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MUSIC

ONE TO WATCH

By
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MUSIC
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UNITED FRUIT

WHO: Iskandar Stewart (vocals/guitar), Stuart Galbraith (guitar/vocals), Marco Panagopoulos (bass), Dean Inglis (drums).

WHERE: Glasgow.

FOR FANS OF: Sonic Youth, Foals, Smashing Pumpkins.

JIM SAYS: Having known them as a full-on noisy rock band, United Fruit were a revelation when I had the pleasure of introducing them on stage at the inaugural Electric Fields festival in 2014.

None of the energy or power from their first album Faultlines was lost, but there was a marked progression towards a sound with a wider appeal.

I still regretted forgetting my ear protectors though!

The set suggested that the next album would be something special — and with *Eternal Return* they don't disappoint.

The Glasgow four-piece have used the five years between releases constructively to unleash a collection of songs packed full of melody, but retaining their edge.

Marco told me: "We've tried to channel our music in more of a direct way. Retaining the noises and aggression but in a more melodic, structured guise."

"We could still just churn riffs out and blow everyone's faces off but we find it more interesting developing the sound and evolving it."

"Playing with it so to speak, rather than just keeping doing the same thing over and over again. We find that boring. I'm



sure that the audiences would too."

There's no danger of United Fruit becoming a bland imitation of their previous output.

Tracks like *Ghost Inside Your Head*, *Where The Sun Beats Down* and *Nightmare*, *Recovery* grab you just as much as any shouty rock number.

It might not be quite as abrasive as what was on offer before, but the more polished sound works a treat.

As for the gap between albums, Marco revealed that *Eternal Return* was actually recorded a year ago.

He explained: "We wanted to wait till it was the right time to release, which has only just happened for us."

"We had a difficult couple of years with other commitments and bereavements so, naturally, we postponed the release till we were ready to give it our all."

"We have amazing people working with us to make sure it gets out there too. We couldn't be happier. Sometimes it's best to just wait."

United Fruit support Cancer Bats at Buskers in Dundee tonight, with further dates to be announced soon.

Marco said: "We are much louder and heavier live than on any of our records. We really emote a lot of energy and play pretty ferociously. Our music is loud on record but it's really in your face live."

More: www.unitedfruit.band
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio on Sundays, 2-4pm.

www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.com



Watch video
of the band at:
thescottishsun.co.uk

I'm pretty shy but that didn't stop me blagging my deal

MAX Jury admits he got his shot at the big time by blagging his way through an audition in the lobby of a five-star Hilton hotel.

The singer's tracks had attracted a buzz and record-label executives jetted out to Boston to see him in action.

But he hadn't told them he wasn't active on the live circuit.

Max said: "I wasn't gigging so I had no fanbase."

"So I called the Hilton and said, 'Listen, some people are coming from London and want me to audition for them'."

"I asked if I could use their piano as I was desperate — and they said yes."

"I moved it into a corner and played for them in the lobby. I sang my songs and other people started coming over. It was really strange."

No matter the odd circumstances, it sealed the deal.

And the American — who's originally from Des Moines, Iowa — moved over to the UK.

But he feels at home now and reckons it's a more supportive atmosphere than back across the Pond.

He said: "The plan is for me to start here and eventually start playing more in the States."

"I've gone with the flow and there happens to be more opportunities for me here. It's worked out nicely."

"America is tough as each state has their own radio system."

"It's like 50 little countries and it's difficult to make a dent."

"Also my label has taken their time, they've given me the chance to develop and not push me out when I wasn't ready."

"They really care about me, I think. It's a kind mentality, and I've experienced more of that over here than I did before."

Max releases his self-titled debut album on June 3.

And he's tried to blend old and new school together.

He explained: "I attempted to bridge the gap between the music I grew up with, from the 60s and 70s, as well as more modern acts I listen to like Kanye West and Drake. I



wanted to bring the style of songwriting from a bygone era into 2016 and make it sound relevant. It's a big combination of the things that I'm influenced by."

"My label were cool with letting me take whatever direction I wanted. We set up shop in my home studio for a couple of months and made it. I did four songs in a professional studio and those songs were the ones I wanted to be singles."

"But I've always worked from home and I feel comfortable. I don't feel I'm on the clock or being rushed."

Max will be showcasing the album on his UK tour. He was scheduled to play in Glasgow on May 30, but had to scrap it due to a last-minute scheduling conflict.

But he's vowed to announce a new date soon and should be in fine form

after picking up tips from famous pals he's supported.

He said: "I can be an insecure person. The best way is to watch people who've been doing it for a while and how they deal with things."

"On tour with Rufus Wainwright, he'd go for a jog every night before the show — but when you're 21, you want to go to the pub and drink beer. But then you see, maybe Rufus was right to prepare like that."

"And when I was on the road with Lana Del Rey, she had such a commanding presence. I've really tried to steal a little bit of that."

"I'm a shy person, so I have to go out of my comfort zone."

● To pre-order the album and for news on the rescheduled gig, go to: www.facebook.com/maxwelljury

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ONE 2 SEE

THE best of this year's unsigned T Break crop has been announced.

After thousands of entries, they've been hacked down to 16 of our finest bands, singers, DJs — who'll be flying the flag for grassroots music at T in the Park in July.

They'll all play in the famous T Break tent and could follow in the footsteps of the likes of Travis, The View, Biffy Clyro and Snow Patrol who went on to bigger and better things.

Keep an eye on my column in the upcoming weeks, where I'll feature some of them and find out what makes them tick. Here's the list:

- Bloodlines
- Declan Welsh
- Domiciles
- Edwin Organ
- Foreignfox
- Forever
- Indigo Velvet
- Miracle Glass Company
- Mt. Doubt
- Redolent
- Scholesy
- Scope
- Sweaty Palms
- The Ninth Wave
- The Vegan Leather
- Tongues

ONE 2 HEAR

TRANSPOTTING is all over the shop right now, with the sequel currently shooting in Scotland.

So it seems apt that Livingston lads The Begbies have just brought out a corker of a single.

It's *Just The Way* is one to get the blood pumping — a top-notch track.

And the boys will be out tour with it all over the country in June and July.

Hear the song now at: www.facebook.com/TheBegbies

Bev's bringing Memphis to Scotland



GETTING married, writing a hit album and starring in the West End is all in a day's work for Beverley Knight.

The legendary soul singer's eighth studio album has been well worth the wait — half a decade to be exact.

And the 43-year-old's latest record *Soulsville* has an extra special feeling to it, having been recorded in Memphis's iconic Royal Studios.

Beverley said: "I went to Memphis in 2014 when I was starring in *Memphis The Musical*. There are few people in the industry who don't know the importance of Memphis to modern music. I thought it was the most incredible place I've visited."

As soon as the Greatest Day singer, from Wolverhampton, set foot in the Tennessee city, she was struck by the musical heritage seeping from the bus-

ting Beale Street. She instantly knew recording in the Home of the Blues — the city that moulded Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley — was top of her agenda.

She added: "Soulsville is very much influenced by that Southern Memphian sound. I've been all over the US, but I wasn't prepared for the way Memphis would hit me. The weight of the history is all around you."

Following in the footsteps of musical greats such as Al Green and Ann Peebles, Beverley gushed about the incredible vibe oozing from the famed Royal Studios.

Beverley said: "The atmosphere hasn't changed since the 1970s. I swear, not even a Hoover — it's exactly the same from the wires on the floor to the amps and valves. It's in the middle of a poor, neglected black area — it's high

crime. And through the doors, there's this incredible energy being stirred up by great musicians."

Beverley will hit Edinburgh on Monday night and is ecstatic to perform her first-ever gig in the Scots capital.

She said: "I hear the audiences are great but I've only ever played in Glasgow. I've visited Edinburgh before and it's such a beautiful city, so it's weird I've never performed there."

She added: "I just love what I do and I look forward to it every day — I'm so grateful."

● Beverley plays Edinburgh's Queen's Hall on Monday, May 30. Book tickets at www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/shows/beverley-knight-2016

Her new album *Soulsville* is out on June 10.