

GET INTO THE ACT

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SLINGSHOT DAKOTA

Tom Patterson of Easton, loud drummer extraordinaire, remembers the first time someone suggested he add a keyboardist into the punk rock mix. "I laughed," he says. Carly Comando of Long Island had been playing quiet music on the piano while secretly yearning to rock all the way out. "I was listening to a lot of loud music but never thought I could be in that type of band myself," she says.

The two got together when Comando's band, Slingshot Dakota, lost a drummer in 2005. From there, Comando says, "It got loud." Patterson is a virtuoso of volume while Comando writes the songs and provides heartfelt lyrics and beautiful electronic piano lines over tremendous beats. At times she sings softly, at times she lets loose with wild urgency while pounding the keyboard.

The two-piece used to be a trio, but guitarist Jeff Cunningham left in late 2006. It was a setback, but in keeping with their positive attitude, saw an opportunity.

"It's kind of unique, and we're trying to see how full of a sound we can get with just the two of us," says Comando, citing bands like The White Stripes as other successful rock duos.

Slingshot Dakota's sound has brought the band a good deal of buzz. Songs like "Until the Day I Die" and "Hands" have received thousands of hits on MySpace. The duo has a deal with indie-label Immigrant Sun Records, recently returned from a nationwide DIY tour, and have gigs lined up from New York to Kalamazoo, Mich. They also have received a great response to their new CD, "Their Dreams Are Dead, But Ours Is The Golden Ghost."