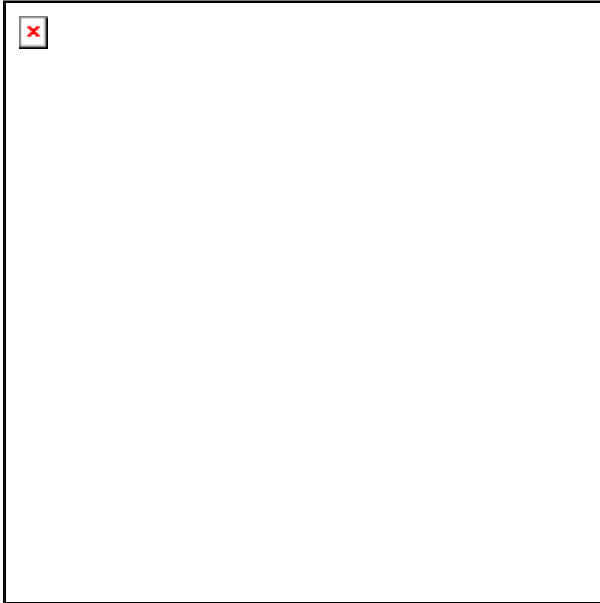


# A national treasure comes to Boston

## Washington D.C. hit DJ Alex Cohen to spin at Rise on Oct. 23

by Tony Giampetruzzi



WASHINGTON, D.C. — It's Columbus Day weekend, and I have so many choices. Black & Blue in Montreal? Roland Belmares spinning Voyage at Diesel in Providence? Warren Gluck bringing hope to Avalon?

No — instead, I'm on a plane to Washington, D.C., so it's only fitting that I write about DJ Alex Cohen, who lives and spins in our nation's capital and who will be appearing at Rise in Boston on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Like every other city in the country, Washington has no shortage of decent DJs, but it's the really good ones that command a crowd. Cohen is one of those boys.

Spinning since he was 13, and later making a splash in cities throughout the world, he moved to D.C. three years ago. After a number of gigs, he was tapped to play Cherry Ball 9, DC's signature circuit party. He was

subsequently dubbed D.C.'s best-kept DJ secret.

"It all started when I used to play at little venues in France and Spain. After I moved to Washington to pursue my college education, I started playing at several small venues in the "gayborhood" Dupont Circle. Everyone used to ask me why I'm spinning for an audience that is gay, but the energy I've gotten from them is unbelievable," says Cohen.

"Being 25 now makes me see the world a little differently from my debut days, the scene has completely changed, and there are new venues to consider."

Rise is one of them.

"This is my first time in Boston, I am so curious and excited at the same time," says Cohen who got a tip from colleague and Rise regular Billy Carroll that this is the gig to have in Boston. "Billy and I are not only very good colleagues, but very close friends, and he had only the best things to say about Rise."

Cohen's relationship with the legendary Carroll goes back to his first days behind the tables. While playing events at various nightclubs and creating tracks or re-mixing such artists as Whitney Houston, Dee-Lite, Kathy Brown and Victor Calderone, he caught the attention of Carroll who began to premier Cohen's original productions at clubs across the country.

In fact, some of Cohen's favorite productions have been huge dance floor hits, including "Love is Not a Game" featuring Kathy Brown, and "Deep Inside" by Harddrive.

One of the things that has made Cohen a winner in clubs and in production efforts is his versatility.

“My style varies, particularly at clubs. I usually start off with deep-house, some vocals, but once peak hour hits I am into tribal and progressive,” says Cohen. “But you’ll still hear some vocals. I live for my peak hour and the energy I get from the audience. If there is a really beautiful vocal that draws my attention, I would totally still play it, but, other than that ,I am such an anthem diva chopper!”

Spinning aside, Cohen is spending more time in the studio, and, with the help of two other DJs he hopes to expand his offerings.

“I intend to take each production into a different direction and feel, currently I am in love with my mix of Sabrynah Pope’s ‘Turn Around and Dance,’” says Cohen. “The mix was dedicated to my first gig at Velvet-Nation [DC] and still rocks my world!”

Speaking of Nation, as one of the premier clubs in the country, it’s not chump change to a DJ, but Cohen still has other dream gigs.

“Every DJ has a list of them,” says Cohen. “I would love to spin one of the Jeffrey Sanker parties, Alegria, or a Rohan Bisset event, Black and Blue ...”

The list goes on.

And, if you’re into lists, Cohen reveals some of his current faves, tracks that you might even hear if you make it into Rise for his appearance on Oct. 23.

DJ Joe K’s “Porto Seguro,” Ralphie Rosario’s “The 2nd Reunion,” and David Morales’ “How Would You Feel.”

For more information about DJ Alex Cohen, connect to [www.djalexcohen.dancemania.com](http://www.djalexcohen.dancemania.com).

This article originally appeared in in newsweekly.