



Since his very first EP, released in 1995, Olivier Raymond, a.k.a OXIA, has been at the forefront of the French techno scene. With his friend The Hacker and their label Goodlife, Olivier has helped regenerate the sound of French productions. Whereas the majority of the first wave favoured dark and New Wave sounds, Olivier epitomises the Funk side of the movement: Hardgroove Techno, 100% Dancefloor, personified by rhythmic avalanches and loops inspired by, amongst others, the "Purpose Makers" series by Jeff Mills. On the flip side, his reflective moods are apparent in his unique dry Spartan electro sound.

Olivier had his first taste of success in 1998 with Phunky Data (duo with Kiko) with compositions very much French Touch in sound. Moving away from the public eye and this "popular" genre of music, Olivier embarked on a journey of self discovery to find his own musical style, his own true identity. The journey led to the creation of Oxia – originally launched as a duo with Stéphane Deschezeaux before reverting to a solo project – which soon traversed many a frontier: Signed to the German label Monoïd and Carl Cox and DJ C1's British label In-Tec. After many EPs and numerous DJ tours, the project has today reached its pinnacle: the release of Oxia's first album.

Before looking to the future, let's take a step back in time...To the beginning...To 1971... Born in Grenoble, France, Olivier's musical talents were far from being predestined. None of his family "walked the boards" nor played any sort of instrument (not even the spoons!). Against all odds, via a rogue gene perhaps, Olivier's musical soul is formed. From a very early age, Black Music is Olivier's preferred companion: (The Jackson Five; Prince; Chic ...), Disco follows when Olivier experiences Cerrone in concert in 1978: "On the Côte d'Azur on holiday with my parents – one of life's defining moments".

During his school years, Olivier befriends Stéphane Deschezeaux, another young man passionate about Black Music. Together they present a Funk radio programme on a local station and Olivier turns his hand to mixing - messing around with a cassette player and a turntable without pitch control! Soon tiring with his limited tools, Olivier invests in a proper pair of decks and mixes at student parties: "like a traditional DJ"

Other influences are added to his repertoire: Afrika Bambaataa, Italo Disco, New Wave, Depeche Mode, New Order then M/A/R/R/S, S-Xpress...The burgeoning house scene turns Olivier's head (JM.Silk, Todd Terry, Innercity...): "For me, the house scene wasn't new but a continuation of the Funk movement...".



In 1991, Olivier buys his first bits of "music making" equipment and starts composing melodies incorporating sounds from Black Music, Acid Jazz and New Jack.

In 1993 Olivier becomes resident DJ in a club in Grenoble. His electronic mixing style and deck technique helping initiate new genres of soirées - European trance and progressive (Eye Q, Guerilla, Harthouse ...).

The arrival of 1994 sees Olivier and Stéphane's previous efforts come into fruition. Their style is shaped, they are drawn to American techno - by the likes of Jeff Mills, Damon Wild... and Acid house. Oxia goes live and after a few dates they release their first EP in 1995 on their own label Ozone Records (the name is taken from Kiko's record shop). Olivier co-produces Jack de Marseille's first releases on Ozone.



Aside from this, Olivier and Kiko's musical affinity and friendship leads them to work together. The Phunky Data duo goes on to achieve great success throughout France. Two albums follow: "Fashion or Not" (1998) and "38" (2000). Two consequences become apparent: Firstly, not enough time for Oxia; Secondly, Olivier feels uncomfortable with the lifestyle attached to being one half of a commercially successful duo. Olivier soon realises that the indie music life is much more palatable and in 1998 creates a second label with Michel Amato (The Hacker) and Alexandre Reynaud both of whom he met in Grenoble a few years previously. They name their label Goodlife in homage to the mythical Inner City track.

The young label releases Oxia's "Body" EP in 1999, marking a structural change between the duo: "Stéphane started to be disinterested in techno and wanted to diversify more into deep house". They parted ways amicably and Oxia became one.

Release after release, Oxia refines his sound anchored in groovy techno, tainted by old Skool influences. Goodlife 04 ("Etat d'Esprit" EP, 2000) gains credit on the International circuit and is signed by Carl Cox and DJ C1 onto their label Intec (two Eps: "Influence" in 2000 and "Finally" in 2002). Oxia reaches turning point: DJ bookings multiple worldwide; he is signed to the German label Monoïd ("1003" EP in 2001, "Delay" EP in 2002); Goodlife releases the "Goodlife" EP with The Hacker in 2001 then Phont music in 2002. Remixes for labels such as Missile, Scandium, Terminal M... are commissioned. CD mixes reflecting Oxia's live sets - a subtle mix of groovy techno and melodic sounds verging on the boundaries of electro - are also released ("Vital Session" in 2001 on Human/Uwe and "Oxia on Monoïd" on Monoïd the following year),

Today, like his good friend The Hacker, Oxia has achieved the accolade of being one of France's techno Godfathers, on a par with the likes of David Carretta, The Youngsters, Vitalic, Kiko, Agoria, John Thomas. He now has his next feat to conquer – an album. A task that has been undertaken seriously, yet hesitantly, since the end of 2002: "I am a very slow and punctilious composer. Very indecisive too!".

This, Oxia's first album, risks to move feet on the dancefloor and take the ear on an electro adventure. Due out January 2004.

By Damien Almira
Translation: Sarah Agasse

Discography

Eps

GOODLIFE 20 "Special" ep - 2003
PHONT 27 "Before the change"ep- 2002
MONOID 30 "Delay"ep- 2002
INTEC 14 "Finally"ep- 2002
PORNOGRAPHIC 04 (various artist) "Again"- 2001
GOODLIFE 10 "GoodLife"ep- 2001
MONOID 1003 - 2001
INTEC 08 "Influence"ep- 2000
GOODLIFE 04 "Etat d'esprit"ep- 2000
GOODLIFE 02 "Body"ep- 1999
UMF 04 (Various artists) " Static "- 1999
OZONE.004 (various) "The Mother Ship"ep- 1997
OZONE.005 "Time"ep- 1997
OZONE.002 (various) "The Groove of our caravan"ep- 1996
OZONE 001 – 1995

Albums

GOODLIFE GLCD/GLP04 " 24 Heures" - January 2004

Collaborations

UWE "Morning" Dj Tonio & Oxia - ("Connection" Tonio Album) - 2003
GOODLIFE 14 "Last test part1" Oxia & The Hacker-2002
GOODLIFE 14 "Freaky game" Eric Borgo & Oxia- 2002
OZONE 9.5 "The Positive" Ep Jack de Marseille & Oxia 1999
GOODLIFE 01 "Another Side " The Hacker & Oxia 1998
OZONE 07 "Kalymba " Jack de Marseille & Oxia-1998
INTERFACE 03 " Raw stuff from G " The Hacker & Oxia- 1997
MENTAL GROOVE " Dj RUSH" Remix by The Hacker & Oxia- 1998

Remixs

BULLYTT Leandro Gamez "No es otra cosa" - 2004
GOODLIFE 16 Millimetric "Naked body"- 2003
UMF 17 Agoria-"Radio City"- 2003
TERMINAL M Redhead "Dark ceremony"- 2002
MISSILE 49.5 Tim Taylor & Thor 54 "Over the Hill"- 2002
MISSILE 46.5 The Hacker "Nothing last"- 2001
GOODLIFE 11 Arno Riva & Dj Speep "Kbab"- 2001
GOODLIFE 07 The Hacker "Fadin'away"- 2000
LEITMOTIV Lab Insect- 2000
SCANDIUM 01 Ultracolo "Up Town"r- 2000
SYMBOL02 White "In da little"- 1999

Mix cd

MONOID "Oxia on Monoid"- 2002
HUMAN "Vital Session"- 2001
TRAX Magazine CD Sampler- 2000

Dates

CLUBS

Loft (GoodLife residence) Barcelona - Spain **Shine club** Belfast - Ireland **Aurora club** Croatia
OTV club Zagreb - Croatia **Womb Club** (Goodlife party) Tokyo - Japan **The Orbit** Leeds -
England **Love Club** Sao Paulo - Brazil **Fuse** Brussels - Belgium **Metro club** Alicante - Spain
Zentra club Chicago - Usa **Rex Club** Paris - France **Plastic** Belgrade - Serbia **Mirroi** Athen
- Greece **Kia-Aura** Aberdeen - Scotland **The End** London - England **Fabric** London -
England **Loft electro club** Lausanne - Switzerland **Roschtefflager** - Zurich - Switzerland **Club**
Colloseum Opatija - Croatia **Club Night** Split - Croatia **Universal Dog** Lahr - Germany
Bunk-Tek - Belgium **Centralino** Turin - Italy **Mazzo** Amsterdam - Holland **Le 4 sans**
Bordeaux - France **K4** - Slovenia **Sound Station** Liege - Belgium **Buenos Aires News**
Buenos Aires - Argentina **Ultraschall** München - Germany **Nitsa Club** Apollo Barcelone -
Spain **Piu** Sabadel - Spain **Amnesia Ibiza** - Spain **Mo-club** Germany **Le Terminal Export**
Nancy- France **Pagoa** San Sebastian - Spain **L'An-fer** Dijon - France **Cosmic /Millenium**
(Supernova) Girona - Spain **Universal Copera** Grenada - Spain **Cocoon club** Madrid - Spain
Made in Brussel - Belgium **Spartacus** Aix en provence - France **Palm beach** Girona - Spain
Le Why Not Pau - France **Le Privé** Avignon - France **La Villa Rouge** Montpellier - France
La Chapelle (City Parade 2001) Liege - Belgium **Doornroosje** Nijmegen - Holland **La**
Cova - Barcelone - Spain **Vertigo** (Resident Reflex party) Grenoble - France ...

PARTYS

Danube rave 2003 Linz - Austria :: Kls night Macedonia - 2003 :: MTV Walkana beach
festival 2003 - Croatia :: Welcome to the Rave Paris - 2003 : Public Energy 2003 Istres -
France :: Transruption 2003 Grenoble - France :: I LOVE TECHNO 2002 Gent - Belgium ::
Motion Festival 2001 - Switzerland :: Festiv 'arts Fabregues - France :: Helsinky Finlande
Goliath 2001:: Mulhouse - France:: Montréal - Canada :: United 2001 Paris - France :: Rio de
Janeiro - Brazil :: Digital Forest 2001/2002 - Istres - France :: Electrogaia San Sebastien -
Spain :: Hexagona Grenoble - France :: Floor Goodlife Roschtefflager - Zurich - Ch (Street
parade 2002) :: Vision 2002 Paris :: Panic Elysée Montmartre Paris :: Ososphere Strasbourg -
France :: Futuria - France :: D-Mention 1998 Paris :: Naza 1996 Marseille - France ::
Amplitude 1996 Annecy - France ...

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