



Edited by
CHRIS SWEENEY



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

VISTAS

WHO: Prentice Robertson (vocals/guitar), Dylan Rush (guitar), Jamie Law (bass), Graham McDonald (drums)
WHERE: Edinburgh
FOR FANS OF: Catfish And The Bottlemen, Courteeners, Fatherson
JIM SAYS: Initially "messaging around" with music at high school, Vistas emerged as a proper band in January, and debut single Sign Language in March was a great introduction.

The new EP *Medicine* is a further step in the right direction.

Melodic indie rock with a certain swagger, it hints at a very bright future.

Robertson said: "When we write a song, we try to make it mean something to other people. We want people to sing along to our songs at the top of their lungs with their arms round their mate's shoulders when they see us live!"

The band's priority is to increase their fanbase across the UK. It seems to be working. They played a sold-out gig in Sheffield on their first trip south of the border.

Prentice added: "The reaction was incredible and to see a packed venue full of strang-

ers in a totally alien city is just an amazing feeling.

"Another highlight was our EP launch in Edinburgh last month. That whole gig was a labour of love from each one of us. We put so much effort and planning into it. Everything just went perfectly."

Guitarist Rush said: "Our ambition is to bring together what we love from our musical influences and create something that we find new and exciting."

"The payoff is so rewarding. It's all we've ever dreamed of doing which is why we are all

so driven and passionate about making Vistas our future.

"Our dream is to play The Barrowland and T In The Park. They're the places we've grown up seeing our idols do what they love."

Vistas are set to follow the *Medicine* EP with a new single *Feel Alive*. It's launched at The Mash House in Edinburgh on February 17.

Before then, they appear at the Old Town Street Food Festival at The Three Sisters in the capital on New Year's Day.

MORE: facebook.com/vistas-band

Listen to Jim Gellatly's Alternative Christmas on CamGlen Radio, Christmas Day 8-10pm. camglenradio.org/jimgellatly.com



You need to make your own luck

DOGGED songbird Norma Jean Martine admits you have to work hard for a lucky break.

She may be just out of her teens, but she has a wise head on her shoulders.

She hawked herself around dingy pubs in Glasgow and Edinburgh at the beginning, but has now penned songs for chart-toppers like Ronan Keating, teamed up with Burt Bacharach, got Cara Delevingne to appear in one of her videos... and released smash debut album *Only In My Mind*.

The UK-based New Yorker said: "I don't want to toot my own horn, but I was really driven."

"I showed up in Scotland and I was stopping at nothing to play for everyone."

"If you think anyone is going to hand something to you, that's not going to happen. You need to

make your own luck and network.

"But at the end of the day, you have to focus on your craft."

Initially busking was the only option. Norma Jean, 25, explained: "I did it in Paris and I was carrying this book around to get email addresses for my mailing list."

"Then I went to Scotland, two days each in Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh."

"I did open mics in Glasgow first. From that trip I got all these people in Scotland on my mailing list."

Now she is planning to hit Scotland on tour in 2017. She added: "We've got some really great reviews. People seem to like it and say it's the kind of album you can't put in a box."

"I see myself as a songwriter first and foremost. There's power in being a songwriter."

For more, check out normajeanmarline.com



ON SONG
... Norma is reaping rewards

ONE 2 SEE

MOTHERWELL hotshots The LaFontaines will be at Groove CairnGorm 2017 — the UK's only snowsport music festival.

Also on the bill are Basement Jaxx and The Streets star Mike Skinner.

The Aviemore bash is on February 24 and 25. All the info is at groovecairngorm.co.uk

ONE 2 HEAR

READING rockers The Amazons are seeing out the New Year in style — with a superb video for their banging single *In My Mind*.

It's a big tune with a dynamite backing vocals.

Even better, they're on tour in 2017 and play Glasgow's King Tut's on April 7. Go to theamazons.co.uk

Watch video of band at: thescottishsun.co.uk

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