

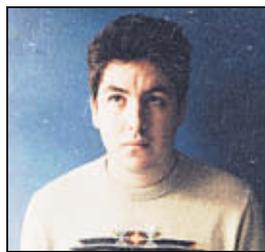
By
CHRIS SWEENEY**NEW MUSIC**
By Jim Gellatly**BEN MHÒR****WHERE:** Glasgow.**FOR FANS OF:** The War On Drugs, Sufjan Stevens, Arcade Fire.**JIM SAYS:** Previously working under his own name, 24-year-old Ben Gracie found a new vision to create his current project Ben Mhòr.

He explained: "In 2014 I began to get a more focused idea of the music I wanted to make."

"I knew this was different from anything I'd done before and something I wanted to pursue further."

Seeds, his first EP as Ben Mhòr, emerged in April. The new name fits the music perfectly. Epic indie folk landscapes that take you on a glorious journey.

He said: "It's named after a mountain. I wanted to create music that tells stories that aren't necessarily about me so I created this alter ego for myself that I could make music through. I imagine Ben Mhòr



being this mysterious character from some unknown past."

There's a marked progression through the songs released so far. Ben Mhòr's latest track Younger, Stronger is one of his best yet. A punchy wee jangly guitar number.

Writing, performing and recording all the music himself, it does become a different beast when Ben plays live. For gigs, he's joined by Matthew Colquhoun, Ben Marshall and Ross Cochran-Brash. You can see them when Ben Mhòr supports Aussie singer-songwriter Hazel English at The Poetry Club in Glasgow on November 11.

More: www.facebook.com/BenMhorMusic

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

www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.comWatch video of band at:
thescottishsun.co.uk

Korea highlight is just the beginning for talented Elle

ELLE Exxe might be unsigned — but she's not been sitting about waiting for the phone to ring.

The pop diva has just wrapped up a hat-trick of gigs in South Korea promoting debut album *Love Fuelled Hate*, out today. Before that, she smashed Google's HQ in New York.

Edinburgh girl Elle said: "I released a couple of songs which have been doing quite well in Korea. I did Liverpool Sound City, and they brought six acts including myself over."

"It's really cool and feels like I'm on X Factor. They cheer whenever I hit a high note, which I'm not used to back home."

"And my promoter is friends with someone at Google. They got in contact and loved my stuff so asked me to come in when I was in New York. They gave me this massive room and there was about 400 of their employees there."

"They've just built this state-of-the-art stage — I was the first one to try it out. It was funny, it was meal time for some of them and when I got up on stage, these Google people were staring at me with their mouth full of food, mid-bite."

"But how cool is that? I'm geeky myself and made my first website at 10, so it was really inspiring to be there."

Elle prowls around the stage at gigs and comes over as a strong, aggressive presence.

She admitted: "People are totally confused. When they meet me, they've no idea what I'll be like. They're shocked that I can be quite shy."

"I like the contrast. You can be creative and artistic with your personality as well as your performance."

Elle's album hasn't just been thrown together. She's taken her time to craft a body of work. The 26-year-old added: "The



album is in your face — it's dirty pop with attitude. It's a concept. I wanted to give people an excuse to listen to a whole album. I want something they can take an hour out for and sit down — and try to understand what I'm trying to say. I want them to listen to it, like they're watching a film. It's emotional, and all about love and hate."

And it's not been easy for Elle to keep all the balls in their air with no big-label backing.

She added: "It's even harder than people think. But it also makes it more rewarding."

"We get invited out to Korea. Then it's, how do I pay for it? And because I put so much time into the music I can't hold down a job."

"I've been lucky to get some funding but it's really challenging. What Macklemore and Ryan Lewis did was cool — they made their album and then paid Warner to release it."

'I'm proud to represent Scotland'

"You can't do this alone. We have had conversation with labels and we'll see what happens."

Elle launches her album with a big gig in London on Wednesday night but has promised to get back up the road for some shows soon.

She said: "I want to play in Scotland but we want to make sure we're playing the right shows."

"I do have people flying down from Scotland to London for the album launch."

"There are some people who think because I spend a lot of time in London that I'm not Scottish. I was in Scotland until I was 17. I'm a Scot through and through — as is my whole family."

"Some people seem to think you've left them behind and don't like it — but I haven't."

"I'm proud to represent Scotland playing all over that world."

● Get Elle's album *Love Fuelled Hate* now at: www.facebook.com/ElleExxe
chris.sweeney@the-sun.co.uk**ONE 2 SEE****TENEMENT Trail takes over Glasgow tomorrow. There's going to be more than 12 hours of music, split across nine venues, with over 50 acts on show. Kilburn headline at the city's 02 ABC, with others top bands like Sinderins and The Van T's involved. Plus not to be missed is ex-Kassidy star Barrie-James O'Neill giving it lalady at King Tut's. The action all gets going at 2pm — and a £20 ticket does you for the whole day. Info at www.tenementtv.com****ONE 2 HEAR****ROCK 'n' rollers All Suns Blazing sound like they're from America's West Coast. But they're actually Glasgow boys. And they're knocking out some cracking old-school style bangers — full of big singalong choruses and teeth-rattling guitar solos. Check out the title track from debut album *Trouble Ain't Hard To Find* now at www.allsunsblazing.com. It's defo worth a listen.**

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