



Darone Sassounian
(Rocky Hill / Habibi Funk / Dublab)

Artist Bio

Darone Sassounian is a Los Angeles-based DJ, producer, and founder of the label Rocky Hill. Known for his eclectic and raw musical approach, Sassounian weaves together vintage sounds from the Middle East, house, disco, soul, jazz, and international obscurities with contemporary records, creating a deeply textured and genre-defying sonic identity.

Drawing from his Armenian roots and SWANA diaspora upbringing, Sassounian is a cultural alchemist—reviving and reshaping Armenian heritage through sound. His sets and productions often spotlight rare, diaspora-era Armenian funk and psychedelic gems, re-contextualizing them for modern audiences, while blending forward-thinking electronic records.

His label, Rocky Hill—named after his childhood neighborhood—embodies a genre-free ethos grounded in personal expression. Through both his music and curation, Darone Sassounian is forging a unique path for Armenian diaspora creatives, bridging generational soundscapes and reimagining cultural memory through the lens of dance and rhythm.

In 2021, he released the acclaimed compilation *Silk Road: Journey of the Armenian Diaspora: 1971–1982* on Terrestrial Funk, earning support from Gilles Peterson, Floating Points, Habibi Funk, and Four Tet.

He's contributed spoken word to Danilo Plessow's *Fabric* compilation and hosted a visual/audio residency on DJ Tennis's *Life and Death* platform.

In 2025, Darone began releasing a string of forgotten music from the Armenian diaspora via the reissue label, Habibi Funk, solidifying himself as the main archivist of this era-defining music.

He has supported acts such as Palms Trax, John Talabot, Gerd Janson, Call Super, and Ben UFO. In return he has gained support from the likes of Khruangbin, Danilo Plessow, Habibi Funk, Gilles Peterson, Dar Disku, and Laurent Garnier.

Sassounian also holds a monthly residency at Club Tee Gee and broadcasts a radio show on Dublab, continuing to foster community and sound exploration through every set and release.

Event Highlights



A Club Called Rhonda

ATV Records

Baby's All Right

Bambino

Club Tee Gee

Elsewhere

House of Afandi

Laylit

Moct

Rakastella

Splash House

Simona

Social



Booking:

info@rockyhillrecords.us

Linktree

Instagram

Soundcloud

Bandcamp

Resident Advisor

Featured Press

Bandcamp

Forty Five Turns

HUYS

In Sheep's Clothing

KCET

LA Daily News

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