



Singer Songwriters Matt and Marcus Inspired by John and Paul



Singer songwriters Matthew Bancroft and Marcus Doohan say Altrincham town centre provides the perfect stage to hone their talents.

The St. Ambrose College 17-year-olds have been busking in the town for the last six months, performing both their own music and standards that span the decades.

Matthew said: "Trafford wants to encourage young talent so it's great you don't need a licence," but Marcus quickly added, "you've got to be good, very good, if you want to make any money. We might make £20 each from a two hour session, which is great but it's the experience that counts."

Best friends, they even share a birthday November 13, after which they have named their act 13th Street, the pair have been playing ever since they took the stage with their school at the Manchester markets four years ago.

"That was nerve wracking," said Matthew, "but since we have performed at a number of local festivals and on the Trafford Centre main stage and busking in town means we are rapidly developing our own voice."

The young men share a love of Lennon and McCartney adding, "They were simply remarkable tunesmiths," but play music up to the modern day with George Ezra and Ed Sheeran also in their repertoire.

Both young men are taking Music in the St. Ambrose College Sixth Form, and both could go to Manchester University in 18 months with Marcus reading Medicine and Matthew History.

Matthew said "Obviously our academic studies come first but we'd love to continue our writing and performing partnership."

He added: "We write separately coming up with ideas and words on our own, usually starting from a simple chord progression and then working up a melody. Then we'll get together and work up the song from the basics, which is how Lennon and McCartney started when they at school."

Marcus added: "Our parents love the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkle and Bob Dylan so we grew up listening to great song writers and that's what we want to emulate."

St. Ambrose College Head of Music Aled Phillips said: "I'm glad we live in a town that welcomes young performers and Matt and Marcus have some genuine song writing talent."