



Words: Lauren Pilgrim

We caught up with Alex - owner of the voice that powered Justin Brooke's hit Love to the top of the charts - to talk fame, future and fortune. We wrote it all down, too. So, there's no need to bother her.

ovely Yorshire born 'n bred Alex has certainly been keeping herself busy. Lex has had a huge success this year within the music industry. With two of her songs hitting the number one spot in the charts, she has become one of the most popular female singers in Yorkshire and now it's time I got personal, here is an exicusive interview with Alex talking about her career and future

So, how excited are you about this new phase in

"Very excited! It's funny, my my album is coming out in HMV- the place I used to come to skive off work." In bouts of laughter she

told me how she used to work in Sheffield across the road from HMV.

I thought it would be wise to bring up the song Lights about our very own Steel City.

"Lights is a song about Sheffield and expresses how, no matter how much glitz and glamour, there's some times you'd rather just be back here sat in the pub"

How do you find insiprations for the songs?

"I find inspiration for song writing in everyday life, all sorts of people, anyone I meet, I just find new people and places inspiring. Thos which have travelled, I take a lot from them. Sometimes I find it difficult, I had writers block for like a year. It is weird how it works, if you do enough with your time you'll be motivated enough to write songs

The Northern lass can no longer call Sheffield her hometown after moving away recently. Do you miss anything about us?

"The food, Tuesdays and just the friendliness of people. Going out around here is, I think, the best night out in the country. Returning here isn't weird, it's just really fun. It

always seems to be one of the places that has

Most young celebrities would crave public attention and gossip- but this lady. While she remains humble, many people change with fame.

"I think when that happens there aren't enough people around them to tell them to stop acting like a ****. In my case, my tour manager is a friend who I used to live with in Stannington. So, just be normal, don't think you're better than anyone because there's no point."

It's testament to Alex that she's kept a downto-earth demeanour throughout her musical journey - but I wonder whether she ever feels the pressure to succumb to the lures of mass market

"No, not really. It depends, if you hang around in the TV world then yes because the TV world is so different. Everything is so made up there - but

• In the real world all you need to be is nice and work hard >>

It's been an incredible road for the star Alex and reaching great success.

"Recently Light went into the charts at number 18 with no radio play - and to be able to get a top 20 from solely the support of social media and my fans is incredible. I'm really thankful for that. Also the album has been at number 3 since its release and stayed there. So, fingers crossed, we'll do alright!"

At the age 20, she's already accomplished many milestones; are there any boxes left to be ticked off her list of aspirations?

"I just want to do well with this album and then go on to do another. To keep making music for the rest of my life would be quiet a blessing. If I could carry on doing this I'll be very happy.'

Alex's voice is the deserving subject of much praise, like her personality, it carries a warmth topped with a good serving soul.

"I guess the influence cames from the people $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$ grew up listening to, really. It turns out Alex wasnt brought up from a musical background, in fact it was the age 16 where she first give her voice the attention and took her voice seriously.

Since then, she's started to write and let herself become the subject of her lyrics.

"I've grown up listening to music where people express themselves and talk about their emotions. That's the music I love the most. When someone says a sentecne or a phrase that relates to your life, that can be a big moment I'm not saying the experiences I have are similar to everyone elses, but I just like to think someone out there is is relating to my lyrics.

Song writing has become Alex's new diary in many ways. She admits shes new to the process and still learning.

Rather than being worried and self-conscious of how people perceive her work. Alex has admitted that yes she has put her heart on her sleeve but the feedback will help her to create more

Finally, do people recognise you in the city of Sheffield?

Yes, of course I get the occassional people coming up to me and wanting a picture or signed autograph. I just have to be friendly and polite to everyone. Although, there are days where I will wear my sunglasses and hat to hide.

With a smile and a handshake she returns to the stage ready to work her magic to the crowd of fans that's gathered. As I leave she seems eager and excited to get back to what she knows and loves and I have an immediate feeling that Alex will be one of those Sheffield names we mention many, many years from now.