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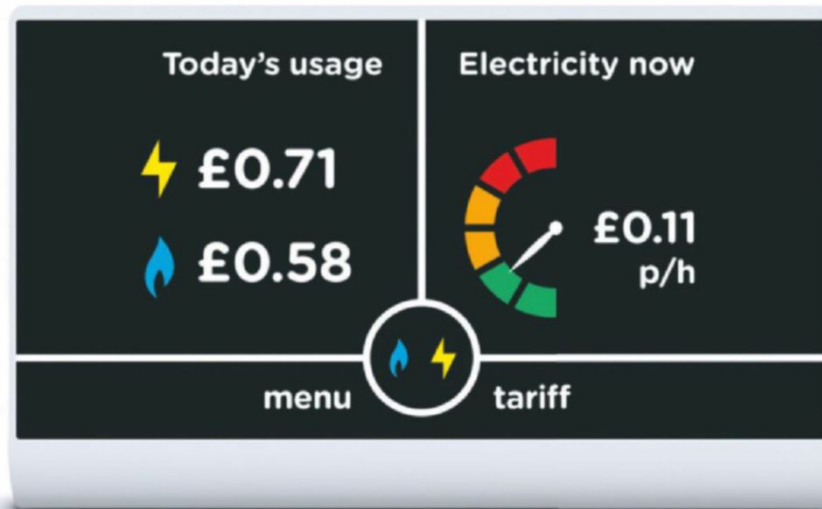


MUMFORD
&

SUN

Summer lovin'
with Marcus
& friends

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NME

Hello...



I THINK IT'S SAFE to say that we're now fully in the warm, loving embrace of summer. BBQs, shorts and dodgy tan lines are now acceptable for the next couple of months, as is a diet based solely

around strawberries and booze – thanks, Wimbledon. This also means we're in the midst of festival season, with a different field-based party taking place every weekend across the country.

This week's cover stars definitely know a thing or two about festivals. Former Glastonbury and Reading & Leeds headliners Mumford & Sons have taken their travelling rock 'n' roll carnival, the Gentlemen Of The Road Stopover, all over the world these past few years, bringing good vibes and great bands to far-flung corners of the globe. Next weekend they've been allowed to hijack a whole day of Latitude Festival, curating and booking the acts, before topping the whole thing off with their very own show-stopping set as a special Stopover event. Barry Nicolson caught up with the tightknit band of brothers as they prepared to hit the road with U2 and also found out how the Stopover magic happens.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike



Haim p24

COVER STORY

16

Mumford & Sons

Marcus and co prepare for their festival takeover

FEATURES

20

DJ Khaled

The motivational mogul shares his wisdom

SECTIONS

AGENDA

5

RADAR

23

Live

31

REGULARS

13 Things We Like

15 What's On Your Headphones?

29 Under The Radar 36 Soundtrack Of My Life

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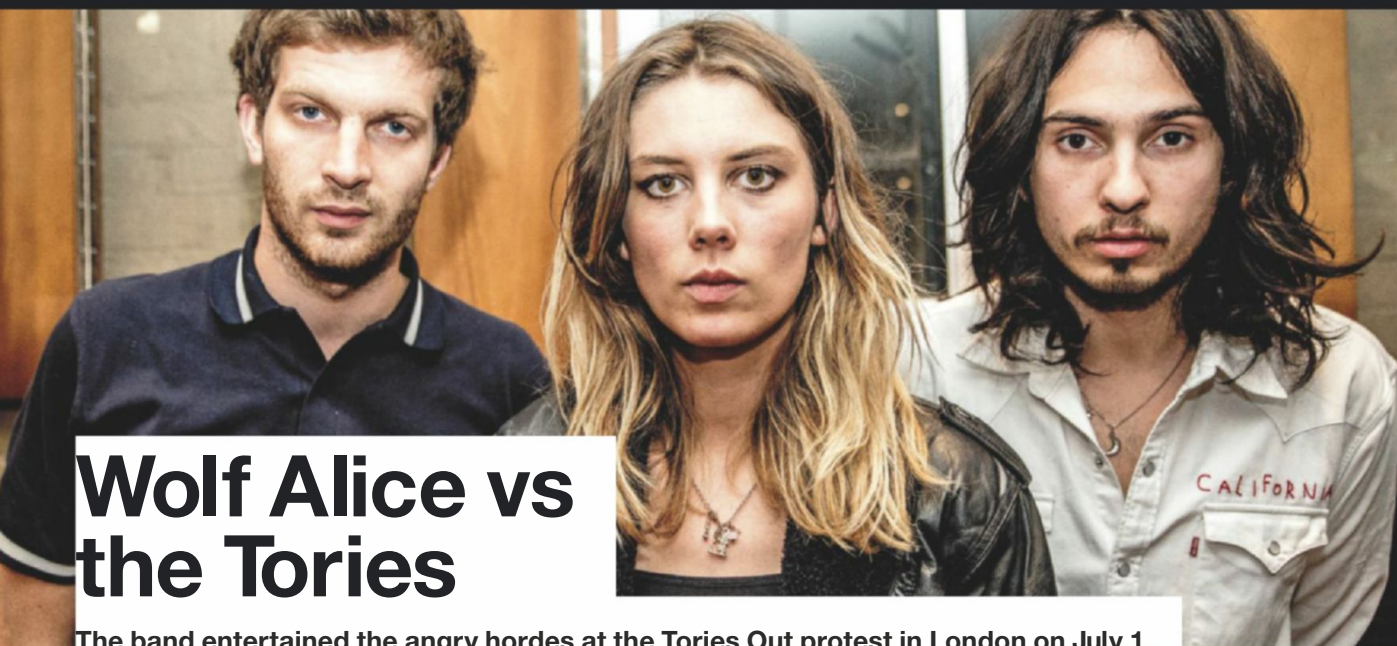
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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



Wolf Alice vs the Tories

The band entertained the angry hordes at the Tories Out protest in London on July 1

WOLF ALICE WORE their politics on their sleeves last weekend, playing a gig on the back of a truck at the huge Tories Out protest in central London. Arranged by The People's Assembly, the demo on Saturday July 1 began outside the BBC's headquarters on Portland Place before making its way down to Parliament Square.

There, Jeremy Corbyn addressed thousands of people who were demonstrating against Theresa May and the Conservative Party's

austerity politics and deal with the Northern Irish DUP, as well as calling for justice for the victims and survivors of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

The group played a short set and lead singer Ellie Rowsell, who endorsed Labour in last month's election, then led the crowd in a rousing chant of 'Oh, Jeremy Corbyn'. Other acts to perform included Peace, Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly., and The Rhythm Method. London drag collective Sink The Pink also hosted a float at the demonstration.



PHOTOS: GETTY, REX, TWITTER



Wolf Alice
Right-on rockers

Why did you want to get involved in the demo?

Theo: "The four of us talk about this stuff every day when we're together. We've been given the opportunity to have a platform, so we've chosen to use it, today

and going forth as well."

Why's it important that young people stay engaged with politics after the election?

Ellie: "So that we can ignite a change. It's important to stay angry and stay positive."

How do you feel after the election – such a surge of support for Corbyn, but also Theresa May doing a deal with the DUP?

Theo: "It's such a double-edged sword – it was an incredible victory, to an extent, for

the Labour party and all these notions of socialism being celebrated, but at the same time we've now got a coalition that no one voted for. But you can see here that people are really inspired by Jeremy Corbyn. It's clearly quite amazing."

Watch the throne

With just one week to go until season seven, here's how the big dogs down Westeros way are going to be shaking things up this year



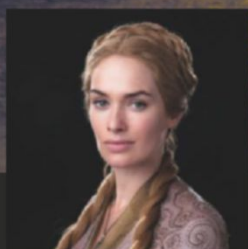
DAENERYS TARGARYEN

The Mad King's daughter has just arrived in Westeros with a Lannister (Tyrion), two armies and three dragons by her side. Anyone who stands in her way is toast. **What she wants:** Justice. Or the Iron Throne. Or both.



SANSA STARK & JON SNOW

After reclaiming their Northern Kingdom, these siblings (well, half-siblings? Stepsiblings? Cousins? It's complicated) look set to ally with Daenerys and confront both Cersei and the Night King. **What they want:** To destroy White Walkers and Lannisters alike – without once smiling.



CERSEI LANNISTER

With all of her children dead, Cersei 'world's worst mum' Lannister was recently crowned Queen of Westeros. She continues to talk a big game about crushing the saboteurs, but with only lover/brother Jamie at her side, the odds are stacked against her. **What she wants:** Wine.



GENDRY

Last seen floating off in a rowing boat in season three, Gendry is finally set to return. As the late Robert Baratheon's bastard son, he's the rightful king of Westeros, making him a real threat to Cersei and Daenerys. **What he wants:** His birthright – if he's found out about it in his three seasons adrift.



THE NIGHT KING

Dominates the land north of the Wall and plans to bash the barrier down and submerge all of Westeros in endless winter, like Narnia for adults. **What it wants:** To claim Westeros for CGI creatures.

Game Of Thrones returns to Sky Atlantic and Now TV on July 17

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

16,893

Percentage increase in streams of The White Stripes' 'Seven Nation Army', AKA 'Oh, Jeremy Corbyn'.

12,000

Number of tonnes of food consumed at Denmark's Roskilde Festival. We bet most of that was fruit.

\$3 million

Amount Kanye West claims Tidal owes him, prompting him to split from the streaming service.

\$125

Cost of a T-shirt on which Kendall Jenner put her face on Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side Of The Moon' artwork.



JAY Z'S MUM

Came out in style – on her son's new album '4:44'.



SHAUN RYDER

Living up to his name, the Happy Mondays singer revealed he kicked drugs by taking up cycling.



BORIS JOHNSON

Pronounced the world's best musical festival "Glaaaah-stonbury".
Twaaaaht.



ADELE

Cancelled her tour-closing Wembley Stadium shows over vocal issues, but set off the fireworks display anyway.



Stars of track and field

Steamy indie band Wild Beasts hit the **NME** basement last week to play an intimate gig at our VO5 Festival Showcase – and to have a chat, too...

You've just got back from Glasto. How was it?

Hayden Thorpe (singer/guitars): "Playing the Other Stage was intense – it's a lot to take in, all the emotions: terror, panic, joy, love, noise. It's all things."

Do you make your festival sets different from your own headline shows?

Tom Fleming (singer/bass): "Unless you're fortunate enough to be Radiohead, they have to be shorter and sharper. You have to kind of weaponise it. You have to decide which are the

flashpoints in your catalogue and stick them together and hope it works."

You're playing the last ever Secret Garden Party – how do you feel about there being one less event on the festival landscape?

Tom: "I think it's a shame when something shuts down, [and] it was run pretty independently minded. It definitely had its identity. I'm sad to see it go."

What's the last festival you went to as a punter?

Hayden: "We were playing at Primavera, but we were on at 1am on the last day, so I had the full

experience before our show. Solange was worth the whole trip alone – she was spectacular."

What's been your biggest ever festival fail?

Hayden: "Once at Glastonbury there was a lightning strike on site, so they shut down everything and we were just about to go on stage and we were told: 'You're off.' It went from full adrenaline to being in the dressing room in the foetal position, thinking, 'You've lost your Glasto slot.'"

Watch the Wild Beasts interview and see their incredible full performance at NME.COM/video

Macca-bye

The Maccabees played their final ever gigs – and their famous pals got all teary-eyed about it on Twitter

YANNIS PHILIPPAKIS *Foals*

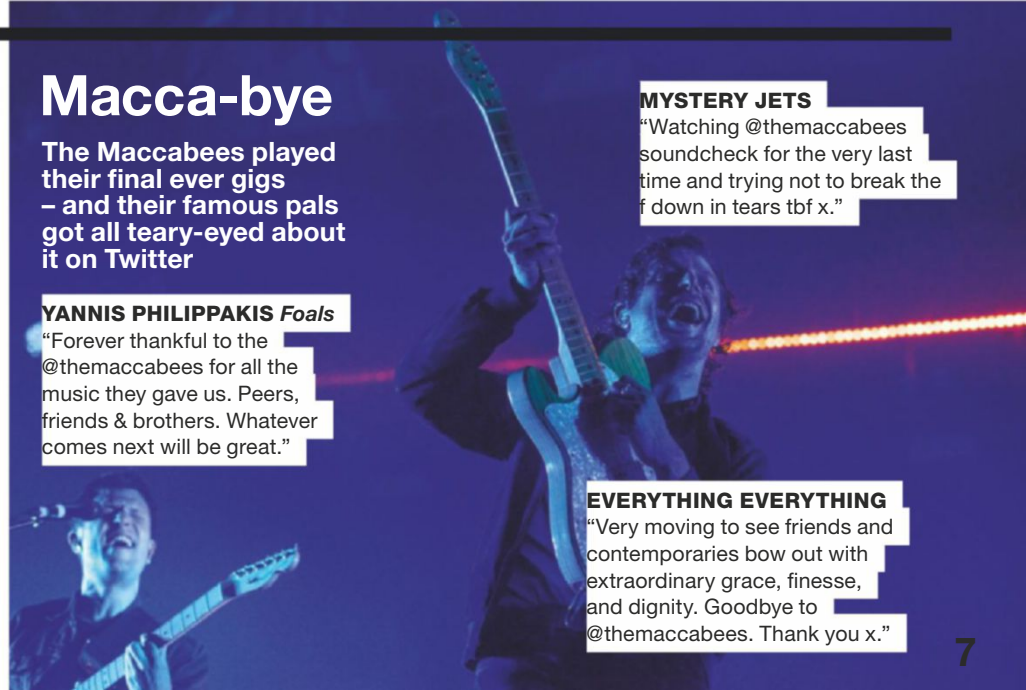
"Forever thankful to the @themaccabees for all the music they gave us. Peers, friends & brothers. Whatever comes next will be great."

MYSTERY JETS

"Watching @themaccabees soundcheck for the very last time and trying not to break the f down in tears tbf x."

EVERYTHING EVERYTHING

"Very moving to see friends and contemporaries bow out with extraordinary grace, finesse, and dignity. Goodbye to @themaccabees. Thank you x."



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Ed Sheeran

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ST JAMES' PARK

FRI 15 & SAT 16 JUNE
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sky

ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.



THIS WEEK

I've fallen in love with stadium gigs

A CONFESSION: I'VE spent years avoiding stadium shows. For a long time, the ideal place for me to see a gig was in a sticky-floored toilet venue, so close to the band that you could smell the bass player's whiskey breath and the singer's flagrant disregard for deodorant. Then, accidentally, I fell madly in love with Bruce Springsteen.

I soon discovered that Bruce Springsteen is a popular guy and that I was not the only person in love with him. Being a nice, generous person, when Bruce comes to town he wants to play for everyone who wants to see him, meaning arenas are generally his bag, but he occasionally drops in on a stadium too. My first stadium experience, then, was at Emirates, Arsenal's vast football field in the middle of north London, all because of Bruce.

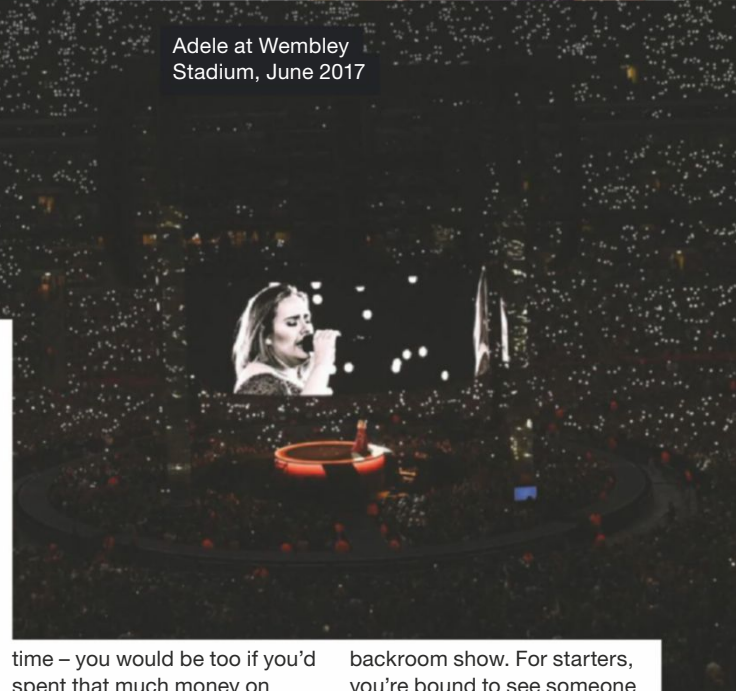
I remember it being daylight for far too long. I remember sturdy Bruce looking like a little

dot on a stage that was too far away. I remember having to queue for the toilets for almost longer than was physically possible. Almost. And I remember thinking I really, really didn't like stadium gigs.

But recently everything changed. I went to see Guns N'Roses at London Stadium – the former site of the 2012 Olympics – and finally saw the light. Sure, it's impossible to get over that weird bit when it's 7.45pm in the middle of summer and the sun's still blazing and a major-league rock band come on to the sparks of pyro, but damn it if a gigantic ground full of 80,000 people roaring in joy doesn't help you quickly get over how odd that is.

I found happiness in the strange cardboard containers they gave me to carry my pints with, in the extreme vastness of the whole thing and in the fact that everyone was committed to having a good

Adele at Wembley Stadium, June 2017



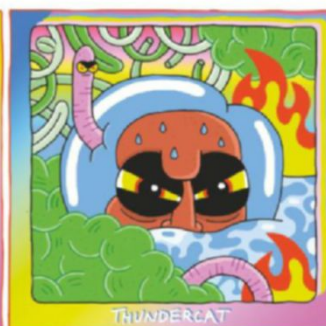
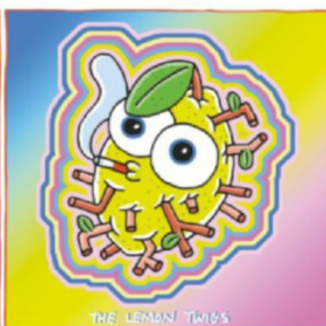
time – you would be too if you'd spent that much money on tickets. I'm pretty sure I walked a mile around the venue just to find a friend on the other side, but when I did, our joint rendition of 'November Rain' was even sweeter.

The stadium show has a different – but just as valid – appeal to the dingy pub

backroom show. For starters, you're bound to see someone decent, or at the very least, someone who's sold an awful lot of records. The same cannot be said for rocking up to the Camden Monarch on a Tuesday. The stadium show boasts a different kind of intimacy – one shared with more people than you'll ever meet in your lifetime, but one in which you definitely all fancy Slash. And if that's not a good enough reason for an epic night out, then I don't know what is. @leoniemaycooper

"The show has a different kind of intimacy"

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES





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THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Guns blazing

Go full 1980s Sunset Strip with this tasselled Guns N' Roses tank top.
£24.95 nmemerch.com



Just add water

Phizz tablets might help your hangover, but we're making no promises.
£7.99 ocado.com



Shady lady

Take cover from the real world by hiding behind these ace oversized specs.
£25 skinnydiplondon.com



Goggle box

Skeptak's a big fan of CP Company's goggle-adorned attire.
£525 cpcompany.co.uk



Top hat

Think pink with this classic New Era cap in a sweet pastel shade.
£20 neweracap.co.uk



On the road

Warpaint fans will lust after *US / THEN*, a book featuring seven years of tour photos.
£35 setantabooks.co.uk



Beatle bath

The vegan Yellow Submarine bath bomb smells like oranges and lemongrass. Bliss.
£3.95 lush.com



Berry good

Elk Warning cider is spiked with blackberries for fruity freshness.
£1.89 tesco.com



Decks appeal

This special 50th anniversary 'Sgt. Pepper...' turntable is limited to 1,000.
£1,235 henleydesigns.co.uk



One love

Profits from this Love4Grenfell shirt go directly to the tower's displaced residents.
£10 love4.london



Shine on

Splash some fluoro top coat on your nails and glow under UV lights.
£6.95 3ina.com



Space oddity

Cult sci-fi cartoon *Rick And Morty* has equally cool merch.
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in-store and hmv.com

WHAT CLOUDY CIDER'S

SUPPOSED TO TASTE LIKE



YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Harlow

< RIANNE WATSON

21, athlete

Listening to:
VYBZ KARTEL
Lipstick
"It's got a great, summery vibe."

Wearing: Express top, Bershka jeans.
Best thing about Harlow: "Everything's really neat and together."

"Everything's really together"

DEAN HINTON >

21, works in Subway

Listening to:
CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!
All Star
"They make rock versions of my favourite songs."

Wearing: Vintage T-shirt.
Best thing about Harlow: "The skate park."

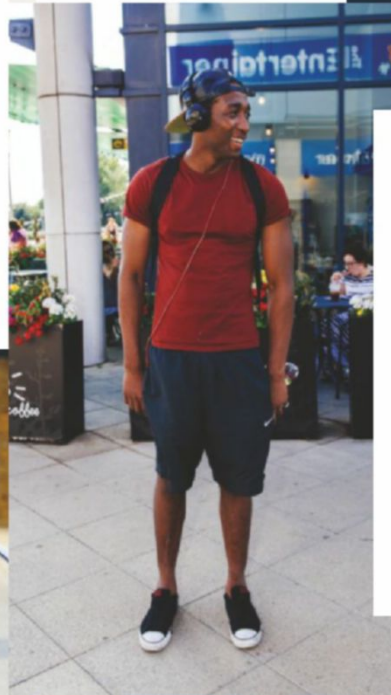


< EBSS ARTEX

22, music producer/fitness coach

Listening to:
FUTURE
March Madness
"It's all about the Black Lives Matter movement. I'm heavily into politics."

Wearing: River Island top, Nike shorts, Converse trainers
Best thing about Harlow: "PureGym – I love to work out a lot and it's wicked."



CARL OWEN >

31, singer-songwriter/model

Listening to:
CALUM SCOTT
Dancing On My Own
"Hopefully I can cover it in the future."

Wearing: Primark vest, Tag Heuer hat.
Best thing about Harlow: "I'm going to have to say Nando's."



PHOTOS: LAURA PALMER

AIN'T NO PARTY



(L-r) Winston Marshall, Ted
Dwane, Marcus Mumford
and Ben Lovett

LIKE A MUMFORDS PARTY



Next weekend, Mumford & Sons are throwing a party for 40,000 people when they hijack Saturday at Latitude Festival for their latest *Gentlemen Of The Road* Stopover. But they've other things on their minds too – a new album, a change of tack and a tour with some band called U2. Barry Nicolson meets them

PHOTOS BY BELLA HOWARD

MUMFORD & SONS

MUMFORD & SONS have baggage. Literal baggage, as self-styled 'gentlemen of the road', and metaphorical baggage, as a result of the banjos, the tea-crate-bashing and a name that Marcus Mumford recently – and exasperatedly – described as “rubbish. It's a rubbish name”.

Their last album, 2015's 'Wilder Mind', attempted to shift perceptions of them a bit, the narrative focusing on their change from tweed to leather and acoustic instruments to electric guitars; a Dylan-plugs-in moment that was, in retrospect, perhaps less of a revolution than it needed to be to justify the hype. “It felt important – vital to the health of the band – that we made that record,” says bassist Ted Dwane, although he does admit that, “A lot of people heard [lead single] ‘Believe’ and started giving the album one-star reviews on iTunes before it had even come out. It was definitely hard for our fans, I think.”

“But maybe that wasn't such a bad thing,” insists keyboard player Ben Lovett. “Maybe there were fair-weather fans, or people who liked us for elements of our instrumentation that had nothing to do with the stories or melodies... If they've switched off, that's OK. But I think quite a few people switched on. If there's any regret, I think it's that between us and the people we spoke to in the media, the album became more of a statement than it needed to be. I think the music should have done the talking, rather than us – letting musicians talk can be dangerous sometimes.”

A better representation of the band's wider world, their eclecticism and the fact that – in spite of it all

Marcus Mumford onstage



– they're a 21st century thing, is their Gentlemen Of The Road Stopover festivals, the latest of which takes place at Latitude Festival next weekend (July 15). As well as playing their only UK show of the year, they're hijacking the festival for an entire day and have picked the whole line-up across multiple stages, among them their 'Johannesburg' EP collaborators The Very Best and Baaba Maal and friends such as singer-songwriter Lucy Rose and Two Door Cinema Club.

Since 2012, the band have hosted 17 of these Stopovers, taking place everywhere from Aviemore to Walla Walla – and if you've never been to one before, they're not quite your typical festival. “They're perhaps more in the spirit of what festivals used to be,” offers Dwane, which is a good way of putting it – these events are



designed to encourage camaraderie and collaboration between bands, fostering a spontaneous, anything-can-happen atmosphere that's made them hugely popular with audiences and artists alike.

Lovett has particularly fond memories of their 2015 stopover in Walla Walla, Washington, headlined by Foo Fighters, “where Taylor

“Friendship is at the core of the band”

Hawkins and Dave Grohl were rocking out covers in the rehearsal tent for three hours before they went onstage, while their kids

were running around the backstage games area. It's one thing to book an act, but it's another thing when the act properly engages. People don't just turn up, play their music, then go home in the van – they stick around, they drop in on other people's sets, they make a day of it. That's a big part of what the Stopovers are about.”

We meet the band some weeks before the festival, a little after 10.30am on a Thursday morning at their rented rehearsal space in deepest, darkest Bermondsey, London. Filing in, they look less like one of the most successful British bands of the past 10 years and more like something the cat's dragged in. Ted Dwane is the first to arrive, lustrous of beard and bleary of eye, nursing a mild hangover from the night before (“Where were you?” his press

Mumford & Chums

Some of the highlights from Mumford & Sons' Latitude Stopover



JACK GARRATT
Who A multi-instrumentalist dynamo and winner of the BBC Sound Of 2016.
Key track 'Weathered'



GLASS ANIMALS
Who Pineapple-loving, odd-pop shapeshifters who, like Mumfords, have conquered the States.
Key track 'Life Itself'



MAGGIE ROGERS
Who First found fame in 2016 by blowing the mind of Pharrell Williams in a songwriting class. The 23-year-old makes crystallised, forward-facing pop.
Key track 'Alaska'



DAVE
Who Shooting to prominence after appearing on Drake's 2017 'More Life' playlist, the south London MC is grime's next big hope.
Key track 'Wanna Know'



LUCY ROSE
Who Globetrotting folk talent. “I've got quite a clear picture in my mind of drinking a pint of cold cider and watching Lucy Rose's set,” says Ted. “That's going to be the highlight of my day.”
Key track 'Shiver'

officer enquires; "Big night in," he grins). Ben Lovett is next, a woolly cap pulled low over his head, grumbling about an estimate for making his 34-year-old "not-quite-classic" car roadworthy again. Finally, there's multi-instrumentalist Winston Marshall, whose rumpled attire, unkempt hair and penchant for salty language give him the air of a man who was born on a tour bus and never got off.

Frontman Marcus Mumford can't make it today, but his bandmates have assembled to iron out the kinks in their set before flying to Vancouver to support U2 on the first leg of their Joshua Tree world tour, in the middle of which falls the Latitude spectacular. The band are seeing the festival as a chance to test some new tracks. "We've been working on a bunch of new material and we wanted to get out there and play some gigs, just for the sake of it," explains Lovett. "So we started talking to festivals, and Latitude was one that we've always enjoyed but hadn't played for a while, and because we're not doing any Stopovers this year that quickly became part of the conversation – whether we could turn it into a day where we show people that side of what we do. Anyone who's been to a Stopover before will feel like they're at another one, and anyone who's been to Latitude before will hopefully feel like it's something a little bit different."

When we finally catch up with Marcus a few weeks later – via phone from some unnamed stretch of highway between shows in the US – he too enthuses about the 'Stopover spirit' the band hope to bring to Latitude. "The whole concept behind Gentlemen Of The Road is that we enjoy touring so much we want to take our audience on tour with us," he says. "Music is a social thing for us; we're not shoegazers, y'know? The people we're around inspire the music we want to play, and that collaborative

spirit is there between the bands, the audience and the towns we go to. It's grown with each event we've done, and it's become the best thing about Gentlemen Of The Road. And at Latitude, that spirit will be a big part of it."

The band reckon they'll have six new songs ready to take on tour this summer, and the reaction to them will shape the follow-up to 'Wilder Mind'. "We all feel slightly different about the next album," says Marshall, "but I feel like we've got a really good chunk of the record done, although there's still a lot more to do. If you're going to write an album of 10 songs, our attitude is that you need to write 30 and choose 10 f**king good ones. We could probably put out a not-so-good album right now, but it's better to wait and put out a great one."

As to how the album will sound – whether they'll continue down the electrified route of 'Wilder Mind', revert back to the tweedy folk of 'Sigh No More', or go somewhere else entirely – no one's saying just yet. Ben points to the aforementioned 'Johannesburg' as a possible signifier, while Ted says something about "synths and bagpipes" that should probably be taken about as seriously as his claim that 2012's 'Babel' would be Black Sabbath-inspired "doom folk".

"We've been playing a couple of new songs a night on this tour," explains Marcus, "and we've gone back to the mentality we had when we first started out, when every song was new to the audience and we'd get away with experimenting on them almost every night – working out what wasn't quite right, which lyrics didn't work, how 60 people in a pub reacted to certain things. That was always part of our writing process, but on 'Wilder Mind' we kind of changed that mentality – we wrote it less on the road and more in



the studio. People can share songs online so much more easily these days, so that experimentation is a little riskier than before, but we try not to be too precious about it."

In the meantime, the band's shows with U2 – and Mumford & Sons' own 10-year anniversary – seem to have got them thinking about longevity. "We went to meet them for a few drinks in New York before the tour, and the whole band were just chilling out in a restaurant, still cracking each other up, which I thought was awesome," says Ben. "My big takeaway was that the friendship at the core of that band is what's kept them going for so long. This is our 10th year of being a band and we've always said that longevity is the ultimate marker of success: you can come in and out of popularity, but if you're still doing it in 20, 30, 50 years' time, that commitment is your biggest achievement." Mumford & Sons may have some way to go to reach those levels of durability, but they're in no danger of running out of road just yet.

NME

PHOTOS: JORDAN CURTIS HUGHES, GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES



LEON BRIDGES

Who Sam Cooke-channelling soul sensation, whose 'Coming Home' debut wowed Latitude crowds in 2015.

Key track 'Coming Home'



NILÜFER YANYA

Who Genre-hopping activist. She makes head-in-the-clouds pop while also running creative classes for Greek refugees for Artists In Transit.

Key track 'Golden Cage'



TWIN PEAKS

Who Latitude's designated hellraisers – Chicago DIY punks who have sod-all to do with David Lynch.

Key track 'Walk To The One You Love'



BRUNO MAJOR

Who A majorly exciting soul-pop newcomer who also happens to be the brother of London Grammar's Dot Major.

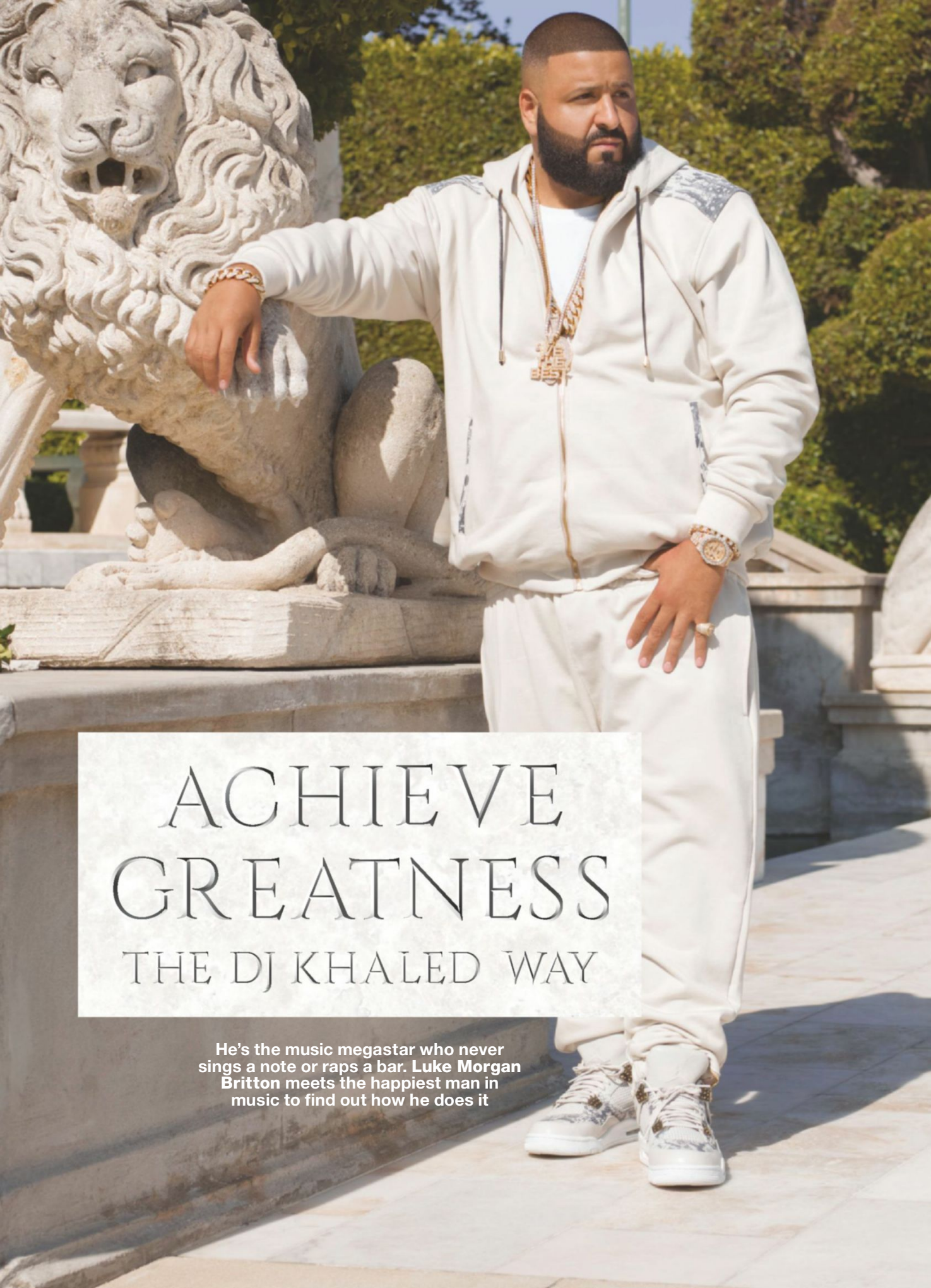
Key track 'Easily'



JORJA SMITH

Who Walsall-raised, independent R&B star, loved by Drake, Stormzy, anyone who's anyone.

Key track 'Blue Lights'

A full-page photograph of DJ Khaled standing outdoors next to a large, ornate stone lion statue. He is wearing a white zip-up hoodie with grey accents on the shoulders, white sweatpants, and white sneakers with gold and grey details. He has a beard and is wearing multiple gold chains, a gold watch on his left wrist, and a gold ring on his left hand. He is leaning his right arm on the lion statue. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

ACHIEVE GREATNESS

THE DJ KHALED WAY

He's the music megastar who never sings a note or raps a bar. **Luke Morgan Britton** meets the happiest man in music to find out how he does it

Pulling power

DJ Khaled's three biggest hits

I'M THE ONE

Khaled roped in Justin Bieber, Chance The Rapper and s**t-hot Migos leader Quavo for this chart-smashing four-note hit.

WILD THOUGHTS

Rihanna and Bryson Tiller share smoky vocal duties on this slow-burning jam.

FOR FREE

This single, which cheekily nabs a Kendrick Lamar song title, features Drake and is produced by his electro buddy Majid Jordan.

who can throw a party besides myself," Khaled says. "You know there's gonna be good energy and he's gonna go all-out. My advice for going to a Diddy party: stay fly at all times. Be fly and be great."

DON'T UNDERSELL YOURSELF

We've all met someone for the first time and struggled to explain what we actually do for a living. Khaled doesn't sing or rap, so it can be difficult to work out what role he plays in his music, other than shouting his own name like an audio watermark. But he has a neat way of explaining it. "When I work with artists, I try to bring the greatness out of them," Khaled says. "They're already great, but I want the

greatest... I'm in Quincy Jones mode."

EMBRACE YOUR INNER MEME

Since live-broadcasting himself lost at sea on a jet ski, Khaled's internet fame has threatened to overshadow his music. Not that he's at all worried. "I'm special," he tells us. "If I walk in a room and the room is dark, I'm the light bulb." Asked whether he takes offence at being described as a "living meme", he shakes his head firmly and says, "I'm just being great. Whether it's my music, or a book, or my Snapchat, it's going to be the greatest thing. I've been blessed to be who I am. I be myself and people embrace it."

RESPECT THE BOSS

Khaled's new album reads like a Grammys after-party guest list: Jay Z, Beyoncé, Drake, Rihanna, Bieber, Nicki Minaj, Calvin Harris. It'd probably be easier to name people who aren't on the record. In spite of this, Khaled reckons he still gets nervous around one big name. "I'm always starstruck around Beyoncé," Khaled admits. "I have so much respect for her as a mother and as an artist. I watched her and Jay raise their beautiful daughter while on tour and still be a real family. I'm always quiet, shy and try not to do or say too much around her – because she's the boss."

DJ Khaled's 'Grateful' is out now

Now, with access to higher profile collaborators and a swelling fanbase, Khaled's sense of grandeur has become a self-fulfilling prophecy. To mark the release of his new record 'Grateful', which he says people are "gonna talk about forever", Khaled spoke to *NME* about how to follow in his footsteps.

BE GRATEFUL

Having become a dad last October, the star counts his blessings. "I didn't even have to think about it," Khaled says of his album's name. "I've always been grateful for life, but now it's something even more special. I thought I knew what love and joy was and then I met my son." As well as being thankful for what he has, 'Grateful', Khaled says, is also "my thank-you to everyone" else. It's a sort of victory lap for his fans, he explains. He also predicts that it's "going to win awards and take home trophies".

UNDERSTAND YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO BE A MOGUL

Khaled's first child, his eight-month-old son Asahd, is a real-life *Truman Show* baby. His birth was documented on Snapchat, he has a million followers on Instagram and if you scroll through his feed you'll find photos of him with everyone from Rihanna to Zac Efron. Asahd even gets an executive producer credit on his dad's new record, having been present at many of the recording sessions. It's a sort of rap equivalent of setting up a trust fund. "Asahd brought inspiration and drive to this album," says Khaled. "Not just to me but to all the other artists too. This is my 10th album, but it's his first. When Asahd grows up, he's going to say, 'Hey, I accomplished this as a young mogul at seven months old.' He's the youngest, biggest mogul out there right now."

PARTY LIKE DIDDY

Khaled represents lavishness and excess in an almost cartoonish way. The video for his Bieber, Chance and Quavo collaboration 'I'm The One' sees the stars stunting against a backdrop of palm trees, infinity pools and scantily clad women on horses. There's even, quite inexplicably, a game of croquet going on. But he reckons there's someone else who can compete with his hedonistic soirées. "Puff Daddy is probably the most extravagant person

GRATEFUL', DJ Khaled's 10th album in 11 years, finds the larger-than-life Miami DJ, in his own words, "at the mountaintop".

Over the past decade, the Palestinian-American artist has gained the respect of his peers with record after record of posse-filled club rap, but it wasn't until 2016's more pop-focused 'Major Key' that the world fully took notice. The Grammy-nominated record, Khaled's first US Number One, also coincided with a newfound internet stardom, one based around his phenomenally popular Snapchat account and an endless supply of motivational catchphrases. On any given day, you can witness Khaled offering his "keys" to success, which include everything from simply believing in yourself to the understated importance of soft pillows.

The person least surprised by this latter-day boom is probably Khaled himself. He's never been short of self-esteem, as he tells us: "I never doubt myself... If you know Khaled, you know he represents being great."

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WED 9TH AUGUST GEORGIE / DRIVE WED 16TH AUGUST ARTIFICIAL PLEASURE / PULP FICTION SUN 27TH AUGUST LAO RA / GOODFELLAS
WED 30TH AUGUST TOM GRENNAN / TRUE ROMANCE

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RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

BEST FOR WAKING UP

ARCADE FIRE

Signs Of Life

Switch your alarm clock for this super-funky new song from the Canadian heroes.

BEST FOR SOBBING UNCONTROLLABLY

THE NATIONAL

Guilty Party

Bringing the doom in the only way they know how; emotions run high in this slow-burning beauty. Hold us, please.

BEST FOR SUMMER VIBES

MR JUKES

Leap Of Faith

Bombay Bicycle Club's Jack Steadman joins De La Soul and reggae don Horace Andy for this Gorillaz-esque, sunshine-dappled offering.

BEST FOR A SINGALONG

LIAM GALLAGHER

Chinatown

Liam brings the pace down a touch for this moody, slow-burning belter.

BEST FOR SIPPING BRANDY

METRO BOOMIN

No Complaints

Drake and Offset join the hypest producer around on his debut solo single, a woozy slice of tough and tempting hip-hop.

BEST FOR INDUSTRIAL ROCKING

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

Turn No More

Featuring Manic Street Preachers' James Dean Bradfield, this impassioned track comes from Public Service Broadcasting's new concept album about the Welsh coal-mining industry.

BEST FOR BEING THE BEST

SKEPTA

Hypocrisy

Skeppy says that he turned down an MBE and calls out the haters on this hard-edged slice of grime greatness.

BEST FOR MAKING MAYHEM

TYLER, THE CREATOR

Who Dat Boy

Tyler returns! Here he joins forces with A\$AP Rocky for more of his trademark gravel-voiced intensity. The video is a trip.

BEST FOR BEING THE GREATEST

PRINCESS NOKIA GOAT

New York MC and all-round genius Princess Nokia stakes her claim to 2017's rap throne with this languid, badass banger.

BEST FOR BEING SAD IN THE CITY

ST VINCENT

New York

St Vincent's poppiest moment yet, this bruised but buoyant ballad could, strangely, be a Rihanna deep cut.



FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
GO TO NME.COM

MUSIC

Family jewels

The LA sisters stick resolutely to their roots on a slick, retro second album

HAIM

Something To Tell You



THROWBACK SIBLINGS FUN

LA TRIO HAIM'S head-turning 2013 debut 'Days Are Gone' took them to unexpected places: Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage, a Calvin Harris EDM banger, a collaboration with rapper A\$AP

Ferg, the same dinner table as Jay Z, and Taylor Swift's holiday boat. They rode a wave of hype and saw it through, going from potential stars to a certified

phenomenon, capable of applying their talent to several different worlds. But follow-up 'Something To Tell You' is resolute in sticking to their

roots. After years on the road, the three sisters – Danielle, Este

and Alana – found themselves itching to apply a well-honed live craft to the studio. They reunited with deskman Ariel Rechtshaid and avoided production gimmicks. The end result is a record rooted in the bass flicks, shimmering synths and lovelorn lyrics that defined their debut.

Everything's recorded in crystal-sharp clarity, to the point where you can practically hear feet stomping on the studio floor and guitar strings breaking under strain. 'Nothing's Wrong' is this year's go-to soundtrack for first romances and post-heartbreak road trips; the thudding 'Found It In Silence' boasts strings not a thousand miles from Coldplay's 'Viva La Vida'; while the slowed down, George Harrison-nodding 'You Never Knew' sees Haim

mastering a different world.

Every track has a certain throwback factor. The title track's bass snaps like a Michael Jackson classic, the handclapping 'Ready For You' gives way to a George Michael 'Faith'-style acoustic refrain. Yet instead of being reverential nods to the past, it sounds like a very modern band having the time of their lives. They're showing off, but that's because they can.

The trio returned back in April with 'Right Now', an ultra-restrained slow burner that eventually breaks into a fire-breathing rock behemoth. The complete opposite of a straightforward hit, it still made one very clear point: Haim remain slaves to the rhythm, but this time they're leading the way. **Jamie Milton**

STRANGE & TRUE

Pre-Haim fame, Danielle toured with Julian Casablancas and Jenny Lewis, and played in CeeLo Green's all-female backing band Scarlet Fever.

Haim (l-r): Danielle, Este and Alana

Riding a wav

The Scottish producer's star power keeps shining on this guest-packed summer soundtrack

CALVIN HARRIS
Funk Wav Bounces
 Vol. 1



SUMMER PARTY HITS

CALVIN HARRIS, the man born Adam Wiles in Dumfries in the mid-80s, is the very definition of a self-made star. Proving the power of plenty of gym time and Sun-In, he's morphed from floppy haired indie-disco dude into buff superstar DJ and EDM icon without looking back. His latest trick sees him surrounding himself with some of the world's biggest – and hippest – singers and rappers to produce the certified sound of summer 2017.

'Funk Wav Bounces Vol. 1' is a triumph; a good-time album of wall-to-wall hits with a carefree, funky tropical feel and more than enough cool points to see him embraced by the hipster

crowd as well as holding on to the pop kids. Opener 'Slide', featuring the mighty Frank Ocean and Migos, is a fresh-from-Miami-Beach

banger, a modern yacht rocker with class, style and a supremely catchy hook.

The rest of the record is almost as

good, with Young Thug, Pharrell Williams and Ariana Grande showing up for the Stevie-Wonder-at-the-club-styled 'Heatstroke'. Katy Perry is on dreamy disco-funk anthem 'Feels', Snoop Dogg is on the G-Funk flavoured 'Holiday', and Future and Khalid are on the heady, party-starting 'Rollin'. One of the finest lyrics of the year also makes itself known on 'Faking It', as Lil Yachty states:

"Do you remember that time I put pepperoni on your face and made you a creature / Now I think about your face every time I eat pizza." A bit silly but impossible not to love; kind of like Calvin Harris, really.
Leonie Cooper



Guilty party

Jay Z is really, really sorry and he wants Beyoncé to know about it on a fireworks-filled 13th album

JAY Z

4:44



APOLOGY OLD-SCHOOL

JAY Z LIKES TO BILL himself as anything but human. In his eyes, he's hip-hop's holy prophet, a certified billionaire and an innovator. He's compared his work to Renaissance sculptures. No sitting down, no being humble. All these things considered, 13th album '4:44' is a revelation. It's a record of humility, honesty and one gigantic apology.

Beyoncé's jaw-dropping 2016 album 'Lemonade' put Jay Z on the spot, accusing him of infidelity. One year later, '4:44' addresses the scandal face on. There's no room for denial or lame excuses. Instead, Jay admits he would "probably die with all the shame" if the affair saw him losing his wife and children. He even addresses the 2014 incident when Bey's sister

Solange threw punches in an elevator, captured on CCTV. "You egged Solange on," he tells himself, "knowin' all along, all you had to say you was wrong". Best of all is the title track, which recounts the first time he wooed his wife, before declaring: "I don't deserve you."

These heartfelt, confessional apologies are delivered via Jay's most concise, straightforward album in years. Ten tracks and 36 minutes long, this is a filler-free return to form after 2013's patchy and bloated 'Magna Carta Holy Grail'.

From a cynical point of view, it's suspiciously convenient to see hip-hop's most talked-about soap opera played out exclusively on a streaming platform that Jay Z himself owns. Every 'OMG!' talking point puts more money in his pocket. Are his fans being played? But the fact remains: as a direct, firework-filled admission of past mistakes, '4:44' couldn't be more watertight. **Jamie Milton**

4:44

STRANGE & TRUE

This is the first Calvin Harris album on which Harris doesn't do any singing at all.

FILM

Modern Marvel

By staying true to comic culture, this zippy reboot zooms past its predecessors

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

12A Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Donald Glover, Zendaya, Hannibal Buress



JUSTICE GUNS GOOFS

WHEN A 19-YEAR-OLD Tom Holland popped up for 10 minutes of 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*, his chirpy Peter Parker briefly swept the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe from under the feet of established franchise stars like Robert Downey Jr and Chris Evans. Over the 133 minutes of

this standalone instalment, Holland's Spider-Man remains supremely likeable despite his well-worn character arc.

Homecoming is the third Spider-Man reboot in 15 years, but this one outshines both Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield's outings by entrenching itself in existing MCU canon while also keeping things feather-light. Origin story already dealt with, *Homecoming* is able to focus on this 15-year-old boy's desperation to be taken seriously by girls and grown-ups alike: should he succeed, both a homecoming date and a place in Iron Man's Avengers squad beckon.

The sprightly intro for our millennial hero is his iPhone-shot video diary from *Civil War*, offering an alternate perspective on that film's memorable airport fight sequence and proving the kind of satisfying cross-stitching the Marvel Cinematic Universe is capable of. Parker's breathless excitement doesn't last, however, when he's sent back to high school by his mentor Tony Stark (Iron Man). Ambition piqued by his experiences with the Avengers, he's bored of being on the Academic Decathlon team and, as Spidey, taking on dangers such as lost old ladies – so when he encounters a group of thugs flogging superpowered alien weaponry on the

streets, he has to get involved despite Stark's warnings and his total inexperience.

From this point on it doesn't take someone of Parker's genius to work out that he'll end up biting off more than he can chew in the fight against Michael Keaton's nuanced villain (a flying arms dealer called Vulture), but plenty of thrills and shocks await both within and without the film's gripping action sequences. In these, the Staten Island ferry and the Washington Monument both get trashed, while brief turns from the likes of comedy stars Donald Glover and Hannibal Buress leaven the drama. An underused Zendaya also brilliantly lays on the snark as Parker's classmate Michelle; in fact, in the wake of DC's *Wonder Woman*, the only real embarrassment for Marvel here is that its female characters continue to take a Bechdel-flunking backseat.

Larry Bartleet

Tom Holland as Spider-Man, with Robert Downey Jr's Iron Man

STRANGE & TRUE

Ben Kingsley was once in line to play *Homecoming*'s villain Vulture, in 2007's *Spider-Man 3* – but director Sam Raimi was persuaded to cut him in favour of *Venom*, another Marvel villain.



Emma Booth as
Evelyn and Stephen
Curry as John

Neighbours from hell

Suburban life feels very different thanks
to this gripping serial-killer horror

HOUNDS OF LOVE

18 *Ashleigh Cummings,
Emma Booth,
Stephen Curry*



HORROR '80S SUBURBIA

NOBODY EVER REALLY knows what's happening just down the road. It's 1987 in suburban Australia, and locals are barely aware that a girl has gone missing. Posters bearing her face are torn and ignored. Certainly, nobody has any inkling that a pair of serial killers is moving among them, luring teenagers into their home, subjecting them to rape and torture, then dumping their bodies in the woods. Vicki (Ashleigh Cummings) sees little reason to be worried about

entering a strange home to buy drugs for a party, until the door is padlocked behind her.

Hounds Of Love is not strictly what you'd call an enjoyable time at the cinema, but it's an endurance test worth taking. Writer-director Ben Young's debut will leave you wrung out, with heart racing and palms sweating, but also invigorated by the birth of a brilliant new filmmaking talent.

What makes Young's depiction of Vicki's walk into hell so effective is how normal he makes her surroundings. The home of her captors, John and Evelyn White (Stephen Curry and Emma Booth), is a boring prefab. There are bills on the table. Evelyn potters around as Vicki lies chained to a bed. The mundanity of it makes Vicki's horror stand out all the more vividly. Young doesn't whip his camera around or go in for

quick, jumpy cuts to scare the audience, but lazily moves through the action, watching distantly as John and Evelyn wander into Vicki's room, closing the door behind them. Young doesn't invite us in, but that doesn't stop unwanted images, powered by his suggestion, clawing inside your head and settling into the darkest corners. Dan Luscombe's synth-led score and '80s hits from Joy Division and Cat Stevens are all used to haunting effect.

The film is driven by three savage central performances. Booth particularly is shattering, making Evelyn a broken woman who asked the worst possible man to fix her. Young gives us every side of his characters, finding the good and the bad and examining how the balance got thrown so wildly off. He gives us monsters all the more frightening because, in enough tiny ways, they're just like the rest of us. **Olly Richards**

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YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Little Cub

London trio ready to change the world via the medium of banging electro

AS LITTLE CUB PREPARE to play NME's CineJam – our upcoming film and music festival – we've given Dom Gore (vocals), Duncan Tootill (keys) and Ady Acolatse (bass) a quick call to get the lowdown on their debut album, the state of the world – oh, and how *Spinal Tap* they really are.

Your debut album 'Still Life' is pretty heavy on politics.

Why do you think it crept into the lyrics so much?

Dom: "I find it interesting that more people don't really write about politics. It's not something you can avoid, but people tend to shy away slightly from talking about topics really relevant to their lives that might be things you discuss with your friends or family."

Why do you think that is?

Dom: "A lot of the time many pop artists and musical artists say they don't feel equipped to talk about politics because everyone's so afraid to fall down on something. I think, particularly now, it's important to get involved. To really have an impact and say something worthwhile, you've got to put yourself on the line a bit."

When you play live, you guys like to mix things up...

Duncan: "We're always writing and making things, but it was good to finally get it out. When we're playing live we're changing the lyrics and the formation, so it's never finished – the tracks are still living and breathing."

When you guys play NME's CineJam, *This Is Spinal Tap* will be shown too. What's

been your most *Spinal Tap* moment so far?

Dom: "We're all quite grounded people, so there are no giant Stonehenges or anything. Certainly not yet. But give us a year or so..."

Thomas Smith

Little Cub play NME's CineJam at Rooftop Film Club, Peckham, on August 2. CineJam, which is curated by Dan Smith from Bastille, is a series of events all summer long that blends music and film at a swanky rooftop bar overlooking London. Head to NME.com for more info

Best track

LOVELESS

The boys mix politics and club vibes on this pop triumph.

STRANGE & TRUE

The band recorded much of the album in Dom's living room, much to the annoyance of his housemates.



DETAILS

From: South London

Social: @LittleCubband

Buy: Debut album 'Still Life' is out now

Live: Latitude Festival (Jul 15), NME's CineJam, London (Aug 2)

Little Cub (l-r): Duncan Tootill, Dom Gore and Ady Acolatse

FOR FANS OF



JAGWAR MA



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Estrella Galicia  recommends responsible drinking



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live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS



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Wed 9 Boucher Playing Fields, Belfast

Thu 24 Etihad Stadium, Manchester

JUNE 2018

Fri 1 Hampden

Park, Glasgow **Fri 8** St James' Park, Newcastle

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Wembley Stadium, London

Fri 22 Principality Stadium, Cardiff

TICKETS: £75-£80; on sale Saturday 8 from 10am

Divide and conquer

Straight after headlining the best festival in the world, Ed Sheeran has announced loads of huge UK shows

AT THE START OF HIS Glastonbury set a couple of weeks ago, Ed Sheeran told the three million people watching him around the world that he

was feeling nervous. It's hard to blame him: with his one-man stand in support of his third album '÷', Sheeran was the first Glastonbury headliner to go it solo on the Pyramid Stage since Kanye West played the fest in 2015. It takes a lot to command that kind of attention: a lot of courage, a lot of skill, and a lot of hits.

Like Kanye, Sheeran's got

all those things in abundance and he's giving his enormous army of fans several further chances to hear hits such as 'Shape Of You', 'The A Team' and 'Thinking Out Loud' live in massive venues across the UK. The tour starts here in early summer 2018, and tickets go on sale from 10am tomorrow, Saturday June 8. Don't be late.

**ON SALE
NOW**

LITTLE DRAGON

Swedish electro troupe

OCTOBER

Thu 26 Academy,
Manchester

Fri 27 & Sat 28

Roundhouse, London

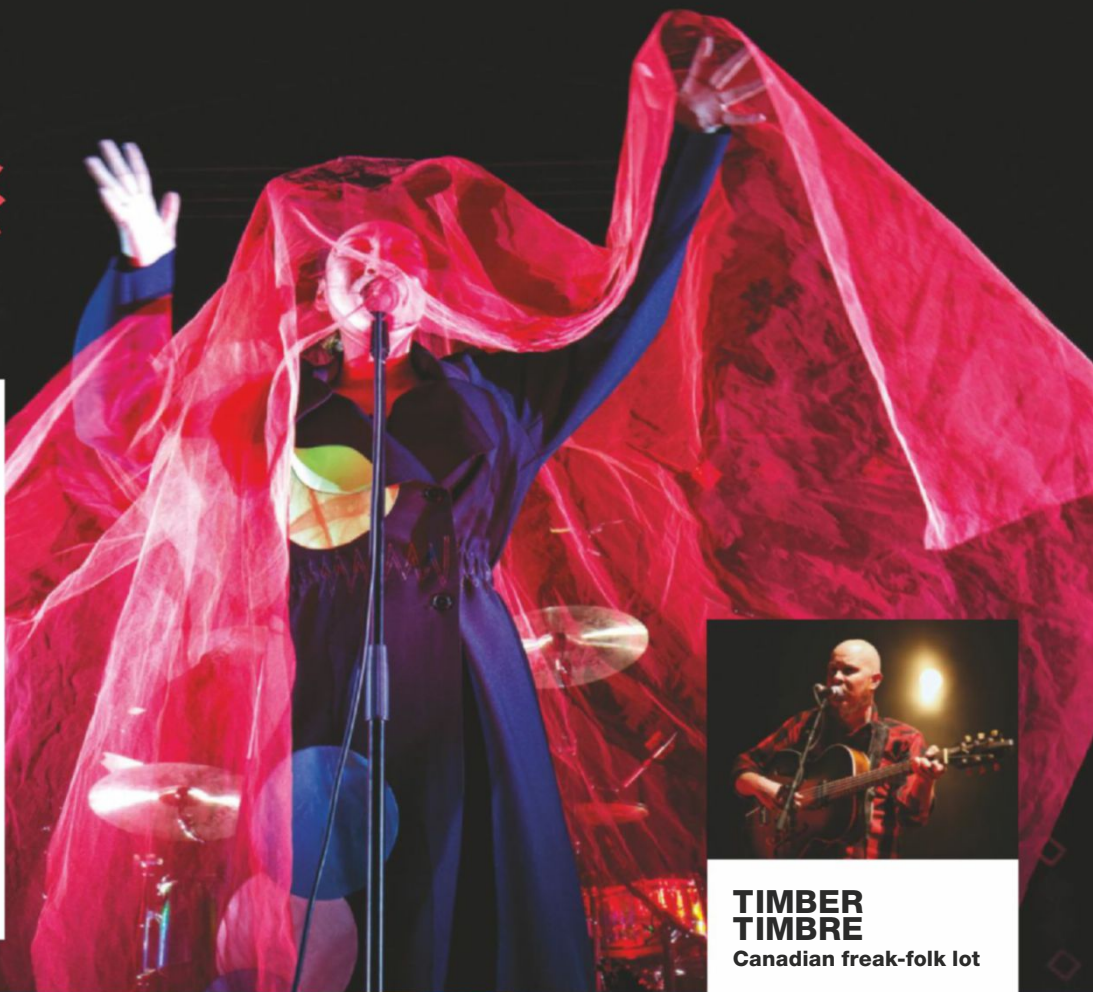
Mon 30 O2 Academy,
Bristol

Wed 1 O2 ABC, Glasgow

TELL ME MORE:

LD's vocalist Yukimi Nagano has collaborated with everyone from Gorillaz to Kaytranada.

TICKETS: £22-£25



TIMBER TIMBRE

Canadian freak-folk lot

OCTOBER

Sun 15 Haunt, Brighton

Mon 16 Oslo, London

Tue 17 Bush Hall, London

TELL ME MORE:

Experts in creating an atmosphere, these guys have supported the likes of Laura Marling and Feist in the past.

TICKETS: £14-£18

ALT-J

Art-rock
experimentalists

SEPTEMBER

Mon 4 Centre, Brighton

Tue 5 Dreamland, Margate

Wed 6 O2 Academy,
Bournemouth

Fri 8 Grand Pier,

Weston-super-Mare

Sat 9 Empress Ballroom,
Blackpool

TELL ME MORE:

Their recent third album 'Relaxer' isn't actually that relaxing, but in a good way.

TICKETS: £30-£34.40



DIZZEE RASCAL

Grime star and friend of Calvin Harris

OCTOBER

Mon 2 O2 Academy, Liverpool

Tue 3 O2 Academy, Glasgow

Thu 5 O2 Academy, Newcastle

Fri 6 O2 Academy, Sheffield

Sat 7 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds

Mon 9 UEA, Norwich

Thu 12 O2 Academy Brixton, London

Fri 13 Corn Exchange, Cambridge

Sat 14 Academy, Manchester

Mon 16 O2 Academy, Bristol

Tue 17 Rock City, Nottingham

Thu 19 Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea

Fri 20 O2 Academy, Birmingham

Sat 21 Dome, Brighton

TELL ME MORE: The 2003 Mercury winner is due back in July with the "very loud" 'Raskit' – his first album in four years.

TICKETS: £25

live



HMLTD

Twisted glam/
electro outfit

OCTOBER

Thu 5 The Magnet, Liverpool

Wed 11 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

Thu 12 Think Tank?, Newcastle

Fri 13 Broadcast, Glasgow

Sat 14 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Fri 20 Patterns, Brighton

Tue 24 Electric Ballroom, London

TELL ME MORE: This thrilling six-piece is fronted by the charismatic Henry Spychalski, who's somewhere between Mick Jagger and the Joker from *Batman*.

TICKETS: £8.80-£12.65



ERYKAH BADU

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

BILLIE EILISH

Mon 10 Courtyard
Theatre, London

BILLIE MARTEN

Fri 7 Record Junkee,
Sheffield
Sat 8 The Cookie,
Leicester
Mon 10 Fruit, Hull
Tue 11 The Basement,
York

BEACH SLANG

Sat 9 The Alma Inn,
Bolton

BIRDY

Wed 12 Somerset
House, London

BLOSSOMS

Sat 8 Castlefield Bowl,
Manchester

CAGE THE ELEPHANT

Mon 10 Union Chapel,
London

CARL BARÂT & THE JACKALS

Fri 7 Ku Bar, Stockton-
on-Tees

COLDPLAY

Tue 11 & Wed 12
Principality Stadium,
Cardiff

DESPERATE JOURNALIST

Sat 8 The Prince Albert,
Brighton

ELBOW

Fri 7 Cannock Chase
Forest, Rugeley

ERYKAH BADU

Fri 7 Eventim Apollo,
London

EZRA FURMAN

Thu 13 Barbican Centre,
London

FOALS

Tue 11 Eden Project,
St Austell

FOSTER THE PEOPLE

Thu 13 Somerset
House, London

FOURS

Thu 13 The Borderline,
London

GNARWOLVES

Fri 7 The Live Rooms,
Chester

GOLDFRAPP

Sun 9 Somerset House,
London

THE HORRORS

Tue 11 Omeara, London

JAMES

Fri 7 Castlefield Bowl,
Manchester

KING NUN

Thu 13 Purple Turtle,
Reading

KIRAN LEONARD

Wed 12 Pavilion Theatre,
Manchester

KOJEY RADICAL

Thu 13 Gorilla,
Manchester

LAURA MARLING

Fri 7 Priory & Castle,
Tynemouth

LEO KALYAN

Tue 11 Electrowerkz,
London

LITTLE MIX

Sat 8 Eirias Stadium,
Colwyn Bay
Sun 9 Ageas Bowl,
Southampton
Thu 13 Castle, Caldicot

LUCY ROSE

Thu 13 Rio Cinema,
London

MARTHA

Sat 8 Rebellion,
Manchester

THE MENZINGERS

Sun 9 The Haunt,
Brighton

THE MOONLANDINGZ

Thu 13 The Haunt,
Brighton

MR JUKES

Tue 11 Village
Underground, London

NAS

Mon 10 Guild of
Students, Liverpool
Tue 11 O2 Academy,
Glasgow
Wed 12 O2 Academy
& Underground, Leeds

THE ORIELLES

Sat 8 Night & Day Café,
Manchester

PORTICO QUARTET

Thu 13 Pavilion Theatre,
Manchester

RAE MORRIS

Wed 12 ICA, London

RIDE

Mon 10 New Theatre,
Oxford
Tue 11 O2 Ritz,
Manchester

SAINT MOTEL

Tue 11 The Wardrobe,
Leeds
Wed 12 O2 Academy,
Liverpool

STEALING SHEEP

Sat 8 Pavilion Theatre,
Manchester

SUNN O)))

Thu 13 SWX, Bristol

TOUTS

Fri 7 The Deaf Institute,
Manchester

WARPAINT

Mon 10 Somerset
House, London

WHITE LIES

Fri 7 Concorde 2,
Brighton



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NOVEMBER 2017

SUN 05 NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
TUE 07 GLASGOW O2 ACADEMY
WED 08 MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL
FRI 10 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
SAT 11 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY
MON 13 BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
TUE 14 NORWICH UEA
WED 15 SOUTHAMPTON O2 GUILDHALL
FRI 17 LONDON ROUNDHOUSE

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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Lord Buckethead

Intergalactic space lord and parliamentary wannabe

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE

FALCO

The Sound Of Musik

"For me, this song encapsulates the euphoric joy of 1980s Earth pop. It's a pocket symphony of synth strangeness and I love it so much I used it for my victory dance at the Magnet Leisure Centre, Maidenhead, once I'd secured my precious, historic 249 votes in your recent general election."

THE SONG I'D TURN INTO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GENESIS

Land Of Confusion

"The most important thing is that you change the anthem from the current one. Its melodic and harmonic structures are so primitive it offends my auditory organs. 'Land Of Confusion' by Genesis is not only a perfectly apt replacement given Britain's current predicament, it's also a cracking tune."



GENESIS

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

ROD STEWART

Maggie May

"I've no quarrel with either the content of this song or with the husky knight himself Sir Rod. However, its mere title now conjures the twin phantoms of a pair of British Prime Ministers I've battled on the general election stage [Lord Buckethead ran against Margaret Thatcher in 1987 and Theresa May in 2017] and hence these days I tend to give it a wide berth."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

GEORGE HARRISON

My Sweet Lord

"I think this is a bit of a morbid question, *NME*, but if I must answer it then I would suggest something that reflects my lordliness, contains a contemplative tone and involves one of the Fab Four – because in my experience, the idea of any list of favourite Earth songs lacking a Beatle is unconscionable. I also like 'He's So Fine' by The Chiffons, but this is entirely unconnected."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

SLEAFORD MODS

"On Earth, I suppose my first would have to be Sleaford Mods, who I introduced at Glastonbury 2017. I was impressed by their pulsing rhythms and by the way Jason and Andrew don't mince their words about the state of your nation. The crowd and the Park Stage setting were also spot on."

THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY BUCKETHEAD

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Theme (Paganini

Caprice In A Minor No. 24) And Variations 1-4

"History will see it for the fusion masterpiece it is. Both Lloyd Webbers are at the absolute top of their musical game – do not scoff, reader, but instead give it a stream and see for yourself. Please tell Noel Gallagher from me that this is how you put a cello to a rock beat. This track is class."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS



THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

STAN RIDGWAY

Camouflage

"I'm a recent convert to the ways of karaoke because we don't have this in Hyperspace, but I like it so much I've installed a system on my mothership. Anyone found to be tone deaf is blasted out of the airlock, so it's tremendous fun. I remember 'Camouflage' from my visit to Earth in 1987 and it combines a fascinating lyric with a stonking chorus. What's more, it's a long song, so I get to hog the machine."

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

SIMPLY RED

"When I visited Earth in 1992 I confess I was a little bit homesick for Hyperspace. I wanted something to remind me of home, so I purchased a copy of 'Stars' by Simply Red. I felt more homesick after that."



The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK
JARED FOLLOWILL
Kings Of Leon
July 12 2003

"I swear to God I don't think I've ever been to bed in London before the sun has come up."

