



By
ANNA GAULT

BRITAIN'S Got Talent winner Tokio Myers might be incredible on the ivories — but he revealed he doesn't even own a piano.

The musician wowed viewers of the telly show but humble roots have stopped him from buying his own instrument.

Now Tokio, 33 — who released his debut album *Our Generation* last month — is hoping to finally get his hands on a piano he can call his own.

He says: "I am a pianist and I have got this far in life but I still don't own a piano.

"They are expensive and I lived on a council estate so you've got to think about things like where you are living and annoying people.

"I sometimes turn up to events and there is a piano there and people think it is mine.

"But it's not like I am a violinist — a piano isn't as easy to strap to your back, you'd spend a fortune moving it around venues.

'I have to make sure I'm looking after my body'

"I am looking at owning a piano soon but it will be staying at home."

Londoner Tokio explains how he played his first post-BGT gigs at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and was touched by the warm welcome he received.

He says: "They were the first shows I had played since BGT ended because I was working on my album.

"I loved it. I had seven dates and had no idea whether anyone would turn up or not — but we sold out every single night.

"It was my first time on stage so it was really nice to know I had the support of the Scottish people."

He doesn't just sit at his piano. Tokio explains that his performances are so energetic that he has to stretch his body before taking to the stage.

He said: "It's weird, people think,

Time is right for me to get piano



"Why on Earth are you doing this?" I think the perception is I just play the piano but actually if you see me live, I am standing, twisting my body around, I do all kinds of moves.

"So before I go on I have to make sure I am looking after my body — especially when you are doing it every night because it does take its toll on you."

Tokio has become known for his incredible takes on songs such as *Bloodstream* by Ed Sheeran and *Angel* by The Weeknd — which he came up with in Leith.

He says: "Mercy and Angel are probably two of my favourite songs on the album and we can stamp 'Made in Scotland' on them.

Whenever I play those songs and think of them, I just have good memories of Scotland.

"It's the amazing vibe, people and energy there that was really creative."

Tokio, who took the BGT crown in June, made a triumphant return to the talent show circuit with an appearance on this year's *The X Factor*.

And he reveals he even made hard-nosed judge Sharon Osbourne, *right*, cry.

He joked: "I felt more like going home as the people who work on *The X Factor* behind the scenes are the same on the BGT set.

"I saw familiar faces and I got a chance to say thank you to a lot of

them for all the help they gave me. There was less pressure on me because I wasn't a contestant.

"I felt a lot more relaxed playing on that than I was on BGT.

"I had a good chat with Simon Cowell after a soundcheck and Sharon Osbourne had tears in her eyes and couldn't really get her words out, which was an amazing reaction."

While Tokio is happy sticking to the ivories for now, he admits that singing could be in his future.

He says: "I have found myself miming the words on stage which I have never done before. I think it

is just me enjoying the music but I sing backing vocals on the album so I am buried somewhere pretty deep — in my head that means I have done a solo but you'll have to dig pretty far to pick me out.

"Maybe at the right time I might get on the mic and do something."

"I only saw myself as a pianist but now I am doing drums and all sorts."

Tokio is heading back to Scotland on tour next year.

For more information visit: tokiomyers.com
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THE RIVERS

WHERE: Busby, Renfrewshire.

WHO: Jon Yuill (vocals/guitar), Lyle Scougall (drums).

FOR FANS OF: Dr Feelgood, The Clash, Jake Bugg.

JIM SAYS: Self-styled country grunge duo The Rivers got together while studying Sound Production at the Riverside Music Complex in Busby, just outside Glasgow.

Drummer Lyle Scougall said: "I knew Jon had been in bands in the past (he played guitar with Kain). After college one day I asked him if he wanted to jam and he politely agreed. We weren't terrible, so we continued"

Releasing their first track *Silver Rose* at the end of 2015, they caught the attention of FatCat Records (*Honeyblood*, *The Twilight Sad*, *We Were Promised Jetpacks*) with their next release *9 Miles High*.

The track featured on the label's demo site, capturing the attention of music fans across the world. They then signed a publishing deal with Wipe Out Music (Sleaford Mods) last year after a tip off from fellow-Scots musician Daniel Meade.



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

Starting off with more of an Americana sound, Lyle admits "it's got more rough around the edges" — hence the Country Grunge tag.

He joked: "We still get emails from promoters asking us to support country acts because of our earlier stuff."

"One day I will accept, and they will be like 'What on Earth is going on?' as we blast through ten tracks in sub-20 minutes!"

"Our publisher has been telling us to write slower songs since we signed with them, but I don't think the tempo has changed much."

With over 25 tracks in the can, recorded at the renowned Green Door Studio in Glasgow's West

End, they have their sights set on releasing a debut album. Lyle said: "We love Green Door. I honestly think that has been our biggest inspiration. We bash out new tracks with the sole purpose of getting into Green Door."

"We started with the intention of releasing an album. Both of us had been in bands before but never released a full-length LP."

With the tracks recorded, now they are just looking for a label to licence it.

With their rootsy blues-fuelled rock and roll, which they describe as "if the Ramones went to Nashville", the boys are on to a winner.

After a short hiatus, with Jon being in New York, they've just returned with a great new track called *Single Lines*.

Lyle said: "The single is a four to floor, tribal psychedelic stomper. It isn't like any of our other tracks and I think that's why we wanted to get it out. It's been sitting in The Rivers vaults for a year and a half now. It was time!"

MORE: [facebook.com/theriversbusby](https://www.facebook.com/theriversbusby)
● 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