

V/A - Music is Better Volume One Manchester-Helsinki

Album released March 1st 2004 on Mate Recordings International

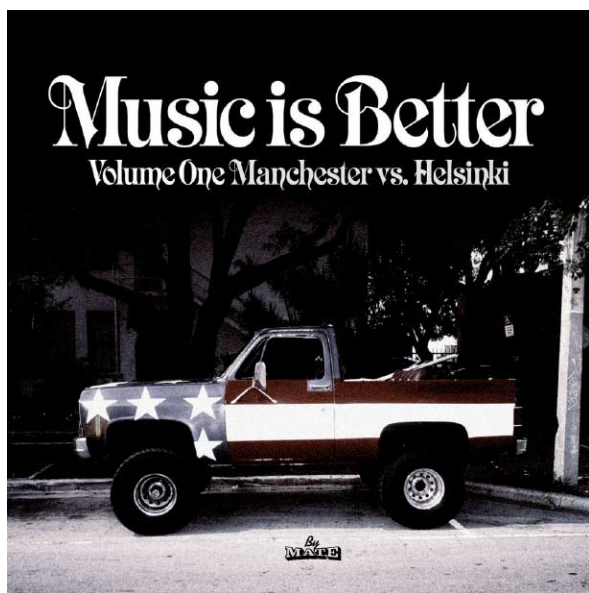
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Music is Better is a club in **Manchester** and Helsinki. The story begins at the start of the millennium when **Teemu Metsala**, a disillusioned Finnish architecture student, leaves the freezing climate of Helsinki for the freezing climate of Manchester. Teemu becomes artistically entangled with **Cheetham Hill** based **Andrew Odia**, a Nigerian-born electro-instrumentalist who teaches Teemu the ways of the world, and more importantly, the ways of the synthesizer, disco beats and electrofunk. Together, they become **Roger** and record their first EP in the living room of **Julian Gaskell's** (producer of **I Am Kloot**) house in **Moss Side**.

Completing the musical leyline from Scandinavia to Africa, the duo come across reknowned Manchester DJ, **Danny Webb**, who's Mate Recordings imprint releases Roger. 'Helsinki Blondes' is soon picked up by **Ivan Smagghe** aka **Black Strobe** for his 'How To Kill The DJ' Compilation (**Output, Tigersushi**). A graduate of the **Hacienda** and **Factory**, doyen of dance music and professional Mancunian, Webb is the key to Music Is Better. In 2003 the trio, with **Computer Controlled Recordings**, start the MiB clubnight at **The Attic**, a venue that gazes over the sprawling metropolis of Manchester. The playlist covers house, techno, synthpop, obscure electro, funk, soul, disco, hip hop and breakbeat. The clientele are **Studio 54** kids with better shoes, the vibe is art and experimentation hand-in-hand with dancing and pleasure. Pre-empting the rise of **Northern Electronica**, Music Is Better is soon recognised as the hub of the movement alongside **Club Suicide**, **Chips With Everything**, **All Things Electric**, and **Pigs**. The night features sets from rising synthpop darlings **Performance** to the deranged cabaret of **New York-Berlin** artist **Casa Electro Nouveau** and re-born house diva **Bille Ray Martin**, with DJ sets from **Simian Mobile Disco** and electro legends such as **Greg Wilson**.

Summer 2003 the club travels to the **Koneisto Festival Helsinki** to throw a party with Norway's **Telle Records**, whereupon Webb discovers an act called **Nu Science** playing naked in a forest. This leads on to the discovery of an entire subculture of Finnish electronica acts who share Manchester's spirit of innovation. St Petersburg might be Manchester's official twin city, but Webb quickly recognises that Helsinki is her artistic soul mate.



Tracklisting:

- 01 A.N.I.M.A.L.: Gettin' Youngah
- 02 Bynatone: Homewrecker
- 03 Bleep: Soundbombing
- 04 Alcohell: The Lonely Bedsit Dweller
- 05 Nu Science: My Star
- 06 A Maze: Interpretation of Dreams
- 07 Ian Regular: Space Disco
- 08 Boys of Scandinavia: Worse Than A Girl
- 09 Kompleksi The Only Star in My Sky: (Tampere Remix)
- 10 Roger (featuring Veera Voima): Shock of the New
- 11 Boys of Scandinavia: Worse Than A Girl (Webb Remix)
- 12 The Science Block: Computer Controlled
- 13 Caution!Horses: K-Balcony

UK: MARKETING / ADVERTISING: Showcase events are planned for clubs around the country including Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Cardiff, Manchester & London. Radio plugging targets: Specialist shows and presenters sent albums and samplers by Blue Soap Communications. STREET: Poster & flyer campaigns in record shops / bars / venues / colleges in Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Cardiff, Manchester & London. PRESS & PUBLICITY: Print targets: Music, Lifestyles, Major Dailies / Weeklies by In House Press. INTERNET MARKETING: Bio, Album Graphic JPEG, MP3 soundclips, fanlist sign up all available on materecordings.com. E-card available on site by mid February 2004.

FINLAND: Moroder and Mate Recordings Present Music is Better: Dj Makelove, Boys of Scandinavia + Exclusive guests

Dates: Fri 30/01, Fri 13/02, Fri 27/02, more dates tbc. Doors: 10pm-03am, Entrance: 0 EUR Venue: Super, Eerikinkatu 11, 00100 Helsinki Finland

FORMAT

CD

CAT NO

MATE006

BAR CODE

5029385901271

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MATE

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Track by track:

A.N.I.M.A.L.

The man behind the rising Helsinki Post-Punk Movement is an acclaimed graphic designer for the international fashion-magazine and corporate world of consumption. Tired of producing still stable art, he now prowls the streets of Helsinki as A.N.I.M.A.L., a twisted explosion of sound and movement influenced by no one and nothing. A.N.I.M.A.L. proves that using pop instruments does not mean having to make pop music. As the man himself says, 'I am neither vegetable nor mineral.'

BYNATONE

Bynatone are Alan and Rachael, Manchester's very own odd couple. A set at September's Music Is Better saw the packed-out crowd writhe as one to their manic brand of Amiga-technopop while Alan shook, shimmied and break-danced across the stage like Prince if he were born in a back alley in Bolton. After a 2003 in which they supported such luminaries as Adult., Ladytron and a Chas & Dave tribute band, Bynatone are currently working on 'the last word in instrumental electronica'.

ALCOHELL

Darker than an Ian Curtis comedown, Alcohell are an act from Bury who camp out in the no-mans land that lies between Cabaret Voltaire and Leonard Cohen. A recent live appearance in Manchester had half the crowd swaying transfixed while the other half cried angry tears.

NU SCIENCE

Recording music and playing naked since 1996, Nu Science are Finland's Mikko Ojanen, Henri Tani and Aku Raski (whose gameboy project Huoratron' has set the Scandinavian electro scene on fire). They create a 21st century avant-garde collage from influences such as the Star Wars soundtrack, Aphex Twin and Can. 'My Star' is an unworldly combination of IDM rhythms overlaid with narcotic synths and transparent vocoders.

A MAZE

A Helsinki collective with up to 16 members at a time, A Maze revolves around the delicate vocals of singer/songwriter Mia Keurulainen and producer/guitarist Jussi Lahtinen. Their music is taken directly from your childhood daydreams, a sound that shares space with Björk, Mazzy Star and Saint Etienne.

IAN REGULAR

The most unnerving character on the Mate roster, Mr Regular was a shadowy figure on the late-80s Manchester dance scene until he was requested to spend time at Her Majesty's leisure. His music is the result of this turbulent past, which he describes as 'tectonic plates shifting under the foundations of house music'.

BOYS OF SCANDINAVIA

The Finnish response to the DFA production team, Boys of Scandinavia are a purely studio-based collective making punk-funk that echoes the long cold nights of a Helsinki winter and bold admiration of Echo And The Bunnymen, The Chameleons and Liquid Liquid. 'Worse Than A Girl' features the vocals of Finnish art gallery pin-up boy Tuomo Kuusi which are bleak enough to warrant their own FAC bar code.

KOMPLEKSI

Tampere, Finland's Mike Not and Phinn are Kompleksi. From their unlikely combined influences of Chicks On Speed, Scott Walker and Skinny Puppy, Kompleksi provide the soundtrack to your worst apocalyptic nightmare. Fittingly, their motto is "You are all motherfucking trash we will smash electroclash!" Larry Tee, you've met your match.

ROGER

Adding elegance and insight to the Manchester music scene, Roger are pop injected with the spirit of Lil' Louis and Paul Haig. The struggle between Finnish singer Teemu's leanings toward perfectly structured pop and Mancunian-Nigerian instrumentalist Andy's quest for innovative art leads to something beautifully unique but also steeped in the pop tradition of New Order and the Pet Shop Boys. This previously unreleased version of 'Shock Of The New' features the dramatic vocals of Finnish Anti-Folk singer Veera Voima.

DANNY WEBB

The in-house producer and mainman behind Mate Recordings and a sought-after DJ who can be guaranteed to keep the crowd moving at all hours. Webb DJs at nights across the UK and was recently featured on the acclaimed Tiger-sushi compilation How To Kill The DJ (to be re-released in UK soon by Output). His remixes hit the heart of the song, bringing out the danceable hypnotic side.

THE SCIENCE BLOCK & BLEEP

Electronic music purists from St Helens, this is machine funk with little time for instruments made from wood and string. More intelligent than most IDM, The Science Block play the most unrepentantly obscure electro sets in the North.

CAUTION!HORSES

Glacial afro-electronics from the inner-city streets of Manchester. Caution!Horses are a black arts collective without a leader - music this beautiful can't be sullied by the dynamics of power. This is the sound of Manchester's skyline at night, as drawn by Carl Craig and Derrick May.

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