

BIO:

South Korean singer and rapper PSY became an international sensation with the outrageously silly video for his 2012 hit "Gangnam Style." The artist, born Park Jae-Sang, is attended Boston University and Berklee College of Music.

He began his music career in 2001 with the album PSY from the PSYcho World! The album's in-your-face lyrics connected with Korean teens but concerned civil groups, causing PSY to pay fines and restrict sales to adults only. He capitalized on the controversy by releasing two more albums, Sa 2 and 3 PSY, a year later, which earned songwriting accolades at the 2004 SBS and Seoul Music Awards. Third album Sa Jib (Sa House) followed in 2006, along with more honors. Fifth album PSY Five arrived in 2010 as the artist signed to YG Entertainment, one of Korea's largest talent agencies and record labels, and took home trophies from the Melon, Seoul, and M.net Asian Music Awards ceremonies.

His fame reached international status in summer 2012 with the release of the album PSY's Best 6th Part 1, propelled by the single "Gangnam Style," which he immortalized in a video with campy choreography that simulated riding a horse. Within a month of its release, the video racked up over 1 Billion hits on YouTube and inspired parody clips from all corners of the globe.



PSY performing "Gangnam Style" on the Today Show with a jam-packed crowd in NY

With his ubiquitous single "Gangnam Style" finally starting to slip on the charts -- the track, which peaked at No. 2 on the Hot 100, has dropped to No. 19 on the tally -- PSY has announced plans to move on from his breakout tune following its performance at "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" on Monday night.

"Being in Times Square on New Year's Eve is already special - it's the biggest stage in the universe - plus it's my birthday, so, with all that, it may be the ending of 'Gangnam Style,'" the K-pop star, who just turned 35, tells MTV News. "I mean, what better way to do it? It's my biggest and most meaningful birthday."

After sweeping through America beginning in July, "Gangnam Style" spent seven weeks at No. 2, and its music video is now the most-watched YouTube clip of all time with over 1 billion views. Although a follow-up single has not yet been announced,

PSY says that his focus will now turn to crafting another U.S. hit instead of continuously performing "Gangnam."

"I'm really working hard on a new single right now, and I'm not saying ['Gangnam'] is ending on 'Dick Clark' - I still have a lot of invitations to perform it ... I'll be in Paris, and in February I got invited to perform in China, and I've still got to do promo," he says. "So let me say that in America I need a new single because 'Gangnam Style' got too popular, so I've got to write a new single."

"Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve," the annual Dec 31 music extravaganza presented from Times Square in New York, Before PSY rings in 2013 with his addictive and catchy song "Gangnam Style," check out PSY's most famous U.S. performance of the song to date: a mash-up with MC Hammer at the 2012 American Music Awards.

Q&A:

Q: When did you get a sense that "Gangnam Style" would hit differently?

A: I released the song on July 15 and I didn't see anything for 10 days. After 10 days I saw some ripples on YouTube in other languages. A lot of celebrities celebrated my video on Twitter. At that time I realized this was happening.

Q: How did you come up with the dance moves?

A: I studied hard to find something new. I spent like a month to find the horse dance. We are just at the studio, me and my choreographers, we are spending like 30 nights and we are thinking, what is my next dance move? Because in Korea there are huge expectations about my dancing. So it was a lot of pressure.

Q: Do you listen to much American music?

A: Every musician in Korea, we learn from your pop -- we get inspired. I was at the iHeartRadio festival in Las Vegas and when I walked down the hallway someone stopped me and said, "Are you Psy?" And he said, "I'm Jon Bon Jovi." I grew up listening to Bon Jovi since "You Give Love a Bad Name," so this was a really touching moment. We took a picture and he uploaded it on his Facebook. It's unbelievable.

ALBUMS:



PSYfive: This fifth album was released on October 20, 2010. The album contains 12 songs. The album was also released worldwide through iTunes. It is PSY's debut album for YG Entertainment.

PSY 6 (Six Rules): The EP is divided into two parts; the first part being released on July 15, 2012. Part 2 has been announced to be released in March of 2013.[1] The album has sold 96,272 copies in South Korea. Part 2 will include his single "Korea" and remixes plus live versions of his album.



One direction's special performance of "Kiss You" at the season finale of X Factor USA

As 2012 dawned, few American adults outside the most dedicated of Anglophiles knew much, if anything, about One Direction. In part, that's because the kind of boy-band pop One Direction had already turned into 2011's fastest-selling debut album in the United Kingdom (aided by the most preordered single in Sony Music history) doesn't target adults. And in part it's a matter of history: In the decade that passed since the peak of the boy-band craze led by Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, the U.K. groups that kept the sound at the top of charts overseas were barely able to translate their success beyond a single on American shores.

By Nov. 30, as the sun began to set on 2012, the group had invaded the New York area for a week that included three sold-out arena shows (, a private fan convention in New Jersey to meet and greet with die-hards who'd been flown in from more than 35 countries, visits to

"Letterman" and SiriusXM-and to cap it all off, the opening slot at New York's biggest pop concert of the year, and performing at WHTZ's Jingle Ball.

"This week's been crazy, crazy busy but so much fun," says Louis Tomlinson, the group's oldest member at just a few weeks shy of 21, toward the end of the band's whirlwind takeover of Manhattan. "To have this opportunity to come here and perform is amazing . . . It's almost a cliché but it's so true-if anyone hadn't bought a record, we wouldn't be here."

So how did Louis, Harry, Zayn, Liam and Niall accomplish what no British group had done before, let alone a boy band, by topping the Billboard 200 with its first two albums and going from virtual unknowns to mega-stars in less than a year's time? Social media played a crucial part after they placed 3rd on X Factor, as it did in so many of the breakout stories of 2012.

Up All Night is the debut studio album by One Direction, released by Syco Records in November 2011 in Ireland and the United Kingdom, followed by a worldwide release during 2012.

Take Me Home is the second studio album by English-Irish boy band One Direction, released globally in November 2012 by Syco Records and Columbia Records (Sony Music Entertainment). The album's accompanying seven-month 2013 World Tour is scheduled to begin in February 2013.

ALBUMS:



BIO:

Following the success of JLS, X-Factor contestants One Direction were the next group of heartthrobs to help revive the previously dying concept of the boy band.

Niall Horan from Mullingar, Ireland; Zayn Malik from Bradford; Harry Styles from Cheshire; Louis Tomlinson from Doncaster, and Liam Payne from Wolverhampton originally entered the 2010 seventh series of the talent show as individuals, but following a suggestion from guest judge Nicole Scherzinger, they were grouped together to become One Direction.

Mentored by Simon Cowell, they soon became one of the favorites to win the show. However, despite receiving a standing ovation for their duet with Robbie Williams ("She's the One") in the live final, they eventually finished third.

Simon Cowell signed them to his Syco label in a £2million deal, and after performing on the X-Factor tour, the quintet began work on their debut album with Savan Kotecha. They released their first single, "What Makes You Beautiful," in late 2011. The full-length album, *Up All Night*, followed soon after. In 2012, One Direction became the first British band to debut on top of the Billboard 200 list. In late 2012, One Direction released its sophomore album, *Take Me Home*.

Q&A:

Q: What are your favourite songs on the album? How involved were you in the writing of songs?

Louis: Moments written by Ed Sheeran because it's a very emotional song with great lyrics and One Thing because its high energy and good fun to perform.

Q: What has been the highlight of your time as a band AFTER X Factor?

Liam: Doing the x-factor tour and performing in front of over 500,000 people was absolutely amazing! Couldn't ask for more!

Q: What is one thing you could never live without?

Niall: My heart... and music!

Q: Why did you choose the name One Direction?

Harry: We thought about loads of names and then realised that we all wanted the same thing. We were all heading in.....

Q: What is your favourite thing about your large and devoted fan base?

Zayn: The incredible dedication they have and all the support they never lack to show us.