



e.s.l.



Veering wildly between Polish cabaret and chamber pop, to a whimsical and delicate Old Hollywood vibe, the sly and enchanting women of e.s.l. spin Romany-esque melodies that will catch your ear and entangle you in their spell. Their taunting, tempting songs are modern tales of urban sensibility that rant against rampant consumerism and celebrate love as play, conveying an awareness and heartfelt reflection on reality of our times.

Ethereal vocals might evoke a late-night bar, or maybe a shrouded grove at twilight where the sprites come out to dance. Gorgeous vocal harmonies, shake-your-booty beats, melancholic string lines, sassy horns, and straight-to-the-point lyrics are tinged with the hedonistic ingredients of wild magic, dark carnivals, and joyously broken rules.

Since the band's inception in 2005, these Vancouverites have accumulated an impressive array of accomplishments. e.s.l. has performed at numerous festivals over the years, including Dawson City Music Festival, Calgary Folk Festival, Regina Folk Festival, Vancouver Island Music Festival, South Country Fair, and Artswells. 2012 invited them to the stages of the PUSH Festival, Winnipeg Folk Festival and Vancouver Folk Festival. They are also in high demand at home, having played in many of Vancouver's eclectic music scenes. e.s.l.'s debut album, "Eye Contact", released on Jericho Records in 2008, garnered rave reviews and has been on full rotation on the CBC as well as broadcast on the CBC Canada Live series. It has also been featured on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network and countless Canadian television shows.

These players each possess a lifetime of musical experience. All equally proficient players, they produce a dynamic show that takes you from orchestral soundscapes to underground dance clubs with prohibition-era abandon. Onstage, years of cabin retreats and porch shows display a comfortable and trusting playfulness that only dear, old friends share. You will fall in love.

The 2008 album "eye contact", released on Jericho Beach Records, garnered rave reviews across Canada, and received the full support of the CBC. Track highlights include the driving rhythms of "Secretariat" and the lush cello sounds and vocal ache of "Side By Side".

e.s.l. is:

Marta Jaciubek-McKeever  
Piano, Lead Vocals (*Fan Death, Girl Nobody*)

Cris Derksen  
Cello (*Tanya Tagaq, Kanye West*)

Diona Davies  
Violin (*Geoff Berner, Po' Girl, Carolyn Mark*)

Joy Mullen  
Drums (*Joyce Collingwood, The Doers*)

Tess Kitchen  
Trumpet (*Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, The Salteens*)

*"If Charlie Chaplin wrote songs with Bjork to be the soundtrack for a Tim Burton film, their collective musical result would come close to resembling the goodness, timelessness and otherworldliness of e.s.l."*

- Denise Sheppard, Music Journalist (*Rolling Stone*)