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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

EXCLUSIVE: VIRTUAL INTERVIEW WITH VIRTUAL RIOT

Kim Reyes • AUG 30, 2013

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Valentin Brunn is a 19 year old who makes dubstep and drum & bass tracks under the name Virtual Riot (<http://www.djz.com/tag/virtual-riot>), and he is only just getting started in his career.

The young artist from Germany is climbing up the Beatport charts for his hits like "One for All, all for One" with Razihel (<https://soundcloud.com/razihel>) and "Cali Born" with Helicopter Showdown (<https://www.facebook.com/HelicopterShowdown>). He just released his first album There Goes Your Money and played a spot at this year's Airfield Festival (www.holiincolors.de/) in Mendig, Germany.

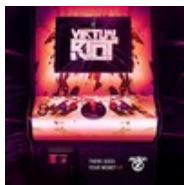
DJZ got a chance to virtually chat with Virtual Riot (www.beatport.com/artist/virtual-riot/174998) to discuss how his career is going thus far and what he has in store for his fans.

DJZ: How long have you been producing, and how did you get into making dubstep and drum & bass music?

Virtual Riot: I started eight years ago when I was 11. You couldn't really call it producing because my brother gave me a program and a mini keyboard, and I just started working with it. I played around with it for three or four years and I slowly started to make songs and something good came out of it. If I should narrow to when I started producing dubstep and drum & bass it was three or four years now, but I started learning the program and working with synthesizers a little bit earlier.

DJZ: What does it feel like to be a young artist, a 19 year old working in the EDM world?

VR: It's cool, with live acts you're basically getting paid for partying all night and sometimes you think like, "If all months could like this one right now, then you can live from it." But of course it's very unstable, you never know if you'll always get cool things to do like remixing somebody or making sample packs of tracks. I'm also trying to start at university to have something to stabilize it a little so that I have something to go back to if this doesn't work.



► **Virtual Riot**

(<http://soundcloud.com/virtual-riot>)

Virtual Riot - There Goes Your Money
(Promo Mix) Release ...
(<http://soundcloud.com/virtual-riot/there-goes-your-money-album>)

0.00 | 8.47

DJZ: What artists do you credit as your inspirations?

VR: I think I'll have to say for dubstep and drum & bass stuff, it's pretty much Skrillex (<http://www.djz.com/dj/skrillex>). I started with that when I listened to his *Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites* album. In general what brought me to electronic music and what inspired me a lot was The Prodigy (<http://theprodigy.com/>) and BT (<https://www.facebook.com/bt>). Also, a lot of rock and screamo like Underoath (<https://www.facebook.com/underoath>) and Lostprophets (<https://www.facebook.com/lostprophets>).

DJZ: When did it hit you in your career that you had solidified yourself as an EDM artist?

VR: I don't know, I kind of just slipped into it. There was no real point, I just started with management. A friend of mine introduced me to them and it was cool. It was like, we could just start working together on your music without any contracts, just trying to get my music out there. They told me they could get me a cool singer and I could make a song with her, and that's how I got to work with Amba Shepherd (www.ambashepherd.com/). Back then we made that track "Super Human". My manager just cared for me, so now I'm having more and more live performances. We're also planning to finalize a management contract to make it more official. It started to get serious in the last year, maybe.



► **Dubstep - EDM.com**

(<http://soundcloud.com/dubstep>)

Superhuman by Virtual Riot ft Amba Shepherd
(<http://soundcloud.com/dubstep/superhuman-by-virtual-riot-ft>)

0.00 | 3.37

DJZ: You just came out with a new album *There Goes Your Money*. What was the production process like?

VR: In this case, the album is comprised of older and newer stuff, so when I was making the tracks, I wasn't really planning to make it an album like this. In the end I tried to reorder the tracks to have it make more sense as if it was a planned album. Some of the songs are older, and these songs were already up on YouTube and SoundCloud. It was just like, I wanted to take all of the stuff I had done in the past year and comprise it on an album and release it. I wonder how it's doing on Beatport.

DJZ: What are your thoughts on the whole idea that the genre of dubstep has been ruined by “brostep”?

VR: Yeah, it's kind of true, but I don't think it's ruined. It's more like there are those artists who reuse the same sounds all the time and I'm kind of afraid of doing that accidentally as well. I'm always trying to make new sounds and don't use the cliché sounds. There are a lot of producers who get on these promotion channels on YouTube and they don't really make music, they use sample packs and presets for their songs so it all sounds the same, so it's really easy for anyone to make that kind of “easy dubstep” which is called brostep. It's all over the place, with new artists popping out everywhere, but it's still cool to find artists who do their own thing and have their own sound. I think dubstep isn't ruined at all — you just have to be really picky when it comes to new artists because there's a lot of crap out there.



Dubstep - EDM.com
(<http://soundcloud.com/dubstep>)
Cali Born by Helicopter Showdown &
Virtual Riot
(<http://soundcloud.com/dubstep/cali-born-by-helicopter>)

0.00 | 4.41

DJZ: What are some of your dream collaborations?

VR: That's a really good question. I'd love to work with BT because I think it'd be very cool to produce with him. He knows what he's doing and he's very clean with his production. Savant (<http://www.savantfans.com/>) is now working with him, so that would be another great collaboration. I'd really like to work with Savant. What else would be cool... I already worked with Helicopter Showdown, and that was a dream come true. One step higher might be, I don't know, it's all dreaming, but working with Zomboy (<https://www.facebook.com/ZomboyOfficial>) or Must Die (<https://soundcloud.com/mustdiemusic>) would be really great, but I don't think they have the time right now.

DJZ: Do you have any plans of exploring other genres of music?

VR: I'm already doing that, like, I had a band at school and we were doing metal, heavy metal. I was also recording the tracks from our band at home, so I have already worked with recording guitars, but I want to learn that at university. So on one hand, metal and punk, but when I'm also sick of dubstep and EDM in general, I'm doing ambient or trip-hop, like Bonobo (<http://djz.com/tag/bonobo>), or post-dubstep like Burial (<https://djz.com/tag/burial>). For things like doing music for a commercial or inquiries, I always do whatever they want — folk music, if they want it. You have to learn how to make music in a different genre, so I'd really like to be able to do that and mix other genres, and I have experience with metal music.

DJZ: What kind of music do you listen to in your downtime?

VR: I think it's Burial and Bonobo, also Mount Kimbie (<http://djz.com/tag/mount-kimbie>) — very slow and depressing trip-hop and post-dubstep. I got a lot of Burial here. I think he is a great artist. Four Tet (<http://djz.com/tag/four-tet>) is also great and so is Massive Attack (www.massiveattack.co.uk/).



Virtual Riot
(<http://soundcloud.com/virtual-riot>)
Sub.Sound & Virtual Riot - Where Are
You (preview)
(<http://soundcloud.com/virtual-riot/sub-sound-virtual-riot-where>)

DJZ: Any other Virtual Riot news announcements you'd like to share with DJZ readers?

VR: Release announcements — there is a remix that is finally coming out that I made a year ago and was always waiting for the release date, and now it's finally coming! I think at the end of the month. It's going to be released with the original. It's a remix of "Arms" by MNRS (<https://soundcloud.com/mnrsmnrs>), also completely unknown but cool guys. Indie rock, indie pop style. I just started a collaboration with another unknown artist called Sub.Sound (<https://soundcloud.com/thesubsound>) and I already uploaded a little preview. I'm hoping to maybe release it as a free download.

Stay up to date with all things Virtual Riot by visiting his Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/virtualriotmusic>) and SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/virtual-riot>).

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 (<http://www.djz.com/news/grandtheft-hedspin-mobbin-ep-free-download>)

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