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Spring brings a flowering of fresh faces in music field

February

ATC, *Planet Pop*. The single *Around the World (La La La La La)* already is huge in Germany, home of the multinational coed teen-pop quartet -- Joe of New Zealand, Tracey of England, Livio of Italy and Sarah of Australia. The name stands for "a touch of class." Tuesday.

***Raisins in the Sun*.** Seven industry vets, including singer/songwriter Jules Shear and producer/keyboardist Jim Dickinson, teamed on a self-titled debut of rootsy rock and pop, written and recorded in two weeks in Tucson. Tuesday.

Fredro Starr, *Firestarr*. Solo debut for former Onyx member who recently did the theme for and appeared in the hit film *Save the Last Dance*. Guests include Case, Aaron Hall and Sticky Fingaz. Feb. 13.

Tim Rushlow. Former Little Texas member releases his solo debut, with single *She Misses Him* already in the country top 30. Feb. 20.

Moreno Veloso, *Music Typewriter*. The son of fabled Tropicalismo founder Caetano Veloso blends traditional Brazilian sounds with trendy electronica. Feb. 20.

American Hi-Fi, *Flavor of the Weak*, first single from the Boston band's self-titled debut, is clicking at rock radio. Stacy Jones, former drummer for Veruca Salt, Letters to Cleo and Aimee Mann, is Hi-Fi's founder, guitarist and singer/songwriter. Feb. 27.

Mirwais, *Production*. First single *Naïve Song* launches a solo album of electronica by the French producer who helped craft six tunes on Madonna's *Music*. Feb. 27.

***Outsiderz for Life*.** The five guys in this grittier facsimile of the Backstreet Boys hail from Virginia and craft hard-edged soul pop. Timbaland produced *College Degree*. Aaliyah sings on *Ain't Never*. Feb. 27.

Sticky Fingaz, *Black Trash: The Autobiography of Kirk Jones*. Solo debut for former Onyx member. Guests include Raekwon, Rah Digga, Redman, Dave Hollister and Fredro Starr. Feb. 27.

March

Sasha Alexander, *Dedicated To*. Already a global sensation, the hunky German-born star, 28, hopes to seduce the USA with a dozen original pop and soul tunes inspired by American heroes from Elvis to Nirvana.

March 6.

Alien Ant Farm, *Anthology*. Released jointly by DreamWorks and Papa Roach's New Noize label, the guitar-based rock band's debut promises "something relevant," says bassist Tye Zamora. March 6.

Jaheim, *Ghetto Love*. Co-produced by KayGee (Naughty by Nature), the 21-year-old's debut, which *The Source* dubs "musical Viagra," is drawn comparisons to Teddy Pendergrass. March 13.

Georgia Middleman, *Endless Possibilities*. Two failed singles suggest possibilities are becoming limited for singer/songwriter who has written for Martina McBride and The Kinleys. March 13.

Olivia. Street-smart, Brooklyn-born R&B singer's first single is the sexy *Bizoune*. March 13.

SWAG, *Catchall*. The Nashville pop-rock collective, featuring such vets as Ken Coomer of Wilco, Robert Reynolds of The Mavericks and Tom Petersson of Cheap Trick, issues its first album. March 13.

Trick Pony. Video-friendly country-pop trio, introduced by *Pour Me*, will have to overcome jokes about their name. Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings backing them on a song won't hurt. March 13.

Canela. R&B/pop singer debuts with Rodney Jerkins-produced album. March 20.

D-12. Eminem's Detroit-based sidekicks, the inaugural act on his Shady label, collaborated with the rap superstar on *Under the Influence* and *Amityville*, on *The Marshall Mathers LP*. Eminem's stamp ensures prompt scrutiny. March 20.

DeLouie, *King Before His Time*. Multi-talented Miami-area singer's music shows an eclectic blend of influences, including folk, gospel, opera and soul. March 20.

Killing Heidi, *Reflector*. Teen siblings Ella (vocals) and Jesse Hooper (guitar) front the rock quartet from Australia, where this album entered the chart at No. 1 last year. March 20.

Koffee Brown, *Mars Venus*. Male-female R&B duo has first single *After Party* already climbing the charts. March 20.

L-Burna (A.K.A. Layzie Bone), *Thug by Nature*. Solo debut for Bone Thugs-N-Harmony member. The title track includes guest appearances by WC, Aaron Hall and Flesh-N-Bone. March 20.

Mil, *Street Scriptures*. Philadelphia rapper who used to partner with Beanie Sigel makes his debut. His first single, *Ride Out*, features the Hot Boyz and Sigel. March 20.

Minibar, *Road Movies*. Brit-pop meets American roots in the English

quartet's wry, hook-laden 11-track collection, produced by T Bone Burnett. March 20.

So Plush. This female vocal quartet, introduced on last year's *Blue Streak* soundtrack, is the first act signed by hit producer Rodney Jerkins, who produced their maiden batch of R&B and rap. March 20.

Unloco, Healing. The Austin, Texas, hard-rock quartet grabbed attention with *Nothing* on the *Little Nicky* soundtrack. March 20.

India Arie, Acoustic Soul. Debut from talked-about guitar-slinging soul singer/songwriter. March 27.

Bilal, 1st Born Second. Philly's latest multi-talented soul singer/songwriter. March 27.

Meredith Edwards, Reach. *A Rose Is a Rose*, first single from this Mississippi teenager, seems to be overcoming skepticism springing from her introduction to Nashville by 'N Sync's Lance Bass. March 27.

Jadakiss, untitled. Solo debut from The LoX rapper. March 27.

Liberty City, Liberty City, Fla. R&B quartet who sang 24/7 on *The Wood* soundtrack bows. March 27.

The St. Lunatics. Breakout rapper Nelly teams with the group that spawned him, which features longtime partners Ali, Kyjuan, Murphy Lee and City Spud. March 27.

Pete Yorn, Music for the Morning After. Buzz is growing around the 26-year-old, L.A.-based singer/songwriter, who gained notice for his *Me, Myself & Irene* score and *Just Another* on the *Songs From Dawson's Creek, Vol. 2*. Plays most instruments on and co-produced his diverse debut. March 27.

April

Anastacia, Not That Kind. The pop/rock/soul/dance artist heralds her new album, delayed since early last year, with first single *I'm Outta Love*. April 10.

Dark Blu. Gritty quartet's debut, featuring first single *Quit Telling*, written and produced by Gerald Levert. April 10.

Powderfinger, Odyssey Number Five. Massively popular Australian rock band tries its luck in the USA. April 10.

Joy Enriquez. Debut from California-born Latin-R&B singer, 20, features production from Babyface, Fred and Rodney Jerkins and Soulshock and Karlin. April 17.

Syleena Johnson, Chapter 1: Love, Pain & Forgiveness. The daughter of '70s soul star Svl Johnson has already drawn notice for her bluesy sou

style. First single *I Am Your Woman* is written and produced by R. Kelly. April 17.

The Product G&B, *Ghetto and Blues*. The soulful voices behind Santana's hit *Maria Maria* make their debut. April 17.

Black Thought, *Masterpiece Theater*. Solo debut for Philly rappers The Roots' frontman. April 24.

Jolie & The Wanted. Country quartet featuring singer Jolie Edwards and two former members of Nashville rockers The Evinrudes try to build on moderate success of CMT video hit *Boom*. April 24.

L.A. Symphony, *Call It What You Want*. Collective of eight MCs/producers from the Los Angeles underground makes debut. April.

Popstars. The girl group that springs triumphant from the reality-TV series will lend a name and title to this release. First single *Get Over Yourself* is due March 13. Richard Marx is among songwriters contributing to the album. April.

Skindive. The Dublin quartet, signed by Chris Blackwell (of U2 and Cranberries scouting fame) is generating critical kudos for a trippy, tough and sexy sound dubbed "cinematic electronic rock." April.

Sunday, *Family Matters*. Whitney Houston-groomed female quintet (three sisters, two cousins) from New Jersey with gospel-inflected pop harmonies. April.
