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Rare female DJ keeps music fresh

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Story by Linda East Brady , Standard-Examiner staff - Feb 26 2014 - 6:25pm



<http://go.standard.net/sites/default/files/images/2014/02/26/rare-female-dj-keeps-music-fresh-30564.jpg>

It's pretty simple, really. Amanda Hill got into deejaying because she loves music. All kinds of music.

Under the stage name of Miss DJ Lux, she has carved a place for herself in her longtime home of Park City and beyond, as a talent that reads a crowd and gives them the music they need to dance.

Hill is playing her debut show in Ogden Friday, Feb. 28, at Brewskis nightclub.

“We’ve gotten a great response so far, so I am really excited to finally make it there,” Hill said.

A native of Maine, Hill was drawn to Utah, as so many are, for the powdery snow. But she found a real home in Park City — and found her career there, too.

Hill said she has always liked all kinds of music, and that fact led her to being an open-format DJ — one who masters all styles — rather than a specific genre.

Some years back, she worked at the club then known as Harry O’s, on Park City’s Main Street. Her roommate was a DJ at the club, with the required equipment at hand. He showed her the ropes about a decade ago, when deejaying still meant schlepping crates of vinyl to and fro.

The heavy lifting required back then may have helped make deejaying a male-dominated field.

“There are simply not too many women DJs, especially in the open format style,” Hill said. “But I always listened to a lot of different music, and had a big collection. I was the person that, when you go into my car, you did not know what you would hear — very random. I loved those vinyl days, too; searching the record stores for great stuff.”

Hill said that unless a venue asks her to play a specific style — and some do, especially if they have a hip-hop night or other themed evening — she reads the crowd and develops a set to suit the unique style and mood of the audience. Park City has been the perfect training ground for such open-form sets.

“With it being such a resort town, you get a different crowd every night,” she said. “And not only is it a resort community, it is also somewhat transient. Some people live there for six months, or a season, and then move on. Here comes an entirely new crowd.”

Hill said that turnover keeps Miss DJ Lux on her toes, for certain.

“One night, you might have an older crowd, who loves those rock classics,” she said. “The next, a younger crowd into the hip-hop. I truly do not have an agenda. Some DJs do. They play what they want, not what you want. I really don’t do that. If people are not dancing, I am not doing my job. I am there to get that specific crowd going.”

So how does she pick a set? Not by matching beats per minute from tune to tune, as some DJs try to do to create flow.

“That idea really won’t work when you are moving from hip-hop to dub-step to EDM (electronic dance music),” she said. “It’s more about knowing the music, and feeling what works together.”

Hill said her personal favorite to take in live is EDM. And she loves to witness masters of the game, who just happen to cluster a mere day’s drive away, in the entertainment mecca of Las Vegas.

“I think going to see other people do what you do helps you progress,” Hill said. “It is so cool the way we’ve got truly world-renowned DJs right down the road in Vegas. It is really fun and inspiring to go see what they are doing.”

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PREVIEW

- **WHO:** Miss DJ Lux
- **WHEN:** 9 p.m. Feb. 28
- **WHERE:** Brewskis, 244 Historic 25th St., Ogden. Ages 21 and older
- **TICKETS:** \$5, at the door. www.brewskisonline.com