



[clubs by night](#) | [bands in town](#) | [club directory](#) | [pop concerts](#) | [classical concerts](#) | [reviews](#) | [hot links](#) |

**1/2 G. Love and Special Sauce

PHILADELPHONIC

(550 Music)

When drastic musical reinvention is necessary for guys like Moby and Beck to keep making a dent, you've gotta wonder what will become of G. Love, a musician whose sound changes with each album, but not enough to warrant a cheek pinch and a "My how you've grown!" If *Philadelphonic*, the third release by G. Love and Special Sauce since their head-turning homonymous debut, is any indication, he'll keep kickin' his laid-back, bluesy funk trip -- screw the politics of hype. And after two albums of so-so, this time the attitude works.

We've got a bona fide head bobber here with several standouts, including a "Cold Beverage"-caliber catchy number called "Do It for Free," and "Kick Drum," a sweet-sounding tune that turns out to be raunchy. The slow, jazzy rap "Roaches" is followed by "Rodeo Clowns," which wins the best-composition award though Love didn't write it. Conversely, "Rock and Roll" is a good groove but comes off cheesy with a not-as-effective Sublime-style series of shout-outs. Add an unexceptional *a cappella* closer and a 1:20-minute waste of space called "Thank You" and the final score is still more hits than misses. It's no *G. Love and Special Sauce*, but at least they're back on the right track.



— Robin A. Rothman



[home page](#) | [what's new](#) | [search](#) | [about the phoenix](#) | [feedback](#) |

Copyright © 1999 The Phoenix Media/Communications Group. All rights reserved.