



Nika Roza Danilova had a hell of a year in 2011. Following in the wake of her two gut-punch EPs, *Stridulum* and *Valusia*, she recorded and released her most fully realized work to date, *Conatus*

. The album was a fine step forward for her songwriting, accented by bold, colorful orchestration that brought her songs to life. Touring in support of the album this year, Danilova and her band can be heard admirably tinkering with the songs' arrangements.

### 3 February 2012, Austin, Texas.

Having caught the second show of Zola Jesus' spring 2012 tour in Austin, Texas, Danilova's confidence in her most recent material is undeniable. She and her band played a trim, hour-long set consisting of pretty much every song from *Conatus*—except for "Skin," which I called her "[most vulnerable moment yet](#)"

a few months ago—and some choice cuts from her EPs that raised the biggest cheers of the night ("Stridulum," "Sea Talk," "Night"). Still, with the bulk of the night spent focusing on *Conatus*

, and nothing played from *The Spoils*

or earlier sketches, all ears were on Danilova's new material, and the kind of arrangements it would be given on this tour. Danilova's band included drums, violin, synths, electronics, and her bulldozer of a voice—that's about it.

## Brainwashed - Zola Jesus

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