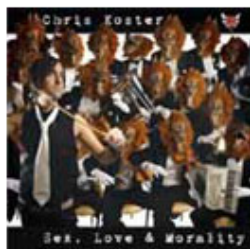


chartattack

Reviews: Metric, Hostage Life, Simple Plan and more

Tuesday February 12, 2008 @ 12:30 PM

By: [ChartAttack.com Staff](#)



CHRIS KOSTER Sex, Love & Morality ([Orange](#))

Koster, a player on the Kingston and Toronto scenes, has refined his sound from alt.rock to something a little more... dramatic. But while Castlevanian strings and synths add gravitas to some songs on this self-produced effort, they also threaten to overwhelm others with sheer grandeur. With a lesser vocal performer, the widescreen vistas would completely drown out (or purposefully mask?) the lyrical delivery. Fortunately, Koster's voice is a strong suit, allowing him to switch from sneering growl to broken falsetto with control instead of abandon. Still, if the music strays a little too close to self-indulgent on a few tracks, the man remains an excellent songwriter. Lead single "Heavy-Hearted" taps into some racial memory of hundreds of radio hits that may have never actually existed. After the first listen, it feels strangely familiar, but not quite — creeping back into your consciousness long after you thought you've moved on. Virtually all the songs have hooks that get into you, starting out familiar without sounding derivative. "I'm Just Trying To Break Your Heart" could be post-millennial U2, while "Temporary Lovers" starts out all Radiohead-beat, goes over to mid-era Depeche Mode and switches to artist currently known as Prince before launching into the Jacko-esque chorus. **Erik Missio**