

Guru aka Keith Edward Elam was a rapper, producer, artist and a member of the hip hop group Gang Starr with DJ Premier.

Guru was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts before moving to Brooklyn many years later.

He attended the Advent school on Beacon Hill in Boston, Cohasset High School and a graduated from Morehouse College.

He took graduate classes at Fashion institute of technology in New York City.

He began MC'ing/Rapping under the name MC Keithy E and later changed it to Guru.

Guru help form the group "Gang Starr" with DJ Premier.

They produced their first singles on Wild Pitch Records, one of them was "No more Mr. Nice guy".

Albums "Moment of truth" and "A decade of Gang Starr" were certified gold by RIAA.

In 1993, Guru released the first in a series of four solo albums while still a member of Gang Starr.

Jazzmatazz volumes 1, 2 and 3 featured collaborations with Donald Byrd, Chaka Khan and Branford Marsalis.

During this time, Guru was considered one of the first artist to start the Jazz era of Hip Hop.

In 2001, Guru released his first solo album not a part the Jazzmatazz series "Baldhead, Slick & da Click".

The album reached #22 on the Billboard R&B/Hip Hop album charts. *The Street Scriptures*, was released in 2005

on Guru's own record label, 7 Grand Records. The album was produced by labelmate Solar.

It reached #54 on the Billboard R&B albums charts and received mixed reviews.

Guru passed away on April 19, 2010 from a form of blood cancer.

He is survived by his parents, three siblings, and a son named Keith Casim.

Written by Tony Tee aka Tony Pari