

**EXCLUSIVE**  
by COLAN LAMONT**FORMER** composer C Duncan orchestrated a move into the pop scene — so he'd have more time to himself.

The 28-year-old is quickly becoming one of the hottest acts on the Scottish music scene after releasing two albums in the last three years.

The singer — whose first name is Christopher — has a classical background after graduating from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where he studied music composition.

But he moved fields after realising it was quicker to write a pop song.

Christopher, whose classical pieces were performed by ensembles

across the country, says: "With pop you can write music from home and there's instant gratification. But with classical there's months of writing and months of rehearsal."

"There's no point in making music people don't listen to and wasting your time."

"With pop you can get the message you want across but in a way that appeals to people more than a 40-minute symphony."

The singer released his first single For in 2015 — and his album Architect, inset above, out in the same year, was nominated for the Mercury Prize.

His last album, The Midnight Sun, was recorded entirely in his flat.

Christopher, who lives in Glasgow's West End, says: "Towards the end of recording Architect, my production skills had developed, and I wanted to put them to the test on another record."

"I'm still very much in the mindset that working alone from home is the best way to create music — for me anyway."

"I upgraded my home set-up for The Midnight Sun to give it a much cleaner sound."

"Unlike Architect, which was a big mix of different genres, the album is much more coherent and concise."

Having gone two years without an album release, he recently finished work on a third effort which should be out early in 2019.

Until then, Christopher is

# Classical was taking too long so I went POP!



focusing on playing as many gigs as possible to get his music out in the mainstream.

He's already supported Elbow on their tour and is teaming up with Edinburgh rock outfit Django Django for the International Festival at Leith Theatre on August 10.

Christopher says: "I didn't even know Django Django were Scottish until a year ago. "Now I really enjoy their music."

"I got a message from the festival saying they had the

perfect venue for us to play together. It will be an interesting gig."

Before that he will perform in Glasgow for the opening bash of Festival 2018, which is part of the first ever European Championships. He will help launch The Big Opening Party alongside Scottish duo The Ayoub Sisters and SAY Award-winners Sacred Paws.

He adds: "I got an email out of the blue about that gig, which was really nice. It was for the opening for the Euro-

pean Championships in George Square so I said absolutely yes. I've never seen a gig in the square before."

The opening party will be followed by days of sporting action and cultural performance in the city.

Christopher says: "Anything big like this is very good for the city and the culture."

● For tickets for The Big Opening Party log onto ticketmaster.co.uk and for more info on Festival 2018 head to festival2018glasgow.com  
colan.lamont@the-sun.co.uk

## Wolfenstein II: The New Colossus

Switch £49.99

OUR 2017 Game of the Year is now a sensation on the Switch... sort of.

The port is a real mixed bag — yes, you can play on the move and some cool features like HD rumble have been added. There is also an option to use Gyro-Based Motion Controls, where you take aim with your joy-cons or Pro controller. It makes it easier for you to spray rooms of the Reich.

It will take time to get used to, but it's a fun addition and it is great to see Bethesda embracing the tech of the Switch. That said, squishing an epic game onto the Switch was a real gamble.

The transfer has hit the textures and framerate, especially in docked mode, but it is not a deal-breaker. This is still a stunning game — and now you can play it on the bus.

★★★★★

STUART CULLEN



## Prey: Mooncrasher

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £13.19

THIS DLC takes the core Prey gameplay and goes rogue-like as you have to escape from a moon base repeatedly — with five characters.

However, no two runs are the same so it doesn't get boring. Add in new weapons such as goo mines and enemies like the moon shark and it's actually a bigger challenge than the core game. The characters have different skill-sets so you have to react quickly because the game will beef up the difficulty if you hang around for too long.

Prey is a very story-heavy game but you may be disappointed if you are looking for an epic tale within the DLC. It does still breathe some life into Prey — that lacked a replay hook, but this is great fun. It's a must-try.

★★★★★

STUART CULLEN



## Hyper Sentinel

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £11.99

IN a world of HD remakes and reboots, it is neat to see an update which keeps the core idea then polishes it.

This is retro joy — an upgraded version of the Commodore 64 classic, Uridium, made by Andrew Braybrook and published by Hewson Consultants in 1986.

Fast forward 32 years and the game is being published by Huey Games. Their CEO is Rob Hewson, son of Andrew Hewson of Hewson Consultants.

The game is a fast-paced side-scrolling arcade shooter where you fly from left to right blasting everything that moves as you assault spaceships. It's simple and addictive as you chase that high score.

It has really nailed the retro look and the soundtrack captures the 80s vibe, but the game can get a bit repetitive after a while. Still, it pays its respects to Uridium and is a class retro act.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN

## SPARE SNARE

WHERE: Dundee/Glasgow

WHO: Jan Burnett (vocals/guitar), Alan Cormack (bass/guitar), Adam Lockhart (keyboards/guitar), Graeme Ogston (guitar/bass) Barry Gibson (drums).

FOR FANS OF: Nirvana, Pixies, Arab Strap  
JIM SAYS: The cult lo-fi favourites return this month with a new album... sort of. Sounds is a collection of tracks from their catalogue reworked with legendary producer Steve Albini.

Emerging over 25 years ago in Dundee, they might not be a household name, but Spare Snare have plenty of accolades. Recording four sessions for the late, great John Peel, they've 12 albums behind them.

Influential American singer-songwriter Mark Linkous, who sadly took his own life in 2010, was a fan. He even offered them a support slot on his band Sparklehorse's second European tour.

Glasgow-based frontman Jan Burnett recalled: "We had two days' notice. Mark wasn't happy with the support they had and loved our first album. We got the call. We all had real jobs and had



## NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

no rehearsal. I met him the third time they played Glasgow to say thanks."

Roddy Woomble, of Idlewild, and Snow Patrol's Gary Lightbody were regulars at Spare Snare gigs in Dundee before they started their own bands.

On discovering that Albini was also a fan, they plotted a cunning plan to get him to Scotland. Jan explained: "Once we got over the fact that he was a fan and knew of us from the 90s and was keen to work with us, it was then working out how to afford it. The Scottish Engineers' Workshop was the perfect solution. Scottish talent could be taught by Albini and we would be the sound source for that workshop. Albini loved the idea of it being publicly funded,

Watch a video of the band at: [thescottishsun.co.uk](http://thescottishsun.co.uk)[amazingradio.com](http://amazingradio.com)  
[jimgellatly.com](http://jimgellatly.com)