

Music Beat

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Koster and friends team up for Buy-a-Net fundraiser

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It's a big party, with some big talent that features a homegrown boy who is making a name for himself in the rock world.

Chris Koster celebrates the release of his latest hot rock pop album, *Sex, Love & Morality*, that follows the acclaimed *Secrets of The Lonely*. He teams up with the Lonely, Melanie Doane, Betablokka and My Friend Andy in a benefit concert at the Ale House at 9 p.m., Saturday, May 24 in support of the Buy-a-Net Malaria Prevention Program in Uganda, Africa.

Each ticket will potentially save the lives of three families (12 people) by providing them with bed nets to protect them from mosquitoes that carry and spread the deadly disease.

Music has always been a big part of Koster's life. The Kingston native attended Regiopolis Notre Dame Catholic High School and graduated from LCVI. As a child Koster thought a lot about music and almost always had a song in his head. At 11, right after his uncle took him to his first concert, Koster decided to be a drummer. He saved \$750 from his paper route job and bought a used drum kit.

"I got the new drums set up and started banging away, then my older brother Dave got way better and started taking them over and starting bands."

His father felt for his younger son and bought him a guitar and soon Koster was singing and putting music to his songs. Big brother Dave eventually allowed his little brother to join his various bands as mainly a singer, but on a "we'll keep him until we find someone better" basis.

To this day, Koster hasn't been officially told someone better was found. He says his brother helped him to get toughened up and prepare for the music business.

Koster feels a strong sense of gratitude that his family continue to be supportive of his music.

"I wouldn't have made it anywhere without them," he says. "They don't understand all of what I do, but are big fans."

Koster has a dramatic flair, apparent in the musical production of his songs and especially evident in his passionate and almost theatrical stage performance.

There was a two-week period of song writing for Koster where a number of songs had wolf imagery in them.

"I like the icon of the big bad wolf because it's so metaphorical to real life."

Of the 23 songs Koster brought to the Tragically Hip's Bath House Studio, 12 made the latest release that was engineered by his good friend Aaron Holmberg.

Sex, Love and Morality has nation-wide distribution with Orange Record Label, a subsidiary of Universal Records.

Betablokka will play tunes from their latest album, *Reset the Standard for Life in the 21st Century*. My Friend Andy will feature songs from their upcoming rock album, *Songs From the Middle*, produced by Paul Langlois (The Tragically Hip). Juno Awards-winner Melanie Doane is touring her latest album release, *A Thousand Nights*.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets \$18, available at The Ale House, The Brass, Destinations and Sunrise Records at the Cataraqui Centre.



Chris Koster is the headliner at a Buy-a-Net Malaria fundraiser Saturday at the Ale House.

Submitted