

Keith Thomas Jordan (born Nov 13, 1978), known professionally as **PROPER** (DJ Proper), is an American [record producer](#) , [disc jockey](#), event / [radio host](#) , A/V technology developer, [A&R Manager](#), [video director](#), [podcaster](#), and [civil rights/ social justice](#) activist from [Los Angeles, California](#) . He is a frequent collaborator with South African musical artist [Eyezon](#) and main production partner [Solpowa](#), and has produced numerous [official remixes](#) for [hip hop](#) icons such as [Black Eyed Peas](#), [Nas](#) , [Dilated Peoples](#), [Mos Def](#), and [Talib Qwali](#). Proper's production style has been described as timeless music, [funk](#) to [trap](#) inspired, a balance of classic to groundbreaking influences, festival friendly, [turntablist](#) with a [live band](#) based hip hop style. He is the founder of the [non profit\(s\)](#) Social Justice Association and Civil Rights Forum , [collective](#) of artist Worldwide Familia ,and Podcast Equality Radio .

Early life

Born in [Staten Island , NYC](#) his parents were [Woodstock hippies](#) and his father being a musician / Production Supervisor at [Fillmore East](#), had him surrounded by music at an early age . His earliest memories are going to watch performances at the [Victory Tour](#) of the [Jackson 5](#) and being backstage at [Madonna](#) ([Blond Ambition Tour](#)) .His family relocated and moved to Los Angeles when he was 9 years old. When Proper was 12 years old, his Godfather a prominent music production manager [Mo Morrison](#) ([Grateful Dead](#), [Lady Gaga](#), [Woodstock 2](#) , [Justin Timberlake](#)) , let him dance with [Michael Jackson](#) twice onstage for his birthday during [Bad Tour](#) at [Los Angeles Convention Center](#) and [James Safechuck](#) appears in [video](#) also. Proper attest his career was influenced mainly by his good experiences with MJ backstage and watching numerous productions in childhood. Exposure to many factors in the [music business](#) resulted in his love for being on stage and performing.

Musical career



DJ Proper at in [Cassidy video shoot](#)

Dj Proper started Djing and producing music at 17 yrs old, building his first DJ system from various audio components and computer hardware. Performing initially at local house parties and underground warehouse raves . He developed his first audio production system, from an [IBM compatible](#) desktop computer he built in college with a first version [DAW](#) of [Acid Music](#) . He wanted to be able to fix all the components in his studio without paying someone, so he studied and received a [degree](#) in [Computer Networking](#) from [CEI](#) Los Angeles and became an [MCP](#) with [MCSE](#) Certifications in 2000. He started djing professionally on [Technique 1200s](#) and a [Gemini](#) mixer, that he received in a sponsorship gift for him and [Dj Motiv8](#) from company. His production at first was for hardware was using an [MPC 2000](#) XL, that he custom built with glow in the dark pads and expansion pack. He received various endorsement deals from [Propellerhead Reason](#) for DAW software and [EMU](#) for their original E-MU 1616M PCIe from [NAMM](#) show connections. His production also included now [Fruity Loops](#) , that he incorporated as a [MIDI controller](#) and trigger. At an illegal underground warehouse party ,he meet his first musical partner DJ Rilla N20's King of the Jungle , who was a disc jockey for [Scarub](#) from [Living Legends](#) an iconic group that pioneered the genre [underground hip hop](#) . He was part of a group called Universal Scientist with [Poet Named Life](#) , who produced the first 8'1 mixed album. They did numerous shows with acts like [Aloe Blacc](#), who at the time was still a rapper using stage name Emanon .

His first [official remix](#) was of [Where Is The Love](#) for [Dj Motiv8](#) of Black Eyed Peas at their Burbank studio where he first meet [Will.i.am](#) , the track was used for their European tour Mixtape with [NERD](#). He attended a [Common](#)/Nas show in Los Angeles, where he meet Nas's [Dj LES](#) that lead to numerous remixes he did for [Ill Will Records](#) that were released as a promo on [Myspace music](#). This show lead to him meeting there a then upcoming [Kanye West](#) walking through crowd with no security, Proper recognized his face but called him "Cain" West , which he corrected pronunciation of name and connected him with his then manager [Don Crawley](#). During this time Proper's Godfather was managing [Britney Spears](#) and [Good Music](#) requested a studio session to record a single for her which never happened. He eventually took a Studio Engineer job at Love Studios, which was [Herbie Hancock's](#) old production house. At this time in his career , he meet [Q Bwoy](#) of [Jamaica Gold Productions](#). JG Productions is Los Angeles longest running [Reggae](#) & Hip Hop [production company](#) which held weekly events at the legendary [Century Club](#) / [Cinespace](#) for artist such as [GURU of Gangstarr](#) , [Slick Rick](#) , [Busta Rhymes](#), [Sizzla](#) ,[Gyptian](#), [Damian Marley](#), & [Shabba Ranks](#) . He started djing and working as a VIP artist relations contact, helping the company accommodations for events. This lead to his remix of song [Mathematics](#) by [Mos Def](#) for the [New Danger Album](#) release party for Heads For Dreadz. He was also a judge for a pilot DJ competition talent show with world champion disc jockey, [DJ Rocky Rock](#) that was never picked up by any network. He first appeared on television with exclusive dj cameos in music videos both played in rotation on [MTV](#) and [BET](#), for [Flipmode Squad](#) artist [N.O.R.E.](#) with Cals [Drinking and Smoking video](#) and by [NBA](#) star [Carmelo Anthony](#) with his label Krossover Entertainment artist [Cassidy Drumma Bass](#) premiered on tv show [106 and Park](#). He was also featured in an [interview](#) with [Rakaa](#) Iriscience on [Breakbeats and Rhymes](#) for [Rebels to the Grain](#) on [90.7 KPFK](#) radio station. He has also been featured on various online radio stations such [last.fm](#) and [OGhuskeyradio.com](#) .

He has performed at iconic locations such as [Harvelles](#) with [Chali2na](#) of [Jurassic 5](#) / [House of Vibe](#) (Santa Monica) [Pacific Grooves Festival at Home Depot Center](#) with Sean Paul, [The Troubadour](#) with [DMC](#) , [House of Blues \(Foundation Room\)](#) for [Unicef](#) , [Whiskey A GoGo](#) , [The Roxy](#) , [Club Nokia](#) opening for [MC Hammer](#), [Orange Show Fairgrounds](#) for [Kushstock](#) 2018 with [Baby Bash](#) / [Immortal Technique](#) / [DPG](#) , [Club 705](#) (Hermosa Beach) for [Resin Music](#) with [GZA](#) / [Dj Muggs](#) / [Pharcyde](#) , has had long term residences at prominent LA venues [Saint Rocke](#) (Hermosa Beach) / [Salvage](#) (Los Angeles). He has been the co-host of the [UCLA Jazz Reggae Festival](#) from 2015-2019 with Jamaica Gold Sounds and production manager of [Santa Monica Main Street Festival](#) 2011-2019 .

Artistry

Mustard's production style has been described as an up-tempo, radio-friendly, club oriented, catchy hip hop style to which he calls "ratchet music. Mustard's body of work has been recognized by critics as sonically cohesive and recognizable in that many of his tracks have recurring, identifiable motifs. Most apparent is his producer signature "Mustard on the beat, ho!" which prefaces the beat drop in many of his songs. This signature is often strategically placed to span the third and fourth preceding the song's o make it more memorable. On a compositional level, however, Mustard's motifs also include: an ambient chant of "Hey!" on the off-beats in the background of his music, minimalist bass synth opening to many songs, notably nd the use of crisp hand-claps and snap-snares.^[28]

As a result of the recognizably and commonality between many of Mustard's chart-topping singles, a number of artists who employ production similar to DJ Mustard's have been criticized for unoriginality and plagiarism. In a July 2014 interview with the rapper whose album was mostly produced by Mustard, stated thasongMustard's stylelike many of Mustard's songs, Fancy includes a minimalist G-funk style synth opening and samples a "Hey" chant.

Discography

Studio albums

Mixtapes

List of mixtapes, with selected details Title Album details *FROM MY SOUL*

- Released: June 3, 2013
- Label: Self-released
- Formats: Digital download

10 Summers: The Mixtape Vol. 1^[37]
(with 10 Summers)

- Released: July 23, 2015
- Label: 10 Summers
- Formats: Digital download

Singles