

# the Sunday MUSIC



## ONE2WATCH by CHRIS SWEENEY

**THE future is bright for Aussie pop stars Sheppard — as long as they stay off the HAGGIS.**

The band gained rave reviews for their first album *Bombs Away*, joined Justin Bieber on tour and will share a couple of dates with Little Mix.

But they have revealed the only dark cloud was in Glasgow when they made their Scottish debut in 2015.

Band member George Sheppard admits he is still haunted by his first taste of haggis after it left him gagging.

He said: "I remember that Glasgow show like it was yesterday.

"I had some haggis. I'm a picky eater so, for me, it wasn't great.

"I appreciate the culture and I had to try it, but I've ticked that one off the bucket list — and I'm not sure I'll be doing it again.

"I knew what I was getting myself into — everybody had told me about it and I'd heard it was an acquired taste. But I was gagging. No offence."

*But he hasn't let that taste of our culture put him off coming back. They are at Glasgow's Garage on June 27. Then they join Little Mix at Slessor Gardens in Dundee and the Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh, a few days later.*

Co-lead singer George explained: "If it was just our own headline shows every night, I guess it would get a bit monotonous.

"But we've got the support for Little Mix, which is a half-hour show, then our own which is an hour and 15 minutes.

"We're getting a variety and it keeps it fresh."

Sheppard have form as support act to the stars, after doing it for Taylor Swift and they will be back with Bieber this summer.

George said: "It's nice to get that pat on the back from your peers — it's validation.

"We did Bieber's Australian tour, it was one of the most insane things we've been a part of.

"The scope of that tour was the biggest thing we've seen.

"We never got to meet him but everyone on his crew was super-friendly and professional.

"We got to use his catwalk, the full PA and lighting rig.

"Usually, the protocol for the support band is you don't let them use the whole set-up as the main act wants to come on and blow everybody's mind.

"They were super-generous and I can't wait to do the show in London with him in July."

The band will also showcase their second album which is due out later this year.

First single *Keep Me Crazy* has already gone down a storm.



# I won't let haggis gag beat me

George said: "We've built it from the ground up for live touring to make sure it fits these massive venues we've been playing.

"I wouldn't say it was a mistake from the first one, but it blew up bigger than we expected.

"A lot of the songs didn't translate on those massive stages so we've gone as big as we can this time. There's no secret, it's how it feels.

"You want those big, soaring guitars like Coldplay and U2.

"Part of what we also learned from the first album was what audiences responded to and what wasn't such a big hit.

"There's all that bulls\*\*\* about the dreaded second album trying to follow up a massive success.

"We had a moment last year where we were really stressing out

and thinking, 'we won't be able to do this again'.

"The secret was shedding that and completely letting go. We just got into the zone and wrote music that we wanted to hear."

The band — who are also George's sisters Amy and Emma, guitarists Michael Butler and Jason Bovino, and drummer Dean Gordon — are determined to make the most of any opportunities that come their way.

George said: "The world is full of brooding musicians, it's nice to be able to get on the road and take each day as it comes. We're living out our dreams here.

"Of course, you have your bad days and you don't really feel like getting up on stage but as soon as you do, it's like waking up again.

"You see the crowd and you

bounce off the energy everybody in the crowd is giving you.

"It's the easiest job in the world, but, as soon as it isn't fun any more, we'll stop."

But, until that time, neither George nor the rest of the band will take it for granted that they have a following over here.

George said: "We're not used to it and I hope we never do get used to it.

"The thrill of being able to go across to the other side of the world and have people that you've never met before in a place you never thought you'd visit singing your songs back and seeing their faces light up is one of the most special parts of this job.

"I hope we never adjust to that."

● For more, check out [wearesheppard.com](http://wearesheppard.com)

## ONE2HEAR

LOS ANGELES outfit The Americans are gearing up to release their debut album *I'll Be Yours* next month.

And if the lead single is anything to go by, it should be a humdinger.

The Right Stuff is a punchy track — mixing old-time blues and rockabilly really well.

It's heart-on-your-sleeve stuff — and proud of it.

Listen to it now at [theamericansmusic.com](http://theamericansmusic.com)

## ONE2SEE

STEVIE Parker is shaping up to be a pop heavyweight.

Her stripped back tunes have a real depth, tackling big issues gracefully with her haunting vocals.

The Bristol singer is definitely marching to her own beat. She has just signed up for the Tenement Trail Festival on September 30.

She'll join the likes of The Temperance Movement, Anteros and The Big Moon. See [tenementtv.com](http://tenementtv.com)



## NICK SHANE

**WHERE:** Dundee  
**FOR FANS OF:** Ocean Colour Scene, Paul Weller, The Beatles

**JIM SAYS:** Dundee singer-songwriter Nick Shane first came to light in 2013 with his debut solo album *An Introspection Of Now Here*. He then formed mod outfit The NSA, with the TV & Sunshine album appearing the following year.

The 27-year-old's latest solo record NS was initially a stopgap before a second release from The NSA. Originally planned as an acoustic album, he soon hooked up with drummer Kyle Fumme from Perth band Stop The Rain.

Nick told me: "The idea to make it a fuller sounding album came after Kyle agreed to play on some of the tracks. I'd met Stop The Rain's frontman Blair Davie at Seagate Studios in Dundee. He suggested Kyle as a session drummer."

Highlights on NS include *Standing Up For Colour*, a song written after last year's massacre at Pulse in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people died and 53 were injured in the shooting at the gay club. Nick explained: "It doesn't shed light on the incident itself. It's more a message to the victims of homophobia and victims of terrorism. My



## NEW MUSIC By Jim Gellatly

favourite line is, 'Bombs and bullets won't change my point of view'. They don't eradicate love for music, love for friends, or love for other people, regardless of gender, colour or sexuality."

Poignant words after recent events in Manchester. Another track, *The World Is Yours*, features a sample of Margaret Thatcher at the Conservative Party conference in 1987, ahead of the introduction of Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act. It banned councils from "promoting homosexuality" in schools. It was repealed in Scotland in 2000 and England and Wales in 2003. Nick, who's bisexual with a girlfriend and seven-year-old daughter, was recognised for his

contribution to LGBT+ issues at last year's inaugural Fife Rainbow Gala and Awards. He picked up the Outstanding Contribution to Music & Gay Rights award. He joked: "I only went to sing some tunes and have a bevvie! I had no idea I was going to win. My speech was also winner of the most swear words used in the whole of the evening."

Nick is now Fife Pride 2017's entertainment manager. As well as appearing at Fife's first Pride event in Kirkcaldy on July 1, he'll play every Pride main stage in Scotland this year. He said: "I try and keep my activism and music separate. Music has been disturbed enough recently without bringing politics and beliefs to gigs with you."

Recently forming a new band Nick Shane & Soul TV, along with Andy Williams (lead guitar/vocals), Ian Edgar (bass) and Gav Steel (drums), they are currently working on a debut EP. Though no longer a going concern, The NSA's second album *Feverland* is set to be released at the end of the year. He said: "The NSA aren't getting back together or having a reunion. I'm just going to release the unheard album myself."

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



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