

By BEN ARCHIBALD

EIGHTIES pop icon Rick Astley has revealed his band down shots of Jaegermeister before every show.

The Never Gonna Give You Up star, 52, said he and his crew went wild for the spirit on a boozy night out in Glasgow six years ago.

And now the icon and bandmates take a shot of the tippie before **EVERY** show as a good luck charm.

Astley said: "It's a cliché but you guys in Scotland know how to party."

"The first time I ever had a Jaegerbomb was in Glasgow a few years back.

"We just planned to have a Chinese and a quiet night one day before the gig.

"Fast forward two hours and we're in a basement club somewhere drinking Jaegerbombs. It was a crazy night.

"I like a Jaeger, but I don't like a Jaeger and red bull.

"I try hard not to drink while we're gigging but we now always have a shot of Jaeger before we go on after that night out in Glasgow."

The singer became an international star in 1987 with his debut tune Never Gonna Give You Up becoming a global smash.

He sold 40million albums worldwide, but turned his back on music in 1993, before making a return to performing in 2001. But it wasn't until 2016 that he had an incredible revival, and he scored his first Nol in 29 years with album 50.

He went on to play on the same bill as Justin Bieber and Rihanna as he performed at V Festival later that year.

And he reveals the most bizarre part of his resurgence in recent years was playing on stage with The Foo Fighters at a Japanese festival.

Frontman Dave Grohl asked him to perform with their band after they used his tune Never Gonna Give You Up to troll the controversial Westboro Baptist Church during a feud.

He said: "It's quite funny being on the same bill as Rihanna but the most bizarre thing was definitely being on stage with The Foo Fighters.

"They saw that I was on a list for this Japanese festival and Dave Grohl comes over and gives me a hug. Twenty minutes later he'd invited me on stage, even though I'd never met any of them.

"We then sang my tune. I turned to 50,000 people and screamed 'Come on you m*****ers'.

"I'd just had a few beers and the most bizarre moment of my life is happening."

The multi-million selling artist is due to release new album Beautiful



Life next month. He will then embark on a UK tour, with his first performance at Glasgow's SEC arena on October 25.

But despite performing for many years, he admits he's nervous about going on tour again.

He said: "I'm really looking forward to performing in Glasgow. They always have good crowds there.

"It's always a bit nervous on your first gig of the tour, though. You need the nerves or you're a robot.

"Never Gonna Give You Up is always my secret weapon, although it's not really a secret.

"I could play any room in the world and I know people there will know it.

"I embrace the popularity of the song rather than shy away from it."

Even though he'll be performing in front of huge crowds during his tour, he hopes that he won't get noticed much away from his gigs. He said: "I don't really get recognised. It depends on my quiff."

"I'll be playing to 10,000 people and then half an hour later I'll be in a supermarket on the way home and nobody will bat an eyelid."

He added: "I'll generally just be ignored on a day-to-day level, which is pretty cool.

"If I came to Glasgow for a potter around I'd get a few people asking 'aren't you Rick Astley?'"

"But that's about it and I'm happy with that."

●Beautiful Life goes on sale on July 13. Rick plays Glasgow's SEC on 25 October.

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PARTY RICKS... Astley has high hopes for new tour and, with Dave Grohl from Foo Fighters, left

Never gonna give Jae up



MISSY MCANULTY

WHERE: Edinburgh

FOR FANS OF: Kate Bush, Sigrid, Dua Lipa

JIM SAYS: When you listen to Missy McAnulty's new single she does sound so happy to be back in Edinburgh. After years away from the city, Home is a song that comes from the heart.

She told me: "It draws on my real-life experiences and the sacrifices I make working hard on my music. The song reflects just how much it means to me to be back with my family."

Around ten years ago, aged 17, she left Scotland's capital to pursue her dreams of becoming a performer. She said: "I was always immersed in music and theatre, especially coming from the home of the Fringe. My first stop was a year's drama course in Stratford-upon-Avon. Afterwards I successfully auditioned for a place at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

"I studied method acting and vocal training for two years and graduated from the Academy with a degree in acting. I then stayed for a further year auditioning for theatre and in between wrote my own songs and performed and collaborated with other artists.

"When I was at drama school I was always gigging at open mics and I always had a passion for



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

writing songs." Returning to the UK, she hooked up with London hip hop/rock fusion band State of Play, who she played with for five years.

Launching her solo career in late 2016, Missy caught my attention with the video for her track Power Of The Mind. It was released in aid of mental health charity Young Minds UK.

She explained: "I cast individuals who had actually suffered from mental health problems to ensure the video captured the true essence of how it feels to suffer in silence. The message behind it was to encourage people not to struggle with the agony of mental health alone."

Missy seems to have found a new spark since returning to Edinburgh, and along with her past

experiences, it's had a huge impact on her songs. She said: "The last track I wrote named 'Tightrope' was about the struggles with life balance. Being in London surrounded by the crazy hustle and bustle and working around the clock 24/7 had left me no other choice but to have a break."

She's already starting to immerse herself in the Scottish scene. She added: "I love the music industry in Scotland. It's a lot smaller than in London, and people seem more approachable. I have got to know contacts on a personal level which is really refreshing. I love meeting new people."

With a band now in place, featuring Oliver Farrell on keyboards and drummer Chris Lusby, she's set to take her music back to the stage. She said: "I have missed playing live so much. I used to gig twice a month with State Of Play. Building my solo repertoire, I've had a bit of a break from gigging."

Missy McAnulty and her band play Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh on July 30, joined by The Micro Band and Anna Sweeney. She's also got plans to play loads of acoustic gigs throughout the Fringe next month.

MORE: facebook.com/missymcAnulty
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