

# EXHIBIT A

# USNews & WORLD REPORT NEWS

## Everything You Wanted To Know About the Kanye-Inspired 'Coinye' But Were Afraid To Ask

Some entrepreneurs are using Kanye West to launch a cryptocurrency – so what does that mean, again?

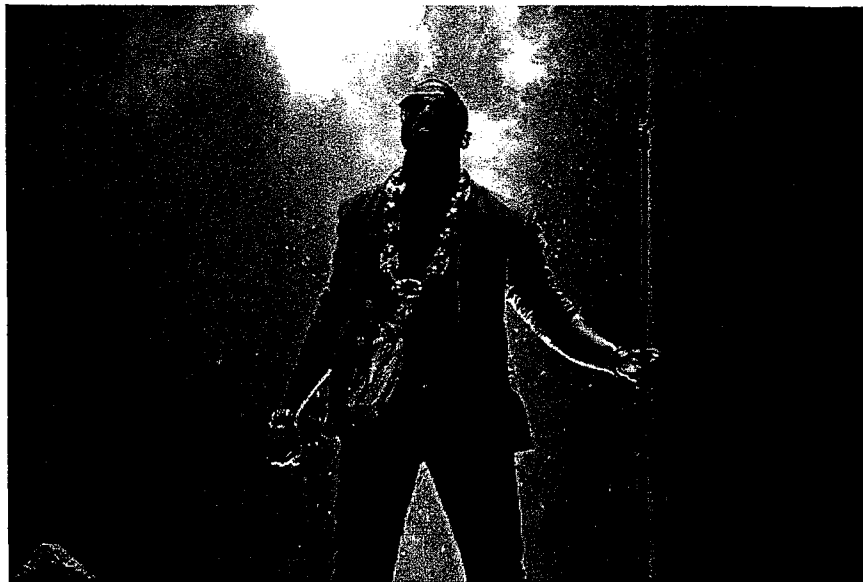
By TIERNEY SNEED

January 2, 2014

You would think a Twitter account that popped up Tuesday called "Coinye West" was a parody account created by some econ nerd-cum-Yeezy fan. It in fact is the handle of a new digital currency inspired by Kanye West that, as the creators confirmed to VICE Thursday, will launch Jan. 11. Confused yet? So were we. Here's a primer.

### So Kanye has his own currency now?

Not exactly. It looks like West – surprisingly, considering the lengths he'll go to for self promotion -- has nothing to do with it. Some techie monetary entrepreneurs -- who for the time being "want to stay sorta anonymous in case Kanye gets pissed off" -- are launching a cryptocurrency using West's likeness and some clever punning called "Coinye West."



A new digital currency named Coinye looks to capitalize on the fame of rapper Kanye West.

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### Cryptocurrency ... excuse me, what?

Cryptocurrencies are digital monetary systems. Users can use these networks to buy and sell things online, usually anonymously and almost like PayPal, but in a decentralized fashion. You may have heard of Bitcoin, the 4-year-old form of digital currency that attracted congressional attention in November. It went on a boom-and-bust ride last year, with the price of a bitcoin skyrocketing above \$1,000 in November only to crash 50 percent.

Because it is online, anonymous and decentralized, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies get a reputation as being especially useful for illicit purchases (it was the accepted currency of the recently shut down illegal drug trafficking website, Silk Road). However, the rise of BitPay, BitGive and other platforms that use Bitcoin have given it some legitimacy, and attention now has turned to how it could be regulated.

### So how does this all work?

Similar to how a treasury prints cash, bitcoins are released in a process known as "mining," in which users' computers compete to solve algorithms to win bitcoins (the algorithm gets increasingly harder so that the race will occur every 10 minutes or so and the bitcoin rewarded is halved every four years, meaning the bitcoin supply is finite). Coinye's creators say they will release their own front-end mining program called CoinyeMiner, which according to them will be more user-friendly than the mining programs used by other cryptocurrencies.

Wait -- they named the mining program 'CoinyeMiner,' and not 'Gold Digger'?

I know, missed opportunity. right?

[ALSO: Silk Road Shuttered: Online Drug Market's 100,000 Patrons May Be in Hot Water]

### What's the point of naming your weird online currency after a megalomaniac, Kardashian-loving rapper?

Well, this is the point: attention. For these currencies to work they must have users, and the more users they have the more stable they'll be. Just last month, some Internet geeks created a cryptocurrency called Dogecoin – inspired by 2013's Meme of the Year, a Shiba Inu dog named Kabosu – and its value surged 900 percent in a week while its competitor currencies stumbled.

"There was this trend effect of people thinking it was associated with something cool and trendy," says Reuben Grinberg, a lawyer in the financial

institutions group of the law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. The Coinye creators likely are hoping for a similar effect. "My guess would be is that they're trying to profit on something associated with [Kanye's] name."

As Coinye creators told VICE, "We chose to represent Kanye because he is and always has been a trendsetter, and he's always keeping things unique."

#### Should I buy Coinye?

Though the Coinye creators say their program will be more accessible than other cryptocurrencies, they haven't really specified how.

"As more people get involved in mining this currency, it's going to be difficult for everyday people to get access to these coins and it's going to be people with professional setups who profit the most," Grinberg explains. So you might be better off sticking to the more established Bitcoin.

Also worrisome, Grinberg says, is the kind of users Coinye seeks to attract: Kanye fans, rather than economists, math whizzes and techies who are known to get involved in cryptocurrencies. Cryptocurrencies are very risky, and non-economists buying in out of a love for Kanye could lose a lot of money if they don't know what they're doing.

"These are not the people I would say who should be getting involved in digital currencies," Grinberg says.

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#### How many Coinye will it take to buy a 'mayonnaise colored Benz'?

We won't know until the currency launches, but as of press time, a \$300,000 Mercedes-Benz costs about \$384.73 in bitcoin.

#### I bet Twitter is loving this.

Too much.

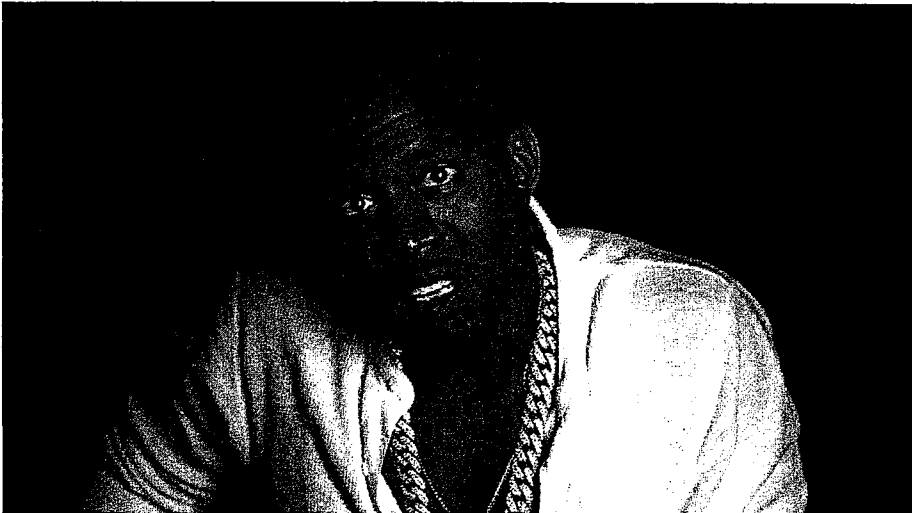
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10:55 PM PST 1/2/2014 by Kevin Rutherford, Billboard

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Kanye West

## Coinye West launches Jan. 11, with its creators saying they wish to remain anonymous "in case Kanye gets pissed off."

*This story first appeared at [Billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com).*

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First it was Bitcoin. Then came Dogecoin. Now, a group of Internet denizens are creating a new form of e-currency -- and it's got that New God Flow.

As [Noisey reports](#), a new cryptocurrency named after Kanye West is about to hit the marketplace. Deemed [Coinye West](#), the currency is supposed to become available Jan. 11.

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In an interview with Noisey, the creators of Coinye West said they're remaining anonymous "in case kanye gets pissed off," but the currency is totally legitimate. With a tagline of "we ain't minin', we pickin'," Coinye West is created in the spirit of, according to its creators, making it "easier for people to use cryptocurrency."

"We chose to represent Kanye because he is and always has been a trendsetter, and he's always keeping things unique," the Coinye creators added. "I can picture a future where Coinye is used to buy concert tickets, with cryptographically verified virtual tickets, and other ideas I can't give away just yet."

Yeezus himself isn't exactly behind the idea just yet, but that hasn't stopped the creators of Coinye West from reaching out to the rapper in the hope that he'll invest -- or, at least, not get mad about its existence.

"Have you ever invested in bitcoin or litecoin?" its creators asked West via [Twitter](#). In the Noisey interview, they also invited West to get in contact with them, offering the rapper 100,000 "COINYE," as it's being called.

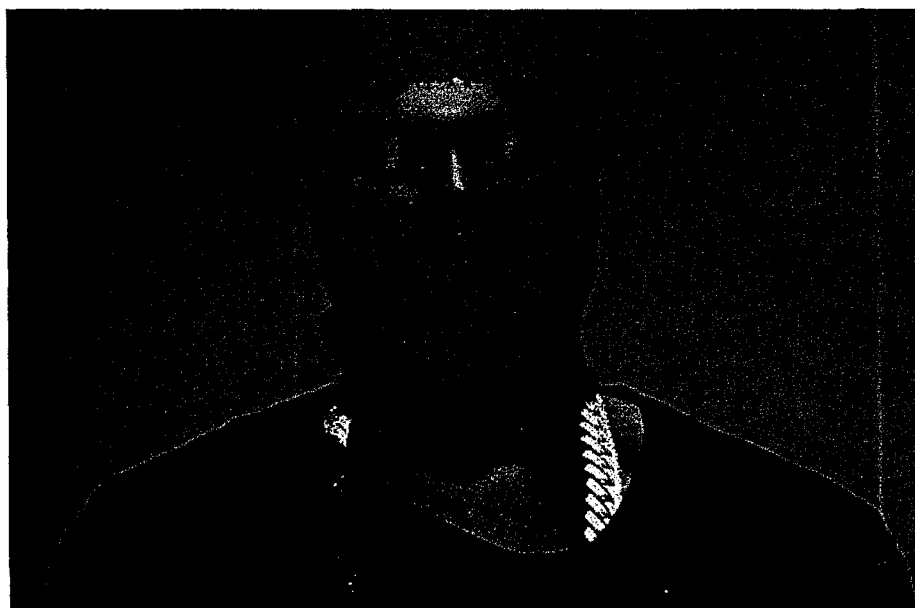
No word on how the rapper feels about having a form of currency named after him just yet.

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## New Bitcoin-Esque Cryptocurrency Named After Kanye West Launching

By Kevin Rutherford | January 02, 2014 9:44 PM EST



### Coinye West, in the vein of Bitcoin and Dogecoin, launches Jan. 11

First it was Bitcoin. Then came Dogecoin. Now, a group of Internet denizens are creating a new form of e-currency -- and it's got that New God Flow.

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Coinye  
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# KANYE WEST IS NOW A BITCOIN CLONE

By Andrew Couts — January 2, 2014

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If you thought Internet-meme-based cryptocurrency Dogecoin was ridiculous, then Kanye-West-based altcoin Coinye West will probably just make you angry.

Named after Yeezus himself, Coinye West is set to launch on January 11, at 11pm ET, according to the cryptocurrency's creators, who tell Vice's Noisy blog that they hope it will help bring the nebulous world of digital currencies into the mainstream.

"Our goal with Coinye West is to make it easier for people to use cryptocurrency," Coinye West's unnamed creators tell Noisy. "Right now, it's kind of a dark art for people to mine coins. We plan on releasing a front end to the "mining" programs called CoinyeMiner. It will make things a lot more simple and people will be able to make their own coins."

Coinye West's creators say they chose Kanye as their cryptocurrency mascot because "he is and always has been a trendsetter." But despite the creators' enthusiasm for the rapper, West has not endorsed the cryptocurrency, and is apparently no way involved with it – and that could be a problem.

"We're really not sure how Kanye is gonna react to this," says Coinye's creators. "We hope he loves it, but if he doesn't, he really isn't someone we want to piss off."

Coinye West is only the latest so-called altcoin to launch over the past year. Some, like Litecoin, trade at a fairly high value – though nothing close to the \$750+ exchange rate Bitcoin currently enjoys. Most wallow in the fraction-of-a-penny range – a place where Coinye should probably get comfortable.

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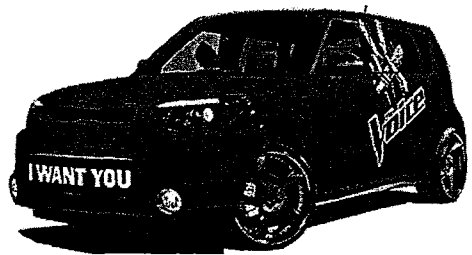


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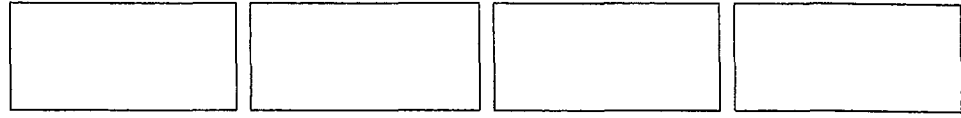
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# Cryptocurrency Named After Kanye West

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While many can argue whether or not Kanye West is the God he proclaims to be, Yeezus can add another convincing argument to his case. Now the face and inspiration of the newly emerging form of cryptocurrency, Coinye West, Kanye seems to be well on track as starting 01/11/14, Ye' will have a currency named in his honor and he did nothing to launch it.

Cryptocurrency is a decentralized peer-to-peer utilized medium used for digital exchanges on global-friendly internet platforms. The most celebrated and acknowledged type of cryptocurrency is "Bitcoin," a currency exchange infamously known for it's frequent trade on black markets to purchase firearms and drugs. In the past, the currency's value was listed at \$1,000 per Bitcoin.

The College Dropout isn't in anyway affiliated with the project, but in an interview with Noisey (http://noiseyvice.com/en\_uk/read/screw-bitcoin-and-dogecoin-theres-a-new-kanye-west-themed-cryptocurrency-on-the-way)- the Coinye creators explained their thought process behind naming their Cryptocurrency after "Ye." "We chose to represent Kanye because he is and always has been a trendsetter, and he's always keeping things unique. I can picture a future where Coinye is used to buy concert tickets, with cryptographically verified virtual tickets, and other ideas I can't give away just yet."

The start-up founders also reassured their company's name isn't a publicity plea, even adding an open invitation to the G.O.O.D. Music head-honcho, "We'd love if Kanye named dropped Coinye," said the founder. "I think he's gonna love that there's a CURRENCY named in his honor. We don't want to pay him off to name check us, but it'd be sick if he does so. In-fact, we're making an open invitation to Kanye: Get hold of us at coinwest.com and we'll send you 100,000 COINYE on launch. A hundred thousand. Bitcoin started small too.

and now look where it's at"

After reading the interview in its entirety, you'd be convinced the group's founders are die-hard Yeezy stans. In true Kanye fan fashion, Coinye's official's website (<http://coinywest.com/>) quotes one of the rapper's most popular punchlines as their mantra: "I don't know what's better, gettin laid or gettin paid..."

Now I ain't sayin she a Gold Digger...

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# Bitcoin duplicate inspired by Kanye West launches to avoid legal action



Creators claim that "the name 'Coinye' is intended solely as parody, not an indication or implication of endorsement or involvement"

ZACHARY BOREN Wednesday 08 January 2014

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Kanye West has demanded that CoinyeCoin, the Bitcoin-duplicate he inspired, should immediately end "development, sale, distribution and promotion" or else face litigation.

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On January 6, the creators of the cryptocurrency, who have capitalised on the media's recent fascination with Bitcoin, received a cease-and-desist letter from West's law firm, Pryor Cashman.

The rapper's attorney, Brad D Rose, accused Coinye West, as it was known at the time, of trademark infringement, trademark dilution, unfair competition and cyberpiracy.

"Given Mr West's wide-ranging entrepreneurial accomplishments, consumers are likely to mistakenly believe that Mr West is the source of your services or [had] endorsed the cryptocurrency," Mr Rose wrote.

Despite Mr West's threat that he will sue any business that accepts the novelty currency, Coinye launched last night, 4 days earlier than it had originally intended, and posted on its website, "We are being attacked with fishsticks and must launch sooner."

The altcoin's developers have responded to the rapper's attempts to shut it down by changing the name from Coinye West to Coinye, altering the logo image and launching the currency early.

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On the forum bitcointalk.com, CoinyeCoin developers also explained that "The name 'Coinye' is intended solely as parody, not an indication or implication of endorsement or involvement."

Interviews given to the Wall Street Journal and ArsTechnica indicate that the anonymous creators of Coinye hold anti-establishment and anti-capitalist beliefs, having been quoted as saying that "anarcho-capitalism is coming, it can't be stopped. Whether it has a symbol that looks like a dollar, a dog, or a cartoon picture of a rapper, it's all the same thing."

The creators, who identify themselves "just a few guys who want to take cryptocurrency to the mainstream," tweeted the rap icon in December to ask him his thoughts on the project, and more recently told Vice they "hope he loves this."

With this development, the creators probably have their answer.



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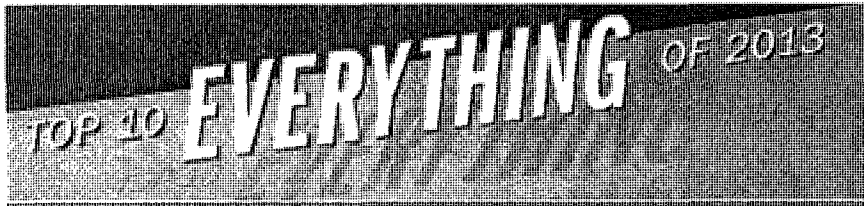


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By Douglas Volk | Dec. 04, 2013 | 26 Comments

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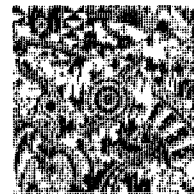
Pop provocateurs tend to age awkwardly, and M.I.A. often tries a little too hard to foment outrage (although it's hard to trump having Julian Assange as an opening act). Still, her fourth album is plenty provocative and outrageous-sounding: dance music that's twitchy like a slug of Third World-exploiting coffee, shot through with neon-bright digital distortion and mutated South Asian instrumentation. And her most potent weapon is still her dry, venomous, word-savoring voice.



Interscope

#### 9. Mole City, Quasi

Twenty years into their collaboration, singer/guitarist/keyboard-abuser Sam Coomes and feral drummer Janet Weiss are still on such a roll that their ninth album is a double, just 'cause. They're as wittily indignant as ever, and Coomes aims his bile inward as often as outward. The sharpest of Mole City's many homebrewed evocations of the early-'70s moment when Queen and Todd Rundgren and Badfinger were getting loud and weird is, naturally, called "Nostalgia Kills."



Kill Rock Stars

#### 8. The Electric Lady, Janelle Monáe

Part soul revivalist, part retro-Afrofuturist, all robot — oh, fine, she just plays one on YouTube — Monáe is the kind of singer who'll be the subject of Ph.D. dissertations a century from now. Her second album is presented as "suites" 4 and 5 in an ongoing sci-fi epic, featuring convincing pastiches of Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, and, most of all, Prince (who also turns up in the flesh). Monáe's reach sometimes exceeds her grasp, but bless her for aiming so damn high.



Wondeland Arts Society

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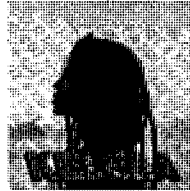
50 States' Biggest Snow Days — Weather





7. *Cut 4 Me*, Kelela

Every so often, somebody figures out how to bring the sounds of underground dance clubs into pop. This year, it's the L.A.-based vocalist Kelela Mizanekristos, whose debut album (released as a free download) is built on the half-time beats and unsettling negative-space arrangements of the "bass music" collectives Night Slugs and Fade to Mind. It's forbidding stuff, but it meshes with the sweet '90s R&B inflections of Kelela's singing — her aesthetic, as she puts it, is "Brandy but weirder."



Fade to Mind

6. *Electricity by Candlelight*, Alex Chilton

On a February night in 1997, the power went out at the club where the late cult hero Chilton was playing — but somebody had an acoustic guitar, and somebody else had a cassette recorder, and so this thrilling, off-the-cuff set of covers was preserved. Chilton was always a contrarian, and he stopped making big artistic statements after his early-'70s band Big Star broke up, so this is just a document of a great entertainer having a ridiculously good night.



Bar None Records

5. *The Worse Things Get, The Harder I Fight, The Harder I Fight, The More I Love You*, Neko Case

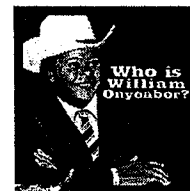
You can't even call Case "alternative country" any more, despite the twang that will never leave her voice and the ache that casts a warming shadow over all of her music. Her new songs circle around the idea of exile from feeling, from loved ones, from received ideas about womanhood, and especially from home. To see her lyrics on a page, you'd think they were arch art-songa; when you hear her sing them, they cut as deeply as a friend's late-night confession.



ANTI Records

4. *Who Is William Onyeabor?*, William Onyeabor

Between the late-'70s and the mid-'80s, William Onyeabor released eight albums on his own Wilfilms label in Nigeria. Then he dropped out of public view altogether, and the peculiar genius of his percolating, synthesizer-centered grooves was lost to everyone but fanatical record collectors. This long-overdue career survey is riveting and unflinching funky; you can hear the inspiration of Fela Kuti's Afrobeat, and sounds that would turn into new wave a few years later, but Onyeabor mostly sounds like nobody else on the planet.



Luaka Bop

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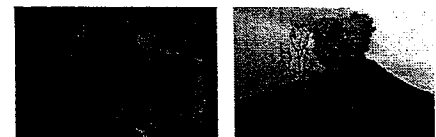
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3. *mbv*, My Bloody Valentine

Twenty-one years after My Bloody Valentine's epochal *Loveless*, guitarist/singer Kevin Shields' endless string of assurances that they were *almost* done with a new album were abruptly replaced, one night, by an announcement that it was done and ready for download. Boom. (The late-'90s-style drum-'n'-bass rhythms of "Wonder 2" suggest that they really had been working on it all along.) Shields is apparently the kind of perfectionist who can actually let go of something once it's perfect: *mbv*'s torrential wash of million-layers-deep guitars and purring honey-power voices is as glorious as he wanted it to be.



mbv

2. *Modern Vampires of the City*, Vampire Weekend

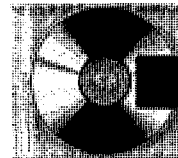
Vampire Weekend does the same thing with music that really clever writers do with words: their vocabulary's immense, and so is their command of idiom and tone, and they use those gifts to be thoughtful and evocative rather than just to show off. (Unsurprisingly, singer Ezra Koenig does that with words, too.) You can spend days unpacking their third album's allusions and juxtapositions, or you can just ride the ripples of its wry, ridiculously catchy meditations on the shift from over-comfortable youth to uncertain maturity.



XL

1. *Yeezus*, Kanye West

Kanye is the best there is, and he's *still* not as good as he thinks he is. Has there ever been another great album this bitter, this entitled, this abrasively unsatisfied — or this self-aware about it? (See its most-quoted joke: "In a French-ass restaurant/Hurry up with my damn croissants.") *Yeezus* is brief, spare, nasty, and as charismatic as a cult leader. Its music grinds sourly or lurches like an old rollercoaster; West's voice drips contempt or hides behind frigid Auto-Tune effects. But *Yeezus*, has he ever got raw power.



Roca-A-Fella

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The Best 25 Songs of 2013

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**McBizzy**  
 Hell yeah it's Yeezus



**MattCasale**  
 Seriously, you put Kanye on here but not Eminem? Shame on you.



**ScottValentine**  
 Full Circle by Half Moon Run. Hands Down.



**GregMason**  
 No list is complete without The National's Trouble Will Find Me.



**MeeBrr**  
 No no no no no no. Kanye is to music what Kim Kardashian is to television: fake, ridiculous and a piss-poor representation of intelligent life on the planet.



**Litrigol**  
 No, I mean, where are Kurt Vile and Arcade Fire ones?



**JoshVickers**  
 Everytime some one says something positive about Kanye West, a fairy dies.



**AlexanderZhukov**  
 God is dead in the world where yeezus is on top.



**JeffConanVargon**  
 It's great to see this Alex Chilton album on this list! Thanks Doug!



**JE**  
 "The Electric Lady" by Janelle Monae featuring Miguel, Erykah Badu, Cee Lo, and Prince was so good and revolutionary. She raps and sings like Lauryn Hill. It's a shame it didn't get any Grammy nominations.



**AustinJames**  
 this is the biggest joke of a list I have seen. How are you rating these albums. How do you leave off an Artist who had the two number 1 albums in the same year and the biggest selling album of the year in Justin

Timberlake. If I didn't stumble upon this article I would have never seen this same as no on reads TIME magazine.... you are a joke of a magazine and article writer.



**ViduaDiabolusNlger**

Music is not your business but still better than very specialized magazines, pity is that rock is dead to you, and this is idiocy primary! ...Like Clockwork is a masterpiece of an artist with Rock in the veins, music is art!!! MBV?? Makes me sleep. The RealRock is dead to you, unfortunately .....



**lordmeta**

Really? <http://www.taylorclark.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/picard.jpg>



**IndieSongADay**

I'll never get music like Yeezus, let alone it making a Top 10 of the Year list.

The best songs of 2013 are here

indie best of 2013 (@indiesongaday)



**coyotebandt3**

@MattCasale Probably b/c MMLP2 is a pretty bad album.



**FuckingMagic**

@MattCasale they both suck



**coyotebandt3**

@MeeBrr Uhh, no. There's a reason every single one of his albums has been widely critically acclaimed and has inspired basically everyone in rap. There's a reason his album MBDTF is considered one of the greatest albums every created in music.



**KerusNlaw**

i bet you love nirvana, the beatles, and pink floyd you sheep :^)



**StevenTanner**

@LitriGo! Arcade Fire must be the most overrated band in the world. They're alright, but very pretentious and overwrought.



**coyotebandt3**

@JoshVickers Kanye West is a great producer. Kanye West is an influential icon in rap. Kanye West created one of the greatest albums in music. Kanye West has one of the most consistent discographies in music right now with all 6 of his albums getting HUGE critical acclaim.



**coyotebandt3**

@AlexanderZhukov u mad cuz u bad



**mossifabrenand**

@AustinJames Britney Spears had plenty of number one albums, but her music sucks!



**scottsurette**

@AustinJames a number 1 album on the charts has absolutely nothing to do with how good the album is. I love the 20/20 experience, but that's just a silly argument. One Direction's album reached number 1 and sold a ton of copies, does that mean in your view it belongs on this list?



**D.Ubben**

@IndieSongADay I personally think some of the songs on your playlist are awful, but I do agree on Yeezus. So overrated.



**EmiliaBajena**

@StevenTanner @LitriGo! They have been making music for a very long time, I've been a fan for almost a decade. I don't think that just because the world started recognizing their talent recently makes them pretentious. If I was in the industry for that long I wouldn't give a crap either.



**DamienWillis**

@StevenTanner @LitriGo! But I loves dem

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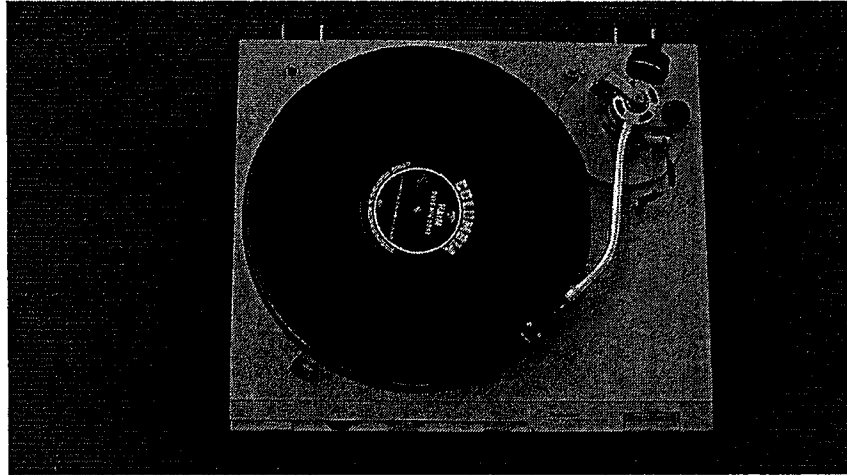


best music of 2013

50 favorite albums

# NPR Music's 50 Favorite Albums Of 2013

December 10, 2013 8:07 AM



Source: NPR  
Credit: Meredith Rizzo

## Conversations About Our Albums Of The Year

**The Best Indie Pop Of 2013**

5 min 24 sec

**More Than Just 'Yeezus': The Year In Hip-Hop**

**Classical And World Music Highlights**

These are the albums we loved the most this year. In what we've written about each one below, you can see what we felt should be rewarded, what shook us up and what sucked us in over the 12 months of 2013.

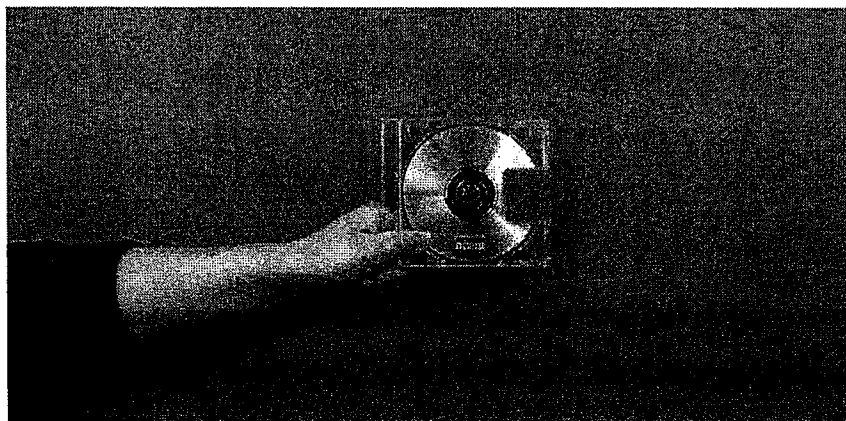
Not every one of the 22 different people with bylines here agree on which albums did any of that to them — we don't listen the same way, or for the same reasons — but you'll read the word "warm" more than once (as applied to an indie songwriter, a country singer and two electronic producers). We were seduced by darkness at least five times (electronic, rock, classical, metal) and loved sounds that we call "delicate" (three out of four made by men). "Wry" hit the spot twice (country singer again, and a pair of



**KACEY MUSGRAVES**  
***SAME TRAILER DIFFERENT PARK***

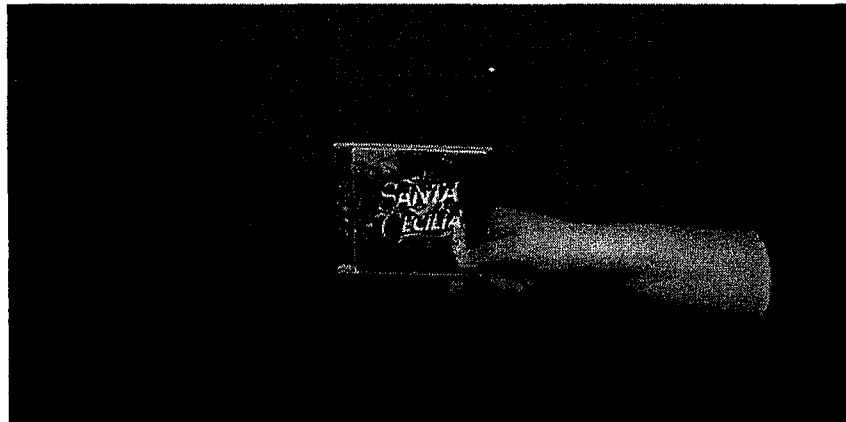
The biggest quiet story in popular music this year involved women singer-songwriters who kept their tongues in their mouths and told the truth of ordinary lives. Texas-born, Nashville-based Kacey Musgraves set the standard with a major label debut that sounded like current country while avoiding all the clichés about Chevys and flags and spring break debauchery. Instead, Musgraves sang in her been-there-done-that drawl about restaurant workers waiting for a break, small-town kids slowly morphing into the parents they resent and strong women who know that a hook-up might be just a hook-up and Prince Charming is sometimes best kept as a memory. Then there's the anthem "Follow Your Arrow," the "Same Love" of country, which turned YOLO into a means of real liberation. By year's end, *Same Trailer Different Park* was winning awards, Musgraves was writing songs with Katy Perry, and she had fully proven that country belongs as much to women with smarts as to men with trucks. —Ann Powers

"Merry Go 'Round"



**KANYE WEST**  
***YEEZUS***

Right before *Yeezus*, his sixth studio album, crashed into the public sphere in June, Kanye West told the *New York Times*, "I understand culture. I am the nucleus." The album almost justifies such supreme egotism. Soundwise, it builds something new, juxtaposing avant-garde industrial and electronic innovations with the High Romantic hip-hop West had already perfected. And then there's what West says in its forty rampaging minutes. Sex fantasies and a dirty lover's despairing mea culpas emerge from West's confused id, while his exacting superego places his urges within the context of American racism, international celebrity and the infinite void of consumerist decadence. (There are jokes, too, Richard Pryor style.) The most audacious effort yet by the man who embodies the idea that quality



### **LA SANTA CECILIA TREINTA DIAS**

2013 was a big year for the LA-based La Santa Cecilia after years of touring, recording and hustling a place for themselves in Latin music. The group was signed by a major label. Its stellar vocalist La Marisol was invited to sing on the Elvis Costello/Roots collaboration released this year. The band was featured in the pages of major U.S. newspapers and of course we at *Alt.Latino* continued to appreciate its unique musical vision, and especially *Treinte Dias*, a forward-looking mix of folklore, jazz, cumbia and rock 'n' roll spirit. —Felix Contreras

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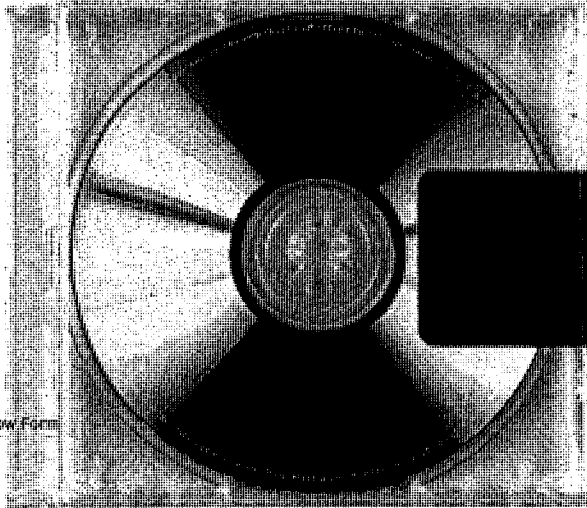
MUSIC The 50 Best Albums of 2013 1. Kanye West, Yeezus

# The 50 Best Albums of 2013

BY INSANUL AHMED, ALEXANDER GLECKMAN, ANGEL DIAZ, BRANDON JENKINS, BRENDAN FREDERICK, CLAIRE LOBENFELD, DAVE BRY, DAVID DRAKE, DHARMIC X, EDWIN ORTIZ, FOSTER KAMER, JACOB MOORE, JASON PARHAM, JUSTIN DAVIS, KHAL, KYLE KRAMER, NOAH CALLAHAN-BEVER, ROB KENNER, ROSS SCARANO, SASHA HECHT | DEC 9, 2013 | 1:30 PM | PERMALINK

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On Sight  
Kanye West

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What are you gonna do? It's the best.

Sure you want to be different, you don't want to be a sheep, blindly following the herd wherever it goes. You don't wanna be a "stan," unable to see any fault with the new work of an artist whose work you've loved before. But what are you gonna do? Lie? Just so you can be different, just to buck a trend? Just to prove a point? That'd be stupid.

Much like three years ago, when Kanye West topped every year-end list in the universe with *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* album, and its centerpiece song "Runaway," we seem to finding a similar state of unanimity in feeling about this year's *Yeezus* and "New Slaves." You gotta give in. If you're gonna be honest at least. Kanye's operating at a higher level of artistry than any other artist on the planet right now.

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It's apparent from jump. Right from the opening synth squalls of "On Sight." From the electro tick-tick-tick. From the bass turned way past distortion. This is something new. Sounds you haven't hear before. Like a spaceship crashing in your backyard. You can't help but look, you can't help but approach. Out of curiosity if nothing else at first. You're being pulled forward by your ears. Kanye's making a statement. "I'm from the future. I'm here to show you how it's going to be."

It's not all going to be pretty. It's not all going to be fun. The sounds are discordant, abrasive. The lyrics harsh, abusive. It's nasty. But it's thrilling. Through the whole album. There's no let up. Song after song. Start to finish. (Only ten songs. That's all it takes.) Especially now, six months after its release, *Yeezus* has revealed itself to be one coherent set piece. With its sound, and its themes. On message, on point.

"My momma was raised in an era when/Clean water was only served to the fairer skin."

That's the world I'm coming from, he's saying. That's the world *you* made. I didn't make it, and I don't like it. So I'm tearing the whole thing down and starting a new one.

That's what art is, right? Making something new. Even if it's just a little different (and *Yeezus* is a lot different), making something new that can show people a different perspective, a different viewpoint.

Musically, Kanye is glowing right now. Like a piece of Kryptonite. *Yeezus* is something we've never seen before. It's a huge accomplishment. A triumph.

What are you gonna do? It's the best. —*Dave Bry*

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The fact that French Montana's album is even on this list makes me question it's credibility.

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## 10 Best Albums of '13: Nick Catucci's Picks

Hard-twerker, last great gangsta rapper, renewed rock band -- and EW critic's No. 1

By Nick Catucci (<http://search.ew.com/results.html?Htt%22Nick.Catucci%22&type=ew%3ANick.Catucci%3B&Ns=n%5Fpublish%5Fdate%7C1%7C%7Cp%5Fheadline%5Fsort%7C0>) on Dec 06, 2013 [@catucci](#) (<http://twitter.com/catucci>)

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### 1. *Yeezus*, Kanye West

He can't be serious. That's what all the late-night hosts and lists of "craziest Kanye quotes" told us about Kanye West in 2013. And sure, he's the one who said that thing about being a god, and that other thing about hunying up with his damn message. But like any human (even one who raps, "No sports bra/Lefs keep it bounding"), Kanye's got every right to be serious. Asserting that freedom on *Yeezus*, he exposes the rage of a wildly ambitious artist confounded by the wily shape of racism today. He smashes the atoms of his fears, ego, and sex drive together for tracks like "Black Skinhead," featuring rhymes about "coon s—" and a beat decidedly free of Under Armour. (It ended up soundtracking a popular TV spot for smartphones.) Mostly, his sound obsession runs riot, from the blown-speaker fuzz of "On Sight" to the abundance of dancehall singers and samples to "Blood on the Leaves," with its unflinching appropriation of Nina Simone's "Strange Fruit." The overriding message: Listen closely. Kanye will never validate anyone's celebrity worship. On *Yeezus*, though, he throws down serious thunderbolts.

Best Track: "Blood on the Leaves" (<http://www.mtv.com/videos/misc/948751/blood-on-the-leaves-live.html>)

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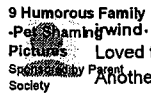
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Loved that you had Kacey and Miley where you did, but, what, no Daft Punk! Another one that EW didn't even review but most incredible was Patty Griffin's American Kid. Maybe one day before I'm in the ground I'll 'get' Kanye, but so far it's just noise.

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Wow this list is a joke. Earl Sweatshirt? Ok. Drake?. Fine. Local Natives is a poor attempt to insert "indie cred." Miley Cyrus at number 3? WTF? That album was awful! The only ones on this list I agree with are Vampire Weekend and Kanye. Where's Tegan & Sara? Daft Punk? Deerhunter? Sad, sad list...

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Brenda Barrett → Color Me Impressed · a month ago  
ITA. Not sure what Kool-Aid EW and other music critics have been drinking, but this latest steaming Kanye effort is nothing but noise. It's baffling the credence and attention that is given to this talentless, toneless hack.

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Liked Yeezus but no EMINEM? wow.

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Marshall Mathers LP2 and Ariana Grande's Yours Truly top my list.

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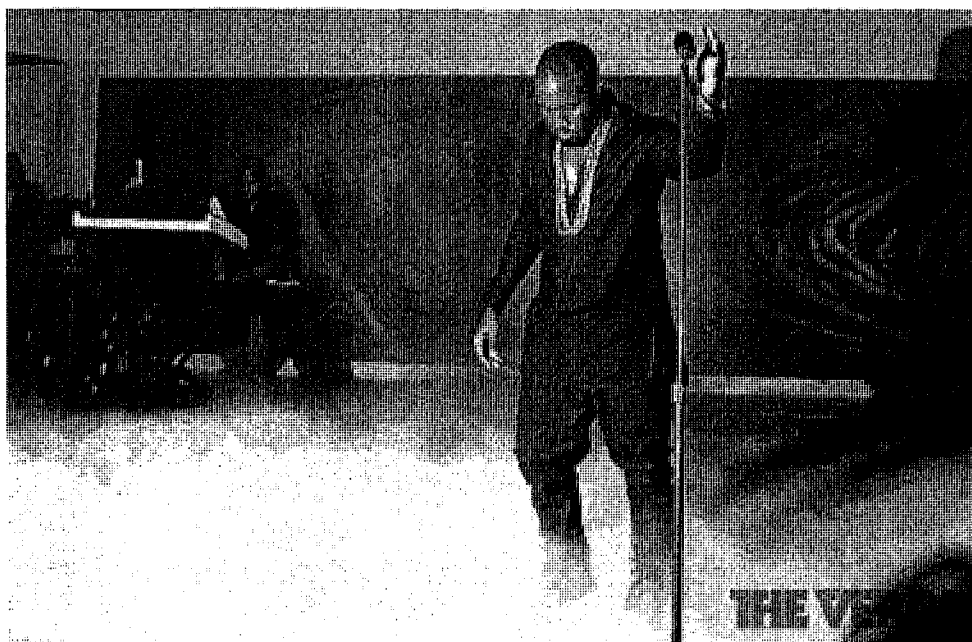
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# Google Play is giving away 'Yeezus' and top singles from 2013

By Jacob Kastrenakes (<http://www.theverge.com/users/Jacob%20Kastrenakes>) on December 27, 2013 10:43 am Email (<mailto:jacob.kastrenakes@theverge.com>) @jake\_k ([https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen\\_name=jake\\_k](https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen_name=jake_k))

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Google's making it easy to catch up on some of the best music of the year. As part of what it's calling Play Picks 2013

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it's offering Kanye West's (<http://www.theverge.com/a/the-verge-50/kanye-west>) *Yeezus* and Chvrches' *The Bones of What You Believe* free for a limited time — it's also giving them the superlatives album and breakout-artist of the year, respectively. Alongside the two albums, Google's also offering 20 singles for free, including Arcade Fire's "Reflektor," Drake's "Started From The Bottom," and Disclosure's "When A Fire Starts To Burn". While they're all free, there is one small catch: you'll have to give Google your credit card number, even though you aren't paying.

With Play Music getting a bigger emphasis than ever

(<http://www.theverge.com/2013/5/15/4333464/google-takes-on-spotify-with-google-play-music-all-access>) this year, it's no surprise to see Google looking to attract new customers with some of the top music around. And once you've got your credit card in the store, Google is happy to point to plenty of other deals offered as part of Play Picks for you to buy next. Lorde's *Pure Heroine*, Janelle Monáe's (<http://www.theverge.com/a/the-verge-50/janelle-monae>) *The Electric Lady*, Danny Brown's *Old*, and Katy Perry's *Prism* are

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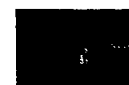


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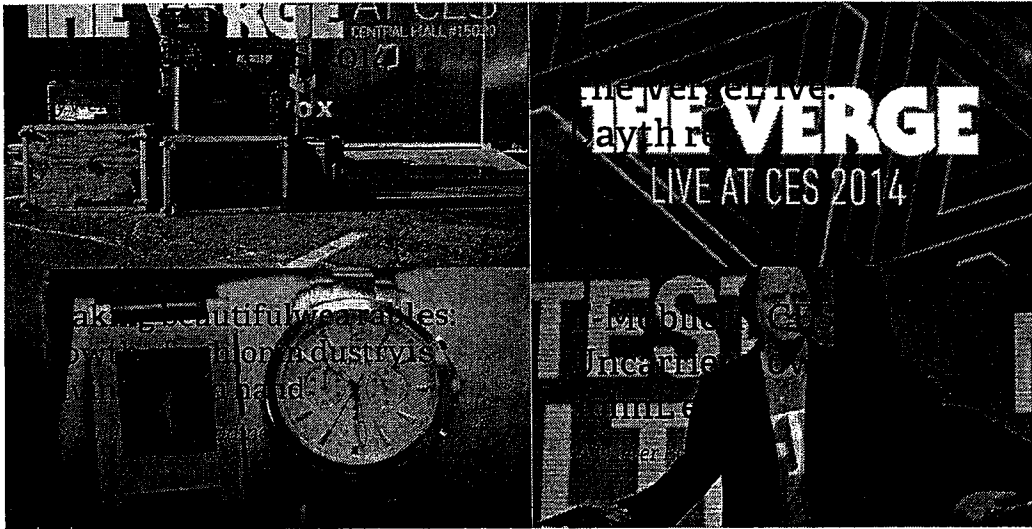
**Update:** Google tells us that different promotions are being offered in different regions. Customers should be able to see what promotion is available to them at the Music on Google Play homepage (<https://play.google.com/store/music>).

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Int. Cl.: 9

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**KANYE WEST**

MASCOTTE HOLDINGS, INC. (CALIFORNIA CORPORATION)  
410 PARK AVE., 10TH FLOOR  
C/O PRYOR CASHMAN LLP  
NEW YORK, NY 10022

FOR: MUSICAL SOUND RECORDINGS; AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDINGS, NAMELY, COMPACT DISCS, TAPE CASSETTES, AUDIO CASSETTES, AUDIO TAPES, AUDIO DISCS, RECORDS, CD-ROMS, VIDEO TAPES, VIDEO CASSETTES, VIDEO DISCS, DVDS, DATS, MP3S, AND LASER DISCS, ALL FEATURING MUSIC; DOWNLOADABLE MUSICAL SOUND RECORDINGS; DOWNLOADABLE VIDEO RECORDINGS FEATURING MUSIC; SUNGLASSES, IN CLASS 9 (U.S. CLS. 21, 23, 26, 36 AND 38).

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**Int. Cl.: 16**

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Prior U.S. Cls.: 37, 39, 40, 42, and 50

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CORPORATION)  
C/O KELLOGG AND ANDELSON ACCT. CORP.  
14724 VENTURA BOULEVARD, 2ND FLOOR  
SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403

FOR: ORNAMENTAL NOVELTY BUTTONS, IN  
CLASS 26 (U.S. CLS. 37, 39, 40, 42 AND 50).

FIRST USE 4-16-2008; IN COMMERCE 4-16-2008.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHAR-  
ACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR  
FONT, STYLE, SIZE, OR COLOR.

THE NAME "KANYE WEST" IDENTIFIES A LIV-  
ING INDIVIDUAL WHOSE CONSENT IS OF RE-  
CORD.

SN 78-499,411, FILED 10-13-2004.

JOHN WILKE, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

**Int. Cl.: 35**

**Prior U.S. Cls.: 100, 101, and 102**

**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

**Reg. No. 3,648,803**

**Registered June 30, 2009**

**SERVICE MARK  
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

**KANYE WEST**

MASCOTTE HOLDINGS, INC. (CALIFORNIA CORPORATION)  
C/O KELLOGG AND ANDELSON ACCT. CORP.  
14724 VENTURA BOULEVARD, 2ND FLOOR  
SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403

FOR: ON-LINE ORDERING SERVICES AND ON-LINE RETAIL STORE SERVICES, ELECTRONIC RETAILING SERVICES VIA COMPUTERS, AND RETAIL STORE SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS, ALL OF THE AFORESAID FEATURING RECORDED PRODUCT, MUSIC RELATED ITEMS, CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES THEREFOR, PRINTED PROMOTIONAL MATTER SUCH AS POSTERS, BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS, NOVELTY ITEMS AND ORNAMENTS, IN CLASS 35 (U.S. CLS. 100, 101 AND 102).

FIRST USE 2-0-2004; IN COMMERCE 2-0-2004.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHARACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR FONT, STYLE, SIZE, OR COLOR.

THE NAME "KANYE WEST" IDENTIFIES A LIVING INDIVIDUAL WHOSE CONSENT IS OF RECORD.

SN 78-499,413, FILED 10-13-2004.

JOHN WILKE, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

Int. Cl.: 41

Prior U.S. Cls.: 100, 101, and 107

Reg. No. 3,648,804

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered June 30, 2009

SERVICE MARK  
PRINCIPAL REGISTER

KANYE WEST

MASCOTTE HOLDINGS, INC. (CALIFORNIA CORPORATION)  
C/O KELLOGG & ANDELSON ACCOUNTANCY CORP.  
14724 VENTURA BOULEVARD, 2ND FLOOR  
SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91403

FOR: MUSIC COMPOSITION AND TRANSCRIPTION FOR OTHERS; ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NATURE OF A LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMER, MUSICAL BAND OR MUSICAL GROUP; ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NATURE OF LIVE PERFORMANCES BY A MUSICAL ARTIST, MUSICAL GROUP OR MUSICAL BAND; ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NATURE OF VISUAL AND AUDIO PERFORMANCES BY A MUSICAL ARTIST, MUSICAL GROUP AND MUSICAL BAND; ENTERTAINMENT, NAMELY, LIVE MUSIC CONCERTS; ENTERTAINMENT, NAMELY, PERSONAL APPEARANCES BY A MUSICIAN, MUSICAL GROUP OR MUSICAL BAND; ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES, NAMELY, PROVIDING A WEB SITE FEATURING MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, MUSI-

CAL VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND OTHER MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS; ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES, NAMELY, PROVIDING PRERECORDED MUSIC, ALL ONLINE VIA A GLOBAL COMPUTER NETWORK; ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NATURE OF TRAVELING TOURS FEATURING MUSIC, IN CLASS 41 (U.S. CLS. 100, 101 AND 107).

FIRST USE 8-0-2004; IN COMMERCE 8-0-2004.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHARACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR FONT, STYLE, SIZE, OR COLOR.

THE NAME "KANYE WEST" IDENTIFIES A LIVING INDIVIDUAL WHOSE CONSENT IS OF RECORD.

SN 78-499,414, FILED 10-13-2004.

JOHN WILKE, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

# EXHIBIT D

**Klarberg, Ryan S.**

---

REDACTED

From: Matthew Mellon <[777mellon@gmail.com](mailto:777mellon@gmail.com)<<mailto:777mellon@gmail.com>>>  
Date: January 5, 2014 at 9:09:13 PM EST  
To: Michael Guido <[mguido@ccgglaw.com](mailto:mguido@ccgglaw.com)<<mailto:mguido@ccgglaw.com>>>  
Subject: Fwd: Kanye West Legal council Michael Guido

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Coinye West <[coinyewest@gmail.com](mailto:coinyewest@gmail.com)<<mailto:coinyewest@gmail.com>>>  
Date: Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 6:54 PM  
Subject: Re: Kanye West Legal council Michael Guido  
To: Matthew Mellon <[777mellon@gmail.com](mailto:777mellon@gmail.com)<<mailto:777mellon@gmail.com>>>



I dont know. I don't want to inconvenience him. A simple few second video of him telling us he wants coinys would suffice, but i understand you might be concerned about that hitting the media. As I'm well aware you guys are going to try and get my identity I'm not comfortable with a phone call, and skype would be too slow through the proxies i use.

I'm totally willing to discuss things with you guys. In email, or on IRC which is internet relay chat. I can give you the step by step to get connected if you dont have access to a geek when its time to talk. It's just that before we actually risk ruining the currency by "printing" a crapload of it to give to kanye, I'm going to need some kind of proof its actually going to him, by getting some sort of verification from the man himself.

Thank you

On 1/4/2014 4:39 PM, Matthew Mellon wrote:  
How would like to Kanye to confirm that?

On Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 6:35 PM, Coinye West  
<[coinyewest@gmail.com](mailto:coinyewest@gmail.com)<<mailto:coinyewest@gmail.com>>> wrote:  
I didn't say yes. Someone else with access to this email said yes. I'm not talking on any telephone and neither is anyone else involved.

If you want to talk, contact me in email. We're anonymous and we're keeping it that way.

Also, I'm not giving up a single millionth of a percent until i get some kind of verification that kanye actually knows a deal is being made. I still don't trust you, and I sure as hell don't trust lawyers.

On 1/4/2014 4:16 PM, Matthew Mellon wrote:  
I am happy to talk prior to 10:00am.. Let me know I can give you the lay of the land..  
+19174599067<tel:%2B19174599067>

On Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 6:03 PM, Coinye West  
<[coinyewest@gmail.com](mailto:coinyewest@gmail.com)<<mailto:coinyewest@gmail.com>>> wrote:  
Yes.

On Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 3:00 PM, Matthew Mellon  
<[777mellon@gmail.com](mailto:777mellon@gmail.com)<<mailto:777mellon@gmail.com>>> wrote:  
I am happy to speak then.. Coinye shall I patch you in?

On Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 3:38 AM, Michael Guido  
<[mguido@ccgglaw.com](mailto:mguido@ccgglaw.com)<<mailto:mguido@ccgglaw.com>>> wrote:  
Ok. As you know I am 10 hours ahead of NY. And boarding a plane now. I will be free at

about 10 am my time tomorrow which will be about 11:30pm my time Saturday evening. Is that something that can work?

On Jan 4, 2014, at 1:15 PM, "Matthew Mellon"  
<[Matthew@coinapex.com](mailto:Matthew@coinapex.com)<<mailto:Matthew@coinapex.com>>> wrote:

Hi Michael:

Coinye has requested to speak to you directly being Kanye West's legal council..

Best,

Matthew

--

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**Information Classification: Confidential**

The information contained in this e-mail, and any attachment, is confidential and is intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. Access, copying or re-use of the e-mail or any attachment, or any information contained therein, by any other person is not authorized. If you are not the intended recipient please return the e-mail to the sender and delete it from your computer. Although we attempt to sweep e-mail and attachments for viruses, we do not guarantee that either are virus-free and accept no liability for any damage sustained as a result of viruses.

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**Information Classification: Confidential**

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# EXHIBIT E



New York | Los Angeles

7 Times Square, New York, NY 10036-6569 Tel: 212-421-4100 Fax: 212-326-0806

www.pryorcashman.com

**Brad D. Rose**  
Partner

Direct Tel: 212-326-0875  
Direct Fax: 212-798-6369  
brose@pryorcashman.com

January 6, 2014

VIA E-MAIL [coinwest@gmail.com]

**Re: Infringement of KANYE WEST Mark and Other Violations**

Dear Sir or Madam:

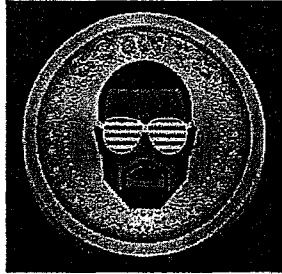
This law firm acts as litigation counsel for Kanye West and his affiliated companies. As you are aware, Mr. West is an internationally renowned musical artist, songwriter, producer, film director and fashion designer, to name just a few of Mr. West's endeavors. Mr. West has won twenty-one Grammy Awards, making him one of the most awarded artists of all-time. He has been named one of the 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine and is routinely listed by *Forbes* as one of the most successful people in the world.

Mr. West's tremendous success and notoriety has catapulted the KANYE WEST brand into a commercial asset of incalculable value. In addition to his common law rights, Mr. West owns numerous federal trademark registrations for the KANYE WEST mark for various goods and services as well as several pending applications. See, e.g., U.S. Reg. Nos. 3,648,799; 3,648,800; 3,648,801; 3,648,802; 3,648,803; and 3,648,804. Without doubt, the KANYE WEST mark is famous and is entitled the broadest protection under the law.

We write to you concerning your unauthorized use of the COINYE WEST mark in connection with a purported cryptocurrency that may be available on January 11, 2014. We have recently learned that you are promoting the COINYE WEST cryptocurrency through the <coinwest.com> website, on Facebook at <facebook.com/coinwest> and on Twitter at <twitter.com/CoinyeWest>. The COINYE WEST mark is substantially similar to the KANYE WEST mark in sight, sound, meaning and commercial impression. Interviews with the founders of the COINYE WEST cryptocurrency leave no doubt that your clear intent is to trade upon the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark and Mr. West's international fame and notoriety. In particular, several news sources have quoted the developers as stating "We chose Kanye because of his trendsetting abilities and his originality," and also that you have decided to remain anonymous "in case Kanye gets pissed off." Such statements support a finding that your infringement is blatant and willful.

Given Mr. West's wide-ranging entrepreneurial accomplishments, consumers are likely to mistakenly believe that Mr. West is the source of your services or is, at the very least, affiliated with, or has sponsored or endorsed the cryptocurrency. The likelihood that consumers will be confused is heightened by the unauthorized use of an image of Mr. West on the coin:

**PRYOR CASHMAN LLP**  
January 6, 2014  
Page 2 of 3



Your actions constitute, *inter alia*, willful trademark infringement, unfair competition, cyberpiracy and dilution in violation of Sections 32(1), 43(a), 43(c) and 43(d) of the Lanham Act, and subject you to monetary damages including treble damages based on the willful nature of the infringement.

In addition to the Lanham Act claims, you are also liable under the Copyright Act for misappropriation of Mr. West's music videos embedded in the <coinyewest.com> website. Your actions also violate Mr. West's right of publicity under state law, which subjects you to further liability.

Mr. West takes these violations of his intellectual property very seriously and seeks to resolve this matter without resort to litigation including filing an application for a temporary restraining order. Accordingly, please immediately confirm that you and all of your affiliated companies, employees, consultants, agents and representatives will immediately:

1. cease and desist from any and all use of the mark COINYE WEST and any versions of that mark including COINYE;
2. cease and desist from any and all development, sale, distribution and promotion of any and all products and services in connection with the mark KANYE WEST, or any names or marks confusingly similar to KANYE WEST, including, but not limited to, the COINYE WEST and COINYE marks;
3. cease and desist from any and all use of Mr. West's copyrighted material including his music videos;
4. deactivate the website located at <coinyewest.com>, unlock the domain name to allow it to be transferred and provide us with the authorization code to facilitate such transfer;
5. deactivate all social media accounts created and/or used in connection with the COINYE WEST mark, including, but not limited to, the Facebook account located at <facebook.com/coinyewest> and the Twitter account located at <twitter.com/CoinyeWest>; and

 **PRYOR CASHMAN LLP**  
January 6, 2014  
Page 3 of 3

6. cease all use of Mr. West's name, image or likeness in connection with any product or service.

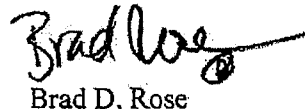
We further demand that you immediately confirm to us, in writing, no later than 5:00 p.m. E.S.T. on January 6, 2014, your intent to comply promptly with our demands, failing which our client will proceed with the necessary measures to protect its valuable rights, including, if necessary, securing injunctive relief in court against you, and recovering all appropriate damages, including treble damages, attorney's fees and costs.

If you fail to comply with these demands, we will notify the cryptocurrency community at large of your infringing actions and pursue all legal remedies against any business that accepts the purported COINYE WEST currency. Specifically, Mr. West will pursue claims of contributory trademark infringement and contributory unfair competition, among others, against any entity that accepts or exchanges the COINYE WEST currency.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, we suggest that you have your legal representative contact the undersigned before the above-referenced deadline.

The foregoing is not intended as a comprehensive statement of our client's rights or position, and nothing herein shall be deemed to be a waiver of any of our client's rights at law or in equity.

Very truly yours,



Brad D. Rose

cc: Michael Guido, Esq.