

Demander

THE THREE MEMBERS of Demander, perhaps New York City's most boisterous, witty and good-natured group, have dug in deep at B-Side, a quaint but bombastic bar on the Lower East Side, discussing the nuances of drummer Sivan Harlap's latest invention: the Caesar Slice, a pizza with a Caesar salad on top. Perched at a stainless-steel table, guitarist Jared P. Scott takes a bite, nods, smiles and retorts, "That's pretty fucking good." The bar has become a second home, rally point and late-night rendezvous for a band devoid of an obvious scene affiliation. This is due primarily to their dizzyingly addictive sound, which siphons off progressive punk and metal while salaciously seizing Sleater-Kinney's darkest shipwrecked moments. The conundrum is complex, and it's fitting that their MySpace page lists just a single influence:

alcohol. "If you go into influences, I feel like you could list them, but it doesn't say what you are. It doesn't say what you sound like," Harlap explains. "Alcohol. Why not?" There will be plenty to drink when the band heads out with Art Brut and the Hold Steady for a five-day warm-up tour, before setting off on a month-plus European doozy with New Model Army in support of *The Unkindness Of Ravens*, their recently self-released debut full-length. Surprising as it is, Demander is quite content to remain label-less and run all aspects of their career themselves. "We don't operate in a ridiculous DIY mode, we operate in a very functional DIY mode," singer/bassist Karen Correa explains. "We're a sustainable band." And just to clear any eco-confusion, Scott adds: "We don't use any bovine growth hormones or pesticides." **MATT KISER**



Demand it yourself (left to right): Jared Scott, Karen Kanan Correa and Sivan Harlap

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