

**BRIGHTER  
SOUND**

# Mentoring Programme 2021 Cohort



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## LUNA (She/Her)

Recently featured in Clash Magazine, LUNA is a rising star of UK electronica and one of the brightest talents in Liverpool's eclectic scene. Booked for Brighton's The Great Escape Festival last year, LUNA has also performed on the main stage at Liverpool International Music Festival and Hanover's 'Fete de la Musique'. A ReBalance Finalist and LIMF Academy 'Most Ready' alumnus, she has also appeared on Radio 1, Amazing Radio and BBC Radio 6, while hosting monthly radio shows on Melodic Distraction and Steam Manchester.

LUNA wants to ensure her public facing brand continues to evolve with her sound by developing robust communications and release strategies.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*"It's been a chance to readjust my focus on where I'm at creatively and work on evolving my sound. I've also been teaching myself how to DJ, putting mixes together and guesting on independent radio stations. Running too! Last year I entered the global competition 'The Speed Project' with The West Coast Runners running club, and have just signed up for the Liverpool Spring 2021 10k. Then generally...cooking, getting a kitten, and watching trash TV and horror films."*



## SIBZ (They/Them)

Specialising in spiritualistic hedonism and raucous beats, SIBZ's bold and braggadocio performance delivers cool, emotional expressionism in a heated package. Their sound and shows are at once provocative and highly engaging, fusing distorted underground aesthetics with open hearted lyricism and raw, unedited fervor.

SIBZ is interested in refining their image as an artist and performer in the context of becoming an iconic product / brand, as well as a focus on their release plans ahead of new music.

***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“Planning and implementing our first release schedule.”*



# The Deep Blue

In the depths of Manchester live four women: Georgia, Niamh, Katie and Sophie. Carving lives from red brick and late nights; learning to swim in all that rain. They are The Deep Blue, and they are making music. Lots of it. Songs of the alternative indie-folk persuasion, rich in three-part vocal harmony and washed in the shades of their name. The Deep Blue are a featured artist of INES (Innovation Network of European Showcases) talent pool.

The Deep Blue are looking for guidance on planning release campaigns and marketing their music in effective ways, including strategies to effectively manage interaction with, and grow their online fanbase.

## ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“We spent lockdown writing and recording our debut EP with producer Alex Quinn. The tracks, all set for release in 2021, emulate the mind games playing out inside our own heads. Perhaps they are in yours too. Come swim with us - we could all do with an escape into The Deep Blue.”*



## Harry Heart (He/Him)

Manchester based Harry Heart has been calling on British and Australian influences for several years. After leaving London and becoming a teenage multi-instrumentalist in rural Australia, he received national airplay from triple j and toured in two acts before finishing high school. His writing style emerged from a blend of art rock and pop rock influences, his dual nationality playing a key role in his musical identity. Since 2014, Heart has toured Australia and the UK, with support from Apple Music, 6 Music, BBC Introducing, triple j and Amazing Radio.

Harry wishes to optimise his efforts as an independent and self-managed artist, refining his brand identity to convey a clearer narrative for his growing audiences.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“Like a lot of people, I really wanted to find the silver lining in the situation, so I’ve pushed quite a lot of songs over the finish line since March 2020. It’s really helped me focus. Musicians are used to spending days on end in a room with no windows, at least I’ve got windows this time!”*



## Darragh Burke (He/Him)

Darragh is a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and arranger based in Manchester, who began studying at the Royal Northern College of Music on the Popular Music course in 2015. While there he became a founding member of indie bands Cosmo Calling and Sour Honey, and played guitar/keys for the Ignition Orchestra's 'DJ Spooky's Garage Classical' project, who released their debut album in 2019. Since graduating Darragh has gone on to session with Cassia, Glass Caves and Kashmere.

Darragh aims to broaden his technical knowledge of production to help him develop his own creative voice as a producer.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*"I've kept busy by demoing and recording new material with Sour Honey and Glass Caves. Lockdown has also provided time for me to spend time developing my production skills, becoming more creative and experimental within the recording process."*



## Ceitidh Mac (She/Her)

Ceitidh Mac blends the warming tones of the cello and soaring vocals to create a transformative sound that puts a progressive twist on the alt.folk genre. Originally from Wales, but now based in Newcastle, Ceitidh's honest and intriguing lyrics have been mesmerising audiences in the know across the UK. While the folk influence is prominent in her songs, the smoky style and lo-fi studio sound combines with a contemporary electronic edge, embellished by unusual instrumentation.

Ceitidh is looking to find out more about the process of a release campaign, to feed into the release of her debut EP.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“Radio has been pretty central to getting through lockdown. Listening, but I’ve also been curating a DIY radio show called TUNE! which involved interviewing someone each month, and chatting about what it is in the music that makes you love it!”*



## Jack McNeill (He/Him)

Jack McNeill is a clarinettist and composer from Cumbria. He directs Propellor, a twelve-piece cross-genre ensemble, and writes music using live electronics, field recording and (lots of) clarinets. Jack's work is full of variety as on-stage musician/actor, improviser, recording musician, educator, premiering new works and performing solo, with orchestras and chamber ensembles. He's a member of Decibel, Joe Acheson's Hidden Orchestra and is the clarinettist for Tao of Glass (Philip Glass/Improbable), which premiered at Manchester International Festival 2019 and is touring in 2021.

Jack is interested in unearthing the best funding and organisational models to sustain his creative practice and the educational work he's looking to lead.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“Being outdoors, listening to the sounds of the wood near where we live change through the seasons and having the time to grow in my own playing. Conversations with friends, feeling the warmth of your experiences together resonate in this suspended year. Also I'm about to be a dad, so imagining that moment when our little girl will open her eyes for the first time.”*



## Ida Hun (She/Her)

Ida Hun is a multidisciplinary artist and singer. Recently she adapted her practice, moving away from the analogue into more experimental and digital music production. Ida is fascinated by the imperfections in honest sounds, like naturally flat notes in a sea of harmonies and the emotion or relevancy that can hold, or at the other end of the scale, accidentally finding percussion in a wheat bag or a budgie. It's these imperfections that Ida enjoys distorting and amplifying in music.

Ida wants to ask questions that only other artists will know to further enhance the standard of music she produces.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*"I've been developing an album entirely on my iPhone. It's an unapologetically low fi, sentimental journey through the last year. The songs were responsive to my mood and experiences at the time. If I didn't feel sexy I'd make a song that told me I was. If I felt fatigued I'd make music for movement. Thirst, domestic violence, power, silencing and the need for contact during the pandemic are amongst some of the topics I have explored with this latest offering."*



## George Sansome (He/Him)

George Sansome is a vibrant trad folk singer and guitarist based in Leeds, UK. His relaxed stage presence and engaging delivery make for a captivating and exciting performance. George's self-titled debut album, released in 2020, has been well-received and was featured on national radio. It was listed as one of Songlines magazine's "Essential 10 Folk Albums of 2020".

George hopes to learn the skills needed to foster creative and effective collaboration as well as the ins and outs of fundraising.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*"Listening to nice music, playing music (when I feel up to it!), going for walks, cooking, and having a laugh with my housemates."*



## Karl D'Silva (He/Him)

Karl D'Silva is a multi-instrumentalist from Rotherham who has worked with Rian Treanor, Helm, VANISHING, GNOD, Drunk In Hell, Thurston Moore, Ex-Easter Island Head and Stephen Mallinder of Cabaret Voltaire, among others. A former resident of Salford's Islington Mill, he sings electronic pop songs about love, hope, fear and darkness in the modern world, with one arm stretched backwards into the mystical past and the other lurching toward an increasingly present dystopian future.

Karl would like guidance in developing his creative direction and assembling a team of people around him to help build career momentum for his work.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“Walking in the forest with a flask of tea, meditation, reading, looking after my dog and playing my instruments everyday have all helped me stay balanced during lockdown.”*



# Talk Like Tigers

Talk Like Tigers are a rising evocative synth pop duo. Their sound is a dreamy alternative pop in which inventive lyrics paint vivid images, and their powerful vocals weave together to create a visceral other worldliness. Their soundscapes are glittered with quirky rhythms and infectious hooks. Radio airplay includes BBC Radio 1, 6 Music and BBC Introducing NE. They've played festivals including Glastonbury and venues including Sage Gateshead.

Talk Like Tigers are seeking inspiration around ways they can enhance their writing and production skills and guidance on increasing their fanbase through more engagement-led marketing strategies.

## ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*"Music has definitely kept us going! We made a list of goals and are working towards them. We have been learning bits and pieces about Ableton, writing and practicing our instruments and vocals. We have also done a songwriting week with the help of HMUK which was really inspiring. We've been doing lots of workouts to keep fit and to keep our minds clear. Comedies and films have also helped to keep us going and talking to friends and family over Zoom. Not sure we can take any more quizzes though!"*



## Jacob Cracknell (Green Gardens) (He/Him)

Jacob Cracknell is a songwriter and musician from Leeds who is one part of the Art Rock group Green Gardens. He studied Songwriting and Bass Guitar at Leeds Conservatoire, and now works at the Brudenell Social Club.

Being entirely DIY in his marketing and communications with Green Gardens, Jacob is looking for extra guidance in making a big impact with their releases and building on their existing strong fanbase.

### ***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*“I've been lucky enough to have released an EP in the first period of lockdown in 2020, so preparing everything and trying to promote that as best as I could. We've just finished home recording and are deep in the planning stages of the next run of singles due for release this year. That, and reading lots!”*



## Matt Owens (He/Him)

Matt Owens is a composer and bassist based in Manchester. His debut album *The Aviators' Ball* incorporates elements of jazz, world, classical and folk music. Much of the material was taken from his suite of pieces *Ten*, commissioned by The Manchester Jazz Festival, which combined jazz quartet, wind quintet and tuned percussion. Matt has been a long time collaborator with singer/songwriter Kirsty Almeida. Songs they have written together have appeared in the films *Albatross* and *Patagonia* and on the American TV series *Arrow*. Matt is also a member of *Baked A La Ska* and the trio *The Magic Beans*.

During the pandemic Matt turned all his attention to composing and is keen to build a new career path - particularly in music for media such as TV, film and game.

***What's been keeping you going during lockdown?***

*"Writing lots of music, running, chocolate and red wine - a good balance I think."*

