



---

Maria Wilman is a musical force to be reckoned with.

Her journey to becoming the artist she is today is not a typical one and saw her begin studying the world of ballet, drama and performance, eventually moving into one of clinical psychology and a life supporting people through the NHS. Throughout a career in healthcare, her original passions were bolstered by a love of music, which complemented Maria's love of dance and eventually inspired the decision to write songs and perform.

Her first album – Radio Silence, due for release in early 2022 – and single, Plan B (available 29th October) are offerings that document this journey and via the atmospheric video to Plan B, showcase Maria's depth as an artist, dancer and storyteller.

Once her passion for music took hold, Maria Wilman assembled a band and embarked on decade of performing around the UK.

Then, after a few years spent honing her craft, she made the decision to sit down and complete this record. The process that followed was a swift one. It started back in the summer of 2019 and was completed in just three months, before her world and that of many of us got turned upside down.

But this didn't deter Maria and as soon as restrictions lifted, she joined forces with Mercury prize nominated producer Colin Elliot who's list of collaborators spans from Kylie Minogue to Tony Christie, but is most recognised for his work with Sheffield legend Richard Hawley.

Radio Silence is an album of many layers, made so by the eclectic catalogue of influences Maria draws upon. Listeners will hear snippets of Rufus Wainwright and Leonard Cohen, dustings of Cat Power and big choruses worthy of a West End musical.

But when asked about her influences Maria says "Anything with a beat". Dig a little deeper however, and you find that she is driven by a love of classical heavyweights such as Chopin and Bach, standards like The Beatles and Barbara Streisand plus some jazz, rap and rock music thrown in for good measure.

[cont...]

[...cont]

This debut record is Maria's retrospective on the road that brought her to this point and it's evident in her lyrics. "Never mind how hard you try to put order in your life, holding tight to what you find is important to survive" she sings on Plan B, a reflection of many moments during Radio Silence that Maria confronts the struggles many face each day.

The record is a platform to approach themes of isolation, oppression and abuse, but also progression, acceptance and exploration, all things she's dealt with and wants to help listeners confront.

Maria Wilman is clearly an artist of many experiences, many lives and has much to offer the listener. Perhaps subconsciously spurred on by helping people as a clinical psychologist, she's crafted this record so the sum of its parts form something relatable and familiar but also inspiring and adventurous.

"If I make it bigger than my story" she says, "it can be interpreted in ways that people can relate to and I hope they find meaning far beyond where it started".

This is clear in listening to Plan B.

The video for the song is the first ever to be shot on Goodwin Sands, a break in the sea 40 minutes off the Kent coast and only accessible for 90 minutes at a time, before it's engulfed in water. The outcrop is the resting place for a number of shipwrecks and other lost vessels which made the experience of filming there even more intertwined with the song's themes. Using this location also made the shoot a brisk one, especially considering it took place in the early hours of the morning. But the result is an atmospheric and mesmerising visual accompaniment, fitting for the song.

Now at the beginning of a new adventure, Maria Wilman is on a path to something great, with an impressive catalogue of songs (she's just finished album three) and the guster to make the most of a changing music industry.

Maria says "I'll jump on any ride, if it feels right. I keep pushing and pushing because I want the result to be coherent and we've managed that with Radio Silence. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved, and I can't wait to see what happens next."