AND THE SONG OF THE SUMMER WILL BE .. THE ONE ABOUT TAKING A KNIFE TO THE HEART. YOU HEARD US.

RIHANNA

11 "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 protégée's debut single loudly and memorably declares, "You cut me open and I / Keep bleeding/Keep, keep bleeding love." It's the most romantic song ever about being stabbed.

LIL WAYNE

3 "LOLLIPOP"

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

USHER

4 "LOVE IN THIS CLUB"

The award for Most Likely to Be Heard in a Club unquestionably belongs to this synthaddled paean to VIPsection 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 hitstarved EMI-so it's imperative that the album's lead single perform well. Did we mention it's an angsty. experimental departure from the band's typical weepy, romantic piano balladry and features a barely discernible chorus?

memorial day ightarrow

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NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

O "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 not much different from their late-eighties greatest hits.

"NO MATTER WHAT"

The promotion for Clifford Harris's new album, Paper Trail, might be complicated, slightly, by his impending yearlong prison sentence for a federal weapons conviction. Good thing this track—a catchy, slow-burning selfaffirmation-pretty much sells itself.

ESTELLE

3 "AMERICAN BOY"

Over a breezy keyboard line, Estelle—a saner, London-based Lauryn Hill-coolly convinces the titular Yankee (played by a half-singing Kanye West) that she's interested in more than just his weak U.S. dollars. It's a smash in Britain, but can it jump the pond? Man, we hope so.

LANE BROWN AND DAN KOIS OF VULTURE

"Is this by that girl who sang 'Umbrella'? **I like** this almost as EXTREME DANGER + exposures per day; insani stroke, dancing in office In ultimate sign of ubiquity, song title is used "Great song! It sounds like "Man, Lewis in N.Y. Times Umbrella'? reassures NYPD claims fans: "It's op-ed headline not quite as Now, that stabbings are up pun. was a great metaphor. hlames "Bleeding Love." playlists at Uniqlo, Old Navy, Orchard ubiquity helps Beach America boom-box rediscover Chico's, and **guys** adopt or next vear "What's up? Nothin much, just Added to Adopted by Central playlists at Uniqlo, Old Navy, Párk disco roller skaters. and Chico's so out of contro that spring '09 boom of babies Popularity thirds of Mansion momentarily derailed by **anti-**Dozens of Facebook 7-9 exposures p dehydras New York users use Pacha lyrics as status clubs protesters. shuttered for update. Added violations to playlists at Uniqlo of decency and Old Navy. Several Flood of mix clubs suffei As weather tapes confuses stained the Lil Wayne gets colder, couches after song's too much Added popularity increases; love occurs to playlist at **Uniglo**. No. 1 at first Too hot T.I. on workfor oral release; song frost suddenly sounds way Kids embark less awesome. on a surprise T.I. sent to tour of prison early New Jersey song suddenly sounds way more awesom Jordan's and Donnie's hipdude Nostalgia on subway kicks in impede single's bursts into again promotion. Even hard-core Coldplay fans can't Gwyneth make the case surreptitiously NYU study-abroad kids New Kids that this break up song is Hill" from her expelled, sent summery "Summer Hits '08' home; bring love of Estelle second iPod playlist. back with them PHOTOGRAPHS: JUPITER IMAGES (CROWN), DAVID YOUDELL/HEADPRESS/RETNA LTD. (LEWIS); TINA PAUL/CAMERA PRESS/RETNA LTD. (ESTELLE); CHRIS ASHFORD)(CAMERA PRESS/RETNA LTD. (RIHANNA), JOHN RICARD/RETNA LTD. (USHER); KEVIN MAZURIWIRIMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (WAHLERGE); FRANK MULLEN/WIRIEMAGE (MARTIN); SOZUED ALEDILERI/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE); ROLLEON/RETNA LTD. (LIL WAYNE)

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