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We'd be lying if we said we had anything less than complete adoration for the music of [Matt Duke \(MySpace\)](#). We've [covered Duke](#) a couple times before, and each time we've seen him, he's met—and exceeded—our expectations. But there are certain artists, and Duke is one of them, who we feel that we should cover on a regular basis, and it's been way too long since we last saw him perform, at last year's [WXPN Musicians on Call holiday benefit show](#).

Since we last saw Duke, he's released his second album, *Kingdom Underground*. Duke's popularity is certainly growing—*Kingdom Underground* was released jointly through [MAD Dragon Records](#) (Drexel University's record label) and [Rykodisc Records](#) (an imprint in the Warner Music Group family). The local-label/major-label combination really reflects where Duke's at right now: he's gaining popularity, but still generally a local/unknown artist. We think that may change in the not-too-distant future. After all, like his [one-time coheadliner Eric Hutchinson](#), Duke has been [endorsed by Perez Hilton](#). (We know, we're trendsetters, talking up these guys before Perez does.)

Fortunately, Matt Duke's music more than justifies a growth in his popularity. *Kingdom Underground* is every bit as good as Duke's stellar first release, *Winter Child*, and we know first-hand that he has the live performance abilities to captivate an audience. If you haven't seen Duke

for yourself yet, you'll have a golden opportunity to check him (along with a few other local artists) out at the MAD Dragon Holiday Show this Sunday evening at World Cafe Live. World Cafe is one of our favorite venues in the city to see live music, and Duke is one of our favorite live performers. Christmas really is coming a little bit early!

MAD Dragon Records Holiday Show, featuring Matt Duke, [The Swimmers](#), [Farewell Flight](#), and [A Little Affair](#)

Sun., 12/7/08

World Cafe Live (Upstairs), 3025 Walnut Street

8:00 p.m.

Tickets: [\\$10](#) (free for Drexel students)

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