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MUSIC

BEST ON SCENE

Edited by  
CHRIS SWEENEY

IT'S been another action-packed 12 months for Scottish music.

The past year was full of smash hits, mega anthems and chart-topping albums.

Calvin Harris was on fire, Amy Macdonald

revealed she's got a new record in the bag and Emeli Sande was back in the spotlight.

Admittedly, there were also a few shockers served up by our lot along the way. But we steamroller into 2017 in high hopes as ever.

Unlike our football team, our bands, singers, pop stars, DJs and rockers never fail to deliver. When one steps back, another picks up the baton. CHRIS SWEENEY looks at who did what in 2016's Tartan Chart Army.

## STANDOUT TRACK



**TWIN Atlantic's No Sleep.** It may not be the most polished or easy listening thing you'll come across.

But if you're not walking taller after giving it a blast, then you're not listening hard enough.

## TOP GIG

**BIFFY Clyro** ravished a sold-out Bellahouston Park in Glasgow on August 27.

But it wasn't the size of the crowd that impressed the most, it was how the Ayrshire boys had seemingly turned a giant tree-lined park, into a scuzzy rock club for a night.

It felt as if you were in the front row being soaked by beads of sweat from singer Simon Neil's hair — and getting an eyeful of bass player James Johnston's tattooed body.

## BEST COMEBACK



IT has to be Glasgow heroes **Travis.** They looked like retirement fodder but April's *Everything At Once* changed all that. It was a short, angular, edgy album that proved they're still razor sharp and can mix it with anyone.

## BIGGEST RIDDIE



**THE Bay City Rollers** were car crash all the way. Their T In The Park appearance was mince, like uncles doing karaoke at a wedding. They've retired for good now.

Will they be missed by real music fans? No.

## UNDER THE RADAR



**SHIRLEY** Manson hasn't got the profile she deserves.

**Garbage** have had stellar success and 2016 was no different.

The Edinburgh vocalist led the group on an 81-date *World Tour*, armed with this year's album *Strange Little Birds.* **Awesome.**

## CHART BOUND



A hat-trick of stars. Castlemilk singer songwriter **Gerry Cinnamon** has a much anticipated album. Wishaw brothers **Saint PHNX** are building a solid reputation and indie cracks **Penny Mob** are finally on the live circuit and can do some damage.

## MAVERICK

**KT Tunstall** did what a lot of us dream of doing — she upped sticks and moved to Venice Beach in Los Angeles.

But instead of swapping the studio for the sunshine, it gave her a shot in the arm.

September album **KIN** was well-made and arguably her strongest set of songs ever.

More impressively, she ripped up the rulebook.



# Tartan chart army

## SMARTEST MOVER

**SHE** only released her EP *Modern Love*, but **Nina Nesbitt** mapped out her future perfectly.

With things not working out at her major label, she cut ties and has now gone indie.

She'll make all her stuff then have it distributed like a big label would do. Expect a more grown up **Nina** in 2017, with sexier tunes.



## ULTIMATE SURVIVORS



**PRIMAL Scream** released their 11th album in May. Not only was *Chaosmosis* well received, but it saw them tour all across the world.

Even frontman **Bobby Gillespie's** off-stage fall in Switzerland couldn't stop them.

## BIGGEST LOSS



**GARY** Wilson was the talented, sharp-witted singer for East Kilbride young guns **The Lapelles.** The band were on the move big time so it was a massive kick when he tragically drowned in August, aged just 22.

## NEW MUSIC FOR 2017

By Jim Gellatly



## THE VEGAN LEATHER

One of the best live acts I've seen this year, their art pop stylings recall **Franz Ferdinand** and **LCD Soundsystem.** They should go down well supporting fellow Paisley Buddie **Paolo Nutini** at Edinburgh's Hogmanay. [Facebook.com/theveganleather](https://www.facebook.com/theveganleather)

## SHVLLOWS

Electro-tinged indie from the Edinburgh band that hits all the right spots. Debut single *Shake* immediately had me hooked, with the follow-up *Zurich* continuing the momentum. I can't wait to hear what's next. [Facebook.com/shvllows](https://www.facebook.com/shvllows)



## BOOHOOHOO

The Glasgow band's recent EP launch was one of the most fun gigs I've been to in a while. Proudly toting their 80s influences, they even pulled out a cover of **Philip Bailey** and **Phil Collins'** 1984 No.1 single *Easy Lover.* [Facebook.com/boohooohooand](https://www.facebook.com/boohooohooand)



## BRAT AND THE BONEMEN

A dark, incendiary take on psychobilly from the Dumfries youngsters. A highlight of this year's Dumfries Music Conference, they are perfect for anyone still not over the demise of **The Amazing Snakeheads.** [Facebook.com/bratandthebonemen](https://www.facebook.com/bratandthebonemen)



## KVASIR

Glasgow-based **Kvasir** has so far managed to keep his true identity secret. I believe he also plays with a multi-million selling Scottish band. Compared to **Daft Punk**, **M83**, **Röyksopp**, the debut EP is a wonderful slab of EDM. [Facebook.com/kvasirmusic](https://www.facebook.com/kvasirmusic)



## SIIGHTS

I've been a fan of Glasgow's **Toni Etherson** for a while. She's now teamed-up with Irish singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Mia Fitz.** The results are spectacular. Debut track *Dance* set the ball rolling perfectly. [Facebook.com/sights](https://www.facebook.com/sights)



## ONR

A year ago the Dumfries band let me hear a track called *Heart Attack*, but they've still to share any of their recorded output publicly. I was blown away by their stadium-ready rock sound at the **Electric Fields** festival. [Facebook.com/onrmusic](https://www.facebook.com/onrmusic)



## INDIGO VELVET

They've been around for a couple of years now, but 2017 should be major breakthrough time for the Edinburgh youngsters. Their joyous indie pop sound rarely fails to win over an audience. [facebook.com/weareindigovelvet](https://www.facebook.com/weareindigovelvet)



## EMME WOODS

Emme's stunning debut single *I Don't Drink To Forget* came out through the crowd-funded **Last Night From Glasgow** label. The Clacks singer-songwriter has also been working with ex-Kassidy man **Barrie-James O'Neill.** [Facebook.com/emmewoodsmusic](https://www.facebook.com/emmewoodsmusic)



## THE NINTH WAVE

The Renfrewshire band's self-styled "goth pop" has captured my imagination. They shone at the T In The Park and **Electric Fields.** They're at the forefront of the New Breed scene emerging from Glasgow venues like **Broadcast.** [Facebook.com/theninthwaveofficial](https://www.facebook.com/theninthwaveofficial)

