

POP sensation Mabel was the hottest new artist of 2017 — but she reckons things are about to get even better.

The 22-year-old singer cracked the big time as single *Finders Keepers* put her on the music map.

As well as reaching No8 in the UK, the track received an incredible amount of airplay time.

And Mabel — full name Mabel McVey — has already enjoyed a brilliant start to 2018 with another chart hit, *Fine Line*.

She says: "I don't think I ever expected to blow up like this, it happens when you least expect it."

"I did hope *Finders Keepers* would be well received because up to that point writing music, it felt like my strongest work and most me."

"It clicked with who I am and what my sound is."

"Obviously I was hoping it would be my big break — but I wasn't counting on it."

"We won't be taking it easy now that the album is out."

"It's all about momentum now and showing people who I am."

"I'd like to release as much music as possible and keep that up."

I'm taking it one step at a time

Mabel will be in Scotland tomorrow for a headline gig after already supporting former One Direction favourite Harry Styles on his massive UK tour.

Born in Malaga and raised in Sweden, the singer now lives in London and admits she's looking forward to seeing the country.

She says: "Sadly with most of these trips you're in and out of the country quickly."

"So I'll probably not get as much time to discover and explore as I'd like."

"I'd never played Scotland and never even been there before the gigs so I'm very excited."

"I'm ready to be schooled on the music scene there too."

"It's super cool being able to see places and travelling wherever in the world."

"When I was in Paris I couldn't believe I had a day off there. It's definitely an interesting way to see the world."

As she tries to cash in on her early success, Mabel has had a jam-packed schedule for the last few months.

Between releasing her hit singles and debut album *Ivy To Roses*, she has also toured for more than 40 dates across Europe in less than 50 days. But



by **COLAN LAMONT**
FEATURES WRITER

despite the heavy workload, she wouldn't change a thing.

Mabel — the daughter of singer-songwriter Neneh Cherry and Massive Attack record producer Cameron McVey — says: "I'm just taking everything one step at a time."

"I'm not thinking about 40 shows because then it just becomes really stressful."

"It's better just to focus on what you're doing right now."

"I have fun in everything I do and me and the band have a great time — it just depends what you make of it."

"My work rate has been pretty crazy lately and I've had three songs out. But there's more big plans."

Mabel has already been compared to superstars like Rita Ora and Rihanna, but she's not going to get ahead of herself.

She wants the tours to get bigger and her fanbase to grow by being her own person.

The singer adds: "There's lots of people I respect but I'm already aware

everybody has a different journey and I wouldn't swap my situation for anyone else as I'm still learning."

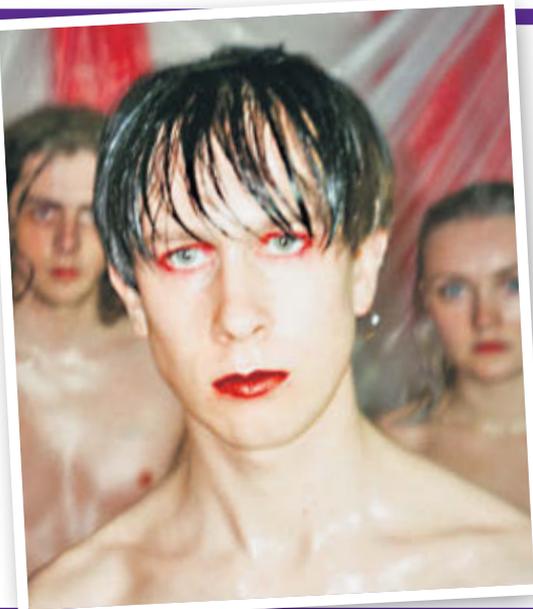
"I look at other people and think they're great but also know that I'm me and although I'd like to be on Rihanna's level or sell out arenas like Drake, I don't want to be them."

● Mabel plays Glasgow's O2 ABC tomorrow
colan.lamont@the-sun.co.uk

Definitely Mabel!



STAR... Mabel, with mum Neneh Cherry, top, has been likened to Rita Ora and Rihanna



THE NINTH WAVE

WHO: Haydn Park-Patterson (vocals/guitar), Millie Kidd (vocals/bass), Louise MacLennan (synths/keys), Lewis Tollan (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: The Cure, Interpol, Simple Minds
JIM SAYS: Going down a storm at an official aftershow at O2 ABC Glasgow last year, The Ninth Wave got the chance to shine at this year's TRNSMT festival proper.

The Glasgow four-piece play King Tut's stage the opening day at Glasgow Green on Friday, June 29. Three of last year's Tut's acts — Gerry Cinnamon, Lewis Capaldi and Declan McKenna — have been elevated to the Main Stage this year.

The Ninth Wave will be joined by rising stars Tom Walker, Pale Waves, Marmozets, Sam Fender and labelmates Anteros. It should be a brilliant platform for The Ninth Wave, but drummer Lewis is more practical about it. He joked: "We'll save some money on petrol, and you don't need to trek to the woods in the middle of nowhere!"

He added: "We've been around for about two years, evolving in sound and members over time. I met Haydn just from being out and about in Glasgow, while Louise is my girlfriend. Millie



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

joined recently. Haydn knew her through various family friends." With BBC Radio 1, 6 Music and Radio X championing the band, their profile continues to grow. They've already outgrown the Glasgow music scene bubble, creating a buzz across the UK, celebrating the release of their new EP on Friday with a gig in Berlin.

Never Crave Attention is their second EP, following last year's *Reformation*, including its stand-out title track. Lewis said: "Being our biggest song to date, you could easily get caught in the trap of trying to make all your songs like it. We haven't so far. On the first EP we learned how to work with producers and the possibilities in the studio. The new EP is much more focused, and we

went in knowing how we wanted it to sound. It was much more of a guitar band originally but recently we've been adapting our sound with synths and drum machines."

They still use guitars, but it's a more rounded sound with a bit of an 80s alternative vibe. Dare I say gothic pop? You could easily stick them on a playlist with The Cure, The Bunnymen, Bauhaus and The Cult. Both EPs are released through London-based label Distiller Records. They signed to Distiller after Head of A&R Sam Denholm, originally from Glasgow, spotted them in London. Lewis said: "She seemed to like it, so she came up to Glasgow to see us again a few months later, then offered us a deal." The band have a busy schedule, playing a UK tour next month with Lucia. Scottish dates include Cafe Drummond in Aberdeen on May 10, followed the next night by Church in Dundee. The tour ends at The Great Escape Festival in Brighton (May 17-19).

The Ninth Wave join a healthy Scottish contingent at the huge event including Lewis Capaldi, Nina Nesbitt, Rascalton and Dancing On Tables.

MORE: facebook.com/theninthwaveofficial
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