

The Music Of Viola Beach

By **Alexander Baron** - Feb 16, 2016



Viola Beach : Tom Lowe, River Reeves, Kris Leonard and Jack Dakin (Georgia Park)

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It's a sad task writing the obituary of someone younger than you, and a reminder of your own mortality. This though is not an obituary, although for the four men concerned, it is the end of a dream.

I must confess I'd never heard of indie band Viola Beach, and generally I don't listen to this kind of music, being more into **heavy metal**, **singer-songwriters**, and the enchanting **Candice Night**. Sadly, the music of Viola Beach will consist of a very limited repertoire forevermore, because the band was formed in Warrington only two and a half years ago, and on February 13, all four members were killed. Kris Leonard, River Reeves, Tomas Lowe and Jack Dakin were in a hired car with their manager Craig Tarry when it **plunged from a highway bridge** into a canal. This was their first time in Sweden where

they had played a festival. Leonard and Dakin were founder members; original bass player Jonny Gibson was replaced by Tomas Lowe, and Reeves replaced guitarist Frankie Coulson. Lowe had previously been a drummer, playing with a band called The Stocks.



Viola Beach made their debut at the new *Cavern Club* – the original of which was of course made famous by the Beatles.

Their music is a bit on the light side, and not the sort I would normally listen to, but there some decent samples [on SoundCloud](#). Their first offering was *Swings & Waterslides*, which was released around September of last year, it is a passable if fairly intense number.

Boys That Sing was released last month. The grammatically incorrect title – *Boys Who Sing* is to be preferred – and the infantile rhyming are fortunately rescued by the music. This uptempo number could pass for background music. Released a tad before this was *Cherry Vimto* (Vimto is a drink popular in the North of England – at least it was when I lived there, before Tomas Lowe, their oldest member, was born). This is a much better effort, strong melodically.

I have been unable to find any credits, individual or other, so presumably their songs were group compositions. They would undoubtedly have progressed as a band too. Alas,

now we will never know.

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