



# sillygirlcarmen and Thrice Groove Go Beyond the Music

Interview **DENNIS RICHARDSON & ANTHONY STAFFORD**

## Music, Community, and Connection.

There are some in music who often go underappreciated, despite their ability to invoke all of life's emotions by being curators of the beat that moves us. These pioneers in music are DJs, who speak a universal language with a unique understanding of music.

DJs sillygirlcarmen (Carmen Johnson - @sillygirlcarmen) and Thrice Groove (Travis Robinson - @thricegroove) share some insights that help paint a picture of how DJing is largely the practice of connecting with the community around them. This ultimately creates a relationship between the artist, the curator, and the listeners, where unified energy is the currency and every transaction supports an undying and mutually rewarding cycle.

Carmen's Photograph  
DETROIT BY KYLE POWELL  
Travis' Photo  
DEVIN GASTON

“**Inspiration is daily for me, and has become more elevated throughout this time. I have always been moved by the inner workings of life and what makes us who we are in our respective capacities.**”

**What is a little-known fact about your profession that more people should know and understand?**

**SGC:** DJing is definitely about your passion to cultivate great music but it also is about your intuitive ability to connect with your audience. Being present in the moment and sharing space with people is a synergistic exchange.

**Where do you find inspiration?**

**TG:** Inspiration is daily for me, and has become more elevated throughout this time. I have always been moved by the inner workings of life and what makes us who we are in our respective capacities. My community, people & nature are always very grounding to me. Knowing the context of my heritage really inspires me because collectively we have broken down barriers with so much more work to do.

**How did you cope with the shutdown brought on by COVID?**

**SGC:** Very shortly into the shutdown it became clear that the virtual world is a powerful tool to build upon. Streaming from my bedroom and starting a female focused radio show allowed me to connect with even more people around the world and still stay consistent in my craft.

**What does 2022 mean to you now that live, in-person events are back in action?**

**TG:** It reminded me of what I was already working towards in the first place: to pace myself and not get caught up in trying to keep up. That's an endless dilemma that I believe creatives face because of the transactional nature of the space. So just make sure you're taking care of your mental [state], and having a true support system around you. This time also allowed me to unplug and re-energize as well. I have a lot more clarity on how I choose to feel moving forward, to continue to uplift as growth and change is always imminent.

**What are some of your initiatives and/or projects that you'd like readers to be aware of?**

**SGC:** During the shutdown I took the time to build out my female focused platform called Wonderful (@wonderfuldjs) in partner-

ship with Charivari Detroit. Every episode features an [hour-long] mix from a female artist / DJ, along with a brief Q&A highlight. Wonderful originated as an all female stage concept at Charivari Detroit Music Festival 2019, and will be a returning concept for the 2022 festival coming this August 11th-14th. Guests can buy admission to the VIP experience taking place Saturday August 13th during the festival. The experience offers vegan friendly catered food by CozyLo, henna body art, custom cocktails and plenty of sponsored goodies.

I'm looking forward to hosting this VIP experience and bringing the brand to life in this activation. To find out more about Wonderful visit [www.wonderfuldjs.com](http://www.wonderfuldjs.com) and to buy VIP wonderful tickets please visit [www.charivaridetroit.com](http://www.charivaridetroit.com).

**TG:** There is a creative agency & collective that I have the honor of being a part of and co-founded, called Player 99 (@player-99intl). A hub that represents our community and worldwide through lifestyle, music, visual arts etc. Telling the proper story through our lens with our endeavors, while also presenting quality & progressive experiences.

We also have a 24/7 live radio network, and partner with brands to activate on a more profound scale. A few notable events we throw are Get Away Sundays, one that includes a very unique and lighthearted essence to a weekend day party incorporating food, music & live visual installations. We also have Theory, a DJ driven series that offers up a progressive lens through music and feel. It's a high production caliber event that we activate monthly in [Atlanta] @ Aisle 5, a notable concert venue in the city.

I also lend my creative talents with Global Entry (@globalentryofficial), a cultural immersion experience that highlights & celebrates the global soundtrack.

You can read their interview in its entirety at [obviousmag.com](http://obviousmag.com).

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