

If Picasso Were a DJ

I've reviewed all kinds of music in my day. Critiquing a DJ mix is something new to me.

My criterion for any music begins with "listenability" and moves to creativity and execution.

The whole CD is one track clocking in at 76 minutes. This suggests a full set of music and lots to listen to at one sitting. I was determined to listen to the whole mix at one sitting.

With my trusty headphones, I listened to this CD with reckless abandon. I thought, "OK DJKJ, Blow my mind."



DISCourse

with Bill Polonsky

I divert here to tell you that I have spent a good part of my adult life listening to reconstructed material and I believe manipulation of sound, though revered in certain circles, is an unheralded innovation in mass communications.

At its best, collage manipulation of sound is inspired and detailed lunacy, proving again and again that adding random elements together with a deft ear can create a sum larger than its parts.

But, you may well ask, can you dance to it?

You can surely dance to it. The beat is omnipresent and the endless remix was at once hypnotic and seemingly a soundtrack to whatever I was doing.

I found walking outside difficult. There is an unending supply of audio pyrotechnics to assault, assuage and otherwise tweak the senses. The use of the crawling synth lines to complement the melody of much of this CD is well placed and used to good effect without being overpowering.

The laser sharp *She Sells Sanctuary* and *Nancy Sinatra's Bang Bang* are my kind of remixes and one that should not be attempted without some skill.

This is Picasso audio at its best.

Conventional artwork uses the elements of line and shade along with perspective and colour to combine and create the image; the audio manipulator can add the depth of production and the fourth dimension of time to shuffle perspectives. By recognizing disparate parts the whole is revealed.

The splashes of echo to reinforce a specific lyric and the synchronized panning of elements to act as a kind of mental floss to jar you loose from the beat just in time to engage you in another rhythm.

The beat slowly morphs over the entire set never really slowing. Splashes of sound within a relentless thrum of beatitude, a joyous DJ working his tools, committing this effort to CD: a snapshot of dance music moving forward in an innovation of influence.

DJKJ plays regularly at the Cap-



Our CD reviewer has never considered a DJ mix before. So he challenged DJKJ to blow his mind ... and he did.

ital Hotel. Drop in and see him at his best, spinning live to a crowd.

Triple J's Music provided this CD for review.

If you have a release you would like reviewed in this paper, email me at strangethingsdone@hotmail.com.



What's Up, TONIGHT!

CAPITAL HOTEL

July 21 867 and Rob Hunter
July 22 St Eminent
Brandon and guests
July 23 DJ Jam with Dustin
July 24 London Boy
July 25 Carlos and Friends
July 26 Nemo
July 27-29 867 and Rob Hunter

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Next DEADLINE

July 24 for August 4 issue

Take 17 Beers and Call Me in the Morning

We have done a lot of reading in the past weeks about new studies around beer and health, particularly about a little item called xanthohumol.

This little chemical is found to occur in hops, a key ingredient in beer, and shows promise in preventing prostate cancer and prostate enlargement, according to a new study by Oregon State University researchers.

The research, published in a recent issue of *Cancer Letters*, shows that xanthohumol inhibits NF-kappaB protein in cells along the surface of the prostate gland. The protein acts like a signal switch that turns on a variety of animal and human malignancies, including prostate cancer.

Apparently, xanthohumol belongs to a group of plant compounds called flavonoids, which can also trigger programmed cell death, which plays a role in cancer prevention as uncontrolled cell reproduction is a cause of cancer.



But don't rush out to stock the refrigerator. Xanthohumol is present in such small amounts that a person would have to drink more than 17 beers to consume the same amount found effective in the study.

Scientists in Germany have developed a beer that contains 10 times the amount of xanthohumol as traditional brews. The drink is being marketed (in Germany) as a healthy beer, but research is still under way to determine if the liquid has any impact against cancer. The beer is being microbrewed and is not available outside Germany, but the Oregon researcher has apparently managed to taste a sample,

noting, "It tastes good. It has a bit of a fresh taste."

We are not allowed, in Canada, to advertise health benefits of beer. However, we can encourage you to do your own research. The more reading we do, the more our eyebrows raise. A good place to start is the website for the Brewers of Canada.

Or Google it and see what you find. If you find yourself dealing with a bit of insomnia, just type in "xanthohumol".

This column is courtesy of the Yukon Brewing Company, an organization that throws its head back and screams to the heavens, "If preventing cancer by drinking beer is wrong, I don't want to be right."

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