# Guilhem Kirby

# Interesting Vocalist: Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir



Nanna is an Icelandic singer born on May 6, 1989. She is 24 years old and is the lead vocalist in a new “indie” band called “Of Monsters and Men”. She currently lives in [Reykjavík](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reykjav%C3%ADk), [Iceland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iceland). She attended a music-focused high school in the South of Iceland with her band mates. She first started with her independent performance called “Songbird”, and soon after, she recruited 5 band members to accompany her playing the guitar, drums and the bass. Her idol is currently the singer Bon Iver, and she would love to collaborate with him one day.

Her band “Of Monsters and Men” was formed in 2010. Unfortunately, Iceland is not a financially stable country, and due to this crisis, the band could not make ends meet by performing in their own country. Therefore, they decided to perform overseas in more financially sound countries. They published their first Extended Play album “Into the Woods” in 2011, and in that same year, they also released their first album “My Head is An Animal”. They quickly became famous when their hit song “Little Talks”, which was first played on Philadelphia’s radio station in August, 2011. They signed with Universal Records in the US, and are currently performing in many festivals and concerts around Europe, Canada and the US.

**Vocal Technique**

Nanna has a very unique voice. When she sings, she tends not reach the high notes. She does this as a technique and to add effect to her lyrics. Her high notes are not clear and supported, but they are rather wispy and soft. She has a raspy, airy tone that adds to her voice altogether. This fits well with the calm, peaceful atmosphere of her music. She uses glottal attacks when she sings her phrases that start with vowels. This happens by the opening and closing of the epiglottis, which creates clear starts to phrases. You can hear the snapping or the clicking of her vocal chords as they collide together. She tends to sing at the back of her throat with the consonants “l” or vowels “oh”. Her low notes and high notes are not connected, but she consistently moves from her chest voice, to her falsetto. In conclusion, Nanna is obviously trained in a different style of singing, which can be unhealthy over the long term if she consistently uses glottal attacks and forces the air through her vocal chords a certain way. She could eventually damage her vocal tissue.