

Huntly singer tops the iTunes charts

By Wendy Clarihew

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A HUNTLY musician has realised every star's dream by reaching number one in the charts this week.

On Tuesday, Michael Forsyth and The Amber Haze made it to number one in the iTunes album download chart, beating the likes of Ed Sheeran, James Bay and Tom Odell.

The album, *Stop for the World*, features 10 songs which are all penned by the singer-songwriter himself.

Michael (30) said: "I self-financed the album and recorded

No stopping Michael as he beats Ed Sheeran to the number one spot

it with RSD Studios in Turriff. It was only released last Friday so to climb the chart so quickly is just amazing.

"I don't have a favourite song on the album, I like them all. I am really proud of them and chuffed with the album.

"I was chuffed to bits to see the album at number 42 but shocked

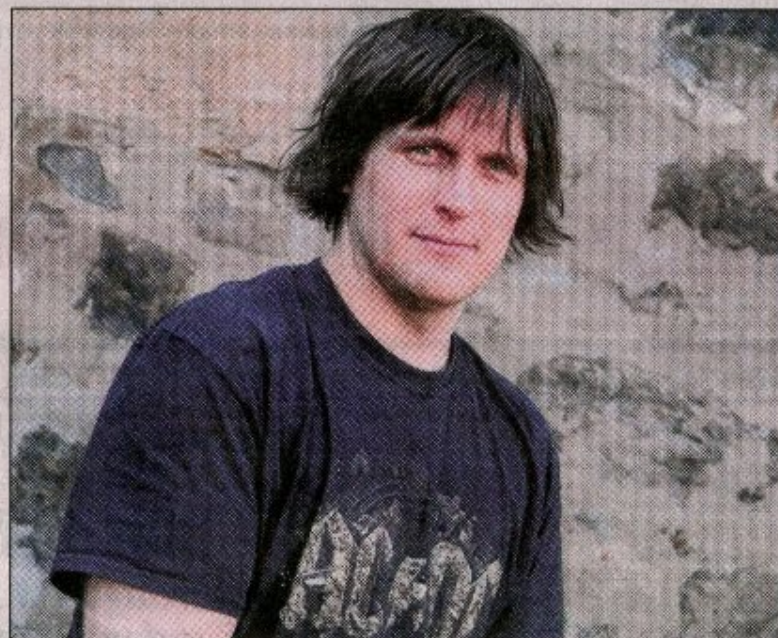
and stunned when it reached the top 10 and then the top spot on Tuesday.

"It just shows you the power of social media. I passed it to my friends and family first and then they passed it on; it just grew from there. I didn't expect it to get so big."

Since reaching the top spot, Michael has received great attention from the national media. Earlier this week one of the songs from the album, *Flowers*, was played on Radio 2 and on Thursday he travelled to Aberdeen to give a live interview on BBC Radio Scotland, with part of the *Young, Wild and Free* track previewed on the show.

Michael said: "Giving the live interview was a bit weird but I really enjoyed it.

"I then received a call from a national newspaper so had to give another interview after the



Michael Forsyth and The Amber Haze reached number one.

Picture: Becky Saunderson. Image No. 033562

show. It has been really busy."

Michael played in a band at the age of 13 and in *Earth* at age 15. Michael Forsyth and The Amber Haze is made up of Mark Johnston on bass and Stephen Simpson on drums.

"We have only played two gigs, one in the Highlander and the other was supporting Definitely Oasis in the Stewart's Hall. I guess

now that we have hit the number one spot our aim now is to play more gigs.

"I will remember this moment for a very long time. I'd like to say a big thank you to all our fans and supporters. This means so much for all small artists worldwide and just shows that you should never give up your dreams, they will come true some day."

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Michael Forsyth