



Riding the cutting edge of eighties-retro resurgence, **The Slants'** brand of synth-driven dance rock makes you want to hop into some Converse high tops and skinny jeans, and head for the nearest skate park with their tunes blasting through your ear buds. But The Slants don't merely rehash 1980s music; they add a hint of edgy guitar to original songwriting and top it off with a generous garnish of Asian American pride. Judging by their rapid climb toward success since their debut in 2007, they've hit on a winning formula. From the beginning, the band has undertaken an impressively demanding tour schedule, packing in head-bobbing crowds at venues ranging from small clubs around their hometown of Portland, Oregon to large anime conventions across the nation, to major stages like SXSW. They describe their music as "Chinatown dance rock", which actually gives a pretty accurate idea of their sound: rhythmic electropop with a somewhat aggressive boost and subtle Asian overtones.



Sakura, Sakura from their debut album, *Slanted Eyes, Slanted Hearts*

The Slants are unusual among American bands in that all current members are of at least partial Asian descent. It all started with founding bassist Simon Young's vision of creating a synth-rock band