

DJ Charlie Chan Soprano coming to Minneapolis

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr.



Run DMC's DJ to spin at Darby's on Sept. 21

The art of DJing is still alive.

For most of the time in hip-hop, DJs have played the background while the MC got most of the shine. But that wasn't always the case. In fact, during the early days of hip-hop, it was the DJ that got top billing. Just look at the names of some of the pioneering groups in hip-hop – Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five (Flash was the DJ), DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, (DJ) Eric B & Rakim.

But at some point the culture shifted.

It became about the MC and the producer. The DJ was phased out on records. The sound of a record scratching has all but disappeared from hip-hop recordings. But during shows, no hip-hop artist would dare take the stage without a capable DJ. And no party is complete without a skilled technician behind the turntables. And despite the fact many pop parties are being turned into a joke; clumsily spun by celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Pauly D, *true*, masterful DJs are rocking parties and exciting crowds throughout the world.

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