

being the token female in a band—a position she has often found herself in. Rosales, who taught herself the bass at age 19—and then replaced the bassist in her boyfriend's band—says, “[Men are] a little more lax about things. The girls work really, really hard.”

And work they have, turning a lucky break into a genuine opportunity.

Just a year after “the girls” met Scott Bennett at Echo Park’s Taix 321 Lounge, EZ Tiger had finished its self-titled debut album, produced by Bennett at the legendary Sunset Sound recording studio in Hollywood, and it was garnering rave reviews in the local press.

“Scott got our music. He knew what to do with it—he didn’t overproduce it,” says McInnis. DiGeorge adds, “He didn’t mess with our sound, just captured it and brought out aspects of it. He’s done everything he said he would do, and for free, basically.”

Soon after the album dropped, the band was featured in *Music Connection* magazine’s “Top 100 Unsigned Bands” list. “It’s been fabulous,” says Rosales of the reaction from the music industry and fans alike. “We didn’t expect the reviews to be so [positive]—they really embraced the album and really liked the songs.” Everyone, it seems, loves the EZ Tiger sound, which belongs somewhere near the Pixies or The Breeders, but vocally hits closer to Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie. DiGeorge describes her singing voice as “vocal androgyny”—and it mirrors her androgynous looks. (Both DiGeorge and McInnis are gay. And their sexuality influences EZ Tiger’s lyrics, which are primarily penned by DiGeorge.)

Despite their being on the verge of hitting it big, for now all three women are keeping their day jobs. But, fingers crossed, they’re looking forward to a time when music pays all the bills. “One of these days,” says DiGeorge, “I’m going to say, ‘I don’t do anything else. This is all we do.’ That’s what we’ll be telling you in the very near future.” (reverbNation.com/eztiger) ■

“Music industry people say a lot of things, but don’t always mean what they say. So when Scott said he wanted to produce our record, I was skeptical. . . Scott did call us back, and I thought, ‘Wow—this guy isn’t joking. This might really be happening’.”

Hot Licks By Rachel Shatto



Who You Are
Jessie J
(Universal Music Group)

If auto-tuned hotties have worn out their welcome on your MP3 player, then Jessie J, the bisexual R&B (soon-to-be) sensation is just what you’re looking for. Put simply, the girl can wail. Her first album *Who You Are* is a 13-track hit machine. In fact, “Do it Like a Dude,” the gender-bending reggae-tinged rapcore track that first made lezzie ears perk up and take notice has already hit No. 2 on the U.K. charts. The soul throwback “Mamma Knows Best,” showcases Jessie J’s astounding vocal range and the instantaneously catchy album closer “Price Tag” summons visions of warm summer nights, dancing and good times. We predict *Who You Are* is the album to beat in 2012 Grammys. (universalmusic.com)



Will You Marry Me?
Rachael Kilgour
(Self-released)

There is something gleefully reminiscent of the female-driven music of the mid-’90s in Rachael Kilgour’s new album. Perhaps it’s that it’s infused with a DIY spirit but it’s also uniquely feminine in the way so much of the music was in Lilith Fair’s heyday. Rich, skillful instrumentation backs Kilgour’s melodic and subtly quavering voice on standout tracks “Snowplow” and “Dirty Girl.” Plus, the out singer-songwriter isn’t afraid to infuse personal politics into her music. The album is named for a song that is equal parts celebration of her grandparents’ 60-year marriage and her commitment to marriage equality. This is the perfect openly queer fit for fans of Joan Osborne or Lisa Loeb. (rachaelkilgour.com)



Walls An Horse
(BMI)

Returning for their second album, *Walls*, Aussie duo Kate Cooper and Damon Cox continue to refine their sound, a synergy of atmospheric indie pop. Cooper wrote most of the songs while adjusting to her new home in Montreal, through both the joy of a new girlfriend and the shocking illness of a family member, the result of which is songs infused with longing and melancholy told through her clever and confessional lyrics. It’s this sadness, juxtaposed with spunky pop attitude, plus Cooper’s charming but quirkily accented voice, that make for an audibly pleasing dissonance. The swanky lead track “Dressed Sharply” is The Killers meets Tegan and Sara, and title track is delightfully odd. (bmi.com)



Oh Land
Oh Land
(Epic Records)

Like so many artists, Denmark native Oh Land’s career sprang from adversity. Trained in ballet, her hopes of being a professional dancer were cut short by a spinal injury. But after realizing that her love of dance and singing were inspired by the same passion for music, she emerged from this dark time reinvented. Oh Land’s sophomore self-titled album is twinkling, ethereal and irreverent trip-hop with a dance edge. “Perfection,” a beat-driven orchestral song, underscores Oh Land’s enchanting, soaring voice and the throbbing dance floor-friendly “Son Of a Gun” landed Oh Land a New Now Next: Brink of Fame nomination from Logo. If you like Sia, Poe or Portishead, you’ll love Oh Land. (epicrecords.com)

LEE BROOMFIELD (JESSIE J), MARK FITZGIBBONS (KILGOUR), SHERVIN LAINEZ (AN HORSE)