For those unfamiliar with the style of music you play, how would you describe it?

Josh - The cool thing about what we’re doing is that we don’t really bind ourselves to a genre. I think we’ve played almost every genre there is in electronic music, from house to drum and bass, but we tend to lean more towards the heavier bass side of electronic music.

Nate - People often say, “oh this is such a COOKN set”, because our sets just emulate how we try to make everything as fun as possible. We do tend to play high energy stuff more, but we can have just as much fun playing pretty music too.

What about your production style?

Josh - We’ve been on a future and melodic style kick lately, but that’s just our taste right now. We have tracks like Top of the World that we have released and are more bass heavy, but we don’t really stick with one genre.

Nate - Personally, I love bass music. I’m a stickler about it, so for me to want to release bass music and dubstep tracks, I want it to be at a really high level. When I feel that we’re better at another area, I tend to think, ‘let’s just stick to this because it’s working better’. A lot of our melodic releases have done really well too. We’ve just been doing our thing and whatever continues to work, we’ll follow that.
Who are some of your favorite artists to listen to?

Nate - For me, Zeds Dead, The Glitch Mob, Figure, Excision, Zomboy, I’m definitely a bass heavy guy. I love pretty melodic music too, like Illenium, Seven Lions and stuff like that. I can have fun playing any type of music because I love a lot of it, but I’m definitely centered around future, trap, and bass music.

Josh - I’m actually split because I listen to a lot of electronic music, but I also listen to a lot of rap; it kind of just goes together. I like Mr. Carmack, I think he’s a genius in all aspects and on the other side of things, I love Chance the Rapper. Anyone who’s making trap music, whether it’s related to rap or electronic, I can’t get enough of.

If you could collaborate with any artist today, who would it be and why?

Nate - Off the top of my head, a realistic collab with someone who’s just been killing it in the game right now is KRANE. He probably would be someone great for us with how we’ve been making music recently, that’d be insane to make a song with KRANE. When it comes to my dream collab, I’d cry if I could spend time in the studio with Zeds Dead. They can start playing tracks that make you want to cry and people love it, then they can play songs like “Wit Me Dub”, which will break your spine. We do a lot of those same things.

Josh - Alright, I’m just gonna go top three. I like your idea of KRANE, I think that’d be sick. Then for me, Mura Masa number two and Mr. Carmack number three.

When did you realize producing music was what you wanted to pursue full time?

Josh - For me, there was like two phases; one where I was like, ‘yeah I wanna start doing this, but maybe not seriously’. Then there became a point where I was like, ‘alright this needs to be taken seriously’ and that was the part that made the big change.

First, I started out because I was one of the kids that’d get clowned on for listening to Skrillex back when he first started up. I didn’t know how any of it was done or how it was made, but I saw a video of him performing live and that made me pick up a DJ board and it just started from there.

Second, I was on vacation with my uncle and we were backpacking through the mountains. I didn’t have a phone, so I’d just write ideas down in a notebook the whole time and a lot of it worked towards what COOKN became. After that trip, I was like, ‘when I get back it’s balls to walls to really make this thing happen’.

Nate - We were both just kind of unsure at first. We met through other people and we were like ‘oh hey, we both go to Grand Valley and we both like music’, maybe we’ll do something cool, who knows. We started out that way, then both of us played little local shows, we didn’t play at any venue or anything like that. Then we started scheming and when Josh came back, we were both like ‘dude what if we do this, I have my Detroit EDM account and we could pair
Leading up to a show, describe what a perfect day for COOKN would be like.

**Nate** - We never have a smooth day before a show, something wacky happens every single time. I’d say before Commencement Fest was about as good as it’s been. For some reason, we always listen to So Appalled by Kanye West before every show. We normally don’t listen to EDM before shows just because we’ve been thinking about those songs all day.

**Josh** - If I’m not panicking 80% of the day leading up to a show, it doesn’t feel like a show day. But on an ideal day, full panic mode for the first half of the day doing last minute preparation, testing some stuff out. Then we get to the show early and load in, once we are there it’s pretty calm. I like hanging in the back room for the most part, but then once we’ve finished playing our set we can have fun for the rest of the night. Any sort of stress is gone at that point and it’s all about having a good time and meeting the other artists and talking to them, which is always so much fun.

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Monetary value aside, what do you consider to be your most valuable possession?

**Nate** - Personally, I’m much fonder of memories and experiences versus physical possessions. So I’d say that the relationships that I’ve built and the memories I’ve shared with people are what I hold closest to my heart.

**Josh** - For me, I’m thinking about it like, ‘my house is burning, what am I running in to get?’ I’m going to say my laptop, just because it’s been with me every step since I’ve started making music to where I’m at now. That whole history being gone would just absolutely end me.

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Which song is your favorite to play live?

**Nate** - So there’s been a couple songs that no matter what, in any set, always seems to slip in. But I’d say the song that we’ve probably played the most would be Bombay by Damn Kids, we’ve played that song forever. We never listen to that song outside of playing sets either, but every single time it makes its way in; there’s just something about it that works.

**Josh** - I got two, both of them are mashups that we did. The first one was at Commencement Fest, we mashed up this edit of Goosebumps by Travis Scott with Damage by Kai Wachi. Our photographer got a sweet video of it too, so I think it made it that much cooler. Then the other one that’s always a treat to play is a mash up of Party, Drink & Smoke with Rise by Kai Wachi, double dropped with Party in the Sewer by Datsik & 12th Planet. It’s just a full on attack and you pretty much just stand there like you’ve been hit with a flash bang, it’s ridiculous.
What can you tell us so far about the next project you’re working on?

Josh - We are working on a Road to Spring Awakening Music Festival mix right now. This is our first big festival, so we wanna show anyone who might discover us beforehand what style of music we’re gonna play during our set. We also have a melodic dub tune in the works right now, but that’s kind of being pushed towards the back because we have a lot of other stuff going on.

Nate - I’m really excited for this mix because we don’t normally make mixes. I know some DJs focus on putting out new mixes every month, we try to focus on a lot of other things. But when we are showcasing our own style and our abilities to a new market, we put a lot of time into making a mix that’s really representative of who we are. Obviously we don’t want to make it an exact emulation of our set, but we want it to be representative of what people are gonna hear from us and also makes people wanna come out and see us perform.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Nate - I know me personally, I’m gonna be working in the music industry. I think both Josh and I have come to this idea that we are going to have as much fun as possible with this for as long as we can, but we’re not trying to put all our eggs in one basket and bank on this becoming our jobs. Realistically, I can use this as a branch to build up other areas of my life professionally, while also building relationships and friendships within the industry.

Josh - In five years, music is gonna be a part of what I’m doing in some aspect. It’s therapeutic to me, so it would be nice to keep it in my life because when I’m in it, I’m focused and my minds not worrying about any other bullshit going on. So if I’m able to do that for a majority of my day, I think that would be pretty awesome.

Last question, what are you looking forward to most about your show with Figure?

Nate - Figure has been one of my favorite artists for as long as I can remember. I have over 3000 songs liked on my Soundcloud and the first five likes are all Figure tracks. I’ve met Figure several times and he knows me by face which is amazing, but I’ve always been a big fan of him and what he’s doing. I can’t even comprehend that I’m opening up for one of my favorite artists of all time. When you’re around someone who has had so much of an impact on your taste in music, it’s a blessing to be in their presence. So that’s why I’m absolutely geeked about opening up for Figure. Plus, we haven’t really played a ton of heavy bass shows at The Intersection. Normally we dial it back a little and play more of the softer stuff, but this is gonna be one where we get to throw the guns out and really push some boundaries in ways that we don’t normally get to in our sets.

Josh - Yeah that’s probably what I’m most looking forward to. We don’t get a chance to wild out to the extent that we are for this show. Just because as an opener, you have to respect the main acts, but you can’t go harder than Dubloadz and Figure. Even if we tried, I don’t know if we could even come close, so get ready because we’re gonna be guns blazing for this show.