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THE SOUTHLANDERS

Coronation Street actor **Stuart Wolfenden** - who played mechanic Mark Casey in the top rated TV soap - is making another assault on a Number One spot.

This time the 22-year-old actor/singer who took the role for two and a half years is heading for success in the music charts.

His double A-sided single - featuring the driving rock of *Too Many People* and the romantic ballad *I Knew You Would* - emerged from his 10-track album.

Singing was a side of Stuart's talent that took a back seat while over 20,000,000 viewers followed his career on screen in *Coronation Street*.

Mark Casey - mechanic Kevin Webster's boss - ran the Street's car repair workshop as the programme stormed its way through a 30th birthday year. He appeared on stage before the Royal family, was featured on magazine covers, interviewed by national press, and labelled as a new generation "heart throb" by the teenage magazines.

When he left *Coronation Street* last year he began to put together an album of music which is now complete and ready for release. With *Too Many People / I Knew You Would* it introduces **Stuart Wolfenden** to a new audience.

"But one or two hit records is not what I'm looking for," says Stuart. "I want longevity. Like *Coronation Street* I still want to be around in 30 years time.

"Neither would I like to fall into the trap of being another soap star with a recording contract ... Mark Casey releasing a single!

"I can't complain if people check me out at first because of him, that's only natural. The guy's been alright to me, but just because I owe him a lot of favours that doesn't mean I want him around for ever."

After leaving *Coronation Street* there was "a hell of a period of adjustment."

"For over two years I had been recognised everywhere I went. I joined the cast on stage in London for a Royal Variety Command Performance. I even raced a Formula One car at Brands Hatch for one publicity project.

"*Coronation Street* is not easy to leave behind and after that kind of environment, the real world brings you crashing back down to earth. For a while afterwards it was difficult to find work."

But it provided the right opportunity to take up his singing career again.

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