

A Colourful Debut



2016 may have been a tough year for music, but that certainly wasn't the case for emerging Fermanagh band *Anto & the Echoes*. After only a few short months of forming and honing their sound, they took on their debut gig in July. Punters were turned away from *Charlie's* bar as the crowd reached maximum capacity early in the night. A series of well-received gigs around Northern Ireland followed, and the band returned to *Charlie's* to close the year with another sell-out show.



This year has built further on their success, after spending some time in the studio, they have returned with a short Irish tour to promote a new three-track EP titled *Youth*. February saw the Echoes playing Dublin, Omagh, Portrush and *The Empire Bar* Belfast, finishing their tour with the release of an accompanying music video for their track *Severed Ear*.

The EP is a collection of three songs, with a vivid and engaging stadium rock sound. The first track, *Pick Me Up*, is a chaotic upbeat number, with punk & surf-rock guitar sound juxtaposed with flamboyant saloon piano reminiscent of *Mungo Jerry's Summertime*, overladen with rich harmonies and a vocal line with hints of *Queen* and *Kate Bush*.

The second track, *Echoes*, is a sentimental and nostalgic party anthem, falling in line with a more familiar stadium rock sound akin to *The Killers* and *U2*, with powerful crescendos and rich layered vocals carrying a strong sense of emotion.

Severed Ear is a love song through the eyes of a tortured painter, with a huge dynamic guitar sound played over a host of colourful lyrical metaphors. The accompanying music video perfectly captures the colourful essence of the song, with the location and cast used as a literal blank canvas for a rainbow of expression.

Frontman and songwriter Anthony Breen has worked in the film industry on *Game Of Thrones*, *Line Of Duty* and various feature films, and used his experience to envision the video and bring it to life with great help from his cinematographer Declan O'Granaah.

Caiman O'Shea is a poet and singer-songwriter, and the driving force behind *The Thing Itself*.