



LOW PROFILE >>>

DB

British expat has drum & bass down to a science.

DB has been American drum & bass' most passionate advocate since he arrived in New York from England in 1989. He inaugurated the NASA club, which introduced Yanks to the early-'90s hardcore-breakbeat sound that later morphed into drum & bass. He ran the important Smile and F-111 labels (both affiliated with majors) and opened the first record store solely devoted to drum & bass, Breakbeat Science, in 1996. To celebrate the shop's fifth anniversary, DB is bringing his newest label, the independent Breakbeat Science Recordings, to a wider audience with its first CD release, *The Secret Art Of Science* compilation.

The 18-track sampler stresses the genre's more melodic, musical side. Stellar tracks from jungle fixtures Jonny L, Roni Size/Reprazent, Omni Trio, LTJ Bukem, E-Z Rollers and others offer a solid seminar on drum & bass' less dance-oriented fare. Releasing *Science* now seems like a risky move, because harder, darker drum & bass is more popular in clubs.

"It's true that the harder stuff is more popular, but I felt very strongly that this music deserves to be out there," says DB. "It moves me in a way that a lot of the darker harder stuff doesn't anymore, and no one in the States has ever done a chill but funky compilation. And although it's a risky move not to do another dark and hard record, I believe there is an audience out there for this."

It seems as if drum & bass has hit a creative lull; it's also not receiving as much media attention as it did a few years ago.

"I think that it's the media that has lost interest in the genre, not people who are creating it or the people who are dancing to it. The parties I'm playing across America are bigger than they've ever been."

DB wants Breakbeat Science to "discover and develop American artists that push the envelop of drum & bass. I hope that it continues to evolve and fracture into different directions and different sounds. I can't predict where it will be in a year from now, but that's one of the things I love about drum & bass." —Dave Segal



SOUND BITES

ALBUM > *The Secret Art Of Science*
(BREAKBEAT SCIENCE; www.breakbeat-science.com)

HEADQUARTERS: New York City

SOUNDS LIKE: The softer, more melodic side of drum & bass, yet still rhythmically interesting and danceable.

KINDRED SPIRITS: LTJ Bukem, DJ Dara, Jonny L