



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

COLD YEARS

WHERE: Aberdeen
WHO: Ross Gordon (vocals/guitar), Finlay Urquhart (guitar/vocals), Louis Craighead (bass/vocals), Fraser Allan (drums)
FOR FANS OF: The Hold Steady, Foo Fighters, Manic Street Preachers

JIM SAYS: North-east rockers Cold Years are set to release their third EP Northern Blue on Friday. Featuring the singles Miss You To Death, Seasons and What I Lost, they've laid down heartfelt songs blending rock 'n' roll, punk and Americana.

Frontman Ross told me: "It's a bit different to anything we have done previously. A lot of it is written around the thought of facing the world without my parents. There's some stuff about past relationships and looking forward to the future."

Emerging in 2015 with their Mile Marker EP, the Aberdeen band came together after Ross had written songs. He explained: "I had no intention of doing anything with them, but then I thought, 'OK, I want to put them in a band format and see if they work.'"

"I called Finlay, told him Fraser was going to play drums, called Fraser told him Finlay was playing guitar! I lied through my teeth to get them together. Then we recorded Mile Marker a couple of months later."

Cold Years have found a home from home in Germany, hooking up with Homebound Records for the new EP. Ross said: "They approached us about a deal on a limited edition of Northern Blue. Fabian Schreiner really believes in what he is doing, and those guys are just so into music."

The guys are heading back to Germany for some dates in April. Ross said: "They have a strong scene and are committed to live music. They feed you, pay you and put you up 90 per cent of the time. For a band at our level that was the thing that surprised us the most."

Before the tour they have their first arena show at BrewDog's AGM at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. The shareholders' event has previously featured The Stranglers, Frightened Rabbit, Twin Atlantic and Idlewild.

Cold Years launch the Northern Blue EP on March 2 with a gig at The Tunnels in Aberdeen.

MORE: www.facebook.com/coldyearsband
 Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.com

Watch video of band at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk



COUNTRY'S
 HOTTEST
 ROOKIE SET
 TO SHINE
 WITH IDOLS

Maiden Kelsea



by COLAN LAMONT

SINGER Kelsea Ballerini is thrilled to be playing the Country To Country festival in Glasgow next month — because she'll FINALLY get to see all her music icons.

The 24-year-old is playing the SSE Hydro as part of the three-day C2C, Europe's biggest country music festival. And alongside her on the bill are country legends Emmylou Harris, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

Delighted Kelsea said: "They have the headliners who are superstars — but also artists like myself."

"I open for Tim McGraw. They are international superstars everywhere and yet I've never seen them live."

"So I'll be the first one there dancing to the music."

It brings the best country music and programming with performances from the world's best country stars as well as emerging talent from Nashville, the UK and Europe.

Little Big Town and Kacey Musgraves will also be on stage. It's the fourth year it's been held in Glasgow, having moved from last year's home at the Clyde Auditorium.

And Kelsea can't wait to turn a small corner of Glasgow into a mini-Nashville from March 9-11 and is looking forward to exploring the country.

She says: "I've just been to Scotland once when I opened for Lady Antebellum."

"I didn't get to see too much but I did visit a really nice pub which was amazing."

"But the craziest thing for me as a new artist is getting out of Nashville and the South and going somewhere as far away as Scotland."

"To go all that way and see people still know the songs and have such a mad love for country music makes my perspective so much bigger."

"That's something I've really enjoyed and had never thought about before. I never thought I'd get to go there."

"I don't want to stay all day on a bus when I'm there."

"I'm a total tourist and would love to see everything if I can."

"And I wish I had the accent, I love travelling and I don't think I have an accent at all."

"I'm southern but there are people in Nashville have ones a lot stronger than

mine." Rising star Kelsea released her debut album *The First Time* in 2015. She became the first solo female country music artist to score a No1 hit with her debut single since Carrie Underwood when *Love Me Like You Mean It* topped the country chart in July that year.

She followed with two additional No1 hits, *Dibs* and *Peter Pan*.

Kelsea's talent was recognised with a Best New Artist nomination at the Grammys in 2017 and she released second album, *Unapologetically*, just before Christmas last year.

The singer-songwriter, originally from Mascot, Tennessee, was originally influenced by pop music, but megastars like Keith Urban and Taylor Swift got her thinking about country.

She says: "Breaking into country music is about figuring out your angle. That means what you want to say and how you say it and how you make sure it's different to other people."

"It's been slow and steady but really good."

"I released my first single three and a half years ago and it's been a super fun journey since then."

"When I tour, I just want to introduce everyone to this type of music."

"That's the plan."

● Tickets are available via viagogo.co.uk



STARSTRUCK ... Kelsea is playing alongside Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Emmylou Harris at the C2C festival