

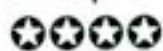
LUOMO

CONVIVAL

Huume (Fin)

I'm not sure what Sasu Ripatti has been drinking lately, but I'll definitely have what he's having. 'Convival', his fourth Luomo album, contains so much audible joy you actually wonder whether he was in a permanent state of loved-up euphoria throughout. It was recorded with a series of guest collaborators and vocalists – Apparat, Cassy, Robert Owens and Scissor Sisters' Jake Shears being the most notable – in Berlin and Finland, and it appears Ripatti had a ball making it. From the moment opener 'Have You Ever' springs into life like a digital

rainbow, positivity reigns. The Luomo sound has always been somewhat joyful – see 'Tessio' and 'The Present Lover' for proof – but rarely has it been so pointedly expressed. Even the album's more touching moments, such as the breathtaking 'Love You All', bristle with happiness – all skipping synth-bass, spine-tingling vocals, ocean-deep pads and toe-tapping rhythms. For those who've followed Ripatti's career, none of this is news, but even his most ardent fans will be surprised with the way he's moulded and shaped house, two-step, techno and pop to fit his vision. It's not a perfect set by any means, but it's thoroughly addictive – one sip and you're hooked.



Matt Aniss