

# the Sunday MUSIC



## ONE2WATCH by CHRIS SWEENEY

**YOU'LL be cruising for a bruising if you refer to Flyte as indie rockers because they hate it.**

The London lads reckon they are far more than one-dimensional operators.

They're on a big UK tour, firing up interest in their debut album which is due out this autumn.

At each gig they'll be handing out lyrics books so fans can **READ** along as they hammer out the tunes on stage.

Lead singer Will Taylor explained: "We want to let people know what they're in for with this record so we've made a lyric book with all the songs and they can read along."

"We want to make it less indie and rock, we want to avoid those areas and associations. We don't want to be an indie band."

"We want to be artists and draw from film, theatre and other places – and get that across through the medium of being in a band."

"We find the indie band realm very restrictive and uninspiring."

The group hit *The Garage in Glasgow* next Sunday night and the crowd reaction promises to be interesting.

Will said: "They'll be engaging in the way we want them to, which is a lot down to the lyrics."

"If they listen to the lyrics, it'll enhance the music."

"Often you don't listen to the lyrics. Maybe the sound is bad or you're whipped up by something else – but we want this tour to have the emphasis on the lyrics."

"It'll be a new thing to a lot of people and something they wouldn't experience at a normal show."

The guys are massive fans of playing north of the border. They even produced a special online image to promote their Glasgow gig featuring Billy Connolly, Lulu and Nicola Sturgeon.

Will said: "Our favourite place to play in the UK is probably Inverness. There's a good time to be had there, for some reason."

"Any time we've played there it's been the funniest nights we've had."

"We've got a strange love affair with Scotland."

"At the beginning of last year, we did an exclusively Scottish tour and it was a great time."

Will has also spent a lot of time in Glasgow over the last few years and his girlfriend, Nell Hudson, played Laoghaire MacKenzie in hit TV show *Outlander*.

He added: "We hung out a lot in Glasgow, I'd go up and join her during filming so I've got a lot of time for the people up there."

Flyte have their fingers crossed that punters ditch the single song obsession that's become so popular



# We let lyrics do the talking

with streaming and downloads. Will said: "We need people to hear it in its entirety, to understand the full value."

"We're in a day and age now that individual songs sit on playlists and people only want one or two songs from an artist."

"We're really trying to counter that. Maybe it's futile but we're leading with something that's a 35-minute concise meaningful piece of work."

"That's not that long so you should be able to get to know it but the songs will still stand up on their own."

"But what surprised us when we got out there is how passionate people are about bands."

"They're maybe more in the minority than they were, but those people still matter. Some of them

still get obsessed with bands and really invest in them."

"I believe those people will be listening to the whole record and that's enough for me."

They also banned computers from any stage of the recording process and believe the absence of technology forced them to bring their A game to the studio every day.

Will admitted: "There's been no computers used."

"It's not the norm but we've tried to make it just as entertaining and pull as many moves."

"It sounds like it belongs in the now but still uses the ethos of the albums that we have been inspired by."

"There's a lot of narrative and stories in the album, it's trying to tell the tale of our environment."

We're avoiding the broad you-and-me terminology. We used film cameras to take the pictures.

"It's not that we don't like the sound of computers and you can use them to make things sound better down the line, but we wanted to have a great sound because the sound in the room is great."

"We didn't want this idea that we can fix that bit later on the computer."

"It might be workable but it won't ever be fantastic that way."

"If it didn't sound fantastic then we rewrote things or moved parts around."

"It was easy to mix because it was all there. Nothing needed to be patched up."

● Get tour tickets and more info at [facebook.com/flyteband](http://facebook.com/flyteband)

## ONE2HEAR

**PLASTIC Machinery** by rockers **The Charlatans** is a trip back in time.

It's got a vintage Britpop sound, with an undeniable epic Manchester twang.

Even better, axe lord **Johnny Marr** does his thing, as does ex-*Verve* drummer **Pete Salisbury**.

It's the lead single off the band's new album *Different Days*, which is out this Friday. Check out [facebook.com/thecharlatans](http://facebook.com/thecharlatans)

## ONE2SEE

**MATTHEW Logan Vasquez** has gone solo after forging a reputation in *Delta Spirit* – and he's bringing his new material across the pond on tour.

He lines up at *Stereo in Glasgow* on July 6.

His debut album lifts the lid on his frustrations with every-day things like annoying landlords and financial hassles. Go to [facebook.com/matthewloganvasquez](http://facebook.com/matthewloganvasquez)



## RACHEL McALPINE

**WHERE:** Inverkeithing, Fife  
**FOR FANS OF:** London Grammar, Foxes, Bat For Lashes

**JIM SAYS:** Fife singer-songwriter Rachel McAlpine shows real depth to her talents with her latest single *Please Just Go*.

Previously releasing a series of accomplished acoustic EPs, she's moved further towards pop. It's a cool new sound, with a subtle electro pop feel.

It paid dividends almost immediately, named single of the week on Janice Forsyth's BBC Radio Scotland show. It also saw her interviewed live on air by Edi Stark, filling in that week.

It's not the first time Rachel has veered towards electronic music. Early this year she collaborated with **ALEX** (aka Edinburgh based musician/producer Alex Davidson) on his *Youth* EP, released through New York's *NewRetroWave* label.

When I caught up with her last week she was just about to head to the Big Apple to shoot a new video with **ALEX**. She said: "I met Alex a few years back when he helped me get my *Fire* EP out. He was studying at The Academy Of Music And Sound in Edinburgh. I was chosen as the artist



## NEW MUSIC By Jim Gellatly

the team worked with to help organise recording, gigs and promotion.

"It was a great experience and helped me grow as a songwriter, and with my confidence. We kept in touch and he sent me some of his music. I was blown away with this new and exciting sound."

Now 22, Rachel first started writing music when she was 15, gigging throughout Fife and Edinburgh but she's always set her sights further afield. She said: "My love of music is matched by my love of travel. I've travelled extensively across Europe over the last few years combining music with work whenever I could." After New York she heads to France to work as a paddlesports

instructor. She said: "The hope is to get some gigs when I'm in France and hopefully let people there hear my music. It should be a big influence on the songs for my next EP at the end of the year."

Rachel revealed that travel influenced *Please Just Go*. She said "It's about a blossoming travel romance that doesn't work out. Not a particularly uplifting subject matter, but I love how the pulsing synths and edginess to the track manage to convey the atmosphere without being downbeat."

The single was recorded at *Loopmaniac* studios in Dunfermline, run by Liam Saunders who also produced it. Rachel said: "I had asked Liam to produce the track, but he approached me pretty early on in the pre-production stage to ask if I would be interested in it being the first release on his new label."

Liam added: "The initial plan for the label was a vinyl release for an amazing album by alt. folk duo *The Cognac Twins*, however Rachel's track was too good not to release. The timing was perfect."

**MORE:** [facebook.com/rachelmc Alpine8](http://facebook.com/rachelmc Alpine8)  
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on *Amazing Radio* Sundays 2-4pm.

[amazingradio.com](http://amazingradio.com)  
[jimgellatly.com](http://jimgellatly.com)

▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: [www.thescottishsun.co.uk](http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk)