With Darling (LP), Edmonton/Victoria-based ZERBIN have perfected their unique brand of anthemic and symphonic alt-pop, hinted at on their recent EP Touch. Polished, rousing, and glorious: it’s the kind of thing that happens when you transplant Alberta boys to the sea. Darling is the sound of the prairie and the coast, wrought in immediately engaging songs that get stuck in your head and heart.

It was this move to Canada’s West Coast and an evolution in band members that brought about the solidifying of ZERBIN’s creative core. Drummer Duran Ritz joined the writing and production nucleus of multi-instrumentalists Jason Zerbin and Peter Mol right around the beginning of tracking Darling. Together they’ve managed to create a sonic collage that transports listeners into the band’s artistic headspace.

Written and recorded over six weeks in a one hundred-year-old house on Vancouver Island, Darling offers a glimpse into the true soul of the band. “The tracks for me mix with the tensions of hope and struggle” says Zerbin. “A lot of the record references relationship or spirituality, as they are lenses that we tend to see through. Each song became a different brush stroke in an attempt to make a picture of this life, with all its glorious complexity.”

Relishing in the freedom that came through self-production, the band was able to venture deep into the sonics of Darling. Instead of pulling on pre-made paths they opted to forge their own, drawing on Zerbin’s collection of vintage gear to mold the textures they envisioned. Taking advantage of the acoustics found in the heritage home-turned-studio, the band was able to craft and shape each part specifically. “We used the ambience of each unique space in a lot of what we created” says Zerbin. “A big part of the finished sound was capturing the air and frequencies moving in each room.”

Joining the trio in the final stages of Darling were mixers Dave Pensado (Michael Jackson, Beyonce, Elton John) and Tom Dobrzenski (Said the Whale, Hey Ocean!, We Are the City), each of whom brought a unique perspective and experience to the individual tracks they mixed. “We hope that listeners will see a bit of themselves in Darling” says Mol. “The most powerful songs to us are the ones that you hear and immediately feel as though they are your own. It would be a dream for this record to become that for people. A space and time for them to lose or find themselves in.”

This all-Canadian band have won the hearts of both fans and industry folk with their songs and enchanting live performances. They have toured across North America and shared stages with the likes of Kongos, The Flaming Lips, Bruno Mars, and Arcade Fire. ZERBIN’s music has been featured in international film and television, making them favorites for music supervisors and solidifying their status as a band to watch in 2015.

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