



CHRISTIAN VEGH

SHOWING SIGNS OF STARDOM

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTA'S LENS

TO QUOTE THE EAGLES: “there’s a new kid in town.” His name is Christian Vegh – his searing guitar licks and his incredibly deft fingers which literally fly over the frets are dumbfounding music lovers...and he’s only 19 years old! He’s been referred to by SLR producer Marty Bak “as the type of young artist that will shape Canadian music for the next 50 years.” And Peter Palazzolo of the Windsor Conservatory of Music and founding member of ‘Greatest Hits Live’ maintains that if Christian continues on his current path, he could become one of the greatest players on the continent. Christian, who lives in LaSalle, was born in Detroit on March 26th, 1997 after his mother was sent stateside for specialists’ treatment due to a high risk pregnancy as the result of a heart condition. After attending Assumption College, he was admitted to the famed Berklee College of Music in Boston on a scholarship where he began a 4-year performance/song-writing program. However, after a year, he took a hiatus from classes and isn’t sure if he’ll ever return. As he says philosophically, “I might not go back if my career opens up new opportunities which might be better for me than sitting in a classroom.” “As a kid,” he muses with a bit of laughter, “I played a lot of video games and even though people say they’re bad for you, I was doing that for my hand-eye co-ordination which really helped me when I started playing the guitar.”

He never liked sports, but at the urging of his mom he did play hockey and soccer, took karate and participated in gymnastics. On the other hand, he did like rock climbing and paint-ball. It was the musical soundtrack from the Lion King that caught young Christian’s attention. He then saw “School of Rock” with Jack Black and it became his favorite movie and forever changed his life “The first time I saw it,” he says, “I wanted a guitar for Christmas” and in 2006 he got his wish: “a blue Mexican Fender Stratocaster, a great starter instrument which was a real kick-butt guitar” and as the old saying goes, the rest is history. He took lessons in the 6th or 7th grade from Lee Cochrane and Pete Palazzolo but didn’t really do much with it until he was in the 9th grade when he started developing his skills and his own style. His progress has been so significant, that he’s received an endorsement from Ernie Ball guitars and Guitar Center when he was named to the “Brotherhood of the Guitar”.

As his interest in music widened Christian developed an appreciation for a diverse number of bands with great guitarists including Guns ‘N Roses and Pink Floyd. The group’s David Gilmour whom he describes as amazing and one of his favorites, became his hero. Vegh would sit for hours, jamming along with the band’s solos until he learned them note for note as is evidenced by his rendition of ‘Wish You Were Here’. Today his main aspiration is to become as good as the great Joe Bonamassa, his idol whom he has met only once. It’s a lofty goal to say the least, but one that is not out of reach given this guy’s natural talent and work ethic. “I play guitar 3 or 4 hours a day, then read, sing and write,” he says, “and I’ve written out a specific plan and only work at one thing for 6 or 7 minutes at a time. I mark it all down so I know the direction in which I’m headed. I’m pretty organized.” Another thing that sets him apart from many other players is his ability to read music, something he learned when he first began taking lessons. He made it a point to learn the fingerboard, and to memorize where the notes are, making it relatively simple for him to sight read new material. Recently he conducted a guitar clinic on the invitation of Long and McQuade Music...at least 30 pickers showed up for some valuable pointers. Vegh’s music has also received airplay on 10 stations, in Windsor on 93.9 The River and on Blackburn Radio – nothing yet in the U.S.

At age 15, Christian hit the stage for his

first public performance and he’s never looked back. He’s performed at Windsor’s popular Bluesfest on two different occasions, has played the Tecumseh Cornfest for three consecutive years and has played “a really cool club in Toronto – an industry showcase at the “Hugh’s Room” and that was a biggie.” Last June he was featured at the Capitol Theatre downtown for the release party of an extended play CD titled ‘Christian Vegh’, which is comprised entirely of his own material and is available on iTunes. “Christian Vegh Rocks the Capital Fundraiser donated all proceeds to 5 local scholarships. The Windsor Youth Orchestra was also on hand and was famed artist Paul Murray, who grew up in the Tecumseh area. His paintings which were done to the beat of the music, were later sold at a silent auction. Most recently, after being nominated by the Windsor Musicians’ Union, Christian was given the American Federation of Musicians’ Diversity award which recognizes musical achievement combined with a performer’s charity work in the community.

With the approach of 2017, Vegh has some concrete goals: he’s definitely doing more gigs in the United States, he’s wrapping up one recording session hoping to do a full-length album with his own compositions on which he’s currently working. He flew out to California to record with Stacey Heydon (David Bowie’s band), drummer Gregg Bissonette (Ringo Star band) and bass Matt Bissonette (Elton John’s band). There is another project that is in the works with a Motown legend and Christian and Christie Palazzolo are working on a single together. “I’m going to do a lot of guitar playing,” he adds, “but I really want to concentrate on my writing and work on my vocals, which are very important.” And like most musicians, Christian wants to have a number one hit on the pop-rock charts, eventually leading to a Grammy award.

Christian Vegh knows what he wants and he realizes that his natural talent and hard work will one day earn him the recognition and success that performers crave. There is no arrogance about this young man. Relatively soft-spoken, polite and relatively humble, he’s still firmly in charge of his future. “I’ve had nothing but the best support from the people of Windsor and I’m super, super grateful for that...it’s probably what has contributed most to my success,” he adds.

If you want to hear and see what this young man can do, simply Google his name and be prepared to be amazed! **WLM**

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