



## He's My Brother She's My Sister

People know this act for its drummer who tap-dances the beat, but there's more to He's My Brother She's My Sister than novelty percussion. The L.A.-based group—founded by real-life siblings Rob and Rachel Kolar—also serve up upbeat, catchy songs. After a self-titled EP in 2010, last year the quintet released the full-length debut *Nobody Dances in This Town*, a collection of tunes that draw from folk, garage-rock and cabaret influences. Rachel Kolar shares vocal duties with her brother, who thumps away on a kick drum while he sings and plays guitar. Lead guitarist Aaron Robinson plays lap steel, and the musicians dress in flamboyant vaudevillian attire. So what are they hoping for at SXSW this year? "I'd say wisdom, experience and new fans," Rob Kolar says. "But let's be honest, a European label!" Rachel Kolar has different goals: "I'm going to dance with as many people as I can."

## Spirit Family Reunion

Spirit Family Reunion features a bunch of New York City natives playing in a rustic string band. What started as a trio absorbed another trio, and the six-piece group practiced on the streets and in the subways of New York. Though they come from varied backgrounds, they play songs rooted in the intersection of their common interests. "Where it overlaps is that love for simple, almost primitive-sounding American music," says singer and guitarist Nick Panken, "and whether it's jazz, punk, bluegrass or rock 'n' roll, I think that comes out in our sound." The band had a big 2012, releasing the effervescent 12-song debut *No Separation* and landing gigs at the Newport Folk Festival and on NPR's *Mountain Stage*. In addition to performing, they have other plans for SXSW this year—hoping to catch up with friends and dine on Texas barbecue. "We're looking forward to some sunshine," Panken says.



## Chris Webby

When it comes to backstories, Chris Webby's is hard to top. A motor-mouthed MC from Connecticut who started rapping in middle school, Webby was arrested while attending Long Island's Hofstra University after driving the getaway car for friends who robbed a drug dealer. Chastened by his brush with the law, Webby turned his focus to music, putting out one mixtape after another. His latest, *Bars on Me*, is his seventh release since 2009, and features contributions from high-profile artists including Wu-Tang Clan's Method Man and Prodigy of Mobb Deep. His volume of product affords Webby plenty of time to practice, and the result is a smooth lyrical flow on songs showcasing his quick wit and broad command of pop culture. He's equally at home dropping references to video games, weed and current events. Though he doesn't lack for wry self-confidence, the 23-year-old rapper earned it before ever releasing an "official" album.