

MUSIC **ONES TO WATCH**By
CHRIS SWEENEY

SISTER ACT...
Catherine & Lizzy
are excited about
their new album

Twins are more than country girls

EVERYONE is eager to write Ward Thomas into the record books today.

Their new album *Cartwheels* looks set to hit number one, and become the first ever British country act to do so.

But the Hampshire twins – Catherine and Lizzy – have chucked a spanner in the works.

Catherine admitted: "It's quite funny. We were happy to be labelled country on our first album."

"But on this one, we wouldn't call it a country album – we'd say, it's influenced by country music. We wrote the songs in a country way."

"But they aren't all country sounding. This album would be wrong to get called country – as it's got to so much else in it."

"Who knows? Maybe the next album will be super country."

"But this time we just felt like going in this direction." Their debut album *From Where We*

Stand didn't even break into the top 40. It was independently released in 2014 but still shifted an impressive 25,000 copies.

That caught the attention of music giants Sony, who signed them up.

But the girls still refused to knock out a carbon copy – hence the move away from their roots. Catherine, 22, said: "I suppose you could call it brave. We've not left country behind."

"It's such a wide genre, you can crossover easily. A lot of people get branded country and can't escape it."

"But if you brand yourself pop, then you can do anything you want and nobody comments."

"There's definitely pressure this time though. The first album passed all of our expectations, so we've got higher expectations for this one."

Cartwheels lifts the lid on their rise from nowhere to stardom. The girls penned all the tracks in the last two years.

Catherine explained: "Each of the songs are more mature and they're about everything we've experienced since album one."

"We've experienced a whole load of things."

"This album is full of different perspectives and emotions."

"An album to us, is a portfolio of the time you're in and the experiences you went through."

Fans can get up close and personal with the twins next month.

They're playing Glasgow's Oran Mor on October 10 on a UK tour.

But with their move into the big leagues, it's sure to be their last run in smaller venues.

Catherine said: "We love the Scottish audience, they know how to have a really good time."

"They are our favourite – and I'm not just saying that."

"So we're looking forward to playing the new album for them."

● Tickets at wardthomasmusic.com
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ONE 2 HEAR

RORY Butler will never be in the elevator music category.

The Leith lad packs his songs full of politically motivated protest lyrics and sensitive topics, like his affair with a lesbian.

But he disguises them with his silky smooth voice.

It hits your ears, then you take in what he's saying – demonstrated to a tee, on current track *Black And Blue*.

Also, you can catch him playing tonight at Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh and tomorrow at The Arch Inn in Ullapool.

Check out: www.rorybutler.com

ONE 2 SEE

MACHINES In Heaven are nothing if not ambitious.

They reckon new album *Phenomenology* sounds like the "perfect soundtrack for a lonely probe blasting through the solar system". The Glasgow electro trio sparked the interest of MTV and Radio 1 with their debut album a few years back.

They're playing a hometown show at Nice & Sleazy on Tuesday.

And they'll be using live drums for the first time, provided by Franz Ferdinand's Paul Thomson.

Go to: www.facebook.com/machinesinheaven



NEW MUSIC

By Jim
Gellatly

KIERAN ROBERTSON

WHERE: Glasgow
FOR FANS OF: Black Veil Brides, Marilyn Manson

JIM SAYS: Kieran has rock running through his veins. He was only four when his parents took him to his first gig, Iron Maiden at Glasgow's SECC.

Kieran said: "My mum always tells the story of how she strapped me in my booster seat and I requested she put on the new Marilyn Manson record! I must have been about six when I got my first real guitar. I started writing songs straight away and tried to form bands. For obvious reasons, finding committed people at six is hard!"

Still only 17, Kieran's set to release his debut album *In The Name Of Vanity* later this month. It was recorded in Berlin. He explained: "I supported a band from Berlin, Vlad In Tears, at Ivory Blacks in Glasgow."

"Their management, Mordhorst Music Management, liked me and picked me up. Recording and practically living out in Berlin has been amazing! It's been a lot of fun."

In his band Kieran is joined by fellow Glasgow musician Jack Ross (bass), along with Berliners Heiko Musolf (guitar) and Moritz



Michels (drums). I caught them last year at the Cathouse in Glasgow, and was blown away by their dark, incendiary rock."

It's no surprise that Kieran is supporting the bid to get a rock radio station back on the Glasgow airwaves.

He was a big fan of the original Rock Radio, launched in 2007.

Rock Radio Glasgow is one of four stations applying for the 96.3 frequency, once home to the original Rock Radio.

I'm one of the hosts for the #BringBackRockRadio Bash

tonight at The Garage in Glasgow. I'm delighted that Kieran has been confirmed to appear. He said: "I was so gutted when the station went off air. I know how much Rock Radio means to me."

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

PHOTO CREDIT: Ronny Zeisberg



Watch video of Kieran
at: thescottishsun.co.uk

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