

A close-up portrait of Maureen Malcolm-Gourley, smiling slightly and looking down. She is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned top. The background is a light, textured wall.

# MALBA

**Meet Maureen Malcolm-Gourley**

Maureen Malcolm-Gourley, known by her stage name Malba, is an enigmatic Scottish singer-songwriter, sound artist, and storyteller. Her music is a melting pot of influences, drawing inspiration from a diverse range of artists such as Karine Polwart, Feist, Nina Simone, The Blue Nile and Deva Premal. With her distinctive blend of folk, gospel, blues, and meditation, Malba has carved out a unique and captivating sound that is entirely her own.

At the core of Malba's artistry is her warm and haunting voice. With a vocal style that is equal parts soulful and ethereal, she effortlessly weaves her way through intricate and theatrical arrangements and her delicate alt-folk soundscapes create a mesmerizing atmosphere, transporting listeners to another world. As a songwriter, poet, and sound artist, Malba fearlessly delves into the depths of human experience. Her introspective lyrics touch upon themes of vulnerability, trauma, hope, and mental health with an intense honesty. Through her music, she offers a space for self-reflection and invites listeners to question the complexities of life. Despite her late entry into the world of songwriting, Malba's passion for music was ignited after the death of her father in 2013. This profound loss spurred her on to pursue a career as a singer-songwriter, a decision that has become a testament to the fragility and beauty of life.

Malba's expertise in her craft stems from her long journey as a vocalist and poet. For thirty years, she served as a valuable member of the St. Aloysius College Choir. Her deep commitment to music was complemented by her professional career as a Project Manager in the NHS for eighteen years and then a ten-year career in Community Music and Therapeutic Sound with the leading charities in Scotland. These diverse experiences have added layers of depth and maturity to her music, allowing her to create compositions that resonate with authenticity and emotion.

Further honing her skills, Malba pursued a Masters in Songwriting, at the University of the West of Scotland earning a distinction for her exceptional work. The written research undertaken in this academic endeavour focussed on Therapeutic Songwriting and PTSD which culminates in her debut album 'Bone Woman' which allowed her to begin to process the death of her mother, miscarriage and a cancer diagnosis all within the space of 6 months.

Malba's candid and honest discussions in her vlog, 'Weegie Wisdom,' delves into topics such as mental health, gratitude, and authenticity which offers her viewers an insight into her own journey.

As Malba continues to push the boundaries of her artistry, her soulful vocals and thought-provoking compositions cement her status as an artist with a message. With each song she creates, she invites audiences to embark on an introspective and cathartic journey, giving voice to emotions and experiences that are often left unspoken.

In a world hungry for genuine connection and meaningful expression, Malba has emerged as a beacon of hope. Her music serves as a powerful reminder that through vulnerability and art, we can find healing, strength, and our own authentic voice.

In 2024 Malba will release her debut album and venture into other artistic mediums, with a one-woman show, a book of poetry, and artwork in the making. Her voice now resonates not just in her music but through various creative outlets, following on from her exhibition and EP 'Transformation' in 2016.