



#### [GQ](#)

##### *iLoveMakonnen on Becoming Famous Overnight*

There's always been an appetite for outsider acts in hip-hop, and Makonnen is the latest new face with a big hit and an untold future. In fact, it's kind of weird to categorize him as hip-hop. He does a kind of Chillwave he calls "Bedroom Pop." He sings, he makes videos, he plays piano, and he's...a licensed cosmetologist.

#### [NEW YORK TIMES](#)

##### *iLoveMakonnen Is Big Online and Almost Famous*

While Makonnen also trades on the singularity of his voice — a gooey Broadway baritone that he can stretch into a squeal — and works with the same trap music producers that built the city's current opulent drug-den sound, he is barely a rapper at all, splitting the difference between singers like Morrissey and Nate Dogg, and drawing equally from his favorite rock bands, like the Killers, and the Atlanta rap kingmaker Gucci Mane. On "Drink More Water 5," Makonnen switches easily between tough, club-ready songs about dealing drugs or ducking the police and the drumless, melancholic wail of solo piano numbers his latest mixtape uses street raps as a Trojan horse for '80s-influenced piano ballads and psychedelic electropop.

#### [PITCHFORK](#)

##### *Rising: iLoveMakonnen*

His music is born from that isolation, with starry synths topped by a sensitive, strained vocal squiggle that sounds recorded off of some late-night public access show. Sheran's voice is refreshingly un-Auto-Tuned, making his lonesome looks at girlfriends gone by and graveyard shifts on the corner sound *sui generis* rather than boilerplate, all while maintaining an odd edge.

### [VICE'S NOISEY](#)

#### *Everybody Loves Makonnen*

People who hate Lil B generally don't get Lil B. His wave isn't about tiny pants or letting him fuck your bitch or yelling "Figaro." It's about having the balls to make the weird art that comes naturally and the confidence to stand by said weird art. There is no better proof of how well that can work than Atlanta's Makonnen.

A self-proclaimed disciple (and friend) of Lil B, Makonnen's music started as what could best be described as trap Jerry Lee Lewis, and transformed into something between Future and a less jovial Based God. Beats from Atlanta's finest (Mike Will, Sonny Digital, etc) helped, as did a series of weird, stylized videos featuring a haphazardly painted mannequin head.

### [VICE'S NOISEY](#)

#### *The Psychedelic and Bizarre World of iLoveMakonnen*

The new wave of Atlanta stretches beyond the reach of Gucci Mane. The last year has seen the rise of a more alternative and bizarre sound, led the likes of Awful Records with a guy named iLoveMakonnen at the forefront.

### [VICE'S NOISEY](#)

His charm radiates a weird blend of Lil B and David Bowie

### [HOT NEW HIP HOP](#)

#### *Crew Love: OVO Sound*

Makonnen covers a mesh of genres and has soft sound, with melodic tendencies, at the same time, he can still make music you want to turn up too. iLoveMakonnen is part of a new generation emerging from the Atlanta scene. His music has gone viral and has woken up artists to his talent pretty effortlessly.

### [XXL](#)

#### *The Come Up: iLoveMakonnen*

the unconventional rapper/singer who is representing a different side of the Atlanta rap scene.

### [STEREOGUM](#)

#### *The Week In Rap: iLoveMakonnen, Transformative Figure*

Makonnen is a fascinating figure in part because his story is so completely non-standard. He's a studious weirdo who makes records with DIY rock bands and who voraciously absorbs musical influences via the internet. But he's also a guy with a drug-dealing history and connections to some of Atlanta's best street-rap producers.

He's not a craftsman. His rapping is sloppy and hoarse, and it has that Lil B sense of being just whatever happened to be bouncing around in his head the moment he stepped in front of a microphone. And he's a ferociously awful singer, to the point that it stops being annoying and becomes sort of awesome instead.

one of the best things about Makonnen: He is fully willing to fall on his face.

If Makonnen is making rap safe for that sort of failure, he's doing us all a favor.

there's now a lane for queasy, druggy, lo-fi Atlanta rappers. Makonnen made that lane. He changed the game.

### [BOSTON COLLEGE'S THE GAVEL](#)

#### *Get to Know Drake's OVO*

iLoveMakonnen's other music takes some getting used to, but he has a unique charm, to say the least.

### [TINY MIXTAPES](#)

Makonnen loves iLoveMakonnen. Drake loves iLoveMakonnen. Tiny Mix Tapes loves iLoveMakonnen. Hell, my mom even loves iLoveMakonnen

## ::: DRINK MORE WATER 5 :::

### ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

a generous amount of the positive iLoveMakonnen vibes that have made him as much of a cult leader as a budding pop star.

### BILLBOARD

one of 2014's biggest musical success stories the circumstances are different: now that Makonnen has a deal and a hit on his resume, he's no longer an underdog. The instant you make the leap from one of hip-hop's strange edges to pop's mainstream, the scrutiny is different, especially in the hyper-fast internet world. Failure gets people excited too, and this can be tough for a young artist used to throwing beats together pressure-free in his or her basement. None of that seems to have impacted Makonnen's behavior. In typical Atlanta style, he releases music at a rapid pace.

Some releases represent a leap forward for an artist, while others serve to solidify their current standing; both types are important, and *DMW5* falls into the second category. You'll find piano-man-Makonnen, singing in the stream-of-conscious, out-of-tune style that few artists are brave enough to attempt. You'll also encounter freestyle-Makonnen, rambling away without a hook in sight.

But Makonnen's tone -- which is often quavery and purposefully maddeningly ambiguous about where it wants to land -- blends especially well with its polar opposite: a beat with the force and determination of a sledgehammer.

### VICE'S NOISEY

*NOISEY'S BEST AND WORST OF 2014 - [KYLE KRAMER](#) (TOP ALBUMS: #5)*

Makonnen makes really good songs about feeling sad. Makonnen also makes good songs about not selling molly. Makonnen had a really good year.

### VICE'S NOISEY

*NOISEY'S BEST AND WORST OF 2014 - [ERIC SUNDERMANN](#) (TOP ALBUMS: #3)*

2014 will forever be etched in my mind as the year an unknown beautiful soul named Makonnen put out a song on the internet in mid-July and by December was nominated for a Grammy in the same category as Kanye West.

### THE BOOMBOX

*ILOVEMAKONNEN Quenches Your Thirst With 'Drink More Water 5' Mixtape*

Staying in tune with the vibe that made him a radio favorite, Makonnen crafts a project full of catchy songs that are sonically pleasing to the ear.

### POP MATTERS

*(7 of 10)*

Despite a wobbly relationship to the notes, the Atlanta MC insists on singing at least half of the time over these 11 tracks, as free of AutoTune as he is trepidation. And there's something about that confidence that transcends pitch problems, that reminds me of the way Drake sounds so goddamn *relaxed* as he lights up a track these days.

After a few listens, choruses like that one kept popping up in my head, and they were welcome. Because there's something about this artist's tone and inflection that turns his suspect singing and hazy, uncomplicated rapping into reliable ways to deliver hooks. He might not have perfect pitch, but his pop instincts are awfully close.

So if his fifth tape isn't flawless – why start with that dreadful freestyle, and then follow it up with a song that features the disturbing refrain “I make a bitch go down”? – it certainly leaves us expecting his first proper album to be an end-to-end party. Expectations that I imagine won't rattle him one bit.

## ::: TUESDAY :::

[\(video\)](#)

### [COMPLEX](#)

*11 Songs That Made 2014 The Year of the Rap One-Hit Wonder*

[*I LOVE MAKONNEN*] was packed with the hits that are most responsible for his rapid rise to fame (“Club Going Up” and “I Don't Sell Molly No More”) along with other tracks that provided the best possible introduction to such a unique artist. With a who's who of Atlanta's super producers providing the backdrop, Makonnen floated all over the seven-track EP. Jumping from the booming boasts of “Too Much” to the opera-esque heartbreak of “Meant to Be,” the collection of songs was perfectly weird yet incredibly polished, sounding simultaneously like nothing else in hip-hop but also exactly what the genre needed. As 2014 winds down, there's no doubt that Makonnen is officially on. There are certainly haters who refuse to accept Makonnen's sound or are immaturely put off by his aesthetic but, despite them, he has already carved out a clear space for himself. While the Drake cosign might not last forever, we hope Makonnen is here to stay.

### VICE'S NOISEY

*NOISEY'S BEST AND WORST OF 2014 - [KYLE KRAMER](#) (TOP SINGLES: #1)*

This song has been stuck in my head at some point every day since it came out. Eric wrote a very nice thing about why it is the best song in his list, to which I will only add that, as recently as August, he and I ran into Makonnen in the crowd at the Drake and Lil Wayne show. On a Tuesday. Right after Drake's remix came out. Now, Makonnen and Drake are nominated for a Grammy together. Things only keep going up.

### VICE'S NOISEY

*NOISEY'S BEST AND WORST OF 2014 – [ERIC SUNDERMANN](#) (TOP SINGLES: #1)*

if there's one music story in 2014 about taking the bullshit that happens in life and flipping it for the better and the future, it's the story of Makonnen. A couple years ago, this guy was on house arrest suspected of murdering his best friend (it was an accident). Now, he's nominated for a Grammy for an uplifting song about having fun and turning up and being positive.

### [THE FADER](#)

*The FADER's 116 Best Tracks Of 2014 (#21)*

By the time that iLoveMakonnen broke through, early this summer, he'd self-released ten full projects and dozens of music videos to virtually zero acclaim. How he was overlooked for so long, in a world of countless music-covering media properties, we'll never know. But it benefited his work: by evolving in obscurity, like a bug on a desert island, Makonnen arrived at a form that was truly original and wholly his own. His phrasing is loosey-goosey, his vocal tone audacious, his ideas coming from odd angles. Shortly after the discovery of his music came the discovery of his accidental role in the death of a childhood friend, and his subsequent five years of house arrest; with that backstory, he attained the status of myth. Even more than a new artist to acknowledge, this was a person to actively root for.

In all of Makonnen's music, he wears his feelings on his sleeve, and the meandering freestyle of “Wishin You Well” is his greatest evocation of love.

By sticking to the idiosyncratic, even at the expense of a coherent plot, he lands on something that's relatable because it feels so real. Like many relationships, and even more like their heartbroken retellings, this song never reaches a climax or conclusion so much as it trails into confusion and nothingness

"Wishin You Well" captures the randomness and richness of being alive, and in the very fact of its release, after Makonnen finally found the footing of a career, it's proof that life's worth soldiering on for. If there's any one lyric that encapsulates 2014, it's *I made it on my own, I made my own style*. In the link-sharing economy of the present, centuries-old qualifiers like singing ability and songwriting profundity have given way to judging how downright interesting you are as a human being: do I want to look at your Instagrams, and if I do, do I want to hear you? iLoveMakonnen's runaway success laid this shift bare: his ear for melody and track-length freestyles wowed in their own way, but it was his undeniably unique style that made him impossible for you, me, and Drake to ignore. It's hard to compare what he's doing to his straight-ahead hip-hop peers, but this year Makonnen stretched the edges of his genre even further, and rap is better for it.

#### [SPIN](#)

##### *101 Best Songs of 2014 (#2)*

With his breakthrough single, Makonnen managed the absolutely impossible: He made Tuesday exciting. Tuesday has long been low-key the worst day of the week, lacking the weekend afterglow and built-in conversation topics of a Monday, without even getting you halfway to Friday by day's end. Makonnen could've chosen any day to make the club go up, but being naturally sympathetic to the outsider, and not generally one to go the easy route in the first place, he accepted the degree-of-difficulty of setting his soon-to-be-signature jam on a Tuesday. And now, if you can make it through one day-before-hump-day without joking about *something* "going up..." Well, you don't work at the *SPIN* office, anyway.

"Tuesday" is a whole lot more than just an inspired oddball catchphrase, though. There's never been a radio hit quite like it before, with the cadence and brio of hip-hop, the musicality and patience of R&B — good R&B, at that — and the strobe-lit sonics and spaciousness of EDM. And there's definitely never been a performer quite like Makonnen, with his angelic falsetto, wicked sense of humor, endearing giddiness, and druggy malevolence. He's the most left-of-center new artist we've seen break out on this scale in some time, but also the most straightaway likable. The Drake cosign was valuable, but Drizzy's guest verse is ultimately unnecessary: Tuesday is Makonnen's day, and he's pulling it out of the cellar single-handedly.

#### [BILLBOARD](#)

Is there anyone getting as many remix requests right now as iLoveMakonnen? These remixes work two ways: through association with a rising youngster from Atlanta, an established rapper gets to boost his credibility and prove he keeps his ears open. Meanwhile Makonnen's profile continues to rise as his songs appear with big names on them.

"Down 4 So Long" is representative of Makonnen's current sound: a syrupy beat paired with his strangely-intoned, seemingly off-the-cuff vocals. It's a confessional track

Part of what sets Makonnen apart is that he doesn't seem to care about singing in tune -- this means he doesn't sound like any other vocalists out there. So it's a shock when Koenig shows up to sing-rap in his typically breezy style.

#### [SPIN](#)

It's impressive whenever a video for a song pretty closely matches to the image you had in your head for it.

That proves it: no matter where you are, it's always a Tuesday with iLoveMakonnen and Drake, and for probably the first time in the history of Tuesdays, that's actually a kinda cool thing. Watch above.

#### [HIT FIX](#)

Whether you go out in London, L.A., Rio, Hong Kong, Paris or points in-between, the message seems to be life is about having fun where you can get it.

#### [BAEBLE MUSIC](#)

Drake linking his name to an underdog artist can catapult them into the spotlight

#### [GIZMODO](#)

Makonnen is weird, but weird is good, and "club goin' UP! On a Tuesday!" is infectious. This video essentially describes how you react to hearing the line. Doing your hair: club goin' up! Hanging out in the yard: club goin' up! It captures the sentiment. The club is wherever you are. It's how you feel. Happy Tuesday. May the club of your heart be always going up.

#### [THE STASHED](#)

Upon the arrival of his breakout single "Tuesday," Atlanta rap-crooner ILOVEMAKONNEN gave new purpose to those looking to turn-up on the most uninspiring day of the week.

#### [REVERB](#)

iLoveMakonnen is kind of a wild rap action figure. He has a crazy haircut, a pitchy voice and the best hooks money can buy. When Drake hopped on the "Tuesday" track, it gave the glitch beat even more texture. Now, the two have released a video that is at once hilarious and artful at the same time.

#### [UNDER THE GUN REVIEW](#)

one of the most off-kilter bangers of the year

## **::: DOWN 4 SO LONG (REMIX) :::**

#### [VICE'S NOISEY](#)

Makonnen, the Grammy-nominated, Noisy Top Tracks of 2014-slaying new addition to Drake's OVO crew, trades off verses with smooth-voiced Vampire Weekend singer Ezra Koenig and Queen's own Smart Crew affiliate Despot. The result is mellow, sad, and wicked dark—it's basically goth-rap, and it totally works.

#### [SPIN](#)

Atlanta's latest sing-rapping surrealist iLoveMakonnen got the rap world's most crucial co-sign this summer in the form of Drake's remix of his now inescapable track "Club Going Up On a Tuesday." And after riding that wave through a number of high-caliber collaborations, he's teamed up with another unexpected name today. Former SPIN cover star Ezra Koenig (of Vampire Weekend fame) popped up on a new remix of Makonnen's swooning "Down 4 So Long," alongside Queens rapper Despot. The idea of Koenig offering up a few bars in the middle of a rap tracks seems like it could be a little dicey, but his hyper-referential songwriting actually sense in the context of a Makonnen track. Come for the delicate crooning, and stick around for lines about Shmoney dancing goths and Magic! references.

## **::: WISHIN YOU WELL :::**

#### [THE FADER](#)

*The FADER's 116 Best Tracks Of 2014 (#1, Wishin You Well)*

By the time that iLoveMakonnen broke through, early this summer, he'd self-released ten full projects and dozens of music videos to virtually zero acclaim. How he was overlooked for so long, in a world of countless music-covering media properties, we'll never know. But it benefited his work: by evolving in obscurity, like a bug on a desert island, Makonnen arrived at a form that was truly original and wholly his own. His phrasing is loosey-goosey, his vocal tone audacious, his ideas coming from odd angles. Shortly after the discovery of his music came the discovery of his accidental role in the death of a childhood friend, and his subsequent five years of house arrest; with that backstory, he attained the status of myth.

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#### [THE STASHED](#)

These days, plenty of ILOVEMAKONNEN's old flames are probably coping with the reality that they f\*cked up...the "Tuesday" rap crooner delivers a nostalgic and somewhat-sentimental ballad in his distinctly warbled voice. Despite the fact that there's no love lost, however, Makonnen makes it clear that he's not checkin' for any type of rekindling.

## **::: SWERVE :::**

#### [PAPER MAG](#)

iLoveMakonnen charmed us all with his warbling, Drake-remixed sound on "Tuesday." Now the DIY rapper is back with "Swerve". Produced by Mike Will Made It and Marz, "Swerve" still embodies iLoveMakonnen's endearing, off-kilter vibe

#### [SPIN](#)

a syrupy new collaboration with Mike Will Made-It. The dynamic rap duo's tune confidently meanders along, propelled by a heavy beat and some surprisingly light flute playing.

#### [STEREOGUM](#)

The track starts off with a flute, which explodes out into a queasy, stuttering beat with an ace hook.

#### [BAEBLE MUSIC](#)

iLoveMakonnen had a break out year in 2014. He became BFFs with Drake, who helped his "Tuesday" track become a party staple, attracted a huge fan base, and to close out the year, he's re-releasing his self-titled EP today with an additional track, "Swerve," he collaborated on with Mike Will Made-It. Bouncing beats, along with a chilled out delivery of lyrics, and flute add a musical twist to the easy-on-the-ears song.

#### [THE STASHED](#)

The holidays are goin' up for OVO rapper-singer ILOVEMAKONNEN.

#### [SIMPLY NEON](#)

The two producers killed this beat, with deftly worked low-end tones, trap snares and a catchy synth pattern using piano and flute. Makonnen's infectious voice takes over this track and blends seamlessly.

#### [UNDER THE GUN REVIEW](#)

classic production from Mike Will Made It and Marz. It's a loose track that unexpectedly brings jazz flutes on to round out a subtle cruiser. Just wait until you start hearing it in the background of every single Vine.

### THE EARLY REGISTRATION

Makonnen kicks his shoes off and lands in a pool of his own trapped out whimsy for "Swerve," produced by Mike WiLL Made-It.

Working around pan flutes, throat chopping 808s, piano runs and repeated snare stabs, Makonnen compares himself to a Playstation controller, details how his friends enjoy snorting coke and his own greatness.

## **::: SUPER CLEAN :::**

### VICE'S NOISEY

it sounds like flying. Specifically, as a red dragon. You are a majestic winged creature catching a thermal, the air keeping you aloft, the landscape undulating far beneath you, the dirty planet completely removed from your life. You are a red dragon, and you are super clean. You are Makonnen, and you made a new song. Fly.

### SPIN

refreshing and immersive

### VIBE

You can't tell iLoveMakonnen he ain't the ish!  
wavy track  
Braggin' for days, the pretty mother fu\*ker spits bars

### GLOBAL GRIND

Coke with the rum.

### RADIO

a self-produced banger with a hint of California bounce, the synths reminiscent of an airy, almost ambient take on DJ Mustard.

His loose phrasing and off-the-cuff imagery has always displayed the clear influence of his idol Lil B—never has that been more apparent than here, where he strings together thoughts based more on word association than coherent narrative.

### DIY MAGAZINE

A relaxed vocal from iLoveMakonnen is the order for the track, as he applies his voice to a moonlight gazing track with twilight keys making up the fabric. 'Super Clean' is co-produced with Phantom Power and together they create a track of starry synths and late-night warbles that show the other side to Makonnen's midweek activities.

### REVERB

The track features a synth line (and by features, we mean it's really loud in the mix) that sounds like it should be the music from the Ice Cavern in "Zelda: Ocarina of Time." It's shimmering, and crystalline and really loud.

### THE 405

sticky like honey

### THE STASHED



the OVO rapper channels his “just another day of the week” swag on a casual exercise in free-flowing rhymes

Taking pride in his pimp game, iLoveMakonnen raps about making chicks lose their minds over him while raking in the dough with the cadence of a playful freestyle taking place in a school cafeteria.

## ::: 21<sup>st</sup> STREET (REMIX) :::

### [MUSIC TIMES](#)

The track features some pretty solid atmospheric production courtesy of DJ Spinz and Dun Deal, but Snoop is the real star here, delivering his verse with the same type of precise yet still relaxed flow that he's famous for.

### [THE 405](#)

a booming, minimalist jam that features icy synths cascading over snow-shovel snares and gloopy kicks, the perfect housing for iLoveMakonnen's own understated, slurred breed of rapsinging

### [THE STASHED](#)

ILOVEMAKONNEN keeps it extra lackadaisical on a remix of “21st Street” featuring Snoop Dogg. The Atlanta rapper takes on the loopy beat with an off-the-cuff approach centered around hugging’ the block and making money.

ILOVEMAKONNEN has shown he can craft hit records and has a Grammy nomination to prove it. Maybe the “Tuesday” rap crooner is experimenting with some nonchalant music-making blueprint, but this remix isn't in line with the winning formula he's delivered with his breakout single and recent records with Mike Will Made-It.

## ::: WHIP IT :::

### [HOT NEW HIP HOP](#)

"Whip It" just got a whole lot crazier

On this and many other Drink More Water 5 cuts, Makonnen's quirky style sounds great when butting up against those of harder, more established rappers. He may still get his fair share of hate, but does it look like he cares? Hell no.

## ::: I LIKE TUH :::

### [\(video\)](#)

### [BUZZFEED](#)

*Carnage And ILOVEMAKONNEN's New Turn-Up Anthem Is The Perfect Way To Start Your Week*  
Ever since he miraculously sent the club up on a Tuesday, ILOVEMAKONNEN has earned a reputation as one of hip-hop and dance music's most unlikely, and most irresistible, purveyors of insouciant sing-a-longs.

### [MUSIC TIMES](#)

another catchy vocal hook, which is a calling card of Makonnen and a wonky production that gives the floor to the singer with his verses.

## **::: SUPER CHEF :::**

[\(video\)](#)

[SPIN](#)

another rambling, gurgling cut much in line with his watery, endlessly spiraling “Super Clean.”

[HOT NEW HIP HOP](#)

Makonnen utilizes exactly one flow as he raps about cooking lasagna and making money, and this Gold-produced piano 'n' hi-hat beat will get stuck in your head like an ice cream truck song from hell.

[GLOBAL GRIND](#)

ILOVEMAKONNEN seasons his rhymes with some verbal spice.

[EXCLAIM](#)

a repetitive (yet strangely addictive) piano line complete with some brash beats. It's an ideal backdrop for MAKONNEN to deliver his chilled-out rhymes.

## **::: STRAIGHT TOP :::**

[HOT NEW HIP HOP](#)

"Straight Top" is a woozy track that nonetheless demands some turning up.

## **::: WHERE YOUR GIRL AT :::**

[MTV](#)

a hard-charging, percussive banger, complete with Makonnen roaring “huagghhh” as a fierce ad-lib.

He’s a warrior, challenging his enemies while boasting about his lyrical prowess

Rarely has Makonnen gone straight for the jugular like this. Still, “Where Your Girl At?” has pop potential — Makonnen has an instinctive ear for catchy melodies, even when he’s shouting and puffing his chest out. Expect to hear this one coming out of car speakers on streets near you soon.

[COMPLEX](#)

When he's not inundated with requests for food-themed iPhone wallpapers on Twitter, Super Chef Makonnen quietly, confidently releases modern mood music with a taste for pop avant-garde. His latest track, produced by Richie Souf, continues that trend

[XXL](#)

Mako commissions beat maker Richie Souf on the track and gets a busy instrumental full of potent sounds and serious bass. The charismatic oddball raps about “your girl” and at times blurs the lines as to whether he is talking about the female or the cocaine variety. No word on where this track will end up.

[THE STASHED](#)

The *Drink More Water 5* rap crooner channels his inner Trey Songz on the new tune, with plenty of boasts as to how he'll steal the next man's girl. Enthusiastically, and at times awkwardly, shouting his exploits over Richie Souf's bouncy production, iLoveMakonnen seems to have just one thing on his mind on "Where Your Girl At?" The lyrics are nothing to write home about, but the record's energy is tailored for a blackout drunk couch-stomping session at the club.

#### [VIBE](#)

MAKONNEN turns the f\*ck up on a new tune where he goes hard with the bars — and leaves the off kilter singing alone for a minute. Produced by Richie Souf, the ATL raised warns dudes that he'll snatch your girl and turn her out in the blink of an eye on his new one.

#### [GLOBAL GRIND](#)

It's always a good time when a new iLoveMakonnen track drops.  
The OVO hit man is back with another song for the turn up.

### **::: NO MA'AM :::**

[\(video\)](#)

#### [THE SMOKING SECTION](#)

the man who single-handedly changed the way we view the club calendar.  
the world's first polite trap song. Apparently, even drug dealers get timid when their mama calls.

### **::: LIVE :::**

#### [THE BOOMBOX](#)

*iLoveMakonnen Puffs and Passes During Loudest of the Loud Tour in Los Angeles*  
The crowd, which consisted mainly of stoner teens, couples on date night and men in their early 20s, found solace in Makonnen's direct and simplistic narrative.

#### [SF STATION](#)

Makonnen undoubtedly had an incredible rise to fame last year. His track "Tuesday" featuring Drake blew up across the airwaves as his I Love Makonnen EP landed him a deal with Drake's label OVO Sound. Highly regarded producers like Metro Boomin create his beats, relying on a subtle auto-tune as Makonnen spits his slowed down verses.

#### [THE EARLY REGISTRATION](#)

Performing his hit song 'Tuesday', as well as a number of his *Drink More Water* tracks, Makonnen definitely delivered.

#### [WASHINGTON POST](#)

*Howard Theatre was 'goin' up' on a Saturday for iLoveMakonnen*  
The rise of iLoveMakonnen has been a blur of unexpected twists. Although his career is in its beginning, Makonnen has already mastered the art of vocal acrobatics. He works his voice like a volume dial, moving it up from a husky growl until he breaks out into song. Impressively, the crowd was swept up by Makonnen's strange, magnetic pull.

#### [THE WELLESLEY NEWS](#)

*Wellesley goes up on a Sunday with iLoveMakonnen during pre-Marathon Monday concert*

Though unfamiliar to most of his music, many people seemed to be enjoying his performance — truly, we all were waiting for one song, which he performed at the end. As the concert came to an end, we heard the familiar electronic introduction to his most famous song, and everyone went wild with anticipation.

### XXL

*Makonnen Makes Brooklyn Shake at NYC Headlining Show*

It wasn't long after Makonnen took the stage around 10:30 pm last night at Music Hall of Williamsburg in Brooklyn that the building began to shake. It started under the floorboards, reverberating through the basement bar that props the place up before moving upward and infiltrating the walls. Pretty soon it felt like the whole room was moving, that the bass was consuming everything and everyone in the crowd.

the OVO signee who is, like it or not, leading the charge out of his hometown right now submitted a statement performance that will help divert those who write him off as a one-hit wonder. It's that back and forth between quality and inanity that keeps Makonnen firmly in the oddball lane that he covets, if he were to covet any one lane at all. It's not really clear if he cares either way.

Makonnen's building a catalog of hits, one small brick at a time.

### TIME OUT NY

*@ Brooklyn Music Hall of Williamsburg*

Fledgling hip-hop singer-rapper iLoveMakonnen, born Makonnen Sheran, is weird and fearless, a trademark of the Atlanta scene he came out of.

"Music & Nightlife: Georgia on their mind" ran 4/22/15

Two gigs by iLoveMakonnen kick off a rash of choice Atlanta hip-hop shows in the five boroughs. Makonnen will play the piano balladeer one moment and work with an earth-rattling beat the next. What's always identifiable is Makonnen's voice: uneven, daringly off-key — almost maddening, always riveting.

"Tuesday" is the hit that hooks you; "Wishin' You Well," a mesmerizing stream-of-consciousness narrative, is the track that makes you stick around.

### VILLAGE VOICE

*Every Day Is 'Tuesday' for iLoveMakonnen and the Instant Gratification of His Breakthrough*

Now, look: I've never deferred to Miley Cyrus's taste in music, but I retrieved the link to *iLoveMakonnen*. The first two tracks were cool, but the third, a song innocuously called "Club Goin Up on a Tuesday," came on. I played it. And then I played it again. And again. And again.

"Club Goin Up on a Tuesday" was just so fucking sexy — and it still is. Makonnen's soft croon and delicate falsetto caresses a strange and woozy beat, produced by Sonny Digital and Metro Boomin, two exceptional young beatsmiths.

"Club Goin Up on a Tuesday" became one of those instant on-repeat anthems, the kind of song that you're compelled to share with all of your friends and even attach a string of hyperbolic emojis to.

Apologies, Miley.

### LOS ANGELES TIMES

clubs across America, get ready to expect bigger crowds on Tuesdays (and, presumably, any other day of the week): iLoveMakonnen has announced his first headline tour

The off-kilter Atlanta rapper, singer and producer released one of last year's most compelling singles, the midweek party staple "Tuesday," a lovely synth-trap song so loopy and memorable that it won a Drake co-sign and a video appearance. (It also got him a Grammy nomination for rap/sung collaboration).

### THE STASHED

iLoveMakonnen isn't crossing items off of his to-do list in the order you would expect. While his debut album is still several months away, he's already earned a Grammy nomination thanks to his Drake-assisted hit single, "Tuesday." With the song still charting in the new year, the OVO rap crooner has announced that he'll be embarking on his first headline tour this spring.

### THE BOOMBOX

*@ Hype Hotel SXSW 2015 Show*

The music of Atlanta rapper ILOVEMAKONNEN comes from a place of boundless enthusiasm. It was obvious throughout his giddy Friday afternoon set (March 20) at the Hype Hotel in Austin, Texas that he's as much of a fan — specifically of rap and R&B — as a performer, and his deep affection for the music is what compels him to create it, regardless of his own technical limitations. That sense of joy went a long way to compensate for Makonnen's shortcomings during his SXSW set. He's neither a technically proficient rapper nor a gifted singer, but he seemed giddily lost in what he was doing, making it hard not to begrudge him.

### COMPLEX

*"Tuesday" On "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon"*

Enhanced by The Roots' live instrumentation, the timing of the performance is perfect and this is yet another step in the right direction for the Makonnen who recently signed with Drake's OVO Sound label. The red lights also give off a cool vibe for the eccentric rapper, as he looks to be slowly getting more comfortable with performing live.

### NEW YORK TIMES

*Oddball Rappers Get a Showcase Complete With Models @ CMJ*

Wearing an improbably royal and glittery black zip-up hoodie, Makonnen was the implicit valedictorian of the assembled masses.

### VICE'S NOISEY

*@ CMJ*

His mellow voice and smooth jams enticed me to the point that at one point that I put my camera down and sat on the edge of the stage, curled up out of all the media's way, listening intently and sipping my brew for about 10 minutes. His performance certainly confirmed that I do in fact love Makonnen.