

PETE TONG

Artist Page – www.petetong.com

Artist MySpace – www.myspace.com/petetong

BIO

“I count myself very lucky to be there with millions of people every Friday as all we start the weekend together with my Radio 1 show. According those clever numbers people Essential Selection is one of the most listened to shows at Radio 1, both live and on-line with millions of listeners weekly around the globe. It is also syndicated in over 25 countries worldwide including Italy, Dubai, Canada, and the USA.

In terms of DJing I play clubs and festivals worldwide, gigs I hold dear to my heart included Pacha-Ibiza, Tennax-Florence and Space-Miami. As a producer I have assembled the music for movie soundtracks such as The Beach, Human Traffic and 24 Hour Party People and produced my own material under various guises. I am also the name sake to the film Its All Gone Pete Tong which was released last year. Stepping into the present I have entered the world of Podcasts and I’m loving it! My Tongcasts have held the number 1 spot and are downloaded by thousands of people. I also present Fast Trax - a weekly show for mobile network 3G.

I teamed up with Universal Records last year to launch a new Essential Selection Album series. I felt the time was right to return to the world of compilations as dance music and the clubbing scene has been revitalized in the last few years. I truly believe from what Im hearing and seeing that we are in a very exciting and creative period. So far The Essential Selection and Essential Classics albums have been released, with an Essential Mix CD to follow.

I will undertake my fourth season of Pure Pacha, Friday nights @ Pacha Ibiza this summer starting on the 9th of June. Pure Pacha combines musical quality and glamour, with aspiration and escapism. It’s a wonderland for grown ups who don’t want to grow up just yet.....! I also bring the Pure brand to bi-monthly parties at Ministry of Sound in London.

In 2005 I finally got some good studio time and collaborated with Chris Cox, James Talk, Paul Harris & Jay P. One of my ambitions is to produce an artist and compose a film score in the future.

It hasn’t always been like this for me, I started out as a mobile DJ in Kent during my teens. When I was at school, hard rock ruled the roost, and I even tried playing in bands, but after seeing a DJ playing actual records at a school disco I decided that looked like much more fun!

One of my first jobs was to DJ at a club in Baker Street called [Family] Function and simultaneously book bands for a weekend alternative night: the first group I hired was the then-unknown Culture Club. Around the same time I also landed a day job at Blues & Soul magazine, I became features editor and began making appearances on the pirates and BBC's Radio London.

At this time dance was still considered a fringe genre and I soon found myself presenting a dance music segment on Radio 1’s Peter Powell show. But I noticed that

daytime DJs had no control over the music they played, so I launched a soul show on Kent's newly-launched Invicta station. By now I had left my position at Blues & Soul and replaced it with an A&R position at London Records, a job I loved and held in one manner or another for almost 20 years.

I was now in the thick of it all and was hired by Capital Radio to broadcast to the new clubbers, which enabled me to start a label within a label at London. FFRR Records was born in 1988: we hit first with Salt n Pepa's 'Push It' and a whole catalogue of tracks followed. I've been lucky - I grew up at a time when the whole scene exploded, and I worked with a bunch of people who, for a long period of time empowered me to be able to change things.

The biggest change came in 1991, when Radio One recognized that it needed to cater for the new, and permanent, youth culture. I was hired to host a brand new Friday evening show, the Essential Selection. It meant broadcasting to the nation and unlike my daytime predecessors, actually choosing the music too. The Essential Selection spun off a show called the Essential Mix, enabling DJs worldwide to showcase their mixing talents on national radio, and together these led to the Essential compilations.

After all this time I don't get complacent though - When you're on the radio for so long your audience stays the same age but you get older. The new people come in and think of you as a radio DJ and not a club DJ. With that in mind, I keep a packed DJ schedule spending time on the road, searching out new music and broadcasting from select cities and events en route.

Ultimately People love music whether and how they buy it right now is one thing, but people still want to party and its our job to come up with new parties, new nights, new venues, new themes to keep the scene fresh and exciting.” - *Pete Tong*