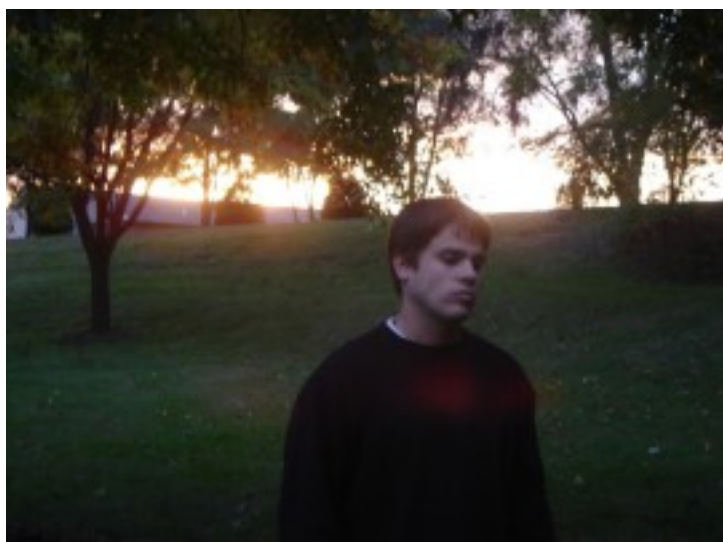


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The first thing you're likely to notice about Keith Lynch's voice is that it often sounds like Kurt Cobain's.

Such comparisons are typically lazy and superficial, as this one is. But the Iowa City-based singer/songwriter - who records under the name Unknown Component and will be performing at Mojo's on Thursday - taps into something genuine with that flat whine, and the resemblance is eerie.

On the song "Under the Gun," that voice is bitter and condescending on the one hand but also hopeful and pleading - enigmatic but not coy. The verse lines are two syllables apiece - "I am /

## Ultimate DIY: Unknown Component, June 5 at Mojo's

Written by Administrator  
Wednesday, 04 June 2008 02:59

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the one / under / the gun" - and Lynch loads each with an almost painful emphasis.

It ain't artful, but it works, and Unknown Component has plenty of similarly real moments.

If you don't believe me, Lynch has put his entire discography on his Web site for free download. He did that a few months ago, and "I should have started doing that right when I started the Web site," he said last week. "It's not costing me anything to let people download these songs for free."

Lynch is essentially embracing the new music marketplace, in which bands make their music available for free in some form and let audiences choose. "It really becomes a matter of who's got the best music," he said. He hopes that people who like what they hear will come back to pay for his next record.

Unknown Component's output thus far has an impressive volume: five proper albums and a collection of previously unreleased material, all from the past six years.

The ultimate DIY artist, Lynch writes, performs, records, and mixes all his own stuff - the lo-fi production and the standard instrumentation are a bit wearying after a handful of tracks - and has also done most of his cover artwork. "I don't think I'm that easy to work with sometimes," said the 27-year-old, without lightness.

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