



by **RACHEL MAINS**

**INDIE** rockers **The Rahs** started out as a covers band — but are now finding their own style.

The band, from Prestonpans, East Lothian, have teamed up with a top producer to fine-tune their sound and have been gaining interest from the American music industry.

Singer Jack McLeod, 24, said: "We started as four young lads, and we've been friends since nursery."

"Back in 2009, we decided to pick up some instruments and try our hand at being a cover band. "From there it's kind of progressed.

"We've had some ups and downs over the years, two EPs and some singles.

"In 2016, we introduced a new member Chris into the band to play the keyboards, so it was kind of a fresh slate for us.

### 'It became a totally new ball game'

"We made all our old EPs defunct and started fresh.

"It became a totally new ball game. He makes us sound better and gives us a better base to work from. It's really helped us with our creativity and our approach to tracks."

Jack is in the band with Jordan McIntyre, Andrew McLeod, and Neale Gary.

As part of their new, rockier sound, they have started working with Dublin-based producer James Darkin, above.

The hit-maker — who has previously teamed up with will.i.am and Rihanna, below — was so impressed he flew to Glasgow to record with The Rahs.

Jack explained: "It has

**'We have a stronger sound..this is who we should be'**

PRODUCTION VALUES... The Rahs have teamed up with James Darkin



# Band are going out on the Rahs

been hard to get heard. It takes a lot for a Scottish band like us to be noticed, especially with people from London and in America. I don't know if it's our accent or what, but it has been difficult. "Working with James has just been a total game changer. He's just made us

believe in ourselves a lot more.

"Previously we were kinda aiming for an indie vibe, but now we're really wanted to play what we love, rather than being driven by someone else.

"It has created a stronger sound for us. We feel like we are being who we should be. I feel like we have much more passion.

"We are all much more comfortable." Their new single Survival is

out in America on June 15 and Jack is looking forward to gigging there this summer.

Jack said: "I think we've got a few festivals lined up but we've not announced them yet.

"We've been sitting on our hands for the last few months as we've been waiting for some things to happen.

"The new release is being dealt with by a guy who does with

worldwide promotion, so we're just letting it flow. We're hoping to do some gigging overseas, but we'll always be gigging at home and in the UK."

Jack added: "It's quite surreal that people from the United States are even interested, especially in young lads who are essentially from a wee seaside town in Scotland.

"But we're grabbing our chance."

## US

**WHO:** Andrew Montgomery (vocals), Leo Josefsson (synthesizers/vocals)

**WHERE:** Stockholm, Sweden

**FOR FANS OF:** Depeche Mode, Nine Inch Nails, Gary Numan

**JIM SAYS:** The Us story takes us from Geneva to Stockholm.

Singer Andrew provided the angelic vocals for Aberdeen band Geneva, who enjoyed four Top 40 hits in the mid-90s. Signed to Nude Records, the home of Suede, they also scored a Top 20 album with their debut Further in 1987.

Andrew, originally from East Kilbride, released a solo album Ruled By Dreams in 2014. I caught him at King Tut's in Glasgow around the time.

It was clear from the Geneva songs he performed on the night that the band played a huge part in the lives of their fans.

He said: "I'm really thankful for the time I had in Geneva and proud of the music that we made. It's amazing to think that people still remember it after so many years."

The classic Into The Blue, when performed at Tut's, almost brought tears to my eyes. It was just so good to hear that song performed live again.

I am delighted to say I'm getting a similar feeling with Andrew's latest project. His voice is as



## NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

good as ever. Remarkable and unmistakable — up there with the much-missed Billy Mackenzie.

Now based in Sweden, he's hooked up with native musician Leo Josefsson, also part of a creative collective called House of Wizards. The result is some glorious electro anthems, with his incredible voice at the core.

He said: "I fell in love with a Swedish girl — I'm such a cliché! The relationship didn't last, but the band has, and I have no regrets about moving to this amazing city Stockholm."

Andrew met Leo soon after he moved to Sweden, and the seeds were sown. He explained: "We met at a mutual pal's drunken barbecue. We started an impromptu karaoke session and I sang Rhinestone Cowboy. A bit of the late, great Glen Campbell always does the trick — even if I

could never do the song justice in a million years. Leo thought my voice might go well with his 'wall of synths' sound. Three years later, here we are."

Andrew recognises it is still early days for the band, but they've started to get some attention and have been picked up by a handful of blogs as well as airplay on Swedish Radio. He said: "It's great to keep making new music and exploring with an electronic, film-inspired sound.

"We've probably moved from our obvious influences, such as 80s synth pop, to something that is more the personal film soundtrack that is playing in our heads. It feels like the music is getting bigger, more widescreen and more textural.

"I've really fallen for electronic and experimental music in general, from Eno to The Field, Pauline Oliveros to Susumu Yokota."

The first tracks Us have unleashed to the streaming world just ooze class. Till The Dying Of The Light, Mute (reworking a Swedish hit from Stakka Bo) and most recently Voyager hint at a band with an incredible debut album in them. Plans are currently afoot to play Scotland in the autumn.

**MORE:** facebook.com/usmusicsthlm  
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.  
[amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com](http://amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com)



▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: [www.thescottishsun.co.uk](http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk)