



DJ Khaled

Rap Music Artist

When DJ Khaled Spins Records, Folks “Listennn”

Khaled Bin Abdul Khaled has had many monikers throughout his music career, but he is best known to his fans as DJ Khaled.

His musical credits are as numerous as his monikers: rapper, hip-hop artist, disc jockey, record producer, radio personality and record label executive.

Born in New Orleans, Khaled is the son of Palestinian immigrants from Israel and is proud of his heritage. When asked in an interview (now posted on his website) why more Arab-Americans are not in visible positions in hip-hop and if he would promote them, Khaled

replied, “I hope I’m opening the

door for more of them. ... It’s not where you’re from or what nationality you are; it’s about doing what you do and your hard work will pay off. ... I’m just going to promote peace.”

Now based in Miami, Khaled is a radio host for the urban music radio station WEDR. In 2006, he released his first album, *Listennn ... the Album*. This was followed by *We the Best* (2007), *We Global* (2008) and *Victory* (2010). *We the Best Forever* is his most recent album.

Black Entertainment Television, which reaches 90 million homes worldwide, has recognized DJ Khaled’s work seven times with awards or nominations for awards.

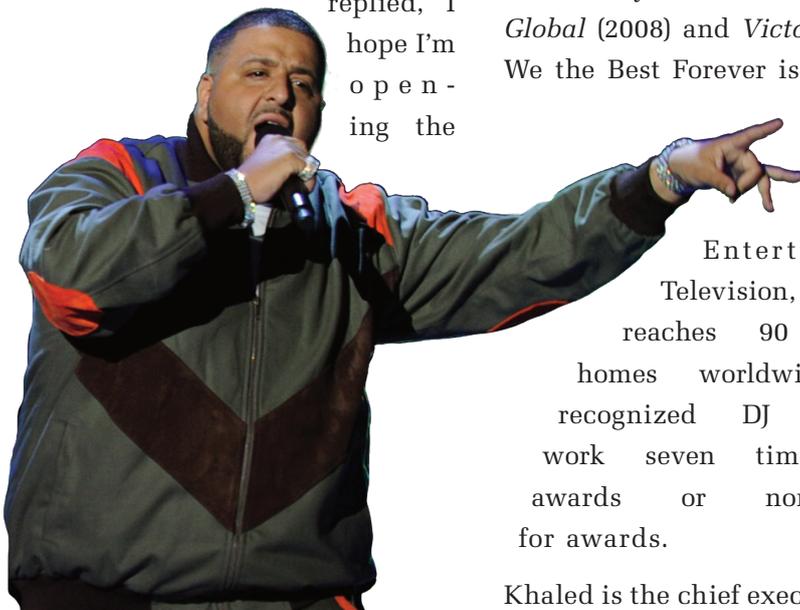
Khaled is the chief executive officer for the record label *We the Best Music Group* and president of the



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record label *Def Jam South*. He operates his own private recording studio called *Jerusalem*. His studio, he told *Ozone* music magazine, is “top-secret. The only way to get to Jerusalem is if you have a serious connect to the family [of his inner circle of artists].” There he creates beats for select artists such as *Fat Joe* and *Wyclef*.

Some rappers who work with Khaled are Muslim, and the *Jerusalem* studio is a “holy place,” Khaled told *The Green Shade* blog, a forum that discusses the impact of Muslims and Islam in Europe and America.



Rapper DJ Khaled performs onstage during the BET Awards '11 held at the Shrine Auditorium on June 26, 2011, in Los Angeles, California. © Getty Images

Prominent Arab Americans Featured in This Series



Abdu



Ahmed



Akkad



DeBakey



El-Baz



Gaida



Gibran



Haiek



Hayek



Kasem



Khaled



Khannouchi



Masry



McAuliffe



Shihab Nye



Rihani



Said



Salama



Shamieh



Zerhouni



Zewail



Tlaib

Rashid Abdu, Physician
Ahmed Ahmed, Comedian
Moustapha Akkad, Film Director
Michael DeBakey, Heart Surgeon
Farouk El-Baz, Geologist
Gaida, Singer
Kahlil Gibran, Artist and Poet
Joseph Haiek, Publisher
Salma Hayek, Actress
Casey Kasem, Radio Broadcaster
DJ Khaled, Rap Music Artist
Khalid Khannouchi, Marathon Runner
Ferial Masry, Community Activist
Christa McAuliffe, Teacher in Space
Naomi Shihab Nye, Author
Ameen Rihani, Poet
Edward Said, Author and Activist
Kareem Salama, Singer
Betty Shamieh, Playwright
Rashida Tlaib, Politician
Elias Zerhouni, Medical Vanguard
Ahmed Zewail, Chemist