

THE LOCAL STREAM

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LIVE AND LOCAL WITH
CHRISTIAN VEGG
OF RED
LEGACY

GOOD TIMES WITH
MARK BRADAC

**DROP DEAD
FAMOUS**
TALKS ABOUT
THEIR NEW CD

A FEW LAUGHS WITH
LEO DUFOUR





Red Legacy's Christian Vegh

By Dawn Matchett

Inspired by the movie "School of Rock," Red Legacy's guitarist and lead vocalist Christian Vegh may have only been playing for a few short years, but his talent and stage presence screams of a lifetime of playing and practicing beyond his young age.

Starting out with a Blue Fender Stratocaster as a Christmas present from his parents, Vegh began taking lessons and practicing and "as I played, I got more serious about it." Music classes at school, with instruction from teachers as well as music instructors outside of school increased and expanded his musical knowledge, along with a co-op placement at Long & McQuade on Walker Road and an internship at Blackburn radio.

At only 17 years old, Vegh's portfolio already boasts of an impressive musical line-up including the opportunity to play at BB King's in Nashville, TN when he was 15; a gig meant to be performing only two songs that stretched to the audience asking for more for four hours. More recently and closer to home, a nationwide contest for Reach Out & Engage, an American anti-addiction campaign, Vegh's original work "There Goes the World" was chosen as the winning entry. Vegh will be the spokesperson and role model for the campaign encouraging teens to do something positive, rather than gaming, drugs, etc. Billboards and personal appearances are scheduled in the surrounding area throughout the campaign.

The Reach Out & Engage contest included a scholarship to the Steve Vai song evolution camp, with Vegh getting the opportunity to perform with Vai himself. The camp, running from June 23 to 27, at Vai's Saratoga Springs (NY) Music Academy was attended by 150 talented musicians, invited to learn the ins and outs of the music business including playing techniques, song writing and recording and publishing.

Vegh's influences also include Joe Bonamassa, Eric Johnson and Guthrie Govan. Having grown up with music a part of his everyday life, his father Ken plays a number of instruments along with other musical members of his family, perhaps most notably being a descendant of the famed Austrian composer Franz Schubert.

Other achievements include: opening for Sonny Rhodes prior to Rhodes' Canada South Blues Society Hall of Fame induction, opening for Shawn Desmond at Tecumseh's 2013 CornFest in Red Legacy's first live performance together resulting in a tweet highlighting Red Legacy's talent by Vegh's idol Joe Bonamassa; Vegh and

Red Legacy drummer MacKenzie Burrows are the youngest members of the Canada South Blues Society, and Vegh was the youngest to win Battle of the Bands in 2012 with his previous band having been together for only two weeks.

Previous appearances for Vegh include hosting and headlining the local ME TO WE event raising money for a school in Kenya with over 1200 attendees, performing at the Windsor-hosted 2014 International Children's Games with children attending from around the world, the 2014 Robotics Show at the University of Windsor, 2013 Windsor Bluesfest, the annual Jeff Burrows drum-athon, the Mitch Lewis Memorial

fund raiser, and Cork & Fork festival and most recently, opening for Down With Webster at the 2014 Tecumseh CornFest.

That's not to say Vegh is conceited or cocky in any way. Rather, he's quite humble and quiet regarding his talent and success, leaving his music to speak for him. He's also quick to promote his band-mate and friend. "He's the best in Ontario for his age, and great to work with." He explains they know each other well, even with having only known each other a few years, and have fun on-stage: "He's an outstanding musician." Introduced by music instructor Lee Cochrane, he felt they'd be the perfect combination to work together.

Vegh's future plans include attending the University of Windsor music program in order to write and produce more music, as well as learning more concepts and developing the tools to continue to create the music. Red Legacy has already been booked for performances into 2015, most notably for the Ohio Bluesfest.

Red Legacy's self-titled debut CD, a 4 song EP was released July 20 at The Venue Music Hall on Ouellette.



For more information, show dates and how to get copies of their self-titled debut EP, check out the band's Facebook page at:

www.Facebook.com/RedLegacyBand

Follow them on Twitter @RedLegacyBand

Or check out their website: www.Red_Legacy.com



Photography by Gene Schilling