



Eric Nam

Eric grew up in Atlanta, always connected to music. He learned to play the piano at age four, and the cello at nine, and was part of his school's Atlanta Boy Choir. Eric was influenced by K-pop like Shinhwa. In high school he started uploading song covers to YouTube. After high school, Eric went to Boston College and graduated in International Studies with a minor in Asian Studies (2011). Eric's YouTube covers went viral and caught the attention of Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation who invited him to compete in "Birth of a Great Star 2" in Seoul. He placed in the top five contestants and was offered a music deal in South Korea and debuted in 2013. One of the reasons why he moved to South Korea to pursue his music career was that he did not think record labels in America were ready to invest in an Asian face. However even in South Korea, it was a challenge because he started with hosting TV shows and was pigeonholed as an emcee. Eric did not realize he could be a musician because growing up, he never saw a role model in music with an Asian face. While on tour he faced anxiety and depression, but his company cautioned him from getting help for fear of hurting his career. Asian representation and mental health support are important issues Eric fights for and brings attention to. He and his brothers started a podcast called DIVE Studios that gives K-pop stars and musicians opportunities to showcase their songs and speak about their experience. He also launched a wellness app with them called Mindset. This is where artists can talk about their mental health journeys and break that taboo within the Asian and Asian American community. In the wake of a gunman's spa rampage in Atlanta on March 16, 2021 that left eight people dead, including six Asian American women, the 32-year-old Eric used his platform as a celebrity to raise awareness of historic anti-Asian sentiment in the United States and became a part of #stopasianhate. This included penning a 2021 *Time* magazine article titled "If You're Surprised by the Anti-Asian Violence in Atlanta, You Haven't Been Listening. It's Time to Hear Our Voices." Eric is bilingual and released all-Korean and all-English albums in both South Korea and the United States. He tours globally.

Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.