

On record

→ The week's essential new releases

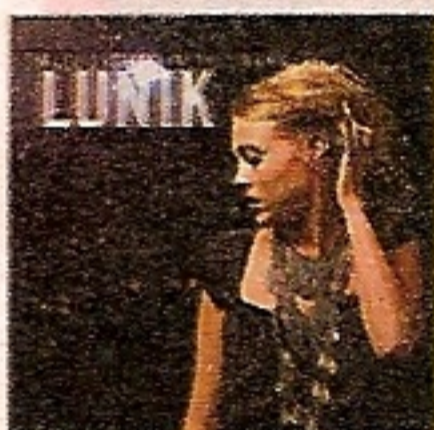
Pop, rock and jazz

LUNIK

★★★

Small Lights in the Dark

FOD/Universal FODCD7



Lunik are huge in their native Switzerland, where this album went straight to No 1, and increasingly successful elsewhere in Europe. Over the past decade, their music has evolved from its original trip-hop and electronica influences towards a mainstream pop sound that is increasingly designed as a showcase for the vocal talents of their female singer, Jael. Having pushed Jael front and centre, the band seem primed to extend their success here and in America. Despite a darkness in the lyrics ("I'm used to my sadness... It makes me feel safe"), the songs range from uplifting ballads to upbeat songs that sit somewhere between the 1970s soft-rock of Fleetwood Mac and the Scando-pop of the Cardigans. Their new single, How Could I Tell You, is typical in balancing a brooding verse with a sugar-rush chorus that gets its hooks into you in just one listen. **ME**