

Ideas for Questions to ask your Mississippi musician

Your interview can be in person, by phone, by email, by letter.

Be sure you introduce yourself and explain that you are a junior at Starkville High School engaged in a research paper about them as a Mississippi musician and that the information you find will be written into a web page to be placed on the website called *Mississippi Writers and Musicians* at <http://SHS.Starkville.K12.MS.US/mswm/MSWritersAndMusicians> (You don't have to give them the address unless they ask for it. They can always use a search engine and find it if they don't want to write it down.

Be sure to thank them for the interview and for helping you!!!

Choose the best questions for your musician. Add questions of your own as you talk to the musician. You might want to ask if they will be in the Starkville or Columbus area any time in the next few months so that you could meet them in person! We could also get a picture of the two of you together!!

1. Ask for any **biographical information** that you could not find in your research searches:
2. Place of birth, birth date, parents' names, brothers, sisters, high school, college, married or not, children, etc.
3. Who is your favorite musician/musicians?
4. What musician do you think has influenced you the most?
5. When did you become interested in music? Was there something in particular that made you chose music as a career?
6. How did you learn to play or sing? What formal music training have you had? Who was your teacher?
7. What kind of student were you in high school?
8. What are you currently working on? When will it be released?
9. Have you received any awards I don't have listed? (check your research info before asking)
10. Do you have any advice for future musicians?
11. Do you have any advice for students today?
12. What is your full given name?
13. Is your name a stage name? (You will probably know this from your research--Don't ask if you know it is their real name!)
14. Why or how did you choose this name?
15. How has Mississippi or living in Mississippi influenced your music?
16. Would you be willing to send us a photo or two of yourself so that we could use it on our high school website *Mississippi Writers and Musicians*? The photo can be returned if they need it back. Just be sure to let me know!
17. **Ask any other questions you can think of from your readings about the musician or from what the musicians says to you when you talk to him/her.** You might look at other interviews done by previous students on the SHS web page/Mississippi Writers and Musicians for ideas as well.
18. If they want to send us a CD, we can put audio clips on the web page so visitors can get a taste of the music. See Law of Nature or Steve Blailock, for example.