

BIO

Born Matthew Fowler on Feb. 17, 1975, producer Mumbles has lived a life rich with musical diversity and spiritual inspiration. Raised in a family of professional jazz musicians along with older brother Marvin Fowler (Dj Marvski) of the U.N.I.T.Y. Committee, Mumbles developed an ear for jazz and hip-hop music from an early age. His father, Steve Fowler, a professional flute and sax player, along with uncles Bruce, Tom, Walt, and Ed formed a musical legacy spanning from the early 70's with the band, the Fowler Brothers. They played with Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Bobby McFerrin, Linda Rondstadt, Ray Charles, Diana Ross, James Taylor and Brian Setzer, to name just a few. Being raised in such a diverse and musically stimulating environment, Mumbles tuned his ear early to the complexity of rhythm, melody and harmony. With the influence of his brother Marvski, he turned his attention to hip-hop music from the age of 5 (1980) and never turned back.

In the late 1980's, Marvski along with Cut Chemist, Chali 2na, and Marc 7 formed the innovative group U.N.I.T.Y. Committee, which later along with the Rebels of Rhythm turned into the group Jurassic 5. It was during these pivotal years that Mumbles, being inspired by the production and record collections of Marvski and Cut Chemist, decided to embark on his own mission of record digging, sampling, and beat construction. What started out lightly quickly turned into the digging obsession that most hip-hop producers are familiar with. As his collection grew, Mumbles tastes in music quickly broadened into including a deep love for straight ahead jazz, rare grooves, funk and soul. In 1990, a close friend in the Bay Area, Takashi Okimoto, purchased an Ensoniq Mirage sampler, and as they worked over the record bins and sampler together creating their first sounds, Mumbles' career in beat making began. Later, with the acquisition of an Ensoniq EPS-16+, Mumbles began putting together his own characteristic sound, and between the years of 1992-1993, he turned out the majority of the beats from Aceyalone's underground classic, A Book of Human Language.

In 1994, Mumbles met Aceyalone through an A&R of Grand Royal Records, and together they recorded three tracks, two of which appeared on Acey's first solo release All Balls Don't Bounce on Capitol Records. In 1997, two of Mumbles tracks appeared on Ubiquity's release Audio Alchemy and in the same year, a song was chosen for the Om Records compilation Deep Concentration. In 1998, Aceyalone and Mumbles then decided to collaborate on a full length album together, A Book of Human Language, which has since been widely acclaimed as an underground hip-hop classic.

After the completion of this project, Mumbles, who had turned his interests inward toward the spiritual journey, became initiated by the great humanitarian and spiritual leader, Sri Mata Amritanadamayi Devi "Amma," and spent much of the subsequent years of his life in contemplation, devotion, spiritual study, travel and meditation. During these years, he composed one of his greatest pieces, a meditative symphonic sampling odyssey known as "Crossing the Ocean of Transmigration" which is yet unreleased. Returning from a trip to India with Amma, he relocated to Santa Fe, NM, and there begun work on the Album now known as "Transformations/Illuminations" for Sound In Color. This lush soundscape masterfully blends eastern and western music, with the classic boom-bap Mumbles helped usher to hip-hop years back.

Mumbles, who was given the spiritual name "Ullas" by Ammachi, has now for many years been devoted to a practice of Kirtan and Bhajan (Indian devotional singing to God), which has once again broadened his musical landscape and merged his sense of the sacred with his deep love of music. His long musical study of jazz, hip-hop, funk, classical, and spiritual music is evident and present in his intensely unique style of musical production. Mumbles lists his greatest musical inspirations as: The Fowler Brothers, Dj Marvski and the U.N.I.T.Y. Committee, the Native Tongue Crew, Cut Chemist, John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman, Joe Henderson, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Sergei Rachmaninov, Dmitri Shashtakovich, and the monks and nuns of Ammachi's ashram in Kerala, India. Mumbles lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

TRANSFORMATIONS/ILLUMINATIONS
MUMBLES