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# Darude talks electronic dance music, future plans and Madonna

SPECIAL

BY MARKOS PAPADATOS AUG 9, 2014 IN MUSIC

Finnish EDM producer and DJ Darude opened up about the electronic dance scene, his Tomorrowland experience, his dream female collaborations and family.

He is drawn to the electronic dance music scene due to "the music, the people, the freedom and the universal language."

Darude shared that his future is quite busy. "A new album, more touring, more music-making. I'm excited, I've got some great producers lined up for collaborations after I get my album done. I also run EnMass Music with my buddy Randy Boyer and once my album is done I'll have more time to concentrate on running the label, which I've had to somewhat neglect in the last months," he said.

He usually tour in the United States several times a year, even now when he moved back to Finland from Atlanta, where he lived for about six years. "I don't have a New York City date confirmed now, but there's been requests and negotiations, so we'll see. In fact, I don't have many other dates booked for the next couple of months as I'm concentrating on working on new music," he said.

Darude is motivated from day to day, simply by the music itself. "It just moves me, I have fun pushing buttons, tweaking knobs, playing keys, feeling

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the emotions and feeling the bass, but the most motivation these days comes from my family, my wife and son," he explained.

He listed the "Queen of Pop" Madonna as his dream collaboration choice. "After Madonna I don't know. There are so many. Alicia Keys, Beyonce and Christina Aguilera, because of their amazing voices and because they do very different things from what I do, so it would be great to hear what we could come up with and how they and their teams work," he said.

Darude stays connected with his fans through his social media accounts as well as at his live shows. "I use Facebook and Twitter daily and I have YouTube and SoundCloud channels as well. I take care of those myself as much as I can, so I can be directly reached by the fans and music-lovers. Also, at my gigs I often hang out for a bit afterwards and shake hands and chat with whoever wants to. I love people!" he exclaimed.

A few months ago, he played at the renowned magical playground of Tomorrowland, which he dubbed as an "amazing" experience. "The festival itself was such a well-organized event, I can't even begin to think how much stuff there is to take care of, yet everything was running smoothly and the artists were handled nicely and quickly and taken care of very well. The crowd was there to 'seriously' party, so energetic, so happy, so into it, it was a great place to play! I hope I get to do it again," he said.

He hinted that his forthcoming studio album is coming along great. "I'm at a point where I've got way too many tracks and I'm starting to produce them towards more final versions and then I hope some will be clearer choices for the final album, but having too many tracks is a happy problem! I'm working on this balance between current EDM sound, old school sound and my own sound. I've got several great sing-along tracks lined up, as well as some club bangers. I don't have a deadline set, but hopefully I'll get the first single or two decided in the next month or so, then the album later, but no promises. It comes when it comes," he said with a smile.

Darude added, "You don't have to reside in the United States to make electronic dance music, nor do you have to live there to tour there. It's true that there's this explosion going on, finally, but I've been doing this in North America among other continents for 15 years soon, and there's been a club culture going on all that time (and before my time), so it hasn't really changed that much for me as a producer and touring artist and DJ."

He elaborated, "I feel fortunate to have had the chance to live in the United States in addition to just touring, it's given me perspective musically and culturally as well as a human being. For a Finn growing up with the popular American T.V. shows, it's easy to think of the U.S. as the stereotypical T.V. version of it, you know, *Miami Vice*, *Dallas*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Funniest Home Videos* or newer like *Bones* and *24*, but there's so much else, too, and I've understood that there's much more to being American than the Texas oil fields or Cali surfing or New York bluntness. My family moved back, because we love Finland and we want our son, who is now five, to go to school in Finland and to grow up in what we think is a safer and cleaner environment, Finland being so much smaller and more 'controlled' country."

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EDM producer and DJ Darude

Mikey McNulty

When asked if he would ever move back to the United States, he responded, "Never say never, but I think we're permanently back in Finland, at least until our son and possible future additions to the family are grown up. We might get another place in the U.S. at some point, who knows, and we'll most certainly visit a couple of times a year as we have family and friends over there. I miss my friends, but at the same time, I've been in the U.S. I think 6 or 7 times since we moved and I've seen them probably as much as I saw them while I lived there. We catch up over Skype or Face Time in the meantime. Oh, I do miss Starbucks."

"My fans are the best people I know and I'm so very thankful as they make continuing my work possible by buying my music and buying tickets to the shows and giving me feedback and encouragement. I hope that they know how much I appreciate them and I hope they understand that there's only so much I can do to show my appreciation, but I always try to do my best at the shows when performing and I also will take every opportunity to chat in person, sing an autograph, and take a photo," he said.

He concluded, "Keep your eyes and ears out for new Darude tracks! And if in doubt, come see me spin somewhere, let me convince you that you need some Darude in your life."

To learn more about Darude and his latest tour dates, visit his [website](#).

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