



Stormzy

Composer of the Week



Stormzy
(b.1993)



Born in Norbury,
South London on
26th July, 1993.

Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr., more famously known as **Stormzy**, is a British **rapper**, singer and songwriter.

Rapping is a type of musical speaking, it incorporates rhythmic language and street talk. It is usually performed over a 'beat' or musical accompaniment and the rhythms don't usually match.

This is an example of the accompaniment.



Rap music began in America in the Bronx, New York in the 1970's. It developed alongside hip-hop. It was originally performed by the MC – the master of ceremonies who would encourage and entertain partygoers between the DJ sets.



Stormzy grew up in South Norwood, not very far from here, with his mother, brother and two sisters.

He loved music but his family were not musical.

He began rapping at the age of 11 and his first performances were on social media.

He did not work hard at school although he was obviously clever. He later said, "It was A Levels that showed me that in life you need work ethic."



Stormzy's first EP recording was not produced by a record company, he produced it himself in 2014.

Later that year he won Best Grime Act at the **MOBO Awards**.



The **MOBO Awards** are British. They are awarded every year to honour achievements in music “of black origin”.

MOBO- **Music of Black Origin.**

This means any music with cultural roots in the black community of any country, from **hip-hop** and **reggae** to **soul** and **gospel music**.





Stormy became the first unsigned artists to appear on the BBC Television show **Later... with Jools Holland**





He found an original way of advertising his first official album in February 2017. He printed the hashtag **#GSAP 24.02** on advertising boards all around London.

Everyone was intrigued, and when the album **Gang Signs and Prayer** was released on 24th February it reached No.1 in the charts.

In this song, **Blinded By Your Grace** from the album **GSAP**, Stormzy is joined by **MNEK**.

MNEK was born in Bellingham. Indeed, he is a past pupil of St Augustine's School and lots of the staff remember him well.

Ask them about him.





In 2017 he was the headline act on the Pyramid Stage at the **Glastonbury Festival**.

During this performance he wore a protective vest designed by the artist **Banksy**. He did this to draw attention to, and oppose, the high level of knife crime in London at the time.

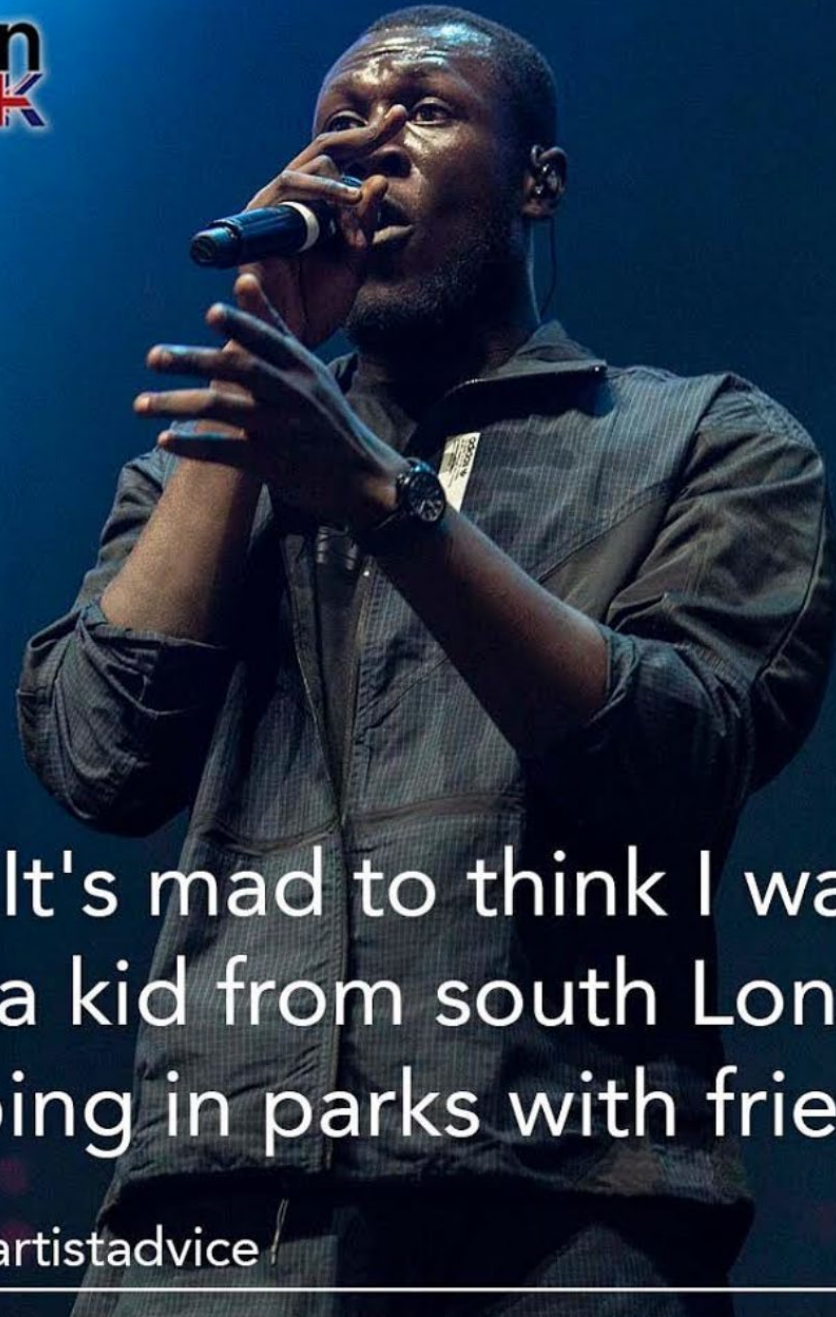
Stormzy has funded many charity organizations in the UK who fight against racial inequality and injustice. He has pledged to donate 1 million pounds per year for 10 years to these charities.

He has also funded the Stormzy Scholarship for Black Students at Cambridge University. This pays all the fees for two students per year for up to four years.





Stormzy is a Christian and on Christmas Day 2019 he read a passage from the Gospel of St Luke on BBC television.



● "It's mad to think I was just a kid from south London, rapping in parks with friends."

#OMUKartistadvice

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