

NEWCITY

NEWCITY.COM

CHICAGO'S NEWS & ARTS WEEKLY

FREE

411 NEWCITY'S SEVEN DAYS IN CHICAGO

MAR 3
2011

SMOOTH RIDE

Top 10 lists aren't always glamorous: the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M revealed the 2010 Urban Mobility Report that placed Chicago on top of the grievous list of worst cities for commuters—and this notoriety before February's snow-induced Lake Shore pile-up. Los Angeles-based musician Ken Elkinton (kenelkinton.com) has a three-CD solution for those of us caught in the hostility of blaring horns and dangerous cutoffs, or perhaps an hour on the rickety El. Traditionally a pianist, Elkinton enveloped himself in the multifarious world of synthesizers for this project, creating a box set appropriately entitled "Music for Commuting" that ebbs and flows with the days of the week. Empathizing with Chicago's recognized commuting pains, he mentions shock and awe of L.A.'s drivers that, literally, drove him to compose music that could ameliorate the horrors of the highway: "People are reading books when they're not even stuck in traffic, shaving with electric razors, texting. There's constant traffic and construction, unexplained stopping. [Traffic] slows for ten minutes and I'm thinking, 'There better be blood!' I get so angry and I try not to." (Kristine Sherred)

3-3-11 NEWCITY MOXIE 3