

VAN PAUGAM



MEDILL REPORTS



BIO

Van Paugam is an American DJ who is credited as a prominent figure associated with the rise 1980s Japanese City Pop music gaining popularity in the West[1]. He is mainly attributed to the rise of City Pop in 2016, being one of the first DJs to start mixing what is now commonly called City Pop—or Japanese disco, funk, and pop music on YouTube.[2] He had met with Japanese pop star Anri, and produced several remixes for JVCKenwood Victor Entertainment of Kaoru Akimoto's 1987 albums 'Cologne.' [3] "It [city pop] probably never would've reached American ears if it weren't for Van Paugam, a Chicago-based DJ who's made it his life's work to resurrect City Pop for a new generation of Westerners." [4] He has become an advocate for popular Japanese singers like Hideki Saijo, whom he frequently promotes when speaking in podcasts. [5] Van Paugam also produces and hosts his own City Pop based podcast, where he discusses various artists in the style and their music. [6] A topic often discussed by Van Paugam is that of nostalgia, and how it relates to City Pop. [7]

Speaking to the Japanese Consulate of Chicago, Van Paugam has claimed that " [he] found a piece of himself that was missing in Japanese City Pop Music." [8] Originally from Miami Beach, Van Paugam moved to Chicago in 2011, where he would later begin taking Japanese Language Classes to further his understanding of City Pop music. [9] He is listed as having played numerous live events dedicated to City Pop, including in his native Miami [10], and internationally in Paris [11], Berlin [12], and Tokyo [13]. Currently, he hosts monthly live events in Chicago, at different venues. Much of the credit for Chicago's embrace of City Pop goes to DJ Van Paugam, who discovered the genre when trying to track down the source of samples from music he liked. [14] Van originally started DJing the genres Vaporwave, and Future Funk, before starting in City Pop. [15] He has written extensively on the topic of City Pop, both on his website [16], and for Japanese organizations [17]. Van Paugam has hosted over 100 vinyl DJ events dedicated to City Pop since 2017 [18]. For his efforts in reviving the genre, Van had most recently been invited to DJ for the Japanese Consul-General of Chicago [19], and featured on CNN International [20].

1. Medill Reports — Instructor (2019-03-14), DJVIEGAS - Medill Newsmakers - City-Pop-o-Rama
2. "The Dazzling Return Of City Pop • The Daily Fandom City Pop", thedailyfandom.org
3. ビクターエンタテインメント. ビクターエンタテインメント | Victor Entertainment (in 日本語).
4. chicagoreader (2019-01-11). "City Pop, the optimistic disco of 1980s Japan, finds a new young crowd in the West". Chicago Reader
5. "Episode 34: Saijo Hideki and City Pop with Van Paugam". The Idol Cast and other writings
6. "Mayonaka Hour 真夜中アワー City Pop Podcast on Apple Podcasts". Apple Podcasts
7. Journal of Popular Music Studies (2021-03-03). "Reconstructed Nostalgia: Aesthetic Commonalities and Self-Soothing in Chillwave, Synthwave, and Vaporwave"
8. "e-Japan Journal Interviews". Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
9. Chicago Reader "Van Paugam, City Pop Evangelist and DJ"
10. "Soundlux & Sweat Records Present CITY POP: The Sound of '70s & '80s Japan - Sweat Records"
11. Interview #1 Van Paugam. (VOSTFR)
12. 2022-10-15 Live At Tokyo Nights (Xander, Van Paugam)
13. "シカゴのVan Paugamが来日「シティ・ポップ」に焦点当てるイベント『都市浮遊』開催 - Spincosider (スピンコースター)" (in 日本語)
14. "ORIGAMI - archives". origamimagazine.world
15. Fans, Japan (2022-09-05). "City Pop DJ Van Paugam". Japan Fans.
16. "Blog". Van Paugam.
17. Japanese Culture Center (2018-06-27). "City Pop シティポップ". Japanese Culture Center
18. Facebook Events History
19. USJC Midwest Region Event Kanpai Chicago
20. CNN International New Years Eve Special



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MIXES & MEDIA

Three YouTube video thumbnails for Van Paugam's City Pop mixes:

- City Pop シティポップ SUMMER EDITION** (6 years ago, #City Pop)
126K views, 157 likes, 64 comments
- City Pop シティポップ 2** (6 years ago, #City Pop)
362K views, 438 likes, 206 comments
- City Pop シティポップ (2016)** (7 years ago, #City Pop)
31.9K views, 75 likes, 23 comments



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