

Steve Aoki to Perform in Scottsdale

Written by Marcus Tso

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This weekend, Scottsdale will not only host the annual [Waste Management Phoenix Open](#) but host some of music's best acts—and one performance will conclude the weekend perfectly. [Steve Aoki](#), who can be regarded as a futurist as in the sense that he is an avid individual believer in the advancement of sciences and technology. The DJ, record producer, music executive, fashion designer, electro house musician, philanthropist, and many other titles do not completely describe him, as he is more than just the music. The 39-year-old was born in Miami and grew up in the sea side city of Newport Beach, where he began DJ'ing. Most of his commercial success began at the early part of this decade and in 1996 he founded his Dim Mak record label. Read on to get to know Aoki.

AFM: How is the beginning of the New Year going for you?

SA: "The beginning of 2017 has been a wild wild ride as there are so many things that are going on. Rehearsals, campaigning for the new single '[Just Hold On](#)' (which features [One Direction](#)'s [Louis Tomlinson](#).) My attention is focusing on the record."

AFM: Your documentary on Netflix is titled "[I Will Sleep When I am Dead](#)." When was the last time you remember getting over six hours of sleep?

SA: "Actually, last night. Umm, NO! That was four hours. I don't know, I live a pretty healthy life style in exception to not getting the six to eight hours of sleep. It is something I need to work on. I met with [Ariana Huffington](#) (founder of The [Huffington Post](#)) she said, 'I know you will sleep until you are dead, but you still have to sleep when you are alive.' I take it very seriously and it is important to me."

AFM: Social media, you have millions of followers. Is this your way to stay connected to your fan base? Or would you prefer it to be at your concerts?

SA: "Being able to communicate and connect with people on a human level is more fulfilling of me than through social media. If I can connect with someone, I can see their expressions first-hand which means everything to me. This is why I tour, I love to travel the world so much and this is why I care about my music and my shows. Social media informs and gives me feedback that people like or dislike, but I do not dwell on it. I focus on human interaction."

AFM: In your most recent collaboration and single, "[Just Hold On](#),"you teamed up with Louis Tomlinson through Twitter. Has there been any other people you have reached out to on Twitter?

SA: "Yes. Twitter might have been associated to a dying platform like [Vine](#), but it is just words and text, but it is connection, it is a news platform to get information. I use Twitter all the time to connect to other artists. Without Twitter we would have never been able to collaborate together. I am very lucky I was able to connect with Louis because we wanted to work with each other."



AFM: With [Steve Aoki Foundation](#)'s principal goal aimed at supporting brain research and regenerative medicine, disaster relief and animal rights, we asked about the foundation and what he can tell us about it.

SA: "I got inspired to give funding needed to continue research or to advance our research. When I first realized I had this platform of influence where I could talk to people and connect with them, I could use it to do better. This is why my tour is incorporated with sales of the tickets going

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toward people who need it. For instance, in the case of a natural disaster. As I started to build this fund my interests were in the brain. What is going inside our heads, and eventually getting to a point where we need more attention and awareness toward it."

AFM: Your second album cover has you looking right and your third album you are looking left. Your latest album have both the previous covers conjoined facing each other. Does this tell us anything about your upcoming album?

SA: "Neon Future I is the beginning of this evolution in technology and its becoming more apart of our lives. Neon Future II is more advanced, embraces technology and uses the benefit of technology to advance our race and our civilization. I am definitely for a technological future, which is why I have scientists talking on the album. Neon Future III is a more highly evolved version of me with a representation of our species. It is a collaborative album as I have reached out to different kinds of artists from all different genres."



AFM: Does the mood of the country effect how you create music?

SA: "Sometimes. Going back to the beginning before I was DJ'ing I was in a band taking apart social and cultural critics and using my lyrics in my music very directly. Now, I do not do things so directly related to social or political commentary. You might feel it in some of the energy or anxieties in the songs. Those are inherent in a creative process but are not involved. You will hear some interesting stuff in the future."

AFM: How will the future of music sound in your opinion?

SA: "The future of music especially with electronic music has become accessible for people to produce music. Any kid can pick up a laptop, they can create, get the tools they need to hone in on the sound and create a melody. I love the concept that anyone can make music, you no longer have to be invited to big record studios, you can be a 15-year-old kid from Tennessee or a music producer in your late 30's. It will all be pushed forward, the future of music will be quick and easy to make."

AFM: For a first-timer at one of your shows, what do you hope your fans take away from seeing your performance?

SA: "I try to play my sets as if I am playing to a crowd that has never seen one of my shows. So I put forward all my energy towards that to build that connection with someone that is brand new through my music. I give a story line with different stages and the evolutions of all my music that has been or has become. Even presenting how far my music has come. There are different stunts, activities, sound and context to create this story. I want to leave them with an experience they will never forget. Not an out-of-body experience, a sensory experience."



Want to see Steve Aoki live? Come to Scottsdale to the Coors Light Birds Nest to have an exuberant night partying and listening to some great music this Saturday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. The price of tickets vary and can be purchased through [Ticketmaster](#). Be careful, he loves throwing cake and showering his fans with Champagne (bring your flute).

To get more up to date information on Aoki and to follow him on his global journey, go follow him on [Instagram](#) or stay connected with him on [Twitter](#). The fun does not end here, you can also listen to Steve's music for free at [Sound Cloud](#) or [Spotify](#).