

Not so superficial



“Busy etching their name in the Melbourne music scene”

Their lyrics may be introverted, but combined with their stuck-your-head melodies and jangly tunes, Melbourne three-piece Pop Singles, are just trying to bring smiles to the people. Spawned two months ago out of front man Tam Matlakowski's song writing (he's the one on the right), Pop Singles is made up of Ashleigh Wyatt on drums, Pete Bramley on Bass and Tam on guitar and vocals.

“We sound like the Go Betweens, definitely,” Wyatt, a visual arts student at Swinburne, says.

Although only relatively new, these three have been busy etching their name in the

gargantuan wall that is the Melbourne music scene.

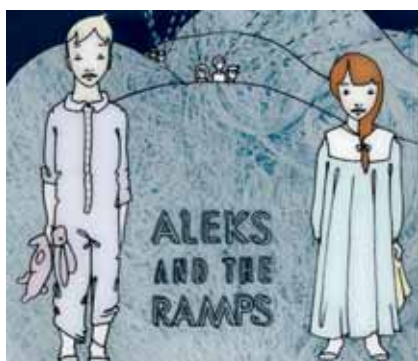
“The title being Pop Singles, in some ways it says superficial but I think if people get into the songs, and into the band, it's supposed to be a bit serious.” Matlakowski, who along with Bramley is studying sound engineering at Box Hill, says.

“But not too serious,” Wyatt is quick to add.

All three like their dynamic, their roughness and have no plans to change a thing (unless someone good-looking enough comes along).

Keep your eyes peeled for Pop Singles, who are set to play at Bar Open on June 3 with Dream Twins, Drumheller and The Beat Disease.

Emma Lennox

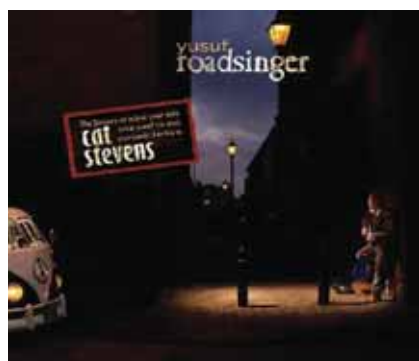


Aleks and the Ramps

Midnight Believer
Stomp

In 2005 in a year off from Film School, Alex recorded a solo EP and changed the X in his name to KS for no real reason. The EP proved to be rough but impressive debut. A band was formed solely for the purpose of having a launch for the EP and thus the ramps were formed.

From these unintentional beginnings, Aleks and the Ramps slowly morphed into a “real” band that played regular shows and composed music in a collaborative process. Performances began to feature choreographed dance moves, ill-fitting basketball uniforms, injuries and equipment breakages due to wild stage behaviour accompanying their schizophrenic pop tunes. *Midnight Believer* will be released on May 30.



Yusuf Islam

Roadsinger
Universal

After retreating from the pop stage following classic '70s multi-platinum albums such as *Tea For The Tillerman* and *Teaser And The Firecat* and acclaimed hits such as *Wild World*, *Peace Train*, *Moonshadow*, *Morning Has Broken* and *Father And Son*, Yusuf returned in late 2006 with his first pop album in 28 years. Now a second album, *Roadsinger* is to be released.

“I was absent from my audience for so long,” Yusuf says, “With this new album, the distance is much less. I'm back to doing what I do best— painting pictures with music and storytelling on a very human, personal, intuitive level through lyrics and song, so I can help people feel good again.”

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