

ABOUT MAISY KAY:

Ask Maisy Kay to single-out her music idol, and she'll immediately name-check Freddie Mercury, that glam-rock icon with an unabashed love of cabaret. But ask her whom she's dreamed of sounding like, and she'll just as promptly reference softer, torch-ballad legends Whitney Houston and Celine Dion. Those two influences may seem antithetical, and that's kind of the beguiling appeal of Maisy Kay - an iron-lunged ingenue whose voice effuses theatricality.

That dexterity in singing and songwriting has served her well. In less than five years, Maisy Kay has gone from a kid harboring starry dreams in Claverley (a hamlet in the English countryside) to a buzzy talent, poised to break out in Los Angeles. As fate would have it, she has been working on the bulk of her debut album with Stuart Brawley, the producer/engineer behind Dion's *Let's Talk About Love*.

A self-taught pianist, Maisy wrote her first song at age 10. *"It was about a dragon. And a girl coming on a pirate ship to this new island,"* she recalls, laughing. To this day, Maisy eschews the pop world's tendency to recruit an arsenal of songwriters and only performs her own compositions. Many of them are penned daily around 3 a.m., her overactive mind waking her from slumber, willing her to write.

Maisy has spent the past three years bringing many of those tracks to life with a roll call of A-list producers. Among them: Brawley, Captain Cuts (Elle Goulding), Adam Argyle and Martin Brammer (Olly Murs), Jason Gaviati and Justin Siegel (Cassadee Pope, Black Eyed Peas), Kenny Harris (Panic! At the Disco), and Sameer Bhattacharya (Flyleaf). Enthuses Maisy, *"Working with someone who's more on the poppy side and then with someone who's more on the classical side? I love that!"*

Each producer has essentially reached the same conclusion upon first hearing her sing: Her shimmering, mezzo-soprano vocals, paired with intimate, pervasive confessionals are what make her the rarest of unicorns in the pop world. Maisy realizes this, too. *"It's so important to have a personal connection to all of it,"* she says. *"Every song is a journey."*