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Mac Miller, who collaborated with rap royalty, dies at 26



1 of 5 | FILE - In this July 29, 2016 file photo, Mac Miller performs at Lollapalooza in Chicago. Miller, the platinum hip-hop star whose rhymes vacillated from party raps to lyrics about depression and drug use, has died at the age of 26. A family statement released through his publicists says Miller died Friday, Sept. 7, 2018, and there are no further details

BY ANDREW DALTON AND MARK KENNEDY

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LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mac Miller, the platinum hip-hop star whose rhymes vacillated from party raps to lyrics about depression and drug use, and earned kudos from the likes of Jay-Z and Chance the Rapper, died Friday at age 26.

Police and paramedics found Miller unresponsive at his home in Los Angeles before noon, coroner's spokeswoman Sarah Ardalani said. An autopsy will be required to determine the cause of death. His death was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

"He was a bright light in this world for his family, friends and fans," Miller's family said in a statement.

Miller also drew headlines for his two-year relationship with singer Ariana Grande.

Police lines were pulled up and a coroner's van left the cul-de-sac where Miller lived late Friday afternoon.

About 10 news vans remained. Another rapper, Pittsburgh Slim, appeared and left flowers.

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While Miller didn't have a hit on Top 40 radio, he had a strong following on streaming networks and even had an album debut at No. 1 on the top 200 albums chart. He often alluded to his battles with addiction over the years and had collaborations with Kendrick Lamar, Lil Wayne and Ty Dolla \$ign.

At the news of his death, Chance the Rapper tweeted: "I don't know what to say Mac Miller took me on my second tour ever. But beyond helping me launch my career he was one of the sweetest guys I ever knew. Great man. I loved him for real. I'm completely broken. God bless him."

J Cole said on Twitter: "This is a message for anybody in this game that's going through something. If you don't feel right, if you feel you have a substance problem, if you need a ear to vent to. If you uncomfortable talking to people around you. Please reach out to me."

He released his fifth, full-length album "Swimming" last month, with Variety calling it "a simple, stately, poetic autobiography." Rolling Stone called it "silky, deep vibe redolent of the L.A. alternative soul scene." New Musical Express said it was "his best work in years."

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The album included the song "Come Back to Earth," with Miller trying to chart his way through tough times: "In my own way, I feel like living some alternate reality/And I was drowning, but I was swimming through stressful waters to relief." ⓧ

He was due to start a tour at the end of next month that he promised would be Thursday he tweeted: "I just wanna go on tour."

Miller and Grande collaborated on her first top 10 hit, the multiplatinum, "The Way I Feel About You" from teen TV stardom to pop star, and they dated for two years before their relationship ended in May. She later called it a "toxic" relationship on Twitter.



Not long after he was charged with DUI and hit and run after police said he struck a power pole and fled the scene. His blood alcohol was reportedly twice the legal limit.

"I made a stupid mistake. I'm a human being," Miller told Zane Lowe on Beats 1 on Apple Music in July. "But it was the best thing that could have happened. Best thing that could have happened. I needed that. I needed to run into that light pole and literally have the whole thing stop."

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The Pittsburgh native, born Malcolm McCormick, rose to fame with a frat-rap attitude in his mixtapes like "Best Day Ever" and his full-length album debut, 2011's "Blue Slide Park." His more goofy songs included "Nikes on My Feet," "Kool Aid & Frozen Pizza" and "Knock Knock."

One of his biggest songs was the 2011 platinum-certified mixtape track "Donald Trump," which prompted a feud with the future president. He asked his fans not to vote for Trump, who was flirting with the idea of running for president then, and publicly supported the Black Lives Matter movement.

In 2013, his sophomore effort, "Watching Movies with the Sound Off," entered the Billboard 200 at No. 3. Miller sold more than 100,000 copies of the woozy, moody album, which features appearances or production work from Diplo, Flying Lotus, Earl Sweatshirt, Jay Electronica and Action Bronson. He also landed a reality series, "Mac Miller and the Most Dope Family," in 2013, which ran for two seasons on MTV2.

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Miller told The Associated Press that year that the album's depth and quality re speed development, his move from Pittsburgh to Los Angeles and just how seri "There was always a lot more to me than what people wanted to say, that's the me," Miller said.

His 2016 release "The Divine Feminine" had contributions from Kendrick Lamar Green and Grande. Pitchfork magazine called it "the most surprising, concise, and accomplished album of his



career.”

Miller’s label, Warner Bros., released a statement calling him “a hugely gifted and inspiring artist, with a pioneering spirit and a sense of humor that touched everyone he met. Mac’s death is a devastating loss and cuts short a life and a talent of huge potential, where the possibilities felt limitless.”

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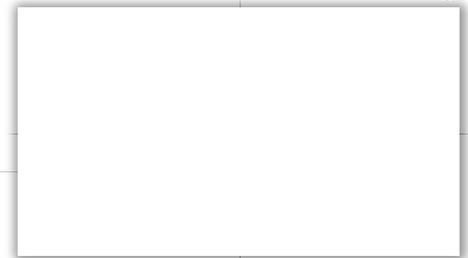
Kennedy reported from New York.

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