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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW: OLIVER HELDENS MAKES A SPLASH

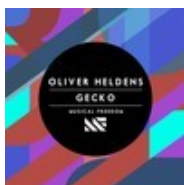
Kim Reyes • FEB 6, 2014

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Social media platforms have revolutionized the way we interact with one another on the worldwide web, and for budding producers and DJs, breaking out into the modern scene requires not only talent, but a distinct Internet presence. Just ask 19-year-old Oliver Heldens (<https://www.facebook.com/OliverHeldens>), the Netherlands-born producer who found international fame after being discovered on SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/oliverheldens>) and Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/OliverHeldens>).

"Spinnin' Records (<http://www.spinninrecords.com/>) found me online on SoundCloud, and the first tracks I released on Spinnin' were supported by Tiesto (<http://www.djz.com/dj/tiesto/>)," explains Heldens. "Tiesto started to follow me on Twitter, so I could 'direct message' him my new tracks. I sent him 'Gecko' and he replied within 15 minutes saying he wanted to sign it."



▶ Oliver Heldens

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

Oliver Heldens - Gecko (Original Mix)

[OUT NOW]

(<http://soundcloud.com/oliverheldens/gecko-out-now>)

Heldens, who is in his last year of high school, has received massive support for his widely successful original track "Gecko", which was released via Tiesto's famed record label Musical Freedom (<http://www.musicalfreedom.com/>). After being crowned Pete Tong's (<http://www.djz.com/dj/pete-tong/>) "Essential New Tune" on January 31 (<https://soundcloud.com/essentialnewtune/31st-january-2014-essential>), it's evident that the young producer is on the fast track to success.

Producing for Heldens began as a hobby when he was merely 12 years old, since a neighborhood friend of his taught him how to use FL Studio. When he turned 13, he got more into house music, mostly because the iconic Hardwell (<http://www.djz.com/dj/hardwell>) played at his school parties. "I loved what he did," says Heldens, who, as a kid, had a love for classic '90s house, jumpstyle, and hardstyle.

It was only inevitable that Heldens, full of talent and wonder, would delve further into the electronic music scene beyond simply being a listener, and it's obvious now -- "Gecko" has stayed put in Beatport's Top 10 (<http://www.beatport.com/top-100>) since its release a month ago, and has been supported by four of DJ Mag's Top 5 DJs (<http://www.djmag.com/top100>).

"There is a Dutch saying: 'When you get compliments, you get feathers in your ass', so I guess the feeling I'm having is tickling," jokes Heldens. "No, it feels good, of course!"

Heldens' distinct sound is situated in the genre of house, ranging from electro to progressive to deep melodies. This variety demonstrates a kaleidoscope of talent, credited by his early influences of Fedde Le Grand (<http://www.djz.com/fedde-le-grand>), Hardwell, and Bingo Players (<http://www.djz.com/dj/bingo-players/>). "They really brought something new when others were doing the same," says Heldens. "Nowadays I have many idols - Martin Garrix (<http://www.djz.com/tag/martin-garrix>), Showtek (<http://www.djz.com/dj/showtek>), Tiesto, Tchami (<https://soundcloud.com/iamtchami>), Sick Individuals (<https://soundcloud.com/sickindividuals>) -- I could go on and on."



Oliver Heldens

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

Martin Garrix - Animals (Oliver Heldens Remix) [Out Now]

(<http://soundcloud.com/oliverheldens/animals-remix-out-now>)

0.00 | 4.22

Undoubtedly the burgeoning producer will go on, in terms of career progression for the upcoming year. Beginning with the success of his remix of "Animals" by Garrix, 2014 definitely seems promising. "I have a lot of music coming including a 'Gecko' follow up, a remake of a golden oldie, and two major remixes on the way," reveals Heldens. "The tour schedule is filling up with a lot of cool shows that I will be performing at."

Heldens will be making a splash into America's electronic dance scene this March at Spinnin' Sessions (<http://www.wantickets.com/spinninsessions>), a Miami beach party boasting a lineup of international acts like R3hab (<http://www.djz.com/dj/r3hab>), Garrix, and Yellow Claw (<http://www.djz.com/tag/yellow-claw>). It's clear that this is only the beginning for the American invasion of Heldens, who dreams of collaborating with vocalists like Justin Timberlake, Example (<http://www.djz.com/tag/example>), Sam Smith (<http://www.djz.com/tag/sam-smith>), and Lorde.

"I want to say thanks to everybody who has been supporting me so far," proclaims Heldens. "It is a big motivation to know your work is appreciated and that you make people happy with your music."

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