

**EM: Today I'm talking to the local funkster, Tashi Hall, who has just released her first solo five-track EP titled *Gratitude*.**

**Hello Tashi, it's lovely to have you here! Why don't you start off by telling me a little bit about your music? How would you describe your sound? (feel free to compare to another artist)**

T: Hey Em, thanks so much for having me! Well I've been told at nearly every gig that I sound like Joni Mitchell. I'm very much inspired by the rhythm of a song and I try to be as dynamic as possible when writing. My recordings sound a bit different as the songs are filled out by all the other instruments. The songs have been described as funky, groovy, upbeat 'n happy, rock/pop; a whole mixture of fun and fresh sounds.

**What inspired you to first start playing music and how old were you?**

T: I've always had some sort of instrument in my hand, that would have started at a young age with violin and then piano. At 12 I wanted to be a drummer too so I went to buy an electric kit and came back with a guitar as well! I started messing around and writing songs. I think my inspiration just stemmed from being in a creative environment and having the freedom to try out new things.

**How old were you when you wrote your first song? Do you remember what it was about? (please share!)**

T: About 13 yrs old and it was probably about trying to save the world from pollution, global warming and to stop cutting down trees. I think I thought I'd turn out to be some hippy singing out to mother nature from a tree top.

**Are you a self-taught musician? If so, did you find it hard, and do you have any tips for newbies trying to learn?**

T: I had a few drum, violin and piano lessons as a kid but have been self taught since about 14 yrs old. It's not hard. One thing I've learned is that no matter how many lessons you have or how much work your music teacher might give you, it purely comes down to playing in your own time, making up your own little challenges and writing your own material. You learn so much more from teaching yourself.

**You started off as the drummer in a band called Hey Hurricane with your brother; what made you later decide to pursue a solo career singing and playing guitar?**

T: I had been playing guitar and had done a few little gigs as a soloist at the same time as playing drums in Hey Hurricane. When we went our own ways it just enhanced my passion for being a soloist and also gave me more time to focus on my own work as a songwriter. I couldn't just stop making music, so I went solo.

**What instruments can you play? How many can you play at the same time?**

T: Drums, guitar, piano, bass and a little violin (haven't the violin in a while!). I was actually messing around once...I set up my drum kit so that I could control everything with my feet while I played guitar and sung. With my loop pedal I could then add a bass riff, a bit of tambourine, vocals harmonies and then do a lead guitar solo over the top. So, potentially up to 6 instruments at the same time if that counts.

**What is the most unusual instrument that you know how to play and why did you want to learn how to play it?**

T: Hmm. Maybe the gamelan because I was in Bali and thought well why not?

**Is it true that you played every instrument in each track of the EP?!**

T: Yeah!

**What is the overall message and purpose of your EP?**

T: The message is to be grateful for what we have and to think positive. I think music can help bring out the best in people and I've tried to create these sounds and rhythms to do that. The purpose of it is to be able to share something with people that really describes who I am and what I do.

**How would you describe the recording process in three words?**

T: Bedroom, alone, noise.

**What did you find most difficult in the EP process?**

T: Knowing when to stop myself.

**Do you have a favourite track on the EP? Why?**

T: They'll all so different so that's a tough one. But my favourite to play live is probably Shine a Light.

**Why did you choose Hyde Park as the location for your EP launch?**

T: I really wanted somewhere outdoors that would be all ages and open to the public. It was important to me that the audience felt comfortable. Also somewhere where I could have food and drink stalls.

**Do you think that the EP launch was a success?**

T: For sure! I couldn't believe how many people rocked up, even people who had just seen posters around and come to check it out. It was magnificent.

**You've released music videos for the two singles 'This Monster' and 'White Lion' on your Facebook page; both feature your brother. Would you say that your family has been supportive of your musical journey so far?**

T: Yeah, they definitely have. My big brother's a good actor so it was cool to have him star in the music video - made it easy for me as a director as well! My parents still like to come to gigs and my little brothers love singing my songs even if they don't know the words.

**How else do you promote yourself besides Facebook?**

T: At live gigs, mostly. There are a few other sights like Instagram and such but I don't take that too seriously. I'm going to make some little cards to hand out to people I meet so they have all my links and everything sitting in their pocket.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

T: Make films, wander around, meet new people, teach music, take photos, travel, go opp-shopping, bake stuff, go bike riding, discover new musicians, go to live gigs, read stuff.

**If you had to choose another career besides being a musician, what would it be and why?**

T: A screen actor. I've always been so passionate about film and photography: camera work, editing and making things come together on screen.

**Do you have any musical idols that have inspired your song-writing and/or performing style?**

T: I was inspired by John Butler early on. Then I got into Jack Johnson and The Cat Empire and now it's just whatever I hear and like.

**Where would you like your music to take you? Do you want to be famous?**

T: I would love to play big shows like Missy Higgins and for the world to hear my music. I want to be successful...and if fame is a part of that, that's cool with me.

**What do you do with the profit you make from your gigging and the EP?**

T: What I do make all goes into savings so that when I really, really want to buy something I can. So much money went into the EP though that my main goal at the moment is to try and get most of it back, over time.

**Can you describe the experience of the first gig that you ever played? Were you nervous?**

T: First gig as a solo performer was at The Fly Trap in Fremantle. I was a little nervous though and played all the songs a bit too fast. It was such a good feeling though to have people responding so well to my music. I think I got everyone clapping along at the end, that was a blast.

**How often do you currently gig around Perth? Do you have any upcoming gigs that we can look out for?**

T: The frequency of gigs is always changing as I mostly just play when people ask me to. I've got some goodies lined up for next month after I get back from my travels: 11<sup>th</sup> at the Paddo, 12<sup>th</sup> at the Indi Bar and 13<sup>th</sup> at Settler's Tavern in Margaret River with Matt Cal (playing as support but also drumming for him.) Then I'm joining David Craft at The Moon Cafe on the 18<sup>th</sup> and on July 1<sup>st</sup> playing the Elephant and Wheelbarrow in Northbridge.

**How would you describe your dream gig (venue, support acts, crowd size etc.)?**

T: Probably at the Fremantle Arts Centre as support act for a sold out Missy Higgins show.

**Thank you so much for your time Tashi!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**