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Danish soul:  
Lukas Graham's  
Kasper Daugaard,  
Mark Falgren,  
Forchhammer and  
Magnus Larsson  
(from left)

# Lukas Graham

"I KNEW HOW TO MIX A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL BEFORE I KNEW how to mix a Long Island iced tea," says Lukas Forchhammer. The Danish singer-songwriter grew up in Copenhagen's Christiania neighborhood, an autonomous commune founded by anarchist squatters, and routinely battled local police. "We threw rocks at them," he says. "We used nails to make sure that their trucks' tires were punctured. We did all sorts of crazy shit because we were so angry, and there was no place to vent that anger." But instead

**A chart-topping Danish singer with a radical background**

of forming a leftist punk band, Forchhammer (who found his singing voice in the Copenhagen Boys Choir) ended up pursuing more-soothing soulful sounds. In 2010, he found a new outlet for his frustrations: a band, which he named Lukas Graham. Much of their self-titled debut is an upbeat mix of rock and soul, but the ballad "7 Years," a Number One hit this year, recounts Forchhammer's tough upbringing. "When I go back home, I meet my friends who are still dealing drugs and visit my friends who are in jail," says Forchhammer, who now splits his time between Copenhagen and Los Angeles. "They're all so proud of me."

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