

# the Sunday MUSIC



by ANNA GAULT

**SINGER Jeff Tweedy is distressed by Donald Trump's presidency — but believes America will emerge stronger from the divisions it is creating.**

The Wilco frontman shares the same Scottish/German ancestry as the straw-haired Commander in Chief but happily admits that is where the similarities end.

He said: "He is Scottish but is also German and that is what I am."

"That's why I am totally free to condemn him and I can honestly say I have not seen a single redeeming quality in that human being."

"I think there is a lot of damage being done and certainly feel a lot of outrage and disgust at the current administration just shattering decency and norms that sustained us for a long time."

"And at the same time I really do appreciate and understand that it has been a much-needed fuel to a level of participation and activism in this country that we really should've been encouraged to do even through the Obama administrations."

**"Ultimately we will be in a better place"**

But he insists that dealing with the issues that are leading to civil unrest in the US at the moment will be difficult but will prove to be a good thing.

He added: "I think that ultimately what will grow out of it will be that it puts us in a better place than we would have been if we just kicked the can down the road and didn't acknowledge that these people exist."

Jeff — from Chicago, Illinois — has the middle name Scot and reckons it's less to do with his Scots heritage and more to do with his mum being a poor speller.

And he says he loves visiting and playing here.

He said: "I always enjoy seeing my ancestral home — I think I am pretty Scottish from the genealogy I know about it."

"I always feel so welcome there. But unfortunately, my middle name 'Scot' is more a product of my mother not having a very good handle on how to spell the name 'Scott'."

Jeff is embarking on a solo tour



# Unity will Trump sore divisions

Says Wilco frontman **JEFF TWEEDY**

away from his Wilco bandmates but fans of the group will recognise a lot of the tracks.

While he is playing alone, Jeff released his album *Together At Last* as a new take on existing Wilco songs.

He said: "I like getting to stand up and trying to present my songs by myself."

"It's fun to see how I can make do with just an acoustic guitar and my voice — it keeps you pretty tightly connected to how a song works if you get out and do that occasionally."

"You have to stare an audience in the eye by yourself."

Jeff said the solo

album was a chance to revisit old tracks and give them a new spin.

He said: "Most songs I write are for just acoustic guitar and voice so I just started documenting old songs and remembering how I played them by myself and decided to start sharing records of those. I think there can be significant transformations when they are stripped down."

Jeff founded Wilco in 1994 and only he and bassist John Stirratt are the remaining original members.

Over the years the band has scored two Grammy awards and four top ten hit in the US.

Jeff now spends

most of his time at his studio in Chicago.

He said: "I like going to the studio and have built a pretty nice one over the years with equipment we have bought."

"I go there every day and it makes it look like I am a lot more prolific than I am — it's just a matter of being addicted to hanging out in the studio. It's not a bad job."

And one of the benefits of having a studio as your office means you can bring your kids to work.

Jeff has already formed a side project called Tweedy with son Spencer and plans to make music more of a family affair in the future.

He said: "When you are at the studio every day, you end up making a lot of stuff and you have to

make more baskets to put it in. My sons Spencer and Sammy and I have also been working on a lot of material and I think 2018 is likely to have another Tweedy record in it."

"It would be great to bring my sons to the Scottish homeland and perform."

Jeff marked a big milestone last year as he turned 50 but he insists he has no intention of slowing down.

He said: "I think I am more energetic than ever especially when it comes to music and my passion for it and desire to it."

"My appreciation that I get to do what I do, has never been matched."

● Jeff Tweedy plays the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh on January 31. For tickets, visit [thequeenshall.net](http://thequeenshall.net)



## FALLEN ARCHES

**WHERE:** Greenock  
**FOR FANS OF:** Frightened Rabbit, Frank Turner, Fatherson

**JIM SAYS:** Like Phil Collins and Dave Grohl before him, Colin Bell has stepped out from behind the drum kit to front his own project.

That's where the comparison ends. With his debut album as *Fallen Arches*, Colin's gone in an indie-folk direction.

It's a confident collection of songs despite his initial reservations about going down the solo route.

He explained: "I was always the drummer in bands because I never really wanted the limelight. I started playing music at school when I was about 14 years old."

"I got kicked out of music class one day for messing around. I saw a drum kit in another room. I snuck in and had a shot. That was me hooked."

He was the main writer in his previous band Sneaky Pete, so he wasn't starting from scratch as a singer-songwriter.

When that band spit up in 2013 he bit the bullet and took the first brave step in doing it all on his own. Now he can see the benefits and is really



## NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

enjoying the new challenge. He told me: "The sound was pop-punk orientated when I played in Sneaky Pete."

"But now I don't have to run my ideas past anyone I can take a song anywhere I please."

"Being solo has its advantages but it can also be a lonely experience, especially on stage."

"Going on stage on your own for the first time when you're used to being behind a drum kit is just plain scary."

Releasing the debut *Fallen Arches EP* — *Footprints* — in 2015, the album followed early last year. *Footprints* earned rave reviews at the time and *Fallen Arches* played sold-out shows up and

down the country — and the album is also proving popular.

Colin said: "Pen To Paper is a bunch of songs I wrote during a very tough year. Looking back the lyrics tell bits of that story almost by accident."

"The title track *Pen To Paper* is about growing up with dyslexia and eventually learning to use it as an advantage rather than a disadvantage."

"I think slightly differently to other folk. As a songwriter that sometimes gives me a slight advantage."

"I play everything on the record, although James Mackenzie at SoundShape Productions in Greenock does all my string sections."

Making a name for himself on the live scene, highlights in the past year include supporting My Vitriol in Glasgow and opening the Main Stage at ButeFest.

*Fallen Arches* plays the Southside Sessions at Sweeney's On The Park on Glasgow's Pollokshaws Road on January 25.

**MORE:** [facebook.com/fallenarchesmusic](http://facebook.com/fallenarchesmusic)  
● 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)