

# the Sunday MUSIC



**EXCLUSIVE**  
by ANNA GAULT

**SINGER** Jack Robertson is leaving his boyband days behind and striking out on his own after being named the UN's Global Voice.

The 22-year-old spent two years trying to hit the big time in pop group Rewind but he is now hoping to break through as a solo artist.

And Jack, from Edinburgh, has already impressed the United Nations as he was chosen to release a special single for their International Youth Day yesterday.

He says: "I was astonished when they chose me – a boy from Scotland – for this project. We are a small country and I didn't think I had a chance but it was amazing that they picked me."

"I have a little bit of nerves to be given this role out of so many people around the world, but, overall, it's more of an enjoyment and thrill."

Jack's single *Enough* was picked to represent the world's youth through the organisation and he thinks the song sums up how the younger generation feel about the world today.

He adds: "I am hoping the song will have a good impact on people."

## "I was determined to make the most of it"

"We wrote the song because we've had enough of the world – terrorism attacks, the government is a mess, and there's suffering around the globe."

"It's a love song too though so it's not all doom and gloom – it's about peace in relationships but also around the world."

Jack admits he thought *Rewind*, below far right, could be his ticket to the big time and was gutted when it didn't work out.

He says: "We gave it a really good go and it was a lot of fun. I think maybe what made it difficult is that we had one of the guys living in Dumfries, another in Edinburgh and the rest Glasgow. People had commitments – girlfriends, weddings, holidays – so getting us all together for rehearsals was hard."

"I did think we were going places but it was a massive stepping stone to becoming the



# Jack's all set to be a Global star



singer and writer I am today. I loved the boyband days. I have got friends for life."

But there are some plus sides to working solo.

He says: "On your own, you're not relying on other people so that's a bonus."

"You had four other guys with their own busy lives."

"It is a lot of travelling on my own and everything is down to me – but it can be great as I get to make the final decision."

"It's been a lot of hard work but it does all pay off."

Jack has been singing since he was eight and was even chosen to share the stage with Mel C, Lulu and Robin Gibb at a Celebrating The Bee Gees event

in Battersea, London, when he was 12.

He says: "It was incredible to have that amazing opportunity to share the stage with legends at such a young age."

"I won a competition to get there and I think it really spurred me on."

"I was always wee Jack who sings but after that I was really determined to make a go of it."

But his biggest gig yet came yesterday when he performed during a live global web-cast for International Youth Day.

Jack says: "The best way for people to connect these days – especially people my age or younger – is through social media

so that's why we did it that way."

"It is a bit scary because there were a lot of eyes on me. Even though it wasn't in front of a real audience it was still a buzz."

Jack is focused on hitting the

big time and knows that he will have to make sacrifices along the way. But the diehard Manchester United fan is determined to find the time for going to watch Jose Mourinho, below left, and his team.

He adds: "I have missed out on so many things over the years because I am so committed to my career."

"But I love my football days away with my dad – my mum is originally from Manchester so we are Manchester United fans."

"Sacrificing days with my family and friends has been tough but at the end of the day there will always be football matches we can go to – and they understand that."

anna.gault@the-sun.co.uk

## DOPESICKFLY

**WHO:** Ant Thomaz (vocals), Chris Darling (guitar), Joe Djaelani (bass), Calum Macrae (drums), Wendy Rae (backing vocals), Emma Gillespie (backing vocals).

**WHERE:** Glasgow.

**FOR FANS OF:** Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jamiroquai, Stevie Wonder.

**JIM SAYS:** It's all about the groove with DopeSickFly. They create a cool hybrid of funk, soul and rock that's impossible not to move to.

The band released their self-titled debut album last year, and have just issued new single *Affirmation Lover* through Glasgow Kelvin College's student-run label Electric Honey.

The band literally came together on the streets of Glasgow. Poet, rapper and singer Ant Thomaz arrived in the city and fell in love with the place.

Originally from a small town in Louisiana, US, his musical journey took him from Baton Rouge to Arkansas then New York, before crossing the Atlantic. He told me: "I felt it was time for me to fully focus on my own journey. I decided to travel to Europe, Ireland and the UK. Glasgow and the people opened their doors and invited me in." Meeting Frances Knows, now the band's



## NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

manager, Ant was encouraged to take to the streets. He explained: "Frances asked me what I wanted to do musically. I said I always wanted to find a band. She suggested I busk to see who was drawn to my vibe. So I'd strum my guitar down Ashton Lane, Sauchiehall Street and, right enough, people came and asked to join in."

"Some, like Joe, would stand and listen at first. He was a singer-songwriter who was always busking, and soon we were jamming together."

Ant got to know Wendy and Chris through an open mic session Wendy was hosting. Chris said: "I'd seen Ant in the street and he approached me about one of my songs, *Lioness*, at an open mic. He said he could help me with the song and he

finished writing it for me." Joe came across Ant and Chris jamming and knew he wanted to be part of it, initially playing a cajón drum box.

He said: "I decided they needed bass, so I bought one and started from scratch."

Ant added: "We had been talking about how we needed a drummer and the same day Calum caught us busking. He'd seen us before but noticed Joe wasn't playing the cajón any more. He went home and got his."

The band played their first gig supporting R&B singer Raleigh Ritchie at King Tut's in October 2015, though they'd yet to settle on a band name.

So where does the name DopeSickFly come from? Chris explained: "It's from the people in the streets. They would say, 'You guys are dope', 'You guys are sick', 'Wow, you guys are fly'. So we put the words together."

Also part of the collective is acclaimed singer-songwriter Emma Gillespie (formally Emma's Imagination). She'll be joining them on stage this Saturday for the Doune The Rabbit Hole festival at Cardross Estate, near Stirling.

**MORE:** www.dopesickfly.com

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

www.amazingradio.com  
www.jimgellatly.com



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