

There are too many cliché dj's in Wien, playing the same abstract electronica, with few beats, no rhythm and often no dancing at all. For Eugene, this approach is all wrong – dance music is called that for a reason. It is spectacular when a dancefloor erupts in collective sexy joy. But in Wien the scene is more about sitting around drinking beer and smoking and chatting, rather than self-expression out on the floor.

Is the city too white, too straight and too intellectual? No! The dj is playing the wrong songs. To dj should never lead to clichés – music has always been about the next big idea, and innovation. Instead we get bland gallery music with no words or ideas. If a song is completely unfamiliar to the audience, it's less likely to move them. dj culture was born in 1950s black America and Jamaica. It was always about pushing things forward. And wild parties. Neither of which is easy to find in Vienna. The ethnic clubs in Vienna provide much more dancing than the local scene ever does.

Eugene finds that cool is over-rated, and what matters more is joy and passion. He mixes up 70s soul grooves with Led Zeppelin, Moroccan mountain music and Irish jigs. Anything to keep the crowd dancing.

A simple story illustrates so much about what is wrong with the dance scene here. Eugene tells of a friend who was at a 'cool' party, and asked the dj for a song he wanted to dance to. She expressed astonishment and said: 'Bin ich YouTube?' (Am I YouTube?). And you understand from this reaction that A) Vienna dj's are less interested in how the crowd react to their songs. B) Since nobody was dancing, that his promise to dance to the song meant nothing. Dancing is often irrelevant to Vienna dj's. Maybe even irritating. Many are performers in an art scene, and certainly not there to please the public. Or cause people to dance.

Dancing is like a carnival, freeing you from what you normally are; dancing together creates harmonies between people with different tastes. Dancing is non-verbal communication, and opens up dialogue between people who share no words. This is illustrated at the beautiful Caritas Wien project Brunnenpassage, where new immigrants mix up with long-time residents to share culture and rituals through dance.

Dancing is self-expression, identity, sex, joy, group connectivity, wildness, freedom, cool, creativity, release, art. Join us soon.

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