

# Streetbuzz

by Adam Hodgins



## NYE with Chris Koster and the Lonely with Betablokka

December 31, 2005

For only 20 bucks, one could celebrate the New Year with two of Kingston's finest talents, Betablokka and Chris Koster & the Lonely. If live music is your thing and you didn't attend this show, you missed out.

Both bands shared the same stage at last New Year's and the only difference this year was having Betablokka open the night. The band has had a rather quiet year compared to Koster as they have been busy recording their upcoming album "Reset the Standard for Life in The 21st Century". Matt took the stage solo and opened with High Side Down while the rest of the band began to take their place. The set was a showcase for a lot of newer songs but still maintained a good blend of new and old. The band did a good job getting the crowd animated with some more familiar tunes from their EP including The Judge, Hearts and In & Out & Away. If you looked around the room during these times, you could see faces singing along to these songs. You know you must be doing a pretty good job if you can get people to sing your songs.

Betablokka played a few more tunes including Scared (the difference between) which has been spun on the radio on a few occasions. The band ended the set with a song about the day John Lennon died and a personal favorite, December 8th. All in all it was a very good set as expected but the only downfall was the absence of the song Grenade. Perhaps the band was stricken momentarily with amnesia, who knows. Be on the lookout for Betablokka in the new year as they are close to birthing their new baby.

By now the clock has struck midnight and it is time for Chris Koster & the Lonely to be the first band to greet our ears with music in 2006. I cannot complain. Chris has had a pretty busy year as he released his album "Secrets of the Lonely" independently back in May and signed to the Orange Record Label in the fall. With the album out and the longevity of his single "If U See Me (when I'm like this)" on the radio, his fan base has continued to grow.

Chris and The Lonely suitably opened the night with the U2 cover "New Year's Day". Next came "Good Mourning (You're killing me)", a relatively newer song in the set. Much like Betablokka, Chris had the crowd singing along to many of the album songs including "Wartime Romance", "Camouflage", "If U See Me", "Love in the Western World" and "The Alarmist". Of course no Chris Koster show would be complete without a Prince cover; tonight's would be "When U Were Mine". The set list also contained a few recent additions with "Your Letter", "Same Old Sad Song", "Weepy Lovesick Sing-along" which should be played at every show and a song supposedly about waiting for a train, "Montreal". The first set ended with the epic "I Don't Care (anymore)". It's not often you can call a song from a local band epic but if you've ever heard this song live, you would think you were sent back in time with a heavy dose of psychedelics at a Pink Floyd or Led Zeppelin show. This song has permanently moved into its new home as the last song before

the encore and rightfully so because it leaves you wanting more. The band ended the night with a glimpse of what ticket prices might be like in five years for a Chris Koster show, "Expensive".

Kingston should be grateful to host these two bands and hopefully 2006 has big things in store for these musicians because they deserve it. If you haven't seen either of these bands live, I would suggest to you that you do.

Happy New Year!

[www.chriskoster.ca](http://www.chriskoster.ca)  
[www.betablokka.com](http://www.betablokka.com)

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