

Blackmore Welcomes New Baby and New CD

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Ritchie Blackmore and Wife Candice Night Welcome a Baby



Girl

HOLLYWOOD, CA (Hollywood Today) 10/26/10 –Ritchie Blackmore, of such legendary rock bands as Deep Purple and Rainbow, has been making beautiful music with his wife Candice Night and their band of minstrels, Blackmore's Night, for 13 years. And, now the two have a new addition, their beautiful baby daughter. The couple, who married in October 2008 after a 19-year courtship, welcomed their first child together, a baby girl named Autumn Esmerelda Blackmore on May 27, 2010 at 10:18 a.m. at Stony Brook University Hospital in Long Island, New York. “We are overwhelmingly happy to announce the arrival of our little one, Autumn Esmerelda. She was the inspiration for us making our latest CD, ‘Autumn Sky’,” says new father Ritchie Blackmore.

Mom Candice says, “I am so amazed at this incredible child. She is the embodiment of innocence and pure joy. I thought I was lucky being able to do what I loved in singing, writing and playing – performing in castles and living a dream. But that all pales in comparison to the happiness of what one little toothless smile can bring, one giggle in her sleep. I have an angel here on Earth.”

The couple, who perform in their Renaissance-inspired rock band Blackmore’s Night, have dedicated their new album, “Autumn Sky” to their newborn. The CD, recorded during Candice’s pregnancy, was influenced by her personal journey upon the realization that she was with child. She toured the US pregnant, but kept the news a secret- only now revealing the joyous announcement of Autumn’s birth along with the release of the album. Eventually, Candice is looking forward to sharing the life of living and performing in castles around the world with her baby girl so they can experience those amazing places together.

Blackmore's Night performed to a sold out fall tour in Germany and donated a portion of every ticket sold from their German tour to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), one of the leading agencies for environmental protection, and the conservation of wildlife and endangered species. This is just one of the many charities worldwide that Blackmore's Night has worked with. In addition to their new cd release "Autumn Sky" in the U.S., they are planning a U.S. West Coast tour to kick off in January 2011.

"Autumn Sky," which features the song "Strawberry Girl" inspired by little Autumn, is due out in 2011 in the U.S. via Fontana/Universal. The record features a cover of the Scandinavian band One More Time's "Highland" and a rare cover of Ray Davies' song "Celluloid Heroes" as well as "Journeyman," a reworking of Swedish band Nordman's hit: "Wanderer."

"We put the Blackmore's Night touch on them. We like to showcase songs that we feel have potential but were overlooked by the American market before," Night says.

"On the new record, which features many originals, I am not only the lyricist and lead vocalist, but I am playing all the Renaissance woodwinds, as well as a nine-piece woodwind ensemble that I recorded when I was nine months pregnant. Many of my lyrics for the songs on this release were inspired by legends, myths or fairytales from the places Ritchie and I have visited and picked up the local folklore, such as *ÆVagabond*,¹ which was inspired by the old story *ÆThe Little Match Girl*¹ by Hans Christian Andersen in 1845."

Candice, who is a first-time mother, has been a role model for women and children since the beginning of the formation of the band due to her emphasis on morals, family values, and her belief that children must retain their innocence as long as possible.. She feels it is often difficult in an industry that exposes children to the complete opposite.

She is a prominent figure in the Renaissance, folk-rock world, having graced the covers of such magazines in that genre as UK's *Kindred Spirit*, *Faerie* magazine, *22nd Century Rock*, *Special Cargo*, *Keltika*, and *Oxmox*.

She was the first woman ever to appear in Japan's *Burrn* magazine as their calendar poster, and has appeared on *CNN Worldbeat* and well as on a PBS special appearance with Blackmore's Night. She is also featured in the interactive, live-action game *MagiQuest* (www.magiquest.com), as the character, Princess Candice, the singing princess who uses songs and magic to produce healing stars throughout the game. Blackmore's Night provide the official music of the game with key messages of respect for self, respect for those around you, enjoyment of the beauty of nature and creation of your own kind of magic that is within you.

The ethereal blonde-haired beauty first met Ritchie in 1989 at a charity event featuring Deep Purple. The two began working together in 1993 when she sang

background vocals on Deep Purple's "Battle Rages On" tour. Numerous song contributions and tours later, the couple formed their own group, Blackmore's Night, in 1997 and have released eight full-length albums achieving numerous gold albums and awards world wide.