

Sev Dah

Written by CGNY

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Sometimes an artist puts out a [podcast](#) that just hits you in a certain glorious way and even makes believers of non techno lovers (George!?) Such is the case with this weeks artist. With is own label [Proletarijat](#) already making techno waves and a Berghain gig behind him, we caught up with the Sarajevan, now Sweden-based dj/producer Sev Dah.

CGNY: So you grew up in Sarajevo. What music were you listening to as a kid and what led you into techno ultimately?

SEV DAH: Yes, I grew up in Sarajevo, but there is a lot of time between and after Sarajevo that was so important to me as a person and my development as an artist. When the war broke out in 1991 in Yugoslavia I went to Germany as a refugee with my family. I lived in Germany between the years 1991-1998 and the year 1995 was the first time I got in contact with electronic dance music, if I remember right. Mainly I was listening to hip hop, then I discovered happy-hardcore and I kinda liked it because it sounded different than anything else I heard before. In 1997 I was at a friend's house and we were watching the Love Parade on TV, and I instantly fell in love with the crowd, the music and the vibe there. I saw that these people had some kind of freedom. It felt like it was me inside the crowd and I didn't want to leave, NEVER! After that day I was trying to search for similar music that I heard on TV played by the guys on the Love Parade. So it took some time. I discovered then trance, I loved it but it was not exactly THAT sound that I was searching for, at least I thought it was the right sound until I moved back to Sarajevo in 1998. There I heard for the first time about Umek, Liebing, V  th and co. I found the right sound for my ears back in 2000 when the internet came in I found so many good artists, It's just the result of big interest and passion for the music that created and formed my musical taste today, I don't think I made a bad choice!

CGNY: So would you say you began your musical career in your native country or in Sweden? And does living in Sweden affect your musical style? (dark, heavy techno)

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SEV DAH: I started with producing already back in 1998 when I was in Germany, but it was just for fun and out of curiosity. When I moved back to Sarajevo I wanted to get more knowledge about music production, so I started researching for different ways of how techno is made, how it works. I even remember that I used to make music on Play Station 1, there was a program called Music 2000. I spent nights and days learning how to arrange beats! In 2004 I think I started to focus more on the whole game and I really had my first visions about what I want to do. I can say that Sarajevo played a big role in my musical development and the way how I create music. It was a rough time. I was not the richest kid around, we were not the happiest family and I also recently came from a developed country into a post-war wasteland! It took some time to adapt and accept the reality. It was hard, and I think music, generally techno, played a big role on keeping my sanity

I moved to Sweden in 2009 and I am happy about it, I finally saw things more clearly and could focus more seriously on music. Nostalgia created my vision of Techno today!

CGNY: So where did the moniker Sev Dah come from? It has a particularly techno vibe!

SEV DAH: It's actually a music genre from Bosnia; Sevdah or [Sevdalinka](#) . When I moved to Sweden I changed my artist name so that I could have something from my roots inside the name. It's really sad music so I wanted to convey that sense of sadness in my techno.

CGNY: When did you decide that you wanted to be a musician and was there any particular piece of music that influenced your decision?

SEV DAH: It was after I saw the Love Parade on TV back in Germany. I instantly felt connected to the lifestyle and the music, I felt freedom! Later as I got older, that need to express myself in an artistic way just became even stronger. The time where I started to understand the world, the system we live in, politics, money and greed, it all made it harder for me to accept the world how it really is. But when I make music, when I play, I feel connected with the crowd, and that's what I can't feel each time with the reality in this world. The plan and goal is that I never quit doing it!

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