

# NOW HEAR THIS

*A weekly trip through the new-release aisle of your local music store*

## **BLINKER THE STAR**

**August Everywhere**

(Dreamworks Records)

In Blinker the Star's deliciously retro world, the Electric Light Orchestra never broke up, Pink Floyd still records orchestral concept albums, and the 1980s never happened.

The Canadian trio's second major-label effort is a refreshing return to the swirling glory of 1970s art rock, starting with its roots in the late Beatles albums and ending in the lush pre-new-wave sounds of ELO and Queen.

As with a certain subset of the art rock that the band echoes, the lyrics of Blinker the Star are cryptic, poetic and even a bit racy in a murky sort of way.

But, frankly, the lyrics are beside the point. The luscious wall of sound — the violins, the synths, the choral backup singing — makes this an album worth hearing. — *Sean Scully*

Dec. 4, 1999