

Hawthorn Avenue - Artist Bio



Marcus Gumms and Laura Benjamin, two experienced musicians from South Wales, team up to form 'Hawthorn Avenue', combining Country Music with modern lyrics and a cool Rock twist to make a fresh, new sound. Although they fall into the genre of Country Music, you shouldn't expect to hear an old school hillbilly-on-a-front-porch sound, as the duo represents the cooler, more contemporary side of the genre. Their key influences come from artists such as Florida Georgia Line, The Shires, American Young and most predominantly, Striking Matches, the hot young Nashville Country songwriting duo who wrote many of the songs from the hit TV series 'Nashville'. The pair are also heavily influenced by Music City itself, both having visited Nashville recently, and both

falling deeply in love with the culture and the fact that music truly is the heart of the city. They aim to capture the atmosphere of a cowboy on a little stage in the back of a neon lit bar and incorporate this in their music, and of course, hope that they end up on those stages themselves!

Music was a huge part of Laura's life from a young age, as she began playing the violin from age 8 and picked up the flute and piano shortly after. With a huge admiration for powerful female singers like Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood, Laura has always believed that being a songwriter is the ultimate dream, and that there could be no greater joy than writing your feelings down in a song and having a stadium of people sing your own lyrics back to you.

Marcus' love for music came via an utterly different path. He says, and I quote "I wasn't interested in music until one day when I was about 10 years old, watching Stars in their Eyes, and this guy came out and did Ring of Fire. Ever since that moment, loved Johnny Cash, loved country music". Simple as that.

The duo met in 2015, through gigging in the same area (South Wales is a small place, it's safe to say if you're a musician, you know most of the other musicians) and began working together after jamming in a local open mic night and realising their musical compatibility. Shortly after they realised their joint love of country music, in September 2018, the pair sat down to write their first song and within a day, their first single was born.



‘WILDFIRE’, the debut EP by Hawthorn Avenue, was released in March 2019, following the hugely successful launch party in Cinema & Co in Swansea. The sold out venue was overflowing with support and an incredible atmosphere for the first performance of the tracks, which were released the following Friday. The EP can be streamed on all major streaming platforms and physical copies can be bought on the website at www.hawthorn-avenue.com. The single, ‘WILDFIRE’ was released with a music video in February, and filming for ‘The Water’s Edge’ is currently in progress.

“Wildfire displays an accomplished approach to the craft, and excites in all the right ways, and I’m looking forward to sinking my teeth into whatever they drop next” - Joe Bayliss, Swansea Music Hub.

The title track ‘Wildfire’ has received support from the popular Country Music radio presenter, Baylen Leonard, who has played the track numerous times on his front porch show. In April 2019, Adam Walton played “the beautifully realised” ‘Raised Me Better’ on his BBC Radio Wales programme via BBC music introducing.

Hawthorn Avenue are currently working on recording their upcoming releases, which you can expect throughout the remainder of 2019, as well as planning a tour at the beginning of 2020. Head to their website to sign up for the mailing list and keep up to date with everything that the duo have planned.