

Saytek



SINCE being nominated for Best Live Act at DJ Mag's 2013 Best Of British awards, Joseph Keevil, aka Saytek, has been going from strength to strength. The London-based producer has made live techno his thing from the offset, and his jams have found their way onto labels such as Soma, Bedrock, My Favourite Robot, Superfreq, KMS, Delone and lots more.

His rep as a live act has grown exponentially over the last decade, and when Carl Cox decided to focus his new Awesome Soundwave imprint on live electronic acts, Saytek was a natural early signing. His new album 'Motifs From The New World' has just dropped on Coxy's label; with nods to the early days of rave and the Chicago roots of house, it's rammed full of jackin' house tracks, melodic-yet-kickass techno, and raw, squelchy acid minimalism. Saytek jammed these tracks out during 2020's lockdown, streaming some of them live on Facebook, and was enthused by the support from people right across the planet. "It was a good time to make music from the heart without the pressure of a big stage at a festival or a gig at one of Berlin's well-known venues hanging over me," he says. "It's undoubtedly dancefloor music and it's undoubtedly nostalgic at points, but it's also music made with the future in mind."

But how on earth does he bring intricate complexity to a track when doing it all live? "Years of experience performing live and really knowing my kit, and also knowing what kit to use," he replies. "Everything is arranged live, so to be able to do that requires years of practice but actually, nowadays, I don't need to practice my sets at all – just jam. When you know your kit, you gain muscle memory so you are making things happen without having to think about it." Here are five tunes that have influenced him on his journey.

The Upsetters 'One Step Dub'

"Lee 'Scratch' Perry was a huge influence on me back in the day – I used to get lost in his sound for hours and hours. The idea of stripping down a track and performing it live using a mixing desk and FX was the first time these things were used as musical instruments in themselves. I don't think dub gets the credit it deserves for its contribution to electronic music."

Aphex Twin 'Schottkey 7th Path'

"Aphex Twin changed my life!

"Selected Ambient Works 85-92' was probably the first electronic album that moved me deeply and it remains one of my all-time faves. This is one of the less obvious tracks from the album but one that is haunting and grows on you the more you listen. 'Ambient Works' is a lot less dark in general than his later stuff, but a couple of tracks like this show a glimpse of the darkness to come!"

Jeff Mills 'Casa'

"I love 'The Purpose Maker' EP; it's such lovely, stripped-back and groovy deep techno.

Definitely a huge influence on my sound, and I think the sound of many other producers for years to come. 'The Bells' is the normal go-to track, it's a techno anthem, but the tracks on this EP are all a lot more understated and less intense."

Joey Beltram 'Fuzz'

"I first heard this on Carl Cox's 'F.A.C.T.', which was a major influence and was the time at which I really started clubbing. It was a great time for music – house, techno and early trance were played together before trance

became the music we know it as today. This kind of simple banging acid track is a sound that you still hear a lot today and in my live performances!"

Dee Patten 'Who's The Bad Man'

"Wicked track! The simplicity is great, with its huge dub sounds. I remember hearing it dropped in clubs right up till the early '00s. Really nice heavy bassline, chords and a simple vocal sample. It's a fine example of how to make a great dance track with just a few choice elements."