AND THE SONG OF THE SUMMER WILL BE…

THE ONE ABOUT TAKING A KNIFE TO THE HEART. YOU HEARD US.

RIHANNA

“TAKE A BOW”

The reigning queen of the summer hopes to take the crown again, basically the same way she did last year. Like “Umbrella,” “Take a Bow” has a big hook, an easy-to-understand central metaphor, and Rihanna’s smooth voice. But is it the ear worm its predecessor was?

LEONA LEWIS

“BLEEDING LOVE”

The undeniable chorus of this Simon Cowell protégé’s debut single loudly and memorably declares, “You cut me loudly and memorably.” The promotion for Leona’s debut single should make it even more inescapable.

LIL WAYNE

“LOLLIPOP”

His sharp wit and innumerable mix-tape releases have already made him the blogosphere’s most-revered emcee, but can he connect with pop audiences? This undeniable oral-sex anthem sticks to the shallow end of his lyrical potential, which should make it even more inescapable.

LILY L瑷ANE

“LOVE IN THIS CLUB”

The award for Most Likely to Be Heard in a Club unquestionably belongs to this synth-adulterated paean to VIP-section coitus, whose chorus is as infectious as it is inadvisable.

COLDPLAY

“VIOLET HILL”

According to reports, the sales of Coldplay’s Viva La Vida could make or break its label, the hit-studded EMI—so it’s imperative that the album’s lead single perform well. Did we mention it’s an angry, experimental departure from the band’s typical wuzzy, romantic piano balladry and features a barely discernible chorus?

NEW YORK TIMES

“SUMMERTIME”

Back after fifteen years on the shelf, these grizzled teen-pop prototypes hope to reenergize their original fan base—the people for whom the Jonas Brothers could never fill the void—with a summery, hook-filled track much different from their late-eighties greatest hits.

ESTELLE

“AMERICAN BOY”

Over a breezy keyboard line, Estelle—a siren, London-based Lauryn Hill—c o d e n o t e n t a n t y c o n v i n c e s the titular Yankee (played by a half-singing Kanye West) that she’s interested in more than just his week U.S. dollars. It’s a smash in Britain, but can it jump the pond? Man, we hope so.

elysane

“KISS AND TELL”

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