

KORNÉL KOVÁCS BIOGRAPHY

Born 1985 in Stockholm to Hungarian parents, **Kornél Kovács'** perambulations in music began early and have continued at pace ever since. Raised on that classic, enviable diet of "proper" music training plus parents with killer music taste, Kovács' daytime lessons were given texture at night as everything from **Kraftwerk** and **Art Of Noise** to **King Tubby** and **Boogie Down Productions** wafted through the house.

Applying the Stakhanovite work ethic of his heritage, Kovács started knocking on as many of Stockholm's musical doors as possible, teaboying in the city's record stores, stalking its DJs, working his way through the local library's selection of dance music records. Kovács, then a "strange nerd who got to hang around the older cool kids if they found me funny", even managed to wangle a few DJ gigs on the back of an intense early teenage love of mid-90s drum'n'bass, turning him into "Stockholm's youngest former jungle DJ" by the age of 14.

After a few years in this exquisitely premature retirement, Kovács picked his headphones up again in the mid-00s, and exciting things followed. Kovács was already writing about music, for his own mp3 blog and various culture and music magazines - this was joined by a DJ residency at Stockholm's legendary **Paradise** night, as well as a weekly radio show on **P3**, Sweden's **Radio 1** equivalent. An unsurprisingly important stint at **Red Bull Music Academy** in 2008 was followed by the formation of **Studio Barnhus** with his Stockholm acquaintances **Axel Boman** and **Petter Nordkvist**. At first a studio space, soon enough a DJ trio, and eventually a record label, Studio Barnhus has now charted 50 releases and counting - the initial *Good Children Make Bad Grown Ups* EP was Kovács' first appearance on vinyl.

The collective's successes have drawn reams of prestigious press coverage in the years since and worldwide DJ dates for its three members, as well as giving Kovács the artistic space that eventually fostered 2014's *Szikra*, the track Kovács admits was what made him realise he could "actually make music that people appreciate". Given all this, it would be wrong to describe 2015 hit *Pantalón*, on Glasgow's Numbers imprint, as any kind of "breakout" moment. Its irresistible, snapping drums and Spanish-language vocal did get people talking and dancing though, while an appearance on Hamburg's esteemed **Smallville** label in the same year saw him connect with another of Europe's electronic music powerhouses.

Kovács' debut album, *The Bells*, was released on Studio Barnhus in August 2016, having been recorded during an intensive two-week session in his friend and mix engineer **Matt Karmil's** Gothenburg studio. Giving your debut LP the same name as the most influential techno track in history certainly takes balls. But after hearing how the album draws together Kovács' natural festive musicality and his long-standing love of club rhythmic, then factoring in the juggernaut trajectory that's taken him from teamaking record store jester to globally acclaimed producer and DJ, you can certainly forgive his confidence. Described by **Thump** as a "dizzying, kaleidoscopic and rhythmically adventurous release" - *The Bells* featured at 2nd position in **Mixmag's** top 50 albums list, no. 5 in **DJ Mag's**, and was named one of top 20 electronic albums of 2016 by **Pitchfork**.

Kornél Kovács has now cemented his position as one of the most prominent producers and DJs around. In 2017 he's played nearly every corner of the world, including his first Australian tour, shows at Berlin's **Panorama Bar** and New York's **Good Room**, a main stage slot at **Dekmantel's** first Brazilian edition and festival stages in the UK and all around Europe.

"A collection built from a narrow range of influences, from disco to dancehall and dub to late-90s house...sitting somewhere between the carnival workouts of Basement Jaxx and the atmospheric widescreen sprawl of DJ Koze"

Artist of the Month at Mixmag

"Not only is his rhythmic sensibility far more nuanced than most of his peers', he is a master of both texture and empty space. His sound breathes even as it giggles."

Pitchfork

"An alluring, expansive, meticulously-orchestrated world...the Swede intersperses greatest hits with staggering beauty"

XLR8R

"The Bells' traverses Kovács musical taste, all written and produced with an impeccable attention to detail, melody and sonics...A beautiful release that is as danceable as it is emotive"

DJ Mag

"Grin-some wonky house - a shot of Vitamin D, from Stockholm"

Mojo

"With his debut album, *The Bells*, Kovács hasn't fully abandoned his mischievous side, but he strives towards a more profound statement, nuancing the court jester routine with something dreamy and melancholic...Studio Barnhus is developing and defining a new Swedish house sound...An accomplishment worthy of celebration"

4/5 Resident Advisor

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Albums:

The Bells (Studio Barnhus, 2016)

Singles/EPs:

Radio Koko (Numbers, 2015)

Nincs EP (Studio Barnhus, 2015)

Space Jam (Smallville Records, 2015)

Studio Barnhus Japan Special One (Studio Barnhus, 2015)

Szikra (Studio Barnhus, 2014)

Good Children Make Bad Grown Ups (Studio Barnhus, 2010) *Baby Step/Down Since '92* (Studio Barnhus, 2012)

Remixes:

Space Dimension Controller – *Exostack* (R&S, 2017)

Auntie Flo – *So In Love* (Huntleys & Palmers, 2017)

Opal People – *IKYTIF* (Greco-Roman, 2017)

SLG – *Varsovia Marimba* (Pets, 2017)

Snacks – *Order To The Senses* (Endless Flight, 2017)

Members Of The House – *Summer Nites* (Numbers, 2016)

Serge Devant – *Always On My Mind* (Crosstown Rebels, 2016)

Dos Attack – *Flue* (Riverette, 2016)

Pet Shop Boys – *Twenty-Something* (x2, 2016)

LINKS

<http://www.soundcloud.com/kornel>

<http://www.facebook.com/kokokornel>

<http://www.twitter.com/kornelkovacs>