

DARKUS

2020 Showcase Series

A photograph of three young men standing in front of a large, industrial metal bridge structure. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue jacket and a dark cap. The man in the middle is wearing a bright blue puffer jacket over a white t-shirt and a plaid cap. The man on the right is wearing a red and black plaid jacket over a white hoodie. They are all looking directly at the camera with serious expressions.

DMA'S

DMA'S



THE GLOW

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2020 Showcase Series: **DMA'S**

Editors Message

Having been a fan of DMA'S for a fair number of years, thanks to the recommendation of one of our good friends, Ian Cheek, it feels like only yesterday that I was pressing play for the first time and smiling as I opened my mind to this incredibly talented Australian band and their awesome Brit-pop vibe.

The past few years has seen DMA'S really thrive with confidence and when you see a band who you have so much respect for, doing so well you can't help feel proud of how far they have come.

Fast forward to 2020, and having been working away in the studio, Tommy, Johnny and Mason announced that it was time for their next album, The Glow which is a testimony of how they are the type of band who are not afraid to do what they enjoy what they love, but add a few special twists to keep us all on our toes.

With a special interview and our feedback on the album itself, we invite you to join us for this special showcase edition which celebrates one of the most exiting bands you will ever know!

Thushara x X x



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Thank You To:

DMA'S

Ian Cheek Press



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Spotify DMA'S



In Conversation With

DMA'S

Answers By Matt Mason (Guitarist)

Over the past few years Australian trio, DMA'S have been one of those incredible bands who may of entered the music scene as new comers, but have gone on to grow in popularity, especially with fans over here in the UK. As well as their exceptional live shows playing along the likes of Liam Gallagher as well as a number of sold out UK headline shows of their own, with each visit they make it is an experience you wish you relive over and over again.

Since 2014 as well the band have also treated fans to a number of great releases such as their EP, their debut album Hills End, and a second album For Now – all of which have been embraced and received with open arms, myself included.

However with news of their third studio album, The Glow due for release on 10th July 2020, those excitement levels are going through the roof as fans wait in anticipation to see what DMA'S have to offer next, and trust me from listening to the album myself you're certainly not going to be disappointed.

Wanting to find out more about this latest chapter in the band's journey, with the power of Zoom, we caught up with guitarist Matt Mason for a good ol' natter.

How have you all been keeping these past weeks?

Real great man. We have just been in the studio for the past couple of months or something.

Great news about album number 3, The Glow which comes out in July. What have you enjoyed most about working on that record together?

Oh man it was such a fun record to make honestly. We did a song called Silver and another called Round & Around with our friend Scott Horscroft who is a producer in Australia in this beautiful studio called The Grow which is out in the countryside in the Australian bush.

And then we did a few songs in RAK Studios in London and then did the remainder of the tracks at Westlake Studios in LA.

Do you think breaking it down into sections like that really helped?

Yeah I actually think it helped a bit man to have that time in between. You kind of forget you are writing a record when you do things like that because by the time it comes around to doing another session you are not exhausted so you can just go in there feeling refreshed. It was also cool to be in different places too because I love London, Sydney and LA.

ARTICLE & QUESTIONS BY THUSHARA



Do you feel that different cities inspire you in different ways?

100%! Usually what inspires me is when I go to a city and I think of all my influences from there and I will imagine them walking around if they were doing similar things to the things I would be doing if I was there with them.

Is there anything you were hoping to do differently to help shape the album compared to the others you have released, and do you feel it worked?

Our last record we did with Kim Moyes from The Presets and although he is a Dance producer we kept it true to the band for that record. For this one we worked with a Jazz producer and told him to just go for it and don't overly try and preserve the DMA'S sound, lets just try something completely new.

There are a couple of songs on the record which don't sound like anything we have done before, and to be honest we will only really find out if it has worked or not once people are able to hear it.

With you, Tommy and Johnny being able to share this journey together for so many years, what makes you smile as you reflect back on your growth?

I remember when we would get really stoked at those milestone moments, like getting the first 1000 followers or our first sold out gig in the UK with like 200 people, stuff like that, because it felt quite cute if you get what I mean. It was moments like that which made us so excited when you think about it more may not necessarily make us excited now.

Also, the fact that we have stayed friends throughout it all (not that we wouldn't) has been really cool. Even the guys in our backing band are high school friends so having that team around us has been quite a nice feeling.

Although Covid-19 has put a pause on live music at the moment, what have these challenging times taught you about your own versatility as a band?

That is a good question. We have put out a few isolation style videos which is just us playing to a camera at home and piecing it all together.

Luckily, we do that soft ballad thing well so that has worked in our favour so we can still do that, and it is very engaging. I am not sure if I have learned anything in particular though, I am recording a lot more and learnt a couple more tricks in the studio if that counts.



Did you have any personal favourites on the new album?

Yea man, a song called Learning Alive is my favourite but that is because I much prefer the songs I didn't write, because if you write a song you become so attached that you forget to see it for what it is, but when you hear a song for the first time it just sounds amazing because you are like "wow that is great. How did you do that? Where did that come from?" it just feels like magic if you know what I mean?!

And again when you have written a song yourself, there is no smoke and mirrors because you know everything about it so nothing is really going to surprise you. So whenever we release any songs, my favourites are the ones Johnny writes usually and I think the same applies to the rest of us too. Like I remember when someone spoke to him about similar he said that some of his favourites are the ones I have written.

How do you feel you have all grown in confidence as songwriters then?

I wouldn't necessarily say confident as a songwriter but definitely more confident on stage and more confident in a studio.

I still feel that song writing is so subjective because you will get moments when you are doubting yourself, even more so now there is more pressure. So yeah less confident as a song writer and more confident in other ways if that makes sense.

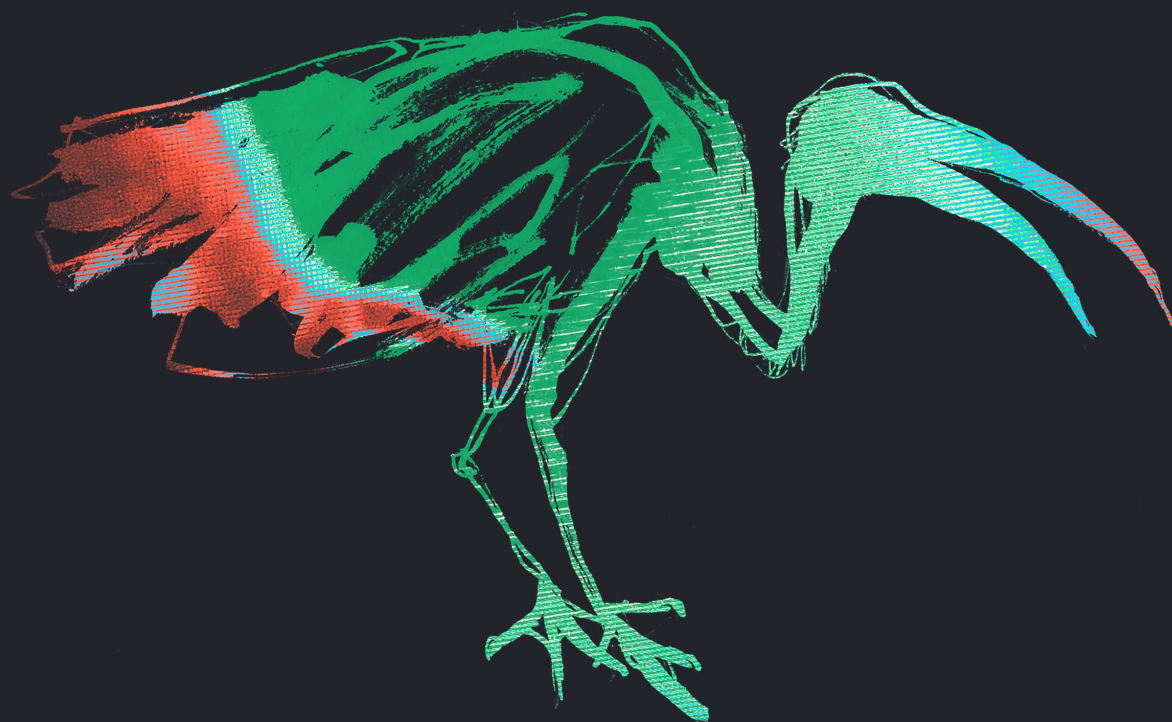
When you first start out you can sometimes have this young and brash approach but the more experienced you become whether that is due to pressure or something else, you can't help but not think about it more because there is a lot more at stake.

With the album coming out on 10th July and hopefully a tour in October, if you take a moment to pause and reflect, what are you most grateful for?

I am grateful for the fact that we just have a good team. You can always rely on our crew and everyone is friends.

Even while this pandemic has been unfolding we won't come out at the end of it completely fucked because of our team and the way everything works, we are just going to survive it, whereas other bands are relying solely on music for their income might not be in such a good position but we have a smart group of people around us so we are very grateful for them.

DMA'S



THE GLOW

ALBUM REVIEW

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*DMA'S Release 3rd Studio Album
'The Glow' On 10th July 2020*

Article By Beverley Knight

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"There's some exposure to alt-pop that may surprise a few. However, it is incorporated into their overall sound and provides some refreshment, like a can of cold soda on a hot day."

Producing their new album *The Glow* in Hollywood's Westlake Recording Studios under 24-carat producer Stuart Price is a pretty celestial indicator of just how far DMA'S have come from the days of playing their fair share of 'shitty' venues back home in Sydney, Australia.

That's not to say that there hasn't always been the belief that they could do this; collectively, Tommy, Matt, and Johnny intuitively knew they would carve a career out of music; they just needed to figure out how. In 2016, DIY debut LP *Hills End* opened many doors for them, and things have been on the up ever since.

Second release *For Now* followed, along with accolades such as 200 million streams and an MTV Unplugged session, but it was supporting rock titan Liam Gallagher on his 2019 arena tour where they were discovered by a new audience eager to listen. This confidently cemented their place in the British music scene. They held their own showing what a tight number they were and were on their way to headlining *Hit the North Festival* in Newcastle upon Tyne, which with any luck, will be able to take place this October instead.

The Glow is a neat little bundle of eleven tracks that are surely going to delight their followers. There's some exposure to alt-pop that may surprise a few. However, it is incorporated into their overall sound and provides some refreshment, like a can of cold soda on a hot day.

It comfortably shifts from two vibes: sweet, personal moments to big sing-your-heart out choruses, ready and waiting for the re-united fans at gigs.

Never Before possesses melodic bass, and Tommy's voice is just as dulcet as ever as he sings soothingly about life changes, "*Stop me I lost myself, are we moving on, you're the one I want.*"

There will be inevitable comparisons here to 90's Britpop, which, when done well, is a great thing. Also, I was fond of the homage to the Beatles' (also covered by Oasis) *I Am The Walrus* that leads to the finish. Great opener.

There's a fair share of lower paced numbers to sway along to, including slow-burner *Silver* and *Criminals* pleasantly featuring a piano, building to a choir. The piano is used again for *Learning Alive*, which has a more serious, haunting atmosphere with the lyrics '*I'm on your side*,' reassuring the person in question to fully trust in their relationship. You'll also find sweeping dance floor tunes such as *Life Is A Game Of Changing* and *Cobracaine*, which graduates from virtuoso Julian Casablancas' School of Distorted Voice; I'm a big fan of this.

Starting with staccato drums, *Round & Around* is a high-point on the album, boasting all of DMA'S strengths. It has a sunny feel, leading to an edgy bridge, and a breakdown that brings their new synth tones in to play. The chorus is simple brilliance with subtle musical harmonies, repeating the point to bring it home, "You know it's so real, yeah, round and around and around and around."

Although *The Glow* is not reinventing the wheel, it's an exceedingly commendable effort. They have beyond doubt kept their hardy indie-pop intentions, with the pop vibes so vibrant that you may even hear influences of some of their neighbour Kylie's electro work.

Moving onwards as a band, they haven't been afraid to invite fresh ideas to their repertoire, and following up guidance from Price, whilst keeping their DMA'S sound. I'm sure their fans will lap it up, and with Gallagher labelling them 'biblical', who are we to argue.

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