

# the **S**unday MUSIC



## My voice is in good Nick ...thanks to Biffy Clyro



HOST... on Lotto show

**TELLY favourite Nick Knowles reckons jamming with Scots rockers Biffy Clyro helped him on his way to making an album.**

The Who Dares Wins presenter released his first album this week at the age of 55 – after more than 40 years of playing the guitar.

And he says his rooftop singing sessions with Biffy helped hone his hidden talents.

He says: "I've played with Biffy Clyro, they're the nicest lads out. I'd sit and play with them on the roof of my pal's hotel in London.

"They are fantastic and Scotland should be really proud of them for



By **COLAN LAMONT**

two reasons. One is that they are an international mega act and the other thing is that they got really good by playing in bars and clubs for years."

Nick's album – called *Every Kind Of People* – is a change of direction after forging such a successful career in TV.

The star has been playing music since he was at school – and even had a band with pals called Pygmy Ricochet.

Despite this, he never really thought he could sing, until a vocal coach contacted him and insisted he was amazing.

Nick, famed for his stint at the helm of hit show *DIY SOS*, says: "I

did a few songs for Comic Relief and it was all pretty bad.

"But a singing coach for pop stars wrote to me and said I had an amazing voice – I just had never had any lessons or learned to breathe properly.

"It's been the most wonderful experience.

"The truth is if people buy it and like it, a career is there for me – and if there isn't, there isn't."

### Festive

The album features Nick's gravelly tones singing a range of covers, from The Beatles hit *Here Comes The Sun* to Louis Armstrong's *What A Wonderful World*.

There's even a festive tune on there – a version of the Jonie Mitchell classic *River*. Nick says: "The main

response has been 'What is that building bloke doing singing songs?'

"But Universal wouldn't sign me to an album if I couldn't play.

"It's an album of all the songs that have meant something to me and two new ones. What's nice is that after people hear it, I'm getting a much better reaction.

"The most common one is 'Don't take this the wrong way, but it's really good'. I'll take that back-handed compliment."

The housewives' favourite might be concentrating on singing for now – but he also reveals his Lotto game show *Who Dares Wins* will start filming again in Scotland very soon.

He adds: "That's us had ten years of Saturday night TV and nine years filming it out of Scotland."

colan.lamont@the-sun.co.uk

### LILURA

**WHERE:** Nairn, Inverness-shire.

**FOR FANS OF:** Tove Lo, Lorde, Charli XCX.

**JIM SAYS:** Highlander Jemma Tweedie first made her name as an acoustic singer-songwriter. She toured coffee shops across the UK and bagged slots at key festivals like RockNess and Wickerman.

After finishing university in Glasgow she decided to take a year out from playing live and concentrate on writing. She said: "I always had a much bigger sound in my head and had outgrown playing as a solo acoustic act as my sound and style had developed a lot."

Shifting gear to create some delightful electro-pop, it made sense to reinvent herself.

Lilura emerged with a debut EP *No Control* in April. She said: "I wanted a new name to go with my new sound and I was drawn to Lilura. It's a witch's name that means 'to enchant' which I thought was pretty cool.

"I had a weird obsession going with old witch tales at the time and a customer in Cawdor Castle cafe, where I worked at the time, bought me a book on Scottish witches. That's where the idea came from and I was able to do some research and find my name." It seems a perfect fit with the spellbinding and enchanting sound she now cre-



### NEW MUSIC

By **JIM GELLATLY**

ates. She added: "There are a lot of synths, lots of bass and a much, much fuller sound to what I write. It's definitely more electronic pop now, with a dark streak."

She went to Los Angeles and London to work with some established writers. Jemma said: "Heading to LA pushed me out of my comfort zone and introduced me to the world of co-writing. It's something I now love, whether it's for myself or someone else's project. I feel more confident in my ideas and abilities."

She also took time to shoot a video for her debut single *Darkest Desire* at Joshua Tree in the Californian desert. The results will be premiered soon. *Darkest Desire*, which came out on Friday, was co-written with former One Direc-

tion guitarist Dan Richards. She said: "It's the first thing to be released out of all the stuff I've been working on in LA and I'm so proud of it. I wanted to create something that was quite eerie and dark but still full of energy. It's a twisted song about infatuation that gives a hint of desperation, inspired by that weird needy feeling you get sometimes. The aim was for it to sound quite sultry and passionate but also painful, slightly aggressive and as erratic as my thoughts."

Jemma has just completed her first Lilura tour, billed as the *Darkest Desire* Tour.

Perhaps a bit of a gamble to do it before the single came out, but it paid off. She said: "I wanted to push myself and give myself an idea of where I was at. We covered a number of cities in Scotland but the highlight has to be Edinburgh. I didn't expect anyone to turn up as I don't really know anyone in Edinburgh. I just advertised on social media and got a very pleasant surprise."

Lilura supports Findlay at King Tut's in Glasgow on December 10.

**MORE:** liluramusic.com

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

amazingradio.com  
jimgellatly.com

PIC: MICHAEL CARVER



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