

# Alex McEwan

## UNITED KINGDOM

Scottish singer-songwriter, Alex McEwan began playing guitar after his friend's dad, who was a minister, inspired him to give it a try as a kid. It wasn't until he got to London later on in life that he really found his voice as he entertained in places such as the 12 Bar Club. He sat down with Maverick to talk about his roots and the influence that had on his music ahead of the release of his next album 'In A World We Don't Know'.

**Could you tell me a little bit about your Scottish roots and how you feel they influenced your music, your writing style?**

As a young boy, we used to have an accordion in the house. I remember my father and mother would play, they played everything from Simon Garfunkel to Sinatra but he used to also play Scottish music. So whenever I hear an Accordion, it always sticks with me, and the bagpipes. So when I go down to Glasgow and I hear a bagpipe playing and the bands that they really hypnotize me. There's a sentimentality around that sort of stuff, Scottish folk music. There's a guy called Dougie MacLean, I love 'Caledonia'. I used to busk that song along with a bit of Travis. Actually he was getting his record deal, he was down in London, and I ended up meeting him whilst busking and

he's quite friendly, he dropped a fiver in so I do like Travis. Del Amitri would be the big local act to have influenced me. Growing up in Glasgow, there was a scene there of maybe Americana music, Lloyd Cole and the Commotions, stuff like that, they were influenced by Americana. So that sort of influenced me as well.

**Can you tell me a little bit more about your single 'Hold Your Hands Out To Me', please?**

I wrote that during lockdown. I was watching a film about the German goalkeeper Bert Trautmann, he was a prisoner of war during the Second World War. He became the goalkeeper for Manchester City and as I was watching his life pass by, he got a divorce and then died and all that, I felt quite sad at the end of it. It just triggered some emotions, I went to my kitchen table, which is kind of a very country-fide kitchen and I started to think about home, how much I missed home, down here in Kent. I thought about my memories of growing up, memories of the seaside, memories of ice cream, memories of my parents, memories of being a student, my time at Glasgow University, and it just triggered a lot of emotion in me to write the song. Mistakes that have been made in my life as well, there's a bit of a theme where the

woman says, it's gonna be alright son.

**Your new album comes out in September, could you tell me a little bit more about the songs on that record?**

We've written another song a bit like 'Hold your Hands Out To Me', which I need to add that to the album. It's called, 'It's Gonna Be Alright'. It's really based on my parents memory, I sat down and it just came to me. It's really about, my father met my mother at the end of the Second World War, the two of them were inseparable until they were no more. In his life, he never met anyone like her, he used to buy her flowers every day until he too was no more. It's more upbeat, it's maybe more suitable for mainstream radio, hopefully, we're producing it and that one is also, I think, a very strong song as well.

**A silly question for you, what's the strangest thing that you've ever written a song about?**

My dog chewy, I didn't really finish the song but I was writing a song about chewy and I might put it up on social media. I'd say writing about my dog is the strangest thing I've written about.

**What's next for you?**

I'm going to support The Shires, I'm looking at other acts to support as well. Obviously, we want to push the album as much as possible, get the singles to radio. After that, we'll look to get on more festivals next year and write more music really, maybe write differently, just to try and mix it up a bit. I want to play some big venues, I want to develop a big enough audience to play some good sized venues.

