

Arriving! (clockwise from this pic) Nick Cave, Amadou And Mariam, Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie and Mani, Sir Elton John and David Furnish, a pair of Guillemots, Brian May.



# THE MOJO BEST NEW ACT AWARD

## Corinne Bailey Rae

VOTED BY MOJO READERS & USERS OF MOJO4MUSIC.COM SUPPORTED BY BBC 6MUSIC



CORINNE BAILEY Rae is in tears, clutching her MOJO Best Newcomer award to her breast as the camera shutters click around her. Minutes earlier, Award presenter, BBC 6Music DJ Tom Robinson, had praised the deft song-writing skills and delectable voice of an artist who, just over six months ago, was still an unknown cloakroom girl in her local Leeds jazz club. But with a self-titled debut album selling close to 500,000 copies, her single, *Put Your Records On*, still soundtracking the nation's summer and tonight's swirl of garlands and compliments, it's understandable that today she is in "a mad, spinning-round place where lots of things are happening!" And there's no time to stop now. Soon she's back on the stage with Jon Bon Jovi, to present Elton John his MOJO Hall Of Fame award and again show off the breathtaking Miu Miu dress that has had the building abuzz. Right now, though, Corinne's savouring those tears of joy. *Stevie Chick*



### A starlet speaks...

**Where are you at?**  
I'm enjoying myself, working very hard, talking to people about music a little bit, but mostly *playing* music, and thinking about what other music to make.

**What have the past 12 months been like?**  
This time last year, I was rehearsing with my newly-hired band, and finishing the album... So much has happened since, but none of it's sunk in at all, I don't feel 'famous'. But I've been recognised in my local Borders – I signed a copy of my MOJO feature there!

**How do you feel about winning the Best Newcomer Award?**  
I was so overwhelmed! I just think it's brilliant to be recognised by a magazine like this, that's about *music*. I'm really pleased with the record, but other people liking it is a whole different thing.

**What next for Corinne Bailey Rae?**  
I'd like to become a better songwriter. I don't really know how you do that, except through writing loads more songs, and listening to lots of music I wouldn't usually listen to. I want to listen to some classical music, some bossa nova, more rock music, and just try and make my own collage out of it all.

**Who would you most like to give a MOJO Award to?**  
Bill Withers. He seems to have been forgotten somehow, but his music was so heavy, so emotional.

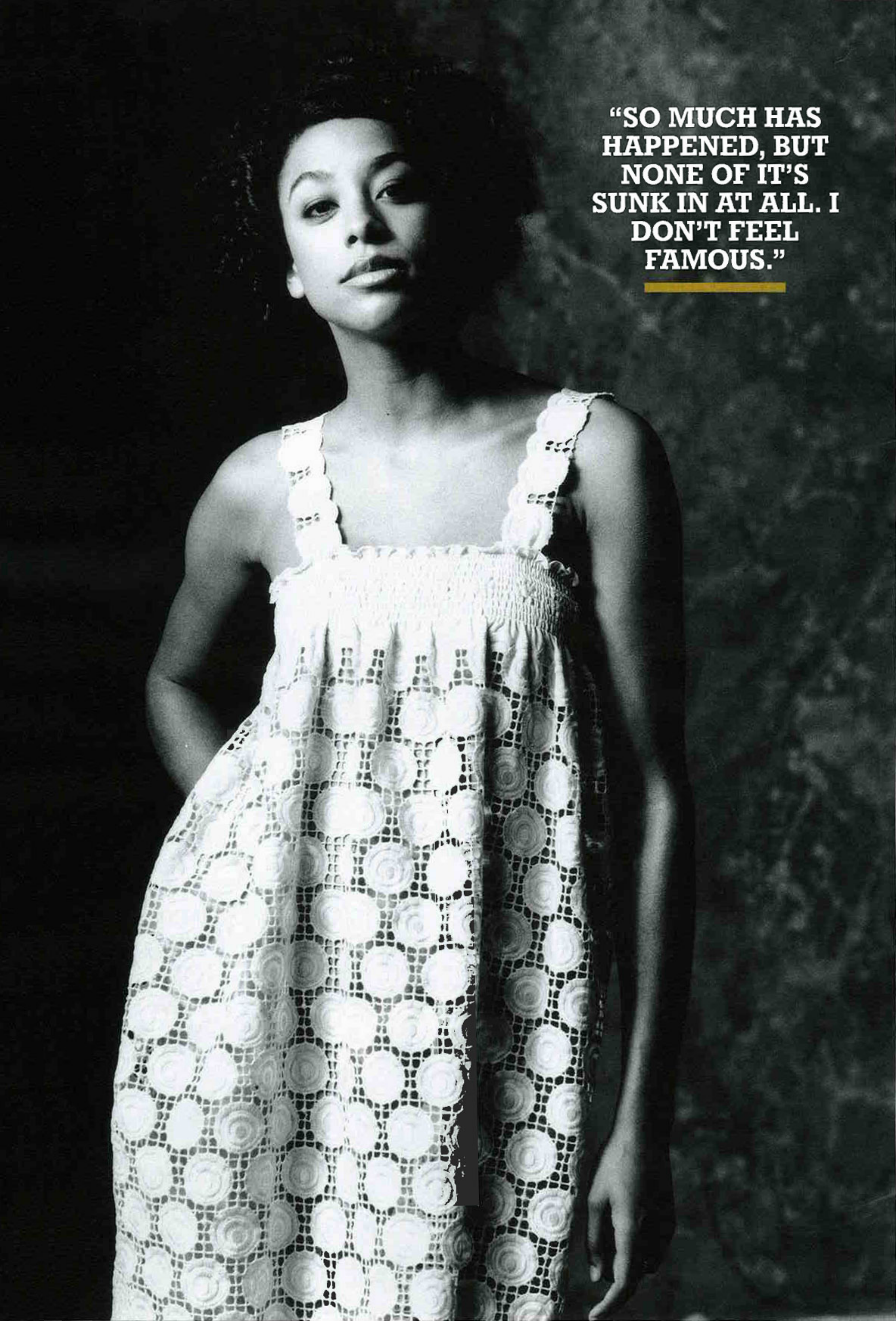
IT'S 6.18pm. Chrissie Hynde has just arrived and marched sternly past the waiting press gaggle gathered in the Edwardian hallway of Shoreditch Town Hall. Her stare is defiant, her handshake unenthusiastic, and she appears nervy. From Pink Floyd's David Gilmour to Best New Act nominees the Guillemots, so too do the familiar faces that follow in her wake, strolling down the red carpet anxiously. That is until they spy their peers, friends and heroes, all of whom are gathered in a council chamber which has been transformed into a champagne bar for the evening.

By the time MOJO's editor-in-chief and awards host Phil Alexander welcomes "the good people of music" into the upstairs ballroom – part of the Town Hall's £2.3

million refurbishment – a palpable sense of bonhomie pervades the occasion. The sense of camaraderie appears to grow during the hour-long gong show, extending into the post-awards dinner and the inevitable afterhours session.

"There are a lot of amazing people in this room!" says ska pioneer Prince Buster. "And it's all about the music, which is righteous!"

Indeed, it is. And therein lies the point of the entire event: an awards show designed to celebrate the work of those who have genuinely provided us with the soundtrack to our lives and enriched the musical landscape as we know it. Indeed, over the following 10 pages we salute the great, the good, the unheralded and the downright eccentric...

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair, looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a white, sleeveless lace dress with a smocked bodice and a pattern of circular lace motifs. The background is dark and textured.

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