

R.I.P. DJ Mark The 45 King



DJ Mark The 45 King died last Thursday morning at age 62. DJ Premier was among the first to report his passing on his Instagram page. The producer was behind some of hip-hop's most famous tracks as a producer and remixer. Queen Latifah's debut album *All Hail The Queen*, Jay-Z's "Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem)" and Eminem's "Stan" are just a few of the projects that he graced with his skills. The starting point of his career came with "The 900 Number" breakbeat he released in 1987. The track would be sampled in other popular songs like DJ Kool's "Let Me Clear My Throat" and UK DJ Chad Jackson's "Hear The Drummer (Get Wicked)." He was born Mark Howard James but got his DJ name because of his affinity for using rare 45 records to make beats. James's configuration of horn samples and bottomless drums was a trademark of his sound. In 2022, Westbound Records released a set of five 45s called [*Westbound Beats*](#) mixed by James. The producer mined the label's archive including unreleased music from Junie Morrison and The Ohio Players to create new tracks.

Westbound Records Returns With DJ Mark The 45 King Beats Project



Detroit's legendary Westbound Records is returning with new music from hip-hop producer DJ Mark The 45 King. The label is most known for releasing Funkadelic's classic records in the '70 including *Maggot Brain* before they went to Warner Brothers. They also released The Ohio Players' *Pain*, *Pleasure*, and *Ecstasy* albums during the same time period and hit their commercial rise with The Clark Sisters' 1983 hit "You Brought The Sunshine." Mark The 45 King has been producing for over three decades crafting songs for so many like Jay-Z's "Hard Knock Life," Eminem's "Stan" and Queen Latifah's debut album. The Bronx native earned his name from the ability to make music using rare 45s. His "The 900 Number" was immortalized on Yo! MTV Raps as Ed Lover's dance song. Westbound opened up its vault and gave King access to unreleased music from The Ohio Players and their late bandmember Junie Morrison to create new beats. The music will be a 7-inch box set of five 45s called *Westbound Beats*. King's latest work will reintroduce Westbound Records through his foundational hip-hop lens and has a scheduled release date of June 24th. [Pre-order now.](#)

[45 King Westbound Beats by The 45 King](#)



45 King Making The Beat with DJ Premier

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DJ Mark the 45 King chats with DJ Premier on his show and they

discuss Heavy D and the proper way to hand out a demo among other things.