MEMORABILIA. COLLECTING SOUNDS WITH…

Andy Votel. Part I

He says that he has always been interested in listening to strange sounds, that he prefers marginalised artists, and that he knows nothing in advance about 70% of the records he buys. These are some of the hallmarks of Andy Votel, a DJ, producer, compiler, designer and writer obsessed by pop, the weirder the better.

01. Summary

Andy Votel’s first musical passion was hip-hop, which intrigued as well as attracted him: he wanted to find out how that music was made. Thanks to his resourceful father, he discovered that it was based on loops, and that many of them were samples from other songs. That was the start of his obsession with discovering sources, and of his scouring of records that were probably not earmarked for him at the time (the late eighties) given his age, 14, and location, Manchester. While his friends got excited over Stone Roses and Happy Mondays, Andy explored jazz recordings released on labels such as CTI Records and soundtracks by composers like John Cameron and Krzysztof Komeda.

Over the past twenty years, Andy Votel has travelled far and wide in a quest to buy as many records as he could. Some have ended up making it into his works or DJ sessions, and others have found their way into the catalogue of Finders Keepers, the cult label he co-founded with Dominic Thomas and Doug Shipton. His personal collection of vinyls, which he admits to measuring in cubic metres rather than numbers, makes him an acclaimed “archaeologist” of unusual records, even though he refers to himself as the world’s worst archivists and admits that he can spend hours looking for a particular vinyl at home, sometimes even buying a second or third copy because it’s quicker.

Andy’s main obsession is pop, particularly of the twisted and psychedelic kind. He feels an affinity for artists who have been sidelined by mainstream culture, and is particularly drawn to records that are written on, personalised or dedicated, because they tell a story. An unusual case worthy of study, in spite of everything, he doesn’t consider himself a fetishist. His main motivation is to listen to music, and the only way to get the music he likes is generally to buy and collect it.

02. Playlist

Part I

Michel Magne, ‘Self service’ (Musique Tachiste, Cacophonie, 2013)
Suzanne Ciani, ‘Atari corporate tag’ (Lixiviation, Finders Keepers, 2012)
Ilayaraaja, ‘Needhi Idu’ (Electro, Finders Keepers, 2013)
Silicon Arc, ‘Clock’ (Disposable Music Sampler Volume 1, Disposable Music, 2009)
Harry Partch, ‘The romancing of a pathological liar comes to an inspired end’ (The Bewitched, Cacophonie, 1973)
John Carpenter, ‘Love at a distance’ (Prince Of Darkness, Varèse Sarabande, 2008)
Masahiko Sato, ‘Mr London’ (Belladonna of Sadness, Cinevox, 2009)
Krzystof Komeda, ‘Walk on the water’ (Cul de Sac, Harkit Records, 2005)
Bruno Spoerri, ‘Colours’ (Disposable Music Sampler Volume 1, Disposable Music, 2009)
Mustafa Özkent Ve Orkestrası, ‘Karadır kara’ (Gençlik Ile Elele, Finders Keepers, 2006)
Yamasuki, ‘Yamamoto kakapote’ (Le Monde Fabuleux Des Yamasuki, Finders Keepers, 2005)
Disco Dildar, ‘Noor jehan’ (forthcoming Finders Keepers)
Kuppamma Pettha - Lliayaraaja (forthcoming Finders Keepers)
The Eccentronic Research Council, ‘Device kids find a box of chattox melody’
(1612 Underture, Bird Records, 2012)
Kinetic Effect, ‘Beyond the parameters of amateurs (Instrumental)’ (Borderin’
insanity, Insane Recordings, 1993)
Luboš Fišer, ‘Dense Smoke’ (Valerie and her week of wonders, Finders Keepers, 2006)
Suzanne Ciani, ‘Sound of a dream hissing’ (Lixiviation, Finders Keepers, 2012)
Science Fiction Corporation, ‘Racing motion’ (Science Fiction Dance Party, Dance With Action, B-Music, 2009)
Bruno Spoerri, ‘Background rhythm 3’ (Extrakugel, Disposable Music, 2009)
Andrzej Korzyński, ‘Opetanie 2’ (Possession, Finders Keepers, 1981)
Jean-Claude Vannier, ‘L’automne à barbes rochefoucault’ (Electro-Rapide, Finders Keepers, 2011)
Zdeněk Liška, ‘Pearls from the deep’ (Malá Mořská Víla, Finders Keepers, 2011)

03. Related links

Andy Votel on Twitter
www.twitter.com/AndyVotel

Finders Keepers Record’s website
www.finderskeepersrecords.com

Finders Keepers Records on SoundCloud
www.soundcloud.com/finderskeepersrecords

Interview with Andy Voltel in Resident Advisor
www.musicomh.com/reviews/albums/andy-votel-styles-of-the-unexpected

Andy Volte’s Top 15 Horror Soundtracks
www.redbullmusicacademy.com/magazine/andy-votel-horror-soundtracks

04. Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Andy Votel. Produced by Matías Rossi. Recorded with Beyerodynamic MC 930, a Tascam DR-100 recorder and edited with Ableton Live.

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