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NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

ROBBI McFAULDS

WHERE: Airdrie

FOR FANS OF: Ed Sheeran, Passenger, George Ezra

JIM SAYS: For the past few years Lanarkshire teenager Robbi McFaulds has been posting covers on YouTube.

He's now ready to unleash his own compositions with the release of his debut EP *The Morning After*.

He said: "The covers were a great way to build a fanbase. You need to pick the right song that shows your voice off. If you are posting covers of popular songs that are in the charts you're always apprehensive about putting your own stuff out there in case they aren't up to the same standard."

He needn't have worried. The tracks on the EP grab you instantly.

The 17-year-old has come up with a collection of songs that wouldn't be out of place on the Radio 1 or Capital FM playlists.

He's also got a brilliant video for the title track. In terms of building a career, it's a perfect start.

He added: "Studying music in college has improved my knowledge of the music industry and the production side of the music. As I have matured it has allowed me to create my own music with more depth and meaning."

Though a national finalist in



the 2013 Open Mic UK competition, he's turned down the opportunity to enter other talent searches.

He explained: "X Factor, Britain's Got Talent and The Voice are great platforms for exposing new talent very quickly. I'm wanting to get out there and gig though."

Robbi's already been booked to tour as part of the Coffee House Sessions series of gigs across the UK later this month.

He'll head south for the first date at Bournemouth University on the 15th, with the tour rounding off at the University St Andrews on February 26.

He said: "The tour takes in a lot of student unions gigs and coffee shops."

"With 20 minute or half-hour sets, it'll be a great way to get my name out there in different parts of the country."

He also plans to take his music further afield, currently planning dates in the Far East, with the US also on his radar. Robbi McFaulds' *The Morning After* EP is launched tomorrow night with a gig at the QMU in Glasgow. Support comes from Justine Wilson and Light Arrows.

MORE: facebook.com/RobbiMcFauldsMusic

●Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. amazingradio.com jimgellatly.com

Watch video of band at:
thescottishsun.co.uk

With Chris Sweeney

ONE2WATCH

I don't have a scene - I'm Ady

ONE2HEAR

YOU never what to expect from post punk, shoegazers Beach Baby. The London four-piece spent ages grafting away, earning tons of praise in the process. Island Records finally snapped them up and the ball is rolling. They play Glasgow's King Tut's on February 29 and Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh the following night. Get involved at facebook.com/BeachBabyMusic

ONE2SEE

BEAUTY Sleep is the latest act off the Northern Irish conveyor belt. They are following the likes of Snow Patrol, Two Door Cinema Club and General Fiasco. New single *The Dark* is a dreamy pop gem. It's the perfect antidote to cold, dreary winter nights. Give it a listen now at soundcloud.com/beautysleepmusic

IT is impossible to pigeon hole Ady Suleiman — but he isn't planning on changing any time soon.

The Nottinghamshire lad is ripping it up at the moment but admits even he struggles to say just what he does.

His style is all over the shop and he doesn't fit in anywhere.

He said: "I've never listened to pop even though, I would like to be a commercial artist."

"I understand I'm not jazz enough to be jazz, I'm not soul enough to be soul, I'm not reggae enough to be reggae."

"I'm not any of those genres, so that's what puts me in pop music."

"All those genres have inspired me. The thing I find difficult is I'm not part of a scene."

"Like right now, grime is having a resurgence, they must all be thinking this is wicked."

"That's something I've struggled with. I don't have a scene."

"But I wouldn't change it."

"I like not following other people but it can get annoying, it would make things a lot easier."

Even his start in the singing business happened slightly inconventionally — in fact, it was all by mistake.

He said: "I grew up in Nottinghamshire mostly playing football, skateboarding and playing guitar with my mates."

"I started playing guitar way before I started singing. I was obsessed with Jimi Hendrix."

"I only started singing because my guitar teacher made me one day when I forgot to bring my guitar to a guitar lesson at school."

"As a punishment he made me to sing instead. The song he made me sing was Red House by Jimi Hendrix, which was pure fluke because I knew all the words and loved the song."

"After that the teacher asked if I wanted to sing with his band at the school jazz night."

"It was a honour to be asked really, and that was my first ever gig — 13-years-old at a school jazz night. I was s***** it."

"But after it was done the buzz was amazing and it seemed to go well then everyone at school started to know me as a singer so that became my thing."

Fast forward to now and Ady is building up to the release of his debut album this summer.

The 23-year-old explained: "You try your hardest but some songs are s***."

'I don't come from a place where everyone is doing what I'm doing'

"You don't know what it is."

"Then sometimes good songs come out so easily."

"You never know when that good idea will come. I find it stressful because there's no obvious answer of what to do. Like when you're tidying your room, you put this there and that there. But with being creative, there's no right or wrong."

"Sometimes I'll be thinking the bass is wrong but it just needs mixed. I haven't learned how to do that."

"I get to a point and I send it to a mix engineer."

"It's a learning curve and I want to learn how to do those things, so I can get more of the finished idea out myself."

As part of getting set for the album, Ady is hitting the road. And he's at Glasgow's Stereo on March 4. He said: "This is my second headline tour."

"Playing to your fans is so much different than being a support act."

"I've got the full band with me."

"I'm looking forward to getting back out. I've got a couple of new songs from the album."

"And this will be my first headline Scottish show."

Some artists take their record deals and security for granted — but not Ady.

He's relishing what he's managed to achieve.

He added: "I don't come from a place where everyone is doing what I'm doing. I look around at my mates and talk about what they're up to — and it definitely makes me appreciate what I'm doing."

"It's unique to do exactly what you want — to wake up every day and do music."

"I appreciate the opportunity I get to do that. You never know how long it's going to last. My album could come out and then I disappear."

"But it's pretty weird to think my job is to make records and go on tour."

●Get tour tickets now at gigsandtours.com/tour/ady-suleiman

YOUR CHANCE TO CATCH A TIGER

MIKAEL NORDGREN — aka Tiger Stripes — was flying the flag for Stockholm long before Swedish House Mafia exploded on to the world stage.

Alongside fellow veteran Adam Beyer, Mikael produces some of Sweden's most exciting groove-led house and techno.

He says: "We have some great clubs here but I don't think people are coming to Sweden for its

By MARK GWINNETT

nightlife. But the underground music coming out of the country is amazing. The scene is more alive and better than ever in my ears."

"I'm super-impressed with labels such as Studio Barnhus, Local Talk and Karlovak — and Adam Beyer is just taking over both the house and techno scene with his Drumcode and Truesoul labels. I feel lucky to

work with them all. There was a time, long ago, when the guys from Swedish House Mafia used to come to my club nights, hand me their vinyl promos and beg to be booked as DJs."

"I didn't book them because they were always on a different path but I'm happy to see they made it all the way."

Tiger Stripes lands here next

weekend to play at EGG London for Industry London.

We are streaming Tiger Stripes' set live on Saturday, February 13, from 8:40pm to 10:10pm in association with our friends at BE-AT.TV.

You can watch the live stream — and read our full interview with Mikael — at thesun.co.uk/clubz.

