

Nighttime teems with possibilities. Underneath its blanketing presence we can be ourselves, indulge our love, and chase our passions. We toil through the day with a mask on, making ends meet, trying to be positive, and, often, suppressing our aggression and our creativity. But the night is ours.

For the artist simply known as Benta, seizing the night became a reality two years ago after a dream. Previously, the artist had left behind a successful music career that developed during his teenage years. Through mad scientist sessions with a drum machine, analog synths, and recording hardware, he's reemerged with an aesthetic that melds indie pop song structures with rugged hip-hop beats. Lyrically, this is a dark catharsis for Benta. He uses music to sublimate his aggression through depicting shadowy snapshots of characters struggling with toxic intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics.

The multi-instrumentalist and producer announces his artistic ascent with the elegantly elegiac single "Lover In Dark" which will be followed up by a six-song EP. The single boasts some additional co-production and mix work by UK-based producer Liam Howe, highly regarded for his work with Lana Del Rey and Ellie Goulding. Benta will present his work as a thoroughly integrated artistic aesthetic with a well-developed visual presentation. He's already collaborated on videos with self-described post-epileptic photographer and voyeuristic director Marie Wynants, and allied with award-winning visual designer Witchoria for art direction. Though this work is an outlet for wrestling with an underbelly of emotionality, the thread of black and white contrasts is an important component of the Benta enigma. In keeping with this duality, Benta will also be an outlet for positivity in the guise of philanthropic pursuits.

"There is the theme of paradox in this project," Benta admits. "It mirrors how I feel in life. During the day, I have to be one way—I have to be optimistic. The nights I have to my self, and I can express my raw truth, and channel my anger and frustrations into the music."

In a former life, the artist behind Benta was a signed musician by the age of 15. Six years later, he stepped away from music completely, and it would be years before he returned. "Two years ago, I was in a London hotel, and I had this dream where the project name came to me. It felt like a sign from somewhere," Benta reveals. "Before that, I felt this void in my life. I felt really depressed."

Slowly, the artist found salvation picking out melodies on the piano, but he truly began the path to Benta when he started exploring the compositional possibilities of drum loops, sampling technology, and analog synths. Through producing, composing, and creating each track's soundscape, Benta began to nurture a signature aesthetic.

Benta's catalog of music encompasses the grit of Timbaland-style beats with mournfully melodic vocals, lush EDM textures, strains of 1980s dark wave and new wave, and a meticulous sense of indie-pop song structure. Conceptually, the lyrics are somberly poetic with a chilling sense of drama haunting the sonic snapshots and storylines. "A lot these songs are about the things we keep inside," Benta shares.

Standouts among the first selection of songs Benta will be releasing include the dreamy debut single "Lover In Dark," the R&B-tinged "Too Far To The Right," and the gloomy grandeur of "Hand Grenade." "Lover In Dark" offers a voyeuristic perspective of two

lovers grappling with an explosive tangle feelings. The chorus's infectious dance-pop hook offsets the sinister verses like a sonic manic-depressive episode. The sleekly soulful "Too Far To Right" with glacial melodicism outlines a story of violent love. Intriguingly, just when things feel ill fated in the narrative, the song offers a moment of cold-sweat salvation. The spectral EDM-pop ballad "Hand Grenade," however, fades fully to black. Here, the story is of inward struggle.

Benta will be playing this body of work live in a manner that honors the music and the black and white motif. The project will also go public via a variety of youth-oriented music education initiatives. "I started playing in bands when I was very young, and music has inspired me so much as I've gone down the road in life. I want to give back, and offer these experiences, lessons, and fun to other generations," Benta says.

As Benta edges into the daylight of the real world with music releases and gigs, the artist ponders his path. "Sometimes life doesn't go as planned, and you have to be a night owl to do what you love," he shares. "If you're passionate about something, go after it. I hope my path inspires people to do follow their dreams without giving up. You can have the best of both worlds"

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