

**EXCLUSIVE**
by COLAN LAMONT**RAPPING Scots duo Shy and D.R.S. hope to beatbox their way to chart glory with a single featuring hip hop hero Angel.**

The 33-year-old twins – real names Darren and Mark Scott – have teamed up with the megastar for their new track *What's Wrong With Us*.

Darren admits he and his brother couldn't believe they managed to convince the in-demand singer and producer to appear on their track.

He says: "I'm still in shock, it's mental he did it."

"He's been working with Chris Brown and Alicia Keys and been posting videos of them together in a studio and now he's working with us in Scotland."

"It was a surprise but he liked our song and the concept and meaning behind it."

"He's a proper A-lister but we messaged him on Instagram to see if he'd be interested. Our team spoke to his and we made it happen."

"Just to be working with someone like Angel is insane." The duo, from Aberdeen, are hoping it's going to be their fifth Official Chart Top 40, which would be a record for an independent Scots music act.

"We were dying to get single out"

It looks like they're well on the way to accomplishing that aim as the song has already featured on MTV and amassed 120,000 streams.

The Remix version – which features X Factor star Emily Middlemas, *below*, among other singers – was released last week with all of the proceeds going to Oxfam.

It's been a whirlwind for the siblings who were unable to release a new single for three years due to a contract dispute.

Darren says: "The contract we were in before meant we couldn't put anything out before a certain time."

"The only things we could release were covers and promotional content and we couldn't put out our actual single."

"We wanted to wait until the contract expired as they would have owned

**ON SONG**
... hip-hop star Angel**IT'S A RAP**
... energetic Shy and D.R.S.

Rap single with Angel is a match made in heaven

the master otherwise. The song has been ready to go for about a year so it's been frustrating when you have a song and you're dying to get it out – but it's been well worth the wait."

It's been two years since the rappers reached the Boot Camp stage of the X Factor and Darren reckons their fanbase grew massively because of it.

But he insists that the reality show genre doesn't suit their personalities.

He says: "It was

good for exposure and a good experience meeting all the judges and being part of the whole thing."

"But it wasn't really us, we were asked to do it."

"We were the first rappers to get to Boot Camp so that's our claim to fame."

"Although it wasn't for us, a lot of people noticed us on the programme so that worked in our favour."

Looking ahead, the brothers want to continue to promote rap music in Scotland.

Although it's a niche at the moment, they hope to make it

mainstream. Darren admits: "We were the first Scottish rappers really."

"There were some other ones but they were more underground and had a harsher sound."

"We tried to bring it to the masses and make it more commercial and easy listening so people enjoy it."

"Hip hop in Scotland is definitely a massive genre that everyone is into now and having a Scottish accent when we rap makes us stand out a lot."

"We want to put Scotland on the map."

**EM|ME****WHERE:** Glasgow.**WHO:** Emily Meekel (vocals/guitar), Jordan-Lee Johnstone (guitar), Grant McEwan (bass), Chris Dickie (drums).**FOR FANS OF:** Florence + The Machine, London Grammar, Wolf Alice.**JIM SAYS:** Emily Meekel isn't quite sure if EM|ME is a band or a solo thing. She explained: "We haven't spoken much about it. EM|ME started out as a solo project and I will always make music as EM|ME, with or without the full band."

"However, the music I'm making right now and the sound it has is influenced by all four of us. I guess you could say we're like Florence + The Machine, but we didn't really think of a '+ The Machine' part."

Florence is a good starting point, and musically it's got that vibe. Emily, originally from the Netherlands, came to Glasgow four years ago to go to university.

She told me: "I mainly wanted to go to Glasgow because of its music scene, which would enable me to combine my music with my studies, which is chemistry. I also wanted something new and thought it would be cool to move

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By Jim Gellatly

to an entirely different county. I'd been to Glasgow twice before and really liked it."

The city's slogan is of course 'People Make Glasgow', and Emily doesn't disagree. She said: "I'm from a tiny place called Schagen. Everyone knows each other, which drove me insane at times. Glasgow is much more buzzing – I find Glaswegians friendly and open. They'll start conversations with a stranger, which is not as common in my hometown, or Holland in general."

Emily's musical education came via her parents' record collection. Her dad listens to rock and punk, with Bowie being a favourite. She said: "Friday afternoons was his 'music time', because my mum would be out while he was off work. Mum is more into soul,

opera and classical. My dad is Dutch and my mum is originally from London, but from Caribbean descent. This only added more to the diversity and cultures I got to experience growing up."

EM|ME's just released a new EP called IK, which features the singles *Don't Give A* and *Who We Are*. She said: "It's mainly an indie-pop record, but there are definitely influences of soul, R'n'B and even an electronic track."

It may be diverse, but it all sounds like the same artist and gels perfectly. The 22-year-old is not ready to ditch studies for stardom, and takes inspiration from Emeli Sandé's career path. Emeli earned a degree in neuroscience at the University of Glasgow before fully launching her music career. Emily said: "My goal is to graduate in the summer with good results before a summer booked with festival slots. I want to continue releasing my music, build up a following and travel the world while using my chemistry skills to cure cancer. Totally realistic, right?"

Even Bono's not yet cured cancer, but who knows? EM|ME's IK EP gets its official launch on November 11 with a gig at Broadcast in Glasgow.

MORE: facebook.com/EMMEmusicofficial
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

It's down the Tubes

AFTER E3, Gamescom and EGX it was time for Scotland to show how it does an expo as Resonate Total Gaming rolled into town.

But it is clear that, after the three-day fest at Glasgow's SEC, it is already facing a bit of an identity crisis.

The gold-ribbon events lift the lid on new gaming tech, titles and developers.

Resonate went down the Vlog and YouTube route. It is a worthy argument to have, especially with Syndicate and Terroriser headlining and a host of other internet stars backing them up.

But they missed the opportunity to tell young fans how they could become the next online stars – sessions on how to get started, what kit you need, how much it costs and when to start looking for management.

If you are going down the YouTube route, then surely that would have been a valuable addition?

Away from the digital stars it was all about eSports and Battle Royale with the likes of Fortnite, PUBG and Black Ops 4. There were a number of competitions – Counter Strike, Rocket League or trying out your new Black Ops 4 skills in the first tournament to be held at a UK expo since the game launched.

Konami had PES 2018 – with Rangers' Kyle Lafferty, *right*, and Celtic's Odsonne Edouard, *below right*, and Youssouf Mulumbu making appearances.

The Scottish indie scene was more low-key than in the past. We saw the Tron-inspired Rebound along with developer Hyper Lumnal, who showed off co-op knight battler Big Crown Showdown. Frantic and fun.

Axiom Soccer was a winner – it looks to ramp up the Rocket League formula with teams of tanks. Ali Legge, from Dundee-based Earth Bound Games, said: "After a year of development, RTG was our first open public event with Axiom Soccer so we were really excited to finally get it into the hands of the gaming community and see how it was received."

"We had nothing but positive feedback."

Gaming charity Special Effect were raising awareness of the work they do to help people with disabilities enjoy gaming. They showed off Microsoft's new adaptive controller with a blast of *Overcooked 2*. They also had some custom tech where you control a game with your EYES.

If you like eSports and YouTubers, Resonate was a hit. If you don't, then ...

If Scotland is to have an event to rival the likes of EGX, Resonate needs to attract big publishers with new titles and the faces behind the games.

That would be a huge hit with families and light the fires in the next generation of gamers.

STUART CULLEN

