

Although Jake Bugg claims he wasn't interested in playing music as a kid, the 18-year-old English singer-songwriter is clearly making up for lost time now. "I used to play football [soccer], and then I

started learning stuff and gigging around town," he says. "And that's when I decided I wanted to play music professionally." **LIZA DARWIN**

SOUNDS LIKE: A rough-and-tumble mishmash of country, folk, and rock.

THE HYPE: The raw, old-soul vocals of Johnny Cash meets the swagger of a young Bob Dylan.

HEROES/INFLUENCES: "I loved John McClain growing up. I actually met him once and wanted to ask him

loads of questions, but I got nervous and forgot them all."

MOST LIKELY TO: Trick you into thinking you've been transported back to Nashville's glory days.

LEAST LIKELY TO: Appear on reality TV. "I was actually offered to appear on this U.K. show, *The Voice*—and I was like, 'Thanks, but no thanks.'"

DREAM SHOW: "In a big stadium in New York. I'd love to do that, or play a concert hall, supporting Noel Gallagher."

DREAM COLLABORATION: "There's quite a few people, but Liam Gallagher has really inspired me."

FILE NEXT TO: Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, Donovan, Willie Nelson

PLAY THIS: Debut single "Trouble Town"; a full-length will be released this fall.

THE FUTURE: "I just want to make records as long as I can. My dream is to tour America—I've never been outside of the U.K. before, so I'm excited to see what's out there."

jake bugg



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