

**JZ** (*Jay Zimmermann*)

- Biography -

With San Francisco continuing its rise as one of the true 'global crossroads' for all things related to house music, much of the international dance music community and media have trained their watchful eyes and ears on the "City by the Bay" as it continues to bring innovation and excitement to the world's music-listening public. With its long history of attracting and welcoming diverse groups of people from all cultural backgrounds, San Francisco has cultivated a growing number of influential record labels, high-quality dance music event promoters, and world-class DJs, many of whom are making their mark on the international dance music scene. At the forefront of this wave are **Red Melon Records** and its principals who continue to prove their longevity and attention to detail in everything they do from DJing, music production, event promotion, even down to its design aesthetic. As a collaborator since 1991 with label owner and partner **Dano**, **JZ** has played an integral role in helping define the Red Melon 'sound and vibe' while continuing to broaden the scope of his musical career through regular DJing appearances and forthcoming production work (*both as a solo artist and recording in collaboration with Dano*) for Red Melon and other prominent international labels.

From an early age, music has found its way into JZ's life in one form or another. Spending much of his early childhood in Tokyo, Japan, JZ was immediately drawn toward performance music having been introduced to the saxophone and piano at a young age. Following a subsequent move to San Diego where he attended the University of California, in 1983 JZ helped form one of San Diego's most popular 10-piece regional 'afro-caribbean influenced world music' acts of its time, **Borracho Y Loco**, of which he was the principal horn player and section composer. It was here that JZ got his first real exposure to the intricate poly-rhythms and groove-oriented flavor of such varied musical styles as **soca, calypso, zouk, reggae, soukous, samba, jazz, and funk**. Incidentally, this was to form the very foundation of his musical interests and direction for years to come. In addition to his work with the band, JZ spent much of his time during the early 80's as a 12" vinyl buyer at one of San Diego's most prominent record stores (the cleverly named Licorice Pizza) where he would gain first-hand experience in the retail record industry while subsequently immersing himself in the burgeoning underground post-disco and new wave club scenes of late-1980's Southern California.

Following a random visit in 1988 to a nameless and illegal 'roaming' Los Angeles underground party, JZ quickly found his way to early house and techno-oriented club nights and events like San Diego's **Playskool**, **Romperroom**, **Smile**, **Geraldine**, **Emerald City**, and **Narnia**. With such pioneering West Coast DJs as **Doc Martin**, **Mark E.Quark**, **Steve Loria**, **David Alvarado**, and **Jon Bishop** at the helm, these events and the fresh underground sounds they brought with them were instrumental in fueling the inevitable coalescence of his musical backgrounds, placing JZ in the center of a newly emerging West Coast rave and underground DJ culture scene. In 1991 during the peak of an initial wave of public interest in Southern California's early electronic music scene, JZ made a pivotal but temporary move to the resort town of Sun Valley, Idaho where he was to kick off the first of dozens of underground house/techno events collectively known as the **Hammerhead** parties. Attracting thousands of curious and enthusiastic dancers each month to this new sound (including a chance meeting with future label partner **Dano** whose early 90's stint in Denmark was his first exposed to house music) in locations previously unheard of for dance events such as warehouses, theaters, basements, and abandoned buildings, these Hammerhead parties, now with both JZ and Dano steering its musical direction, would continue to flourish until the duo's inevitable return to California in the mid-90's. Following a move to San Francisco and the inception of Red Melon Records by Dano in 1996 to serve as an outlet for his musical ideas, JZ was not far behind in coming aboard as a Red Melon DJ and co-conspirator in the event promotion aspects of the upstart label. Solidly kick starting his new San Francisco DJing career by securing a monthly residency at **Spundae** Production's "**Nikita**" weekly at the legendary **1015 Folsom** nightclub (*named the #1 party in the U.S.A. by Thousand Words magazine and #1 club by the SF Bay Guardian and SF Weekly*), JZ continued to hone his skills behind the decks at this internationally renown club from month to month for almost 3 years.

Seamlessly weaving rhythmic intricacies of varied (but always funky) musical styles ranging from the deepest of soulful house, through tribal and percussive barnstormers, all the way to the progressive sounds of tech-house and beyond, JZ's diverse personal musical tastes always shine through in his crowd-pleasing DJ performances. Whether rocking a hard-hitting 2 hour peaktime set or taking the audience on a slow-burning 6 hour journey, JZ's ability to '*play for the crowd*' has made him a consistent favorite among Bay Area partygoers. With his current residencies at "**MELON**" (Red Melon's flagship San Francisco monthly), the bi-monthly "**MELON:LAX**" at **Spundae/Circus** in Los Angeles, the legendary "**Watermelon**" boat parties held on San Francisco Bay and planned for global launch at the ACA Sound Fest in Acapulco, and an increased international touring schedule of appearances at venues such as Zouk (Singapore), Pacha (Ibiza & Portugal), Release (SF) among others, JZ is poised to launch an all-out assault on the ears of the global listening public with his unique blend of California-flavored international house music. Watch and listen for **JZ** at a venue near you ...

**CURRENT RESIDENCIES:**

- "WATERMELON" : Boat parties on the bay [San Francisco] 2000-2001  
 - "MELON" : DNA Lounge - Monthly [San Francisco] 2001-2002  
 - "MELON:LAX" @ SPUNDAE : Circus - Bi-Monthly [Los Angeles] 2001-2002  
 - "M:LOUNGE" : BUZZ 9 - Monthly [San Francisco] 2001-2002  
 - "BLESS THIS ROCKET HOUSE" : Seasonal [San Francisco] 2000-2001

**PAST RESIDENCIES:**

- "HOUSE BEAUTIFUL" : Sno-Drift [San Francisco] 2000-2002  
 - "THE DEN" : Galaxy Club [San Francisco] 2001  
 - "FLAVASAUCE" : Manhattan Loung [San Francisco] 2000-2001  
 - "NIKITA" : Club 1015 Folsom [San Francisco] 1997-2001  
 - "SLICE OF LIFE" : Rawhide [San Francisco] 2000  
 - "STOPSPOT" : Rawhide [San Francisco] 2000  
 - "HOUSE BEAUTIFUL" : Club Cocomo [San Francisco] 1999  
 - "SPONGE" : Butter [San Francisco] 1999  
 - "HAMMERHEAD" : Various [Sun Valley, Idaho] 1991-1995

**GUEST APPEARANCES (partial list):**

- "UNION" : Club Montage [San Diego, California] October 2002  
 - "NYEX" : Drinkland [New York City] September 2002  
 - "RED MELON @ SOHO" : Soho [Vitoria, Spain] September 2002  
 - "RED MELON @ PACHA" : Pacha [Ibiza, Spain] September 2002  
 - "RED MELON @ Z" : Z-Club [Alicante, Spain] September 2002  
 - "MAYONNAISE" : Skylark [San Francisco] August 2002  
 - "LO-RISE MOTEL" : Backflip [San Francisco] August 2002  
 - "MOTIV" : Sitio [San Francisco] August 2002  
 - "SOLID SF" : Wish [San Francisco] July 2002  
 - "SLOW BURNING" : Arrow Club [San Francisco] July 2002  
 - "HAVANA" : Havana [Monterrey, Mexico] June 2002  
 - "TACO TUESDAYS" : Border Cantina [San Francisco] May 2002  
 - "AURAL CONFECTION" : Oasis [Oakland] May 2002  
 - "SEANCE" : Backflip [San Francisco] May 2002  
 - "RED MELON NITE" : Marko Disco [Tijuana, Mexico] May 2002  
 - "MELON IN SD" : E Street Alley [San Diego, California] May 2002  
 - "BOUNCE" : Colmillo [Mexico City] April 2002  
 - "SPIRITSOUND" : Tres Rios [Playa del Carmen, Mexico] March 2002  
 - "MELON @WMC" : W6 [Miami Beach, Florida] March 2002  
 - "SF BY DEFINITION @WMC" : Albion [Miami Beach, Florida] March 2002  
 - "RED MELON @CARBON" : Club Carbon [Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia] March 2002  
 - "RED MELON @ZOUK" : Zouk Club [Singapore] March 2002  
 - "A CLUB" : A Club [Bali, Indonesia] March 2002  
 - "STUDIO NINE" : STUDIO 9 [Wellington, New Zealand] March 2002  
 - "PLUMP" : Galaxy [San Francisco] February 2002  
 - "AURAL CONFECTION" : Oasis [Oakland, California] February 2002  
 - "QOOL" : 111 Minna [San Francisco] February 2002  
 - "INFUSE" : Kelly 's Mission Rock [San Francisco] February 2002  
 - "BOOM!" : Club Ascend [Sunnyvale, California] January 2002  
 - "SPUNDAE" : 1015 Folsom [San Francisco] December 2001  
 - "D 'CORE" : The Cellar [San Francisco] November 2001  
 - "OM RECORDS' FAMILY FUNCTION" : DNA Lounge [San Francisco] November 2001  
 - "SPUNDAE" : 1015 Folsom [San Francisco] November 2001  
 - "HIGHER FREQUENCY" : Radio Room [Boise, Idaho] October 2001  
 - "HOUSE PARTY" : Waves [San Jose, California] October 2001  
 - "STUDIO 64" : Club Montage [San Diego] September 2001  
 - "REAL SIMPLE" : Il Forno [La Jolla, California] September 2001  
 - "RECESS" : King Street Garage [San Francisco] August 2001  
 - "FUNK THEORY" : The Phoenix [Wellington, New Zealand] August 2001  
 - "HIGHER FREQUENCY" : Radio Room [Boise, Idaho] August 2001  
 - "MAYONNAISE" : Skylark [San Francisco] July 2001  
 - "BLIND TIGER" : Blind Tiger [San Francisco] July 2001  
 - "SPUNDAE @ CIRCUS" : Circus [Los Angeles] July 2001

- "BASIC SOUL" :Galaxy [San Francisco] July 2001  
 - "WEDNESDAY SESSIONS" :Galaxy [San Francisco] July 2001  
 - "SPUNDAE'S AQUAVIVA" :Hotel Ibiza [Oakland, California] June 2001  
 - "INDIGO" :Jelly's Pier 50 [San Francisco] June 2001  
 - "SUMMER STAGE 2001" :Poble Español [Barcelona, Spain] June 2001  
 - "SCREAM" :Torres de Avila [Barcelona, Spain] June 2001  
 - "DA JOINT" :Babylon Club [Madrid, Spain] June 2001  
 - "FREESTYLE" :RDC [Valencia, Spain] June 2001  
 - "RADIANCE" :Hotel Ibiza [Oakland, California] May 2001  
 - "MAYONNAISE" :Skylark [San Francisco] May 2001  
 - "SOLID" :Light [San Francisco] May 2001  
 - "L 'ENFER" :L'Enfer [Paris, France] April 2001  
 - "DANCE WICKED" :Ocean [London, UK] April 2001  
 - "CLUB EDEN" :Club Eden [Singapore] April 2001  
 - "FLAVOR @ Miami WMC" :Hotel Maxine [Miami Beach, Florida] March 2001  
 - "RAISE UP/SPUNDAE" :Club 1015 Folsom [San Francisco] March 2001  
 - "ZOUK San Francisco Sessions Pt 1" :Zouk Club [Singapore] November 2000  
 - "REVOLUTION" :Lava Lounge [Jakarta, Indonesia] November 2000  
 - "RELEASE" :Club 1015 Folsom [San Francisco] 1999-2000  
 - "SPUNDAE" :Club 1015 Folsom [San Francisco] 1999-2000  
 - "SCUBA" :Fez Club/Po Na Na [Sheffield, UK] 2000  
 - "GLOBAL GROOVES @ PACHA" :Pacha [Porto, Portugal] 2000  
 - "RADOST FX" :Radost [Prague, Czech Rep.] Sep 1999  
 - "SECOND SUNDAY @ WMC" :Clevelander [Miami] Mar 2000  
 - "THUMP" :Space 550 [San Francisco] 2000  
 - "DISCOVER" :Ruby Skye [San Francisco] 2000  
 - "GROOVE KITTY" :Glas Kat [San Francisco] 2000  
 - "FLAVOR" :[Sacramento] 2000  
 - "CHEMISTRY" :Club Ecco [San Jose] 1999  
 - "PITCH CONTROL" :[Santa Cruz] 1999  
 - "PABLO 'S SUGAR SHACK" :Club VSF [San Francisco] 1998, 1999  
 - "RELEASE" :[Boise, Idaho] 1999, 2000  
 - "FROSTBITE" :[Boise, Idaho] 1999  
 - "TRIX" :[Boise, Idaho] 1998

**LIVE BROADCASTS/NETCASTS:**

- "GROOVETECH" (2<sup>nd</sup> wed monthly) : Live netcast of Nikita ([www.groovetech.com](http://www.groovetech.com))  
 - "BETALOUNGE" : Live 2x4 sets w/Dano ([www.betalounge.com](http://www.betalounge.com))  
 - "TECHNOSTATE" : Live netcast ([www.technostate.com](http://www.technostate.com))

**DISCOGRAPHY:**

- "Vibrations"/"Hypnotizin" : KAOS Recordings PORTUGAL - Spring 2002  
 - "Marvin's Ghost" (Stonedstate rmx) : Red Melon USA - tba  
 - "Class A" with The Rhythm Masters : unreleased Dis-funktional UK - 2000  
 - "Take Me Away" : unreleased Red Melon USA - 2000

**FOR BOOKING INFORMATION AND OTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT RED MELON RECORDS.  
 e: [jz@redmelon.com](mailto:jz@redmelon.com) [www.redmelon.com](http://www.redmelon.com) tel: 510-261-8509 fax: 510-217-9459**



*JZ (Red Melon Records) at SPUNDAE - San Francisco 2001*



*JZ (Red Melon Records) at MELON - San Francisco 2001*