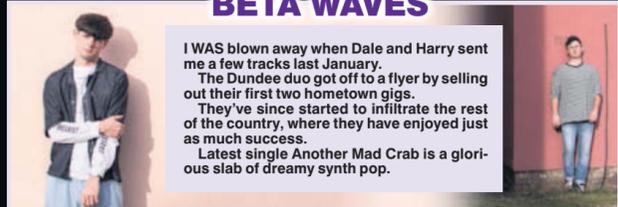




**HYYS**

YET another duo making captivating pop music. Glasgow's HYYS were considered by many as the live highlight at the SSE Scottish Music Awards earlier this month, where Adam and Sam picked up the Music Business Award on behalf of their mentor Gary Clark (Danny Wilson).

**BETA WAVES**

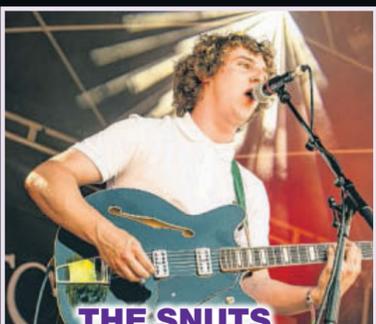


I WAS blown away when Dale and Harry sent me a few tracks last January. The Dundee duo got off to a flyer by selling out their first two hometown gigs. They've since started to infiltrate the rest of the country, where they have enjoyed just as much success. Latest single Another Mad Crab is a glorious slab of dreamy synth pop.

**THE DUNTS**



IT was such a thrill hearing the band on BBC Radio 1 back in April as I waited patiently to get out of the car park after a Noel Gallagher gig at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow. It certainly made the time pass more easily. Their punky indie rock 'n' roll sound has so much energy and is packed full of melody.



**THE SNUTS**

I MUST thank my daughter Jasmine for introducing me to The Snuts. They played Nice N Sleazy in Glasgow a couple of years ago as part of a gig she was involved with for her college course. Since then they've become one of the country's buzz bands. The indie rockers are following the success of fellow Whitburn lad Lewis Capaldi and are at March's SXSW festival in Austin, Texas.

# New Year Eves

...and 9 other acts to watch in 2019



**STEPHANIE CHEAPE**

WITH her captivating songs written from the heart, the Hamilton lass is more than ready to step up to the next level. Her latest single Blood Sweat and Fear — co-written and produced by Sam and Ross, from Twin Atlantic — shows she's come a long way since playing my stage at the Stereofunk festival last year.

**THE EVES**

TWO accomplished solo singer-songwriters — Caroline Gilmour and Marissa Keltie — coming together to create a sound that's been compared to First Aid Kit. Glistening pop music with delightful harmonies, the Edinburgh-based duo are likely to have an incredible debut album in them.

**PARLIMO**



THE Perth teenagers recently followed their stunning singles Lucy and Weekend with a debut EP Thrill Of The Chase. It is vibrant indie pop with some cracking tunes. They play King Tut's in Glasgow on January 12 as part of the venue's New Year's Revolution festival.

**OK-BUTTON**



AN exciting new prospect fronted by Aberdeen singer-songwriter Amber Wilson. She previously sang with Morcheeba and Bombay Bicycle Club. Amber is joined by former Babyshambles drummer Adam Falkner, who stumbled across her playing an acoustic gig. The trio is completed by multi-instrumentalist Nass Donald and the result is some gloriously dark electronica.



**US**

US feature East Kilbride singer Andrew Montgomery, whose angelic vocals helped 90s indie favourites Geneva score a string of hits. He is joined by Leo Josefsson and based in Stockholm. The duo's electronic sound is complemented perfectly by Andrew's voice. Current single The Stars That Arc Across The Sky is their most accessible yet and suggests great things ahead.

## GAMES



# Streets ahead on gaming

**Shadow of the Colossus** 10  
PS4

IT was a strong year for remakes and remasters, with the likes of Okami and Bayonetta 1 and 2 getting a new lease of life. But one remaster stood head and shoulders above the rest. Shadow Of The Colossus was a stunner that took what fans loved and made it better... from the visuals to the overall controllers, everything got a tweak. The tale was epic, hunting the hulking colossi was awesome. It might seem a simple story on paper, but it will grip you.



**Celeste** 8  
Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC

IT wasn't just the AAA boys who had hits in 2018 — the indie crowd had the likes of Forgotten Anne and Laser League. But if you play one indie game from this year it has to be Celeste. It looks like a standard platformer but has hidden secrets. From the challenges to a core tale that will stun you with its approach to some of life's more challenging subjects, this is a winner. That bravery also shows why indie games are so important in the gaming landscape.



**Far Cry 5** 6  
Xbox One, PS4 and PC

IT may only have been a new location for the Far Cry series, but the open-world first-person shooter unearthed a gem with its fifth instalment. Playing as a young deputy, things soon go south as you run into the Seed family. They have taken control of the peaceful county, so it's up to you to stop them at all costs. It might be a little less over the top at times when you consider other games in the Far Cry family, but that doesn't stop this one being a blast as you drive, fly and shoot your way across a good-sized section of Montana. This is good on its own, but the fact that it sets you up perfectly for New Dawn, which lands in February, is an extra bonus.



**Super Smash Bros Ultimate** 5  
Switch

IT may only have been out a few weeks but Nintendo hit it out the park with Super Smash Bros Ultimate. Packed full of fighters, stages and titbits for fans, this is a complete package and a must for Switch owners... and that's before you even start fighting. It's fast, frantic and over the top as you battle with some of the most-loved characters in gaming — and you can do it on and offline with friends. It's easy to pick up but hard to master. Super Smash Bros Ultimate is bags of fun from the first punch to the last power-up. This really is a wonderful addition to one of gaming's best-loved series.



**Marvel's Spider-Man** 4  
PS4

SONY have had a strong year, and it was close between fourth and third spot. But fourth is Marvel's Spider-Man comic book-inspired tale. The brilliant gameplay really makes you feel like the wall crawler. It's packed with things to do around New York as you fight crime and save the day, and battle the everyday challenges of being Peter Parker. Iron Man may have been the film that kick-started the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but Spider-Man could be the gaming equivalent.



### TOP 10 GAMES OF 2018



**God of War** 3  
PS4

WHEN you think of God Of War, then one word springs to mind — BOY! That isn't a bad thing because it highlights the core tale of a father and his son. It's a bold move when you reboot a much-loved series and God Of War nails it with the jump from Greece to the frozen Norselands. It helps breathe real life into what was once a mindless hash and slasher. It grows into an epic tale built around the father-and-son relationship, and how far they are willing to go for each other. Stunning. A must-play for PlayStation owners.



**Red Dead Redemption 2** 2  
Xbox One, PS4 and PC

THE battle for top spot could not have been closer. In any other year Red Dead would have walked it. It takes your gaming expectations and belts them out of the ballpark. This is an experience that raises things to the next level — from the story to the gameplay, nothing has come close to it. And few games have such a definitive style. Yes, the story is slow and the missions are long, but Rockstar have purposely crafted the tale that way so you soak up the amazing world they have created with such detail. The odds are you'll have played it and know why it is a winner. If you haven't, then stop reading this and go and grab a copy right now.



**Forza Horizon 4** 1  
Xbox One and PC

DRUMROLL... the No1 spot goes to Forza Horizon 4. For one reason above all others — that feeling of pure joy you get from racing around Scotland, from Edinburgh to the Highlands. It can't fail to put a smile on your face. The series has always been more arcade-focused and Horizon 4 stays true to that, but it builds on the solid foundations of Horizon 3 while adding some new features and tweaks. But few games give you the sense of freedom you get when you turn up the tunes and just floor the pedal in your supercars and blast around some of the prettiest parts of the UK. Yes it's a bit lighter than past instalments for the more hardcore fan, but it's a joy to play — from racing against the Flying Scotsman to saving the world as Master Chief in his Warthog. It's the perfect slice of racing fun that everyone can enjoy no matter how good you are. So, let's hear it for our game of 2018.

**OnRush** 9  
Xbox One, PS4 and PC

FOR every runaway success there is one that, no matter how good, fails to win widespread praise. Codemaster's OnRush flipped the tried-and-tested racing formula on its head. It was an arcade racer that had more in common with the likes of Overwatch than the more traditional racers. It turned racing into a real team sport where winning wasn't the key to victory. A bold idea with a great visual style. It should have been a runaway success, but failed to light gamers' fires. Hidden gem.



**Monster Hunter: Worlds.** 7  
Xbox One, PS4 and PC

AT the beginning of the year Capcom challenged gamers to join the fun with the latest instalment of their long-running Monster Hunter series, Monster Hunter Worlds. For many, it was the first time they'd tasted the game as it was basically a reboot for a western market and the first shot it had on an Xbox system. Nothing comes close to teaming up with your friends and stalking some huge beasts. Challenging, deep and bags of fun for you and three mates.

