

# ELLE CANADA RADAR

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**F**an Death is made for girl crushes. The Vancouver-based dark-disco duo's music is unique and sexy, and its members are beautiful, chic and multi-talented to boot. Both Dandelion Wind Opaine and Marta Jaciubek-McKeever discovered their artistic leanings early. Opaine's father—a sculptor—began teaching his daughter to draw, sculpt and paint when she was two, while Jaciubek-McKeever spent her early childhood at a music conservatory in her native Poland. When they're not making music as Fan Death, Jaciubek-McKeever plays with a Polish folk group called e.s.l., and Opaine, a proud art-school dropout, has her own band, called Dandi Wind. The pair met about six years ago after Jaciubek-McKeever attended a Dandi Wind show and >

Opaine (left): Denim dress (H&M), bangles (Basia Design), necklace (UPC), tights (Secret), shoes (Fifth Avenue Shoe Repair) and hat (Lara Vincent).  
Jaciubek-McKeever: Dress (Greta Constantine), shoes (Browns), zebra necklace and necklace worn as a bracelet (Basia Design)

## FANFAIR

Vancouver's robo-pop hipsters look to the future.





The name "Fan Death" is based on a South Korean legend that electric fans can suck the oxygen out of a room and suffocate everyone. "Our music is so different from our other projects; we didn't know how our fans would respond," says Jaciubek-McKeever.

developed her own girl crush. "I basically became Dandi's stalker!" she says, laughing. "I didn't have any qualms about phoning her up and bugging her until we became pals." A friendship developed, and, soon enough, they were collaborating on music projects. Their debut album, *Womb of Dreams*, is set for release this summer. The music is one part sad robo-disco and one part ominous futuristic synth-pop. "I cringe every time someone says that our stuff is superpop—this is as pop as we'd go!" insists Jaciubek-McKeever.

“I CRINGE EVERY TIME SOMEONE SAYS THAT OUR STUFF IS SUPERPOP—THIS IS AS POP AS WE'D GO!”

The girls' style—they share a penchant for catsuits, sequins, elaborate vintage ensembles and space-age silver lamé—is as captivating as their music. "Dressing up and looking a certain part is really fun, and it's important to have an image that suits the music. It also give me confidence onstage," explains Opaine. "Dressing up helps me too," adds Jaciubek-McKeever. "I'm not one to hide." Rounding out their artistic cred are their popular limited-edition tees, featuring Opaine's erotic black-and-white photography, and the 200,000-plus YouTube hits for their self-made, dreamy,

Sofia Coppola-like music videos. Despite their many talents, the bandmates' down-to-earth nature keeps them grounded. "Because I've been in music for so long, I don't consider myself 'an artist,'" says Jaciubek-McKeever. "My Polish grandma instilled a strange sense of duty in me regarding my craft as a musician. It has always felt more like something I was obligated to do because I was lucky enough to have very good musical training and talent, I suppose." BRIONY SMITH

See a video of our Fan Death shoot at [ellecanada.com/June](http://ellecanada.com/June).



● On his fittingly titled new album, *Swim* (Merge/F.A.B.), **Caribou**—a.k.a. Dan Snaith—reaches beyond the hard-edged, metallic conventions of electronic dance music for a more fluid, buoyant sound. The Dundas, Ont., musician and math Ph.D. makes music that is both intensely beautiful and eminently danceable using trickling melodies, breathy vocals and a dazzling palette of sounds: from horns and flutes to gongs, harps, steel drums and many kinds of percussion. ● **D'Tach** (Sparks Music/EMI) is the title of the compelling new album from **Chin Injeti**, who made his name as a singer-songwriter with the Juno-winning trio Bass Is Base before producing the likes of Drake, Nas and Talib Kweli. Chin, as he's now known, calls the music on this album "urban folk," which is a good description for these stripped-down songs featuring his mellifluous voice, simple acoustic guitar and occasional touches like piano and Indian percussion, plus guest vocals from K'Naa and Zaki Ibrahim. ● **Carl Newman**, the leader of Vancouver supergroup **The New Pornographers**, is a pop genius who continues to write intricate, vibrantly original songs with soaring harmonies, cryptic lyrics and sweet, sticky melodies that are impossible to get out of your head. The band's fifth album, *Together* (Last Gang Records/Universal Music Canada), is characteristically complex and crowded with players and instrumental flourishes, yet singers Newman and Neko Case ably hold the musical chaos together. MARY DICKIE