

= Mike Shinoda =

Michael Kenji " Mike " Shinoda ( born February 11 , 1977 ) is an American musician , rapper , singer , songwriter , record producer , graphic designer , manager and film composer . He co -@-@ founded Linkin Park in 1996 and is the band 's rhythm guitarist , songwriter , keyboardist , and co @-@ vocalist . Shinoda later created a hip hop @-@ driven side project , Fort Minor , in 2004 . He served as a producer for tracks and albums by Lupe Fiasco , Styles of Beyond , and The X @-@ Ecutioners .

Shinoda is also the co @-@ founder of Machine Shop Recordings , a California @-@ based record label . Outside of music , Shinoda is an artist and graphic designer . He has painted several pieces of artwork , some of which have been featured in the Japanese American National Museum .

= = Life and career = =

= = = Early life = = =

Shinoda was born and raised in the Los Angeles suburb of Agoura Hills . His father is Japanese and a descendant of the Kumaichiro Shinoda floral company family . He has a younger brother , Jason . He was raised as a liberal Protestant . Shinoda 's mother encouraged him to take classical piano lessons when he was six . By 13 , he expressed the desire to move toward playing jazz , blues , and even hip @-@ hop . He later added the guitar and rap @-@ style vocals to his repertoire during his middle school and high school years .

Shinoda attended Agoura High School with Linkin Park bandmates Brad Delson and Rob Bourdon . The three formed the band Xero , and began to make a more serious attempt to pursue a career in the music industry . After graduating high school , Shinoda enrolled in the Art Center College of Design of Pasadena to study graphic design and illustration . He attended classes with DJ and turntablist Joseph Hahn . While studying at the Art Center College of Design , he experienced a form of identity crisis . Years later , in an interview he said :

Shinoda graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in Illustration and obtained a job as a graphic designer .

= = = Linkin Park = = =

Shinoda founded Linkin Park with Rob Bourdon and Brad Delson in 1996 . They eventually brought in turntablist Joe Hahn , bassist Dave Farrell , and vocalist Mark Wakefield . The earliest incarnation of the band was called Xero , and originally produced and recorded music in Shinoda 's bedroom . When the band was unable to find a record deal , Wakefield and Farrell left the band to pursue other musical interests . The band later recruited Chester Bennington and successfully landed a record deal with Warner Bros Records . Linkin Park 's first studio album , Hybrid Theory went on to become a breakthrough success and helped the band attain international success .

Shinoda is closely involved in the technical aspects of the band 's recordings , and over the subsequent releases that role continued to expand . Shinoda , with guitarist Brad Delson , engineered and produced the band 's Hybrid Theory EP , and performed similar roles in the recording of Hybrid Theory . He has contributed to the instrumental and lyrical composition on most Linkin Park 's songs . Though Bennington primarily serves as Linkin Park 's lead vocalist , he occasionally shares the role with Shinoda . Bennington has a higher pitched and emotional style of singing , whereas Shinoda has a baritone hip @-@ hop style delivery . Shinoda organized and oversaw the band 's first remix album Reanimation in 2002 , contributing his own production of remixes that he made in his home studio for " Crawling " and " Pushing Me Away " . Shinoda collaborated with graffiti artist DELTA , graphic designer Frank Maddocks , and band @-@ mate Joe Hahn to prepare Reanimation 's artwork . Mike also collaborated with The Flem , Delta , James R. Minchin III , Nick Spanos , and Joe Hahn for the artwork of the band 's second studio album Meteora

. Shinoda also produced the album , with his bandmates and Don Gilmore which was his first production experience . By the release of the Jay @-@ Z and Linkin Park collaborative mashup EP , entitled Collision Course in 2004 , Shinoda 's involvement in the creation of the albums continued to grow . He produced and mixed the album , which won a Grammy Award for " best rap / song collaboration " in 2006 .

The band released their next album , Minutes to Midnight , on May 14 , 2007 . On this album , Shinoda shared a production credit with longtime producer Rick Rubin . This album was also the first time that Shinoda , best known for his rapping , sang a featured vocal . Shinoda sang in the songs " In Between " and the B @-@ side song , " No Roads Left " , as well as rapping and singing in the songs " Bleed It Out " and " Hands Held High " . Despite the rarity of Shinoda @-@ fronted singing tracks , music magazine Hit Parader ranked him at number 72 of the Top 100 Metal Vocalists of All Time . Shinoda and Rubin again shared a production credit for Linkin Park 's fourth album , A Thousand Suns , which was released on September 14 , 2010 . This album featured more of his singing than the rapping experience . Shinoda raps in three tracks , specifically " When They Come for Me " , " Wretches and Kings " and second single " Waiting for the End " , while he sings on numerous songs ( specifically verses ) , such as third single " Burning in the Skies " , " Robot Boy " , " Blackout " , fourth single " Iridescent " and first single " The Catalyst " . Bennington and Shinoda sing simultaneously together on " The Catalyst " , " Jornada del Muerto " and " Robot Boy " , while " Iridescent " features all band members singing together . Linkin Park released their fifth album Living Things on June 26 , 2012 . This album was stated as more " rap @-@ centric " by Shinoda compared to the previous two albums . Whereas there were tracks like " Skin to Bone " , " Roads Untraveled " and " Castle of Glass " which featured the singing vocals by Shinoda and had folk music , influenced by the works of Bob Dylan , as well as the inspirations of Dylan . Allmusic described Shinoda 's work for the album as , " a fitting soundtrack for aging rap @-@ rockers who are comfortable in their skin but restless at heart " . Recharged , which is a remix album consisting remixes of original songs from Living Things , was released on October 29 , 2013 . Shinoda used his EDM experience he got from Avicii while working on the track " Wake Me Up " , and also from Steve Aoki while working on " A Light That Never Comes " , to remix some songs for the album . Shinoda reinterpreted songs like " Castle of Glass " and " Victimized " . He also worked with his old friends like DJ Vice and Ryu for the album .

In 2014 , Shinoda worked with Delson to produce the band 's sixth studio album , The Hunting Party which was released on June 17 , 2014 . The album is the first one to have featuring artists like Page Hamilton of Helmet , Rakim , Daron Malakian of System of a Down , and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine . The first single of the album , " Guilty All the Same " , is the first non @-@ remix song by the band to feature rap by a guest artist instead of Shinoda .

= = = Fort Minor = = =

In 2004 , Shinoda formed a side project called Fort Minor , which he used as an avenue to further showcase his hip @-@ hop background . He explained the origin of the project 's name in an interview stating ,

Fort Minor 's debut album , titled The Rising Tied , was released on November 22 , 2005 . The album featured musical collaborations from Styles of Beyond , Lupe Fiasco , Common , Black Thought of The Roots , John Legend , Holly Brook , Jonah Matranga , and Celph Titled . Jay @-@ Z also served as the album 's executive producer . The Rising Tied was positively received by critics . The album 's most successful single , " Where 'd You Go " , peaked at # 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 . Other songs like , " Petrified " and " Remember the Name " gained popularity when they were used as the soundtrack for NBA Overtime on TNT .

Shinoda began recording songs for this side project following the release of Collision Course in November 2004 . Fort Minor : We Major was a mixtape by Shinoda and DJ Green Lantern to promote his upcoming studio album . The Rising Tied , the debut album of Fort Minor , was released in November 2005 . Robert Hales directed its first video " Petrified " , which was released the previous month . Jay @-@ Z , who had previously collaborated with Linkin Park on the 2004 album

Collision Course , was the executive producer for The Rising Tied . Shinoda told Corey Moss of MTV News that he imposed on himself a requirement to play all the instruments and write all the lyrics to the album , except for the strings , percussion , or choir parts . " Where 'd You Go " , its fourth single , peaked at No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , while second single , " Remember the Name " , reached at No. 66 . Another track , " Kenji " , describes the experiences of a Japanese @-@ American family during the Japanese American internment of World War II .

Due to the success of " Where 'd You Go " during the week of April 26 , 2006 , sales of The Rising Tied increased by 45 percent , and the album chart position went up 89 positions to No. 104 on the Billboard 200 . " Where 'd You Go " was awarded Ringtone of the Year at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards . In mid August 2006 Fort Minor performed at the Summer Sonic 2006 alongside Linkin Park .

In November 2006 , Fort Minor released a video for " Where 'd You Go . " Shinoda has stated he felt the video was a nice wrap @-@ up for Fort Minor . Also in November , Shinoda stated that Fort Minor would go on an indefinite hiatus , because of his dedication to Linkin Park . In the Billboard One @-@ hit Wonders of the 2000s , Fort Minor ( along with Holly Brook and Jonah Matranga ) were listed at No. 19 , due to the success of " Where 'd You Go " ( since it was Fort Minor 's only single that reached the top 25 ) . In an interview in 2014 , Shinoda stated that there could be a possible Fort Minor album in 2015 .

On June 21 , 2015 , Shinoda officially confirmed Fort Minor 's return with a status update and the release of a new single , " Welcome " . Fort Minor also appeared as the musical guest on the TBS late @-@ night talk show Conan on Monday , June 22 . Fort Minor also appeared on a few shows during Linkin Park 's touring schedule .

= = = Art and painting = = =

Shinoda has had a hand in most artistic facets of Linkin Park 's imagery , including album artwork , band merchandise , web design , and on @-@ stage production art . He designed the cover art for Styles of Beyond 's debut album , 2000 Fold and for DJ Frane 's debut album , Frane 's Fantastic Boatripe , both released in 1999 . He has also worked on several art projects throughout his career .

In 2003 , he did a collaborative " remix " shoe for DC Shoes , remixing the " Clientele " . He reworked the colors and materials for the shoe , and additionally designed all the packaging and print advertisements . The following year , he also designed a customization of a Kid Robot " Munny " doll for a charity auction . Later in 2008 , Shinoda partnered with DC Shoes again on a second DC Remix Series project . The new collaboration featured a " great juxtaposition of Shinoda 's unique influences : accomplished artist versus recording @-@ breaking musician , American upbringing versus Japanese heritage . " The MS / DC limited edition remix has two different versions ? Xander and Pride . Roughly 2000 pairs of the limited edition shoes were made available for purchase when the sneaker was released on August 1 , 2008 .

In 2004 , Shinoda created a series of ten paintings which became the basis of the Fort Minor debut album , The Rising Tied . That series became the backbone for the packaging of the album , and was featured in Shinoda 's first public art show " Diamonds Spades Hearts & Clubs " . In addition to the ten Fort Minor pieces , the show also featured thirteen more original works and five collaborative pieces . " Diamonds Spades Hearts & Clubs " opened at Gallery 1988 on Sunday , November 19 , 2006 . Later that year , Shinoda founded a college scholarship at Art Center College of Design to benefit future illustration and graphic design students . Named the Michael K. Shinoda Endowed Scholarship , it is awarded based on financial need and merit . The scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2006 . The scholarship fund is made possible through the sale of his original artwork on his website , art shows and his DC Shoes projects .

On July 11 , 2008 , Shinoda 's second public art show " Glorious Excess ( BORN ) " premiered at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles . The show included nine new pieces , with an exclusive signing on opening night . The show served as part one of the " Glorious Excess " two @-@ part series , with the second installment " Glorious Excess ( DIES ) " due at JANM at

August 22 , 2009 . Shinoda commented on the inspiration behind the Glorious Excess series , stating , " It Got to a point where the pervasiveness of ' celebrity news ' concerned me . It seemed like it has jumped out of its niche into places where it doesn 't belong . I would be watching the news , and thinking , ' of all the things going on in the world right now , why are they covering so @-@ and @-@ so 's breakup ? ' It didn 't make sense to me . Add to that the fact that I 'm supposed to somehow ' belong ' to that celebrity group ? and I really don 't feel like I do in a lot of ways ? and you can see how the topic started to become really interesting to me . The Glorious Excess ( BORN ) show was my way of diving into those topics , trying to find answers . It follows a central ' celebrity ' character , who is filthy rich , slightly violent , and famous without any particular skill or talent . "

On November 6 , 2014 , Shinoda and Hahn painted an artwork on the Berlin Wall .

= = = Other musical activities = = =

Shinoda has also served as a music producer for several other artists and groups . In 2002 , Shinoda and Joe Hahn collaborated with the X @-@ Ecutioners to produce and perform on their single " It 's Goin ' Down " . Later in 2002 , Shinoda and Brad Delson established their own record label , Machine Shop Recordings . He helped produce Lupe Fiasco 's 2006 release , Food & Liquor . He extensively worked with Styles of Beyond between 2009 and 2012 to help produce Reseda Beach , which also features his instrumental and vocal contribution . In addition albums , Shinoda scored the MTV VMA 's in 2005 and also worked with Ramin Djawadi to score the video game , Medal of Honor : Warfighter . In 2011 , he collaborated with Joseph Trapanese to compose the score for the American release of The Raid : Redemption .

In 2004 , he released a remixed single and animated music video of Depeche Mode 1989 single , " Enjoy the Silence " . In 2005 , Shinoda hosted the Rock Phenomenon mixtape / remix CD with DJ Vlad and Roc Raida . The CD is the first ( and to date , only ) in DJ Vlad 's Rock Phenomenon series ( which itself is a spin @-@ off of Vlad 's Rap Phenomenon mixtape series ) , and features a mashup of Linkin Park 's " Papercut " , and David Banner 's " Like a Pimp ( Remix ) " . For the 2006 Grammy awards , Shinoda and Brad Delson assembled the mashup track of Numb / Encore and " Yesterday " by The Beatles to be performed live by rapper Jay @-@ Z , Linkin Park and former Beatles singer Paul McCartney . Shinoda teamed up with former band mate Mark Wakefield to record and release a single , " Barack Your World " , in October 2008 .

Shinoda contributed on the music for CNN original documentary television series , " This is Life with Lisa Ling " . Shinoda contributed for the title theme for American television series " Into the Badlands " .

= = Other ventures = =

= = = Machine Shop records = = =

As Linkin Park succeeded in multi @-@ platinum record sales , Warner Music Group granted Shinoda his own record label in 1999 . It was first known as The Shinoda Imprint . He and band mate Brad Delson together worked on the label in 2004 and renamed it to Machine Shop Records . The label signed several artists through late 2007 .

= = = Charity = = =

Music For Relief is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) Charitable organization dedicated to providing aid to survivors of natural disasters and the prevention of such disasters through environmental programs . Music For Relief was founded by Linkin Park in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami . Since its inception in 2005 , Music for Relief has raised over \$ 6 million for the victims of :

2004 Indian Ocean earthquake

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita , and partnering with Hollywood for Habitat for Humanity to provide

homes for those affected by the storm .  
California wildfires of October 2007  
Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh  
2010 Haiti earthquake  
2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami  
Hurricane Sandy  
Typhoon Haiyan

= = Influences = =

Shinoda was greatly inspired by both rock and hip @-@ hop acts when he was a child . He grew up listening to Boogie Down Productions , Public Enemy , N.W.A , and Juice Crew , and later Nine Inch Nails , Deftones , The Roots and Aphex Twin . Other influences and favorites of Shinoda 's include Led Zeppelin , Run DMC , The Beatles , Rage Against The Machine , Purity Ring , Arctic Monkeys and Santigold . In an interview with Rolling Stone , Shinoda explained , " People just want junk food . They want throw @-@ away junk food music that 's going to make them lethargic and fat . We feel the same way about music . We want to hopefully move even more into being able to make more substantial music . We 're definitely paying attention to the substance and the nuance , and we hope to make something that 's really cutting edge and really different . "

Various critics have compared Shinoda 's rapping style to that of fellow rapper Eminem . A reviewer for Entertainment Weekly noted that Shinoda 's vocals were " flowing like Eminem on Ambien " An editor for Uncut stated that The Rising Tied was " bound to please fans of Linkin Park and Eminem alike . " Jo Timbuong of The Star thought " Where 'd You Go " is similar to Eminem 's song " When I 'm Gone " , noting the former as " more melancholic . " A reviewer of the Scripps Howard News Service stated that Shinoda 's rapping is " a smidge closer to Eminem than he is to Vanilla Ice . "

= = Personal life = =

Shinoda is a third generation Japanese American . His father and aunt were forced to live in a Japanese @-@ American Internment Camp during World War II . He married author Anna Shinoda ( née Hillinger ) in 2003 and has two children . Shinoda was awarded with the Japanese American National Museum 's Award of Excellence in 2006 . In 2009 , Shinoda received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters ( L.H.D. ) from Art Center College of Design . East West Players honored Shinoda with a Visionary Award and dinner in 2010 . He has also expressed an interest in politics . Shinoda started writing articles for The Big Issue in September 2012 and was the publication 's US election correspondent .

= = Discography = =

With Linkin Park  
As Fort Minor  
Production discography  
Filmography