

Billboard

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSWEEKLY OF MUSIC, VIDEO, AND HOME ENTERTAINMENT

JULY 21, 2001

Dance

ARTISTS & MUSIC

DB Beat-Mixes Gentler Drum'N'Bass On Breakbeat Science

TELL ME A SECRET: According to DJ DB, most U.S. drum'n'bass fans are only familiar with the genre's harder and darker sounds: "It's what they tend to hear in the clubs—the harder, faster, and more evil tracks. But there's a whole other side of drum'n'bass that no one knows about." Fortunately, this is about to change with the release of DB's ninth beat-mixed set.



DB

After the release of a dozen 12-inch vinyl singles, New York-based Breakbeat Science Recordings gives birth to its first CD Tuesday (17) with DB's *The Secret Art of Science*, distributed by Alternative Distribution Alliance.

"The tracks I selected for this disc reflect the kind of drum'n'bass sounds I was introduced to in the early '90s—



by Michael Paoletta

those early **Omni Trio** and **LTJ Bukem** tracks," DB says. "It's important to get this style of drum'n'bass music out there so people can hear it."

The Secret Art of Science is inspiring, emotional, and melodic—DB style. The set finds DB spotlighting classic (Bukem's "Music"), radio-friendly (**Everything but the Girl's** "Before Today"), and current (**Klute's** "Chicks") gems. Two tracks—"All Things" and "Impressions," both by **Pieter K.**—have never seen the light of day until now.

For DB, this compilation is as much about education as it is about entertainment: "A DJ must always do both, must always find that delicate balance. For me, that means playing a mix of harder and softer, more melodic sounds. I even toss in some 2-step now. It's about delivering a wide spectrum of music."

For those who may not know, DB—who migrated to New York from London 12 years ago—was the founder of the weekly rave *Nasa* at New York's Vinyl club. By the mid-'90s, he was director of A&R at *Smile Communications*. In '98, DB, together with **Andrew Goldstone**, founded *F-111 Records*.

Five years ago this September, **DB, DJ Dara, Paul Morris, and Sean Shuter** opened the Breakbeat Science record store in New York's East Village (the store recently moved to the Lower East Side). In '97, the shop launched *breakbeat-science.com* on the Inter-

net. Originally, the specialty store specialized strictly in drum'n'bass. Today, its inventory also includes 2-step and nu-skool breaks.

On July 21, DB (who is not involved with Breakbeat Science Recordings) says the store will celebrate its fifth anniversary with an outdoor afternoon festival at P.S. 1 in Long Island City, N.Y. Confirmed DJs for the event include **MJ Cole, DJ Craze, Reid Speed, DJ Dara, and DB.**

DB says the current drum'n'bass scene is definitely becoming more popular: "There was a time when the genre died in the media. It gave the music a chance to go back underground, which has had a very positive effect. The hype has been replaced with a more natural, organic breeding ground. And that's fine by me."