




Full of emotion and unique storylines, **honey V's** latest release separates them from the pack. Whether it's their comical lyrics, stripped down acoustic tracks or vocal harmonies, the duo manages to keep the listener's attention...their passion is evident throughout *In the Garden & Dancing*. Annie Reuter, Reviewyou.com





The **honey V's** truly have a way of warming your heart. Their enchanting stage presence, smile-inducing lyrics, and soul-soothing vocal harmonies make for an incredibly memorable performance. Ryan Mulligan, MullyRadio.com


Charting at the top of the comedy category on [Ourstage.com](http://Ourstage.com) for a whole month, the **honey V's** song "**Big Ample**" from their debut album, *In the Garden & Dancing*, epitomizes the eclectically upbeat and passionately unique approach to songwriting that the **honey V's** duo, Vicky Reardon & Lili McGovern, embody. 

The pair cite their muses, **Calliope and Athena**, as inspiration. Calliope aka "Beautiful-Voiced" is the **Goddess of Eloquence and Epic Poetry** who bestows her gifts to kings and princes. Calliope introduced herself to McGovern through an auditory "vision"; She became the title of McGovern's debut album, "**a bare calliope**", released in 2003. The relationship has blossomed beautifully with McGovern's newest batch of songs including the title track, which along with the album, is dedicated to the late Dave Carter whom McGovern met at the Alaska Midnight Sun Songwriting Camp in the summer of 2002. Two shamanic journeys and a tarot card reading later, McGovern wanted to hire Dave to produce her next album when he died suddenly of a heart attack one month later while jogging in MA. McGovern vowed to keep his songs alive, fulfilling that promise with the hymn-like, seraphic cover, of "**Any Way I Do**" on this album. 

Athena, Reardon's muse, is the **Goddess of Heroic Endeavor and the Goddess of Wisdom** and she is featured on the album's second track as a powerfully moving testament to the Greek goddess, "I am not weak, I'm Athena! Mt. Olympus is where I belong." Reardon comments, "I love writing powerful songs with a rock and country influence." "Vicky attended West Point and served in the US Army—she is definitely a warrior goddess," McGovern gushes, "Together, we complement each other perfectly; she instantly knows when a melody needs work and I can gently prod her into revealing more of what she truly wants to express. We also share the common goal of getting our music placed in movies & TV and adopted by a well-known recording artist like Faith Hill or The Dixie Chicks. We live to write songs and we work hard at it; We'd like to manifest a tangible reward for our efforts." 

Two of the three co-written songs, "**Vegetarian**" & "**Big Ample**" and one of McGovern's songs, "**Valentine**" fall into the aforementioned comedy category, McGovern elaborates, "Vicky & I met while performing with the Derry Aires (Tin Pan Alley & a capella) in Alaska. Comedic songs were the basis of our repertoire but as a writer it's one of the toughest genres to tackle. I tend towards being happy, but not always funny. Vicky, on the other hand, never fails to make me laugh. Since we both write solo, as well, we began to focus on the funny together and channel that humor into our own music." 

Where does the band name **honey V's** originate? McGovern reveals, "Our shared passion (songwriting) is sticky & sweet, like honey, as, we hope, are our songs; This passion has endured & grown, along with our friendship. The "**V**" stands for "**Valentine**", as well as, being the ancient symbol for "woman" and that's also the title of our theme song on the album. We're all about passion & love expressed vibrantly and vivaciously by two voluptuous, voracious, visionary women who just want to have a little fun!" 

Three of the songs were recorded & produced by the **honey V's** in McGovern's newly-formed home studio, Eagle Peak Studios. McGovern reports, "Vicky & I could hardly wait to take over the controls in the studio; We did jump in with both feet *and* our clothes on, so things got a little messy. The recording process is never perfect and it only captures a moment ...there's no better way to learn than by actually doing it. We did have sense enough to bring in a fresh set of ears and expertise for the mixing process with Greg Otterholt of Hook & Pan Productions who did a fantastic clean-up job. Paul Turpin at Bayside Recording took care of the mastering. It was a challenge trying to match up our 3 songs with those produced & recorded at the Ripping Glass Studios in Portland by Dean Mueller, bass player for the Insomniacs, and the one by Milo Matthews, of Love, Life, Music. There's no competition with \$1500+ mics and state-of-the-art equipment but we are still savoring the glow of being able to say we did those 3 songs all by ourselves." 

The album title was inspired by a quote that Dave Carter inscribed to McGovern on one of his *Drum, Hat, Buddha* touring posters: "**Lili, In the garden & dancing always, my sister, Dave.**" McGovern avows, "I regard Dave Carter as a Living Buddha who showed infinite compassion and respect for every person he met. His music transformed me as an artist and I will continue to keep his songs alive. Vicky, ever gracious, agreed to dedicate an album to him. We chose "**Any Way I Do**" to cover because it never fails to reveal the sacred truth always present and it serves as a reminder that no matter what we do, we do with deep appreciation for the beauty of our lives and the magic of music. We hope you enjoy our heartfelt offering." 