

CASSY



BIOGRAPHY

Cassy is a strong, independent and unique individual whose feminine power and sensitive musical flow delivers diverse techno with soul, warmth, elegance and a touch of mystery.

“Always since I can remember, especially in the Austrian village I grew up in, I was surrounded by music. One of my first and strongest musical memories is of having a ladybird turntable, I played it so much it was demolished in the end.”

Born in England and raised in Austria, with her mother from Austria and father from Barbados, Cassy was exposed to many cultures growing up. She went to music school at the age of five before joining a local children’s choir, where she would wear traditional Austrian dress and sing in monasteries. As a young girl, Cassy met jazz musicians including *Sun Ra*, *Archie Shepp* and *Lester Bowie*, when

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they stayed at her parent's countryside inn on their way to play an Austrian jazz festival, organized by her parents' friends. "Sun Ra was this super mega cosmic guy, an out there character. These people must have been a big influence on me. They left a trace behind of somewhere I knew I belonged, without knowing how to get there."

Influenced by her parents, Cassy grew up listening mostly to *Chaka Khan* and *Sade*, alongside an eclectic selection including *Spandau Ballet*, *Madness*, *Sarah Vaughan*, *Talking Heads*, *The Cure*, *Ella Fitzgerald* and *Louis Armstrong*. In her teens she attended singing lessons and studied A-Levels in music, learning a few musical instruments, with the focus on guitar. "At this stage I always felt like I was way too shy to do it properly. I didn't believe that I could be a musician like the ones who came to stay at my parents, but, it was my deepest wish."

In the early 90s, Vienna started developing a strong techno scene, exposing artists like *Kruder & Dorfmeister*. Cassy loved and frequented a soul and funk night, *Soul Seduction*, which lead to her discovering *Gilles Peterson* and the influential label *Talking Loud*. "Around this time I also started buying records from the local record shop, *Black Market*, a bit of drum n bass, Hip Hop, House, Techno, a mix of things. I was never differentiating music."

At 20 she moved to London to attend drama school for what she calls "The serious study years for drama training. I learnt a lot but I realised this wasn't my path." She came back to Vienna and arrived directly back into the music scene. "It was around then I started singing to electronic music and soon I started DJing. I got obsessed and didn't want to stop."

Her first gig was at *Flex* in Vienna with *Electric Indigo*, who, alongside artists *Acid Maria* and *Miss Kittin*, became Cassy's first mentor. "I was really influenced by and look up to these women. Susanne (*Electric Indigo*) was DJing a lot at raves and parties internationally and I would go with her. One day she said "Why don't you start DJing yourself, and then you can come and you don't have to pay for it". I had an Austrian boyfriend in Cologne at the time and I would go record shopping at the *Kompakt* record store. I also began to experience different techno scenes in Germany, like the Munich scene with *DJ Hell* and *Love Parade* in Berlin and I slowly began to build my courage as a DJ. It took a while for me to take myself seriously and it began slowly, which was very good for me in the end. I could focus on my craft and move ahead step by step."

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Making music soon followed and her first release was singing with *Elin aka Autorepeat* on 'Music takes me Higher', she then sang on a track for *Zombie Nation* and demand grew. Through *Miss Kittin*, Cassy travelled to Geneva and moved there soon after. Here she met *Luciano*, *Quenum* and *Sonja Moonear* and began releasing on *Mental Groove*.

In 2003 Cassy moved to Berlin and got deep into the burgeoning underground scene. "I moved because Berlin was cheaper and there was a scene that was building into something. It was cool to have so many clubs and things going on and to be exposed to the DJs and nightlife. I could listen to music all the time and I felt like I was part of something. The energy helped for me to take myself seriously as I was surrounded by people who had the same interests. I was hanging and working with *Mathew Jonson*, *Tobias*, *Steve Bug*, *Swayzak*, *Zip* and *Ricardo Villalobos* and I was sometimes singing with Ricardo at after parties at places like *Club Der Visionaere*."

In 2004, Berlin opened a new club, *Panorama Bar*, they offered labels different nights and they gave *Luciano* a *Cadenza* night. He offered Cassy to play in the first month of them opening and from that *Panorama Bar* asked her to come back as resident. She played once a month for three years and it led to her mixing the first *Panorama Bar* CD compilation. Her release output increased, with her putting out her own music on labels including *Perlon*, *Ostgut Ton*, *Uzuri*, *Beatstreet*, *Playhouse* and her own Cassy imprint, as well as mixing the heralded fabric 71.

Cassy left Berlin in 2010. She moved to Paris for a while, where she hung out mostly with her, as she calls him, best DJ friend, *D'Julz*, and held a residency at *Rex Club*. She then moved to Amsterdam, where she held a residency and *Trouw*, amidst a heavy international touring schedule.

After initially being resident at *Cocoon* Ibiza on the *Amnesia* terrace, Cassy moved to *Circo Loco* the following year, where she still holds her residency today. "I am very happy playing there, I enjoy the vibe and the energy and especially now I can play more open and interesting."

In 2016 Cassy will release her debut artist album, produced with *King Britt*. As un-yet unnamed, her emotive, soulful voice features on almost every track of the album, which draws you in, telling a story of her journey in human relationships. There is also possible talk of her going live with the album, in her own way and in her own time.



An honest, true and powerful feminine force, Cassy is an artist who knows and speaks her mind and stands strong as a unique inspiration in dance music. Asking what inspires her, Cassy replied: “Be yourself and if you can’t be yourself, be *Chaka Khan*.”

SOCIALS

WEBSITE: <http://www.cassyofficial.com/>

RA: <https://www.residentadvisor.net/dj/cassy>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/cassyofficial>

TWITTER: https://twitter.com/Cassy_official

SOUNDCLOUD: <https://soundcloud.com/cassy-official>

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