

# ELLERADAR

● **BLK JKS'** music has been called Afrofuturism, and it's hard to think of a better term to describe the Johannesburg quartet's unique global mixture of jazz, dub, township and prog-rock influences. On their exhilarating debut album, **After Robots** (Secretly Canadian/Sonic Unyon), furiously intense drumming and fiery guitar solos complement English vocals, and horns by New York's Hypnotic Brass Ensemble pump

up the already sky-high excitement level. ● Love gone awry and blue-collar jobs are the principal subjects of the well-honed songs on **The Warped 45s'** debut album, **10 Day Poem for Saskatchewan** (Pheromone Recordings/Fontana North Distribution). The McEathron cousins were raised in Oshawa and Algonquin Park, Ont., and their melodic country-rock sound, embellished by fiddle, banjo and piano, evokes the likes of Wilco, The Tragically Hip and early Van Morrison.

● On their fourth album, **Origin: Orphan** (Arts & Crafts/EMI), **The Hidden Cameras**

delve into darker themes. The title track is a cry of loneliness, and "Ratify the New" opens with an ominous extended synth chord before breaking into a minor-key tune about breaking old patterns. But fans anxious for the joyful anthems they've come to expect from the Toronto ensemble will raise their arms and sing along to the irresistible tunes of "In the Na," "He Falls to Me" and "The Little Bit." **MARY DICKIE**

