



the besties singer



Pitchfork and William Safire have two things in common: they both wrote about twee in 2005. Safire mused in *The New York Times*, "Will the word twee, as a reaction to raunch, continue to spread in the English-speaking world?" Pitchfork followed a few weeks later with a controversial history of indiepop, declaring that out there, somewhere, girls and boys are recording on four-tracks in their bedrooms. The conclusion; **"during the next few years, we'll need more of that homespun pop."**

The Besties bring a breath of fresh air and charm to a new generation of twee pop with their debut release, *Singer*. Listed as **Best Pop Song** and **Most Promising New Act** on the 2004 twee.net poll, the band graduated from the bedroom and into the studio to create music "like a polka-dot dress came to life and started playing the keyboard," as one fan wrote on msnbc.com. Marisa and Kelly on vocals and keyboards sing their dream boy to life, while Rikky strums on the guitar. Here's a band so darn cute and tightly knit you might just want to wrap them all up with a big bow. Clever lyrics and melodies create songs about forbidden love and danger; a fantastical scenario in outer space, the zombie lover and way out West with gun-totin' cowboys. Songs like "Siren Song" and "Sweden Song" contrast the bubblegum pop with nostalgic memories and faraway love.

Marisa and Kelly grew up together on Anna Maria Island off the coast of Florida. They met in Mrs. Brockway's 2nd grade class and have been besties ever since. The girls spent their time having pancakes on the beach, singing into a tape recorder and bringing boys to the haunted house after school to make out. Meanwhile, on the other side of Florida, Rikky was growing up and doing naughty things like making out with girls and skipping school, things unbecoming of a young man whose given name was Richard Francis Walsh IV.

Marisa and Kelly met Rikky in college, where he was playing in a punk band and still skipping school. The ladies took their very first keyboard course, "keyboard 101 for non-music majors" where they proved to be the worst players in the class. It was with this encouragement that shortly thereafter, Marisa and Kelly moved to New York City and started writing songs together in a band called The Besties. Rikky moved to New York and joined the party, and The Besties' trademark sound started to take shape. They didn't know any drummers, hence the keyboard drums. At first they were too scared to sing alone, hence the vocal harmonies.

The Besties live together in an old knitting factory in Brooklyn. A team of friends came together in true DIY spirit to create the release. One friend offered studio time, photographer Leah Morgan turned the loft into a photo shoot and Wes Duvall headed up the art direction. The recording was mixed by The Besties, with help from fellow musician Jayme Guokas from The Snow Fairies.

"it's really good to hear a band that plays **happy and melodic indiepop the way it's supposed to sound**" pennyblackmusic (UK)

"**Sugar-sweet pop melodies** ...Marisa, Kelly and Rikky bring new brightness into your hut." Intro Magazine (Germany)



"keyboard-pop with a guitar and lovely female vocals. **Bubblegumpop twee, I love it.**"
thepoweroftwee.blogspot.com (Sweden)

"The keyboards and the drum machine make the difference [with] "rock fills" intros and exciting synth sounds [and] **the guitar feels fresh too ... more than the standard jangle.**" Common Paper (Sweden)

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RIYL: The Shermans, All Girl Summer Fun Band, Talulah Gosh, Tullycraft, The Maybellines, The Swirlies, early Magnetic Fields and Japanese pop.

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