also the foundation of Above & Beyond, as well as Anjunabeats; it's these central components that have contributed to the successes of both projects, and are not going anywhere, anytime soon.

"I think the future is impossible to predict accurately, all you can do is keep a strong sense of what you want to achieve and adapt to the changes around you. As long as we stay connected I think we'll be fine," A&B.

**WORDS BY DANIELLE DESMOND
PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS VAN SANT**

"Anjunabeats Volume 10" Track list

CD1

1. Above & Beyond "Small Moments"
2. Soundprank "Animus"
3. Sunny Lax "Isla Margarita"
4. Audien "Wayfarer"
5. Mike Shiver "Ohh"
6. Above & Beyond feat. Zoë Johnston "Alchemy" (Above & Beyond Club Mix)
7. Jaytech "Inception"
8. Boom Jinx, Maor Levi & Ashley Tomberlin "When You Loved Me"
9. Oliver Smith "Pressure"
10. Ronski Speed & Syntrobin feat. Renee Stahl "Pink Skye"
11. Above & Beyond "Walter White"
12. Kyau & Albert "Glühwürmchen"
13. Maor Levi "Holding On"
14. Ost & Meyer "Here We Go"
15. Above & Beyond "Liquid Love" (Maor Levi Club Mix)

CD2

1. Andrew Bayer "England"
2. Norin & Rad "Aldo"
3. Genix "Stateside"
4. Nitrous Oxide pres. N2O "K.O."
5. Super8 & Tab "L.A."
6. ilan Bluestone "Sinai"
7. 7 Skies vs. Nitrous Oxide "Right On"
8. Arty "Believe In Me" (Instrumental)
9. Above & Beyond "Black Room Boy" (Above & Beyond Club Mix)
10. Eximinds "Revolved"
11. Above & Beyond "Home" (Genix Remix)
12. Ronski Speed "Sanity Dub" (Exclusive Volume 10 Mix)
13. Lange vs. Genix "Immersion"
14. Mike Koglin vs. 7 Skies "Vision"
15. Bart Claessen & Raz Nitzan pres. Who.Is "Only Totally"

