

Clockwise from left: Blitzen Trapper, Kate Voegele, Tinatin



Anané

Tommy Boy Records

Dance music is full of wannabe divas oversinging and attempting charisma. But newcomer Anané, with roots in Portugal and the island nation of Cape Verde, takes the stage decked out like Diana Ross, then proceeds to get down like Lauryn Hill fronting the Fugees.

After a string of singles on dance indie Vega Records, her debut album, "Selections," is scheduled for a May release on Tommy Boy.

Framed around three covers well-known to the club community, but obscure to everyone else—ESG's "Standing in Line," Bunny Mack's

Tinatin

Liaison Music

While most children were mastering the art of finger painting, 6-year-old Tinatin had wrapped her arms around a full spectrum of the arts: painting, writing, learning to speak six languages—and singing.

The native of the Republic of Georgia (then part of the Soviet Union) came to it naturally; her father was an architect and painter, her mother a classical pianist.

The family moved to Russia, where she studied classical voice. Then, as a young adult, she journeyed to London, where she aligned with producer Christopher Neil (Celine Dion, Mike & the Mechanics, Rod Stewart), who encouraged her to write songs and helped line up live gigs.

Today, at 23, the raven-haired, blue-eyed Tinatin (now a *New Yorker*) has released a CD independently on PureMix Records and gained interest from two major labels.

Her rallying first single, "We the Peoples," is based on the 1945 founding of the United Nations charter, another natural alliance stemming from her gig as a U.N. correspondent for the Russian media.

Tinatin continues to work with Neil, along with producers Eliot Kennedy, Arnie Roman, Ayhan Sahin and Marc Russell & Dave Scheuer, with the goal of mainstream attention in 2008.

"I'm in my true element when I sing," Tinatin says. "I have already exceeded my wildest dreams. Now I'm looking for the ultimate adventure."

—Chuck Taylor