

Limrock- home to so many talented musicians, one such musical entourage being the moody, melancholic Vesta Varro. LEG were delighted to have the pleasure of talking to the "pretty one", Rod Smith, in Vesta Varro about gigs, Myspace, money, and whatnot.

VV were brought together in 2004, a group of boys sharing one common bond- a need to play music. Each with years of experience behind them playing with various groups in Limerick they joined forces to create something new in VV. These boys are musical grafters. They work hard, they gig constantly, and they are always pushing themselves forward, propelled by their enthusiasm and drive.

In Rod's own words "It's not about the money or the fame, we would like to be able to make a decent living from playing music." Indeed. But in a country where rock bands are a dime a dozen, and seem to fall off the radar more often than not, VV believe that they need to keep themselves in the spot light by gigging regularly. With repeat gigs around the country from Eamonn Doran's in Dublin to the

Roisin Dubh in Galway VV work their theory well. "The only way to survive is to keep going, play all the gigs you are offered, keep the interest of the fans."

One certainty is that VV are very methodical and professional in their dealings. With the help of Vibe, who handle the PR side of things, and nothing more than initiative they book their gigs and use Myspace which they believe is a wonderful tool to make contacts and sell themselves. Their debut album 'Exit Here' was produced by Richard Rainey who has worked with the likes of U2, and released on their own label Eavesdrop Music. They have recorded with Nick Seymore of Crowded House fame, and have been working on new demos with Noel Hogan of the Cranberries and are preparing to release another single, entitled "Weighted Love", on the 19th of October.

VV reached number 11 in the HMV charts with their album and it is still steadily selling copies. "We knew that it would be a slow burner of an album and we have been proven right. It's still selling and we have to organise getting more copies pressed. We still

have people coming up to us on the street saying "I just got your album, really like it" so that's good. We aren't aiming to get into the charts, that's not what it's about, although the new single is a bit of a cross over track so you never know. It would be nice but it's not what's important."

With so much in the pipeline for VV, they are definitely a force to be reckoned with. On the cards is an opportunity to play at Indie week in Toronto in mid October, which the boys procured through an online "press thingy" [sonicbids.com](http://sonicbids.com). Through [sonicbids](http://sonicbids.com) they also managed to get tracks included in two compilations- one in Australia on the Starving Kids label and another in Germany on the Afrikoool label. Also coming up is a chance to record a music video with a Limerick film maker, Johnny Haugh. The VV boys would like to extend their thanks to Alan Jaques, Mike Knightson, Spin FM, Phantom FM and Dan Hegarty of 2fm for continued airplay and support, and to anyone else who has made the effort to come to a gig or buy the album. Humble to boot, who knew they had it in them? Rock on.

VESTA VARRO ARE ONE OF LIMERICK'S HARDEST WORKING AND MOST SUCCESSFUL BANDS.  
EMMA O B HAS TEA WITH BASSIST ROD SMITH WHO TELLS HER HOW

## FIVE LIVE



Vesta Varro play a student only gig at the Stables Club in the University of Limerick on October 03. For more info log onto [www.bebo.com/bankingonents](http://www.bebo.com/bankingonents). For the non-students among you VV will be returning to Dolan's Warehouse in November.