



by ANNA GAULT

SINGER Calum Scott hopes his new album is a smash hit — so he can afford to celebrate his 30th birthday in Las Vegas.

The Dancing On My Own star might be sitting with more than 200million YouTube views to his name. But he is still worried about breaking the bank to have a laugh with his friends in the Nevada gamblers' paradise.

Calum, 29, shot into the Top Ten with the Robyn cover after losing out in the Britain's Got Talent final in 2015.

The singer songwriter's debut album *Only Human* is now due for release in March and Calum hopes it will fund his birthday trip.

He said: "I don't see a ton of my friends any more so I want to try to get us all together and go somewhere like Las Vegas.

"But I am feeling that might be a little bit too expensive — I have to get the album out and see how it does first.

"I do want to have a special moment for my big 3-0 that I can look back on rather than a quiet one at home — although if I am back working at Asda it might be.

"My mates who are younger than me are all slagging me for it — saying I am so much older and my crow's feet are showing.

"I am smothering moisturiser on me like you won't believe."

Calum, who came out after appearing on BGT, told how he is looking forward to the landmark birthday after spending his teens and most of his 20s learning to accept his sexuality. He said: "I feel quite excited about turning 30.

"I had a lot of problems talking about my sexuality when I was younger and I wasted a lot of my teen years and 20s worrying about it and feeling afraid to talk about it.

"I lived with that fear for so long but I wouldn't change it as it has made me the person I am today.

"But my 30s are going to be a new era of my life.

"I am doing something I love, travelling the world, meeting fans, feeling confident and I am no longer restricted by my sexuality."

Single Calum, from Hull, revealed he is on dating apps but had trouble getting verified with sites thinking he was a fake.

He said: "Since I became more confident, I've thought, 'Right, let

I'm gambling on album being a hit



me get myself on the market'. So I joined Tinder and Chappie and it was funny because at first the sites thought I was an imposter.

"And I am like 'It's really me, these are really my selfies, I am not a catfish'.

"I just want to date and meet people.

"I feel like I should have been doing that earlier but I was so terrified that I put it to the side."

And Calum had some success on the dating scene but admits juggling romance with chart success is difficult.

He said: "I met a guy and we

were seeing each other for about a month or so but as it got more intense I started to freak out a little bit.

"I hadn't been in a relationship for quite a while and I just said I was going away and not sure if it was going to work."

Dancing On My

Own has raked up an astonishing 238million views on YouTube and new single *You Are The Reason* already has 12million after being released just a couple of weeks ago.

Across the Atlantic, he has performed on *The Ellen Show*, *Late Night With Seth Meyers* and *Good Morning America*. He

said: "It's just silly numbers and I keep hearing things like averaging a million views a day on *You Are The Reason*.

"That blows my mind because I still consider myself as a normal lad who likes to sing.

"You would think there was a superstar behind that video with that amount of views.

"Releasing original material was always a dream of mine so to have *You Are The Reason* out there is amazing."

● Calum's debut album is released on March 9 and he plays Glasgow's O2 ABC on April 13.



TIDE LINES

WHERE: Glasgow

WHO: Robert Robertson (vocals/guitar), Alasdair Turner (guitar/bagpipes), Ross Wilson (keyboards), Gus Munro (drums)

FOR FANS OF: Runrig, Deacon Blue, Bruce Springsteen

JIM SAYS: Initially formed a couple of years ago by ex-Skipinnish members Robert Robertson and Ross Wilson, Tide Lines have been taking the live music scene by storm.

While traditional and Gaelic music remain at their core, Tide Lines use contemporary sounds to great effect. Former Royal National Mod gold medallist Robert said: "We lean more towards electronica than we did when we played with the Skipinnish boys. To that end, the instrumentation is different. We don't have the likes of accordion or whistle in the live line-up. We are more electric. Even in our pipe set, Moog bass from the keyboard is prominent."

They are based in Glasgow, but only drummer Gus is native to the city. Robert's from Lochaber, Ross from the Isle of Mull while Alasdair has his roots in Alesch, Ross-shire. Their debut single *Far Side Of The World* was released in 2016, followed



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

last year by the acclaimed album *Dreams We Never Lost*. Along the way they've clocked up over a million streams.

Robert said: "The response so far has been great. We've sold over 6,000 physical copies and many more digital downloads. On the day of its release last summer, the album reached number 14 in the iTunes UK download chart."

Their live shows are just as popular, packing out venues up and down the country. Last night they played a sold-out show at St Luke's in Glasgow as part of the Celtic Connections festival.

Most of the gigs on their forthcoming 13-date March tour are already sold-out including Edin-

burgh, Stornoway, Ullapool, Stirling and Glasgow. They've also ventured beyond these shores.

Robert said: "Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany last summer was a particular highlight — also playing in the European Parliament in Brussels in November."

On Friday Tide Lines released a new single *Streets Of Dreamers*. It is a great progression. Think Runrig reworked by Coldplay. It bodes well for the second album, which they hope to have out by the autumn.

Robert said: "The music has really developed as we've gelled as a group. We are still a relatively young band. Just over a year and a half ago we were taking our first tentative steps making music together with *Far Side Of The World*. I think our closer personal relationships now have allowed us to be more creative and inventive."

Following next month's tour, it's all about festivals, with *HebCelt* in Stornoway in July and *Belladrum* near Inverness at the start of August. They are also set to play more European festivals.

MORE: tidelinesband.com
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on *Amazing Radio* Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk