

# Meet The DJ, Mark Evans

Back in 1979, when Jimmy Carter was in the White House, and the cars rolling off Detroit's assembly line still ruled America's roads, Mark Evans started his career as a teen disco DJ. Now 30 years later, the Motown area DJ is still going strong, and staying fresh, thanks to a never ending quest to add new twists to his gigs and get involved in the local and national DJ scene.

A man of many hats, Mark does way more than entertain as a mobile DJ. He's also been active in promoting and supporting his chosen profession. Aside from being a well known moderator on [start.prodj.com](http://start.prodj.com), he's also a founding member of the Michigan chapter of the ADJA and was recently elected its president.

Although a lot has happened in the world since Mark spun his first disc, one thing has remained unchanged – it's involved committed guys like him that make DJing special.

## **Do you go by a different name professionally?**

No. I used to but as of 1998 I went to using my name since it seemed easy enough to remember.

## **When was your first gig?**

I started as a teen disco DJ In 1979 so this will be my 30<sup>th</sup> year as a DJ. Back then many local halls would rent out and be transformed into a disco. The regular DJ could not make it so I was asked to step in. A few months later I got a regular job at a local roller rink. I was there for 10 years as well as working in clubs and then started my own mobile DJ business.

## **What attracted you to being a DJ after that experience?**

I loved watching people have a good time and dance. I also felt that I knew music well enough to do some great sets.

## **How would you describe your DJ style?**

I am interactive in the way that I don't sit still though the night. I am more talkative at the beginning of the night but as the party picks up I tend to talk less and watch the crowd's reaction to the music. Sometimes I use props but not always as some parties don't require them.

## **What sets you apart as a DJ?**

I think it is my personality and attention to detail. I'm very relaxed but also know how to control a crowd. I like to mix things up and do different types of things when I DJ.

## **What equipment do you run?**

Presently I use computers (I always have 2 running), Mackie speakers, American DJ lighting.

## **What are your favorite things about DJing or being a DJ?**

I still love the challenge of making the party memorable for my clients. I love when people get crazy on the dance floor or hear a great toast.

## **What are some of your proudest moments as a DJ?**

Probably doing charity events for the less fortunate. If we as DJs can help others forget about what they are going through for even a short time I think it is worth it.

## **Can you tell me about a few really memorable gigs or other experiences as a DJ?**



*Photo courtesy of Kenneth Gerard Photography*



A few come to mind. I once did a party for deaf children. That was quite an experience because I just had to play the music loud enough for them to feel the bass and they danced all night.

About 10 years ago I did a party for 15 year old boy who was diagnosed with spinal cancer. The parents wanted to throw him a party as they did not think he would make it to his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. At one point in the party the mother wanted to have a dance with him and we decided to play Hero from Mariah Carey. By the end of the song there was not a dry eye in the house.

**What other involvement do you have in the industry?**

I am also involved in the national and local DJ scene. I have been a moderator on start.prodj.com since 2003. I am also one of the founding members of the Michigan chapter of the ADJA and was recently elected President.

I am involved with Mobile Beat Magazine as an ad designer as well as being on staff for the national convention in Las Vegas. I'm the one that put all the videos together that you see throughout the show. I also have designed many of the banners and signs that are around the convention floor.

I have also been a mentor on DJ University and have written articles for the site.

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