

AJ WANDER

In a strange way, emerging London-based pop singer-songwriter, **AJ Wander**, can look at the COVID-19 pandemic as the time his moment arrived. The result, his debut single, "Time Out," arrives worldwide on 5th November.

Wander, the son of a pianist father, had music in his genes from an early age. Varying instruments were scattered around his childhood home in the suburbs of south-east London; a musical landscape that inspired a young AJ to sing, play and eventually to write. He grew up listening to his parent's favourites and was influenced by some of the greatest songwriters of all-time including The Eagles, Elton John, Carole King and The Beatles.

Following some time living in Sydney, Australia; Wander decided to listen to his heart and return home to pursue music. He enrolled at ACM in Guildford where he joined indie band **Tors**. He spent 2 years with the band before leaving to chase more creative fulfilment as a solo artist.

Wander soon drifted into running himself ragged playing covers at piano bars and hotels across the UK. *"Even though I knew my passion was my own music, I got sidetracked as I needed to pay the rent,"* he admits. When the UK's lockdown eliminated his ability to grind out a living, Wander took the pandemic's early days to reconsider his priorities, turning all focus to his own music and a career as a solo artist.

It was at this time that he started approaching people in the music industry and networked his way to a management and recording deal with **Elevation**, a USA-based music company that specialises in artist development. Simultaneously, Sarah Liversedge, MD of **BDi Music**, signed Wander to an exclusive publishing agreement. BDi is administered globally by **Bucks Music Group**.

He recorded several tracks in Barcelona with producer Brad Mair (Dean Lewis, Jamie Cullum, Kygo) which culminated in songs for his debut EP planned for mid-2021. The first single 'Time Out' was written soon after an explosive breakup. It's a realisation that the kindest thing was to let his first love go. The track is a prime example of the type of emotive, substantive pop songwriting that makes Wander one of *the* British artists to watch in 2021.

Wander says, *"My songs are a sort of self-therapy – they are a way of me dealing with my emotions."*

While his songs tackle relational pain lyrically, they are uplifting and not despairing. They carry a more cinematic, inspiring quality that stays with the listener in the truest sense of pop traditions. Wander's emotionally engaging tenor and melodic piano riffs provide a warmth and depth rarely seen from a young songwriter.

He takes pride in having found his true voice as a pop songwriter. He explains *"I think people often get afraid of labelling themselves as 'pop' because they think it cheapens them. But I try to make pop with substance. I always knew I wanted to make music that spoke to my life and hopefully, to the lives of others. But I didn't think, until now, I'd watch my ramblings come to life."*

###