



- ENTERTAINMENT ▾
- MOVIES
- DINING
- MUSIC
- BARS & CLUBS
- VISUAL ARTS
- STAGE
- TV & RADIO
- BOOKS
- VISIT ST. LOUIS
- COLUMNISTS
- CASINOS & LOTTERY
- COMICS & GAMES
- PEOPLE IN THE NEWS
- PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA
- HOROSCOPES

- INTERACT
- BLOG ZONE
- CONTESTS
- DISCUSSIONS
- E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS
- EVENT CALENDAR
- FORUMS
- MAPS & YELLOW PAGES
- MEMBER CENTER
- PERSONALS
- GET RSS FEEDS
- READERS' PRESS RELEASE



Entertainment > Columnists > Kevin Johnson > Story

Record buyers have spoken on St. Louis rapper CD

By [Kevin C. Johnson](#)
 POST-DISPATCH POP MUSIC CRITIC
 01/10/2008



Kevin Johnson
[\[More columns\]](#)

CHINGY'S NEW CD FALLS FLAT

It looks as if record buyers have spoken on whether they "Hate It or Love It."

Chingy's fourth CD, "Hate It or Love It," is newly released, and the news isn't good. The CD debuted at No. 84. on the Billboard 200 and No. 17 on Billboard's Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart after selling 31,000 copies in its first week out.

The sales figures and rankings represent lows for the St. Louis rapper. His first three albums debuted in the top 10 on the Billboard 200.

Advertisement

The news isn't a total shock, but the CD, his big return to the Disturbing Tha Peace camp, is easily his best. If your name isn't Kanye West and you're a hip-hop star, your sales are most likely declining.

What else went wrong? One can argue that the track "Gimme Dat" with Ludacris and Bobby Valentino would have been a better song to introduce the CD than first single, "Fly Like Me." "Fly Like Me" wasn't given much time to build before the CD was released.

Hopefully, "Hate It or Love It" will find the audience it deserves.

NEW MUSIC SPOTLIGHT KEEPS THRIVING

What was originally conceived as a marketing concept to drive traffic into a failing and now defunct concert club nearly a decade ago has developed into practically a rite of passage for St. Louis rock bands.

The Ticketmaster New Music Spotlight, billing itself as the longest-running series of its type in St. Louis, continues drawing 600 to 900 people monthly to the Pageant. Some of the bigger shows have drawn 1,200 to 1,400, says founder Mike Kociela, owner of Entertainment St. Louis/360 Productions.

"We don't know of any other show or concept that's been around longer supporting the local scene and drawing this well," he says. "I don't know anything that has touched this."

The series has been a winner for the bands, the venue and for music in St. Louis, Kociela says.

Normally, each band draws about 100 fans to their individual shows. But when four or so acts are together under the Ticketmaster New Music Spotlight, they can collectively draw upward of 500 fans. Each bands gets 1,500 tickets to distribute.

"The bands can co-promote and share their crowds, and the clubs can have a lower cost show," says Kociela, a local band vet formerly of New World Spirits.

It worked first at the long-gone concert club Firehouse, which hosted the series for two years.

"I thought it was a sure winner to pack the venue every time," he says.

And it reportedly did, though it wasn't enough to keep the club open. After its closing, the event moved to the Pageant.

YESTERDAY'S MOST E-MAILED STORIES

- St. Louis to lose Macy's regional headquarters
 - Five area Value City stores to close
 - It's a good thing for men that women need rescuing
 - Burke and St. Stanislaus meet, as do their supporters
 - Chocolate and Lent: Bissinger's takes hit
 - Holy Week conflict won't stop parade in Dogtown
 - Jennings dismisses its schools chief
 - Gabbert is Mizzou's star attraction
 - St. Stan pastor offers Burke a deal
 - Benefits consulting firms vie in wellness competition
- [Last 7 Days]

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



TOP JOBS

CODING SPECIALISTS

Saint Louis, MO
 G2N, Inc.

STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Saint Louis, MO
 Confidential

HOTEL MAINTENANCE

Saint Charles, MO
 Country Inn & Suites

LPN

Saint Louis, MO
 Dutchtown Care Center

FKG OIL COMPANY

Belleville, IL
 Food Service Manager

HIM CODING AUDITORS

Saint Louis, MO
 Laguna Medical Systems

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Bridgeton, MO
 Copart

SPECIFICATIONS WRITER

Springfield, MO
 Benchmark Group

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

O'fallon, MO
 confidential

WAREHOUSE

Saint Louis, MO
 Company Confidential

MORE JOBS

Rebecca Brooks, who runs the series for Kociela, says part of the reason for the series' success is that it doesn't duplicate lineups she has seen in other venues.

"None of the bands has a lot of notoriety because it is about new music," she says. "But we do want the bands to have somewhat of a draw."

Among the bands participating in the series are Core Project, Drew Johnson Band, Daybreak Boys, Miles of Wire, the Feed and Red Water Revival.

The next Ticketmaster New Music Spotlight will be at 8 p.m. Friday with the Incurables, John Boy's Courage, Troubadour Dali and Logos.

Kociela says he looks to have a 10th anniversary edition of the series.

Ticketmaster New Music Spotlight concerts are free for those 21 and over with a ticket, and \$5 cover at the door for those under 21.

More info is available at www.360productions.com or www.thepageant.com.

[Online Auctions Stores Live](#)

Auctions Sores Online Buy Sell less than eBay Auto Real Estate Stores.
www.USAuctionsLIVE.com

[Refinance \\$300,000 for Only \\$965/Month](#)

\$300,000 Mortgage for only \$965/month. Save \$1,000's - No obligation.
www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com

[Refinance and Save \\$1,000S](#)

\$150,000 Mortgage for \$483/month. Compare up to 4 free quotes.
www.pickamortgage.com

[DIRECTV: 57 New HD Chs](#)

Get up to 100 HD chs by end of Year w/ DIRECTV's HD service.
www.directv.com

 [Email a friend](#)

Save &
Share

[What's this?](#)

 [Printer](#)

 [3 O'Clock Stir](#)

 [RSS Feeds](#)

 [Subscribe](#)

 [Email the editor](#)

 Digg	 Yahoo!
 Del.icio.us	 Facebook
 Reddit	 Drudge
 Google	 Fark

