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RITCHIE BLACKMORE &
BLACKMORE'S NIGHT

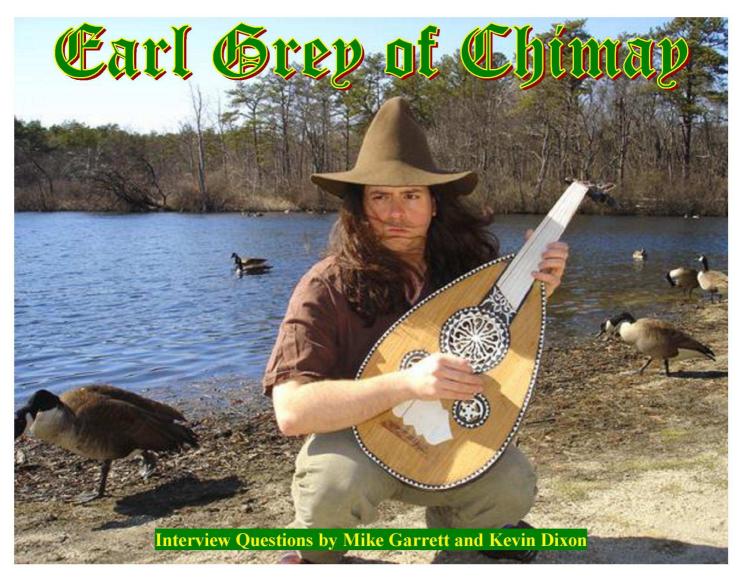
Official Website



Official Blackmore's Night Website http://www.blackmoresnight.com/



Official Candice Night Website http://www.candicenight.com



MG / KD: Hi Earl Grey, thank you for agreeing to this interview for "Cartouche"!

EG: Thank you Mike and Kev - and Cartouche Fanzine for this interview!

MG / KD: So, how does someone with Twisted Sister and National Lampoon connections (i.e. your goodly self) get to meet Ritchie Blackmore and Candice Night; and get invited to join their band?

EG: We were introduced by J. Andrew Colletti http://www.firesatmidnightfilms.com a mutual friend They told Mr. Colletti that it was imperative that the new rhythm guitarist / bassist they were looking for MUST have connections to both Twisted Sister and National Lampoon or else they wouldn't be interested.

MG / KD: Have you always been interested in Medieval / Renaissance themed music, or did you recently decide to take an interest in the Blackmore's Night musical approach, because it was a different fun / crazy thing to do?

EG: Medieval / Renaissance music was very popular in the town that I was raised in so I couldn't help but take notice as to what all my friends were listening to, growing up. I've always been a classically based guitarist so the transition to Blackmore's Night was a comfortable one.

MG / KD: Were you involved in the making of the "Secret Voyage" album or did you join the band just after?

EG: I had joined the band shortly after the album was complete. I did take part in some of the photo-related production aspect of things.

MG / KD: You have a double-necked mandolin (a six and four string neck). Was it Jimmy Page that gave you that idea? Also, please tell us how it was made and perhaps say on which occasions (and / or parts of the show) that you have you used it, so far?

EG: It's actually Ritchie's instrument and I believe it was made out of necessity (and wood).

The instrument comes into play on songs that require both guitar and bass, such as "Fire's at Midnight", "Ghost of a Rose", and some of the medleys such as the new "Streets of London-Time's They Are A Changing-Soldier of Fortune" medley we performed on the 2008 European / Russia tours. I am in talks about designing a triple-neck instrument with Luthier Randy Weiner http://13guitars.com/Home_Page.html and I would be lying if I said I wasn't somewhat influenced by the triple neck used by John Paul Jones.

MG / KD: What were your thoughts and emotions, as you played your first Blackmore's Night concert?

EG: I was excited, then a bit nervous, only because the thought occurred to me, whether or not I had locked my car door back in the States? Overall, it was and continues to be an incredible experience.

MG / KD: Having toured this year with Blackmore's Night, can you recall some of your favourite memories of that time (on and off stage)?

EG: There are lots of favourite memories; everyday is always a new adventure (as long as the authorities aren't involved.) I have fond memories of the concerts; I enjoy the interaction with the fans and also the interaction within the band on stage. We have a lot of fun. Off stage, the late night rehearsals in castles are some of my favorite moments, as well as the late night antics and mischief that follows.

MG / KD: What are your favourite memories about the day that Ritchie and Candice got married – and did you play that day (or do something comical instead?)

EG: It was a very surreal, picturesque day. The weather was overcast in the morning, but in the moments before the ceremony the sun came out. With the guests dressed in traditional garb and the castle



backdrop, it was as if this was all straight out of the literary writings of Chaucer. I was also equally impressed with the line-up of entertainment they had booked for this event; so impressed I was compelled at one moment to put on a black robe, fake beard and a hat and do my famous bottle dance routine.

MG / KD: Thank you for this very funny and informative interview!





All photos taken from the Earl Grey myspace page: http://www.myspace.com/xilpadrino

Winter Carols

A retrospective review by Mike Garrett

Track List: Hark the Herald Angels Sing / Come All Ye Faithful, I Saw Three Ships, Winter (Basse Dance), Ding Dong Merrily On High, Ma-O-Tzur, Good King Wenceslas, Lord of the Dance / Simple Gifts, We Three Kings, Wish You Were Here, Emmanuel, Christmas Eve, We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

Imagine in your mind's eye, it is the afternoon of Christmas Eve (2008) and I am sat on my Living Room floor, wrapping the last of the Christmas presents. From the CD player, comes the music of the Blackmore's Night "Winter Carols" album.

It probably has been the best part of a year, since I last fully played this CD. As "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" begins to play, I actually think that it is refreshing to hear once again, an album that was purposely made for this festive time of the year.

My thoughts take me back to "when it all started", that is, when Blackmore's Night released the "Beyond the Sunset – The Romantic Collection" album and included the three-track Christmas CD.

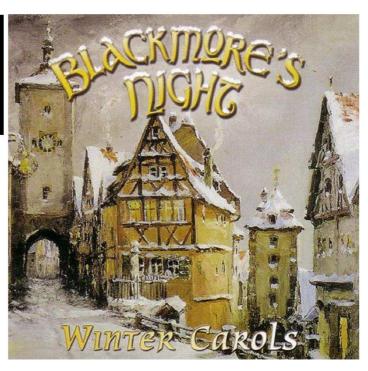
At that time, news of the little Christmas bonus CD was greeted with some scepticism from some fans that I knew. Well, if you consider that "we" (the fans living local to me) had started out, as Blackmore fans in the Deep Purple / Rainbow days, then the notion of a Christmas CD, was a stark musical contrast indeed?

Phrasing my words diplomatically (well, trying too!), I think I said something along the lines of: "The Blackmore's Night fan base is most definitely not composed of just old Deep Purple / Rainbow rock fans; there are a lot of new fans also, who prefer the gentle / acoustic / romantic side of the band – and especially the vocals of Candice Night. It is these fans especially, that have been calling for Christmas songs".

I think the point that I was trying to make, was that the three-track Christmas CD and then later, the full "Winter Carols" album, were very much the result of fan-urgings and these had appeared on fan Internet forum boards, or Candice's "Between Us" web page, some time before any recordings were made.

That three-track Christmas CD comprised of "Christmas Eve", "Emanuel" and "We Three Kings"; and they were all to later re-appear on the "Winter Carols" album.

My constant opinion of "Christmas Eve", these days, is that it is a potential Christmas Hit Song that has never been given the full recognition (or exposure) that it deserves.



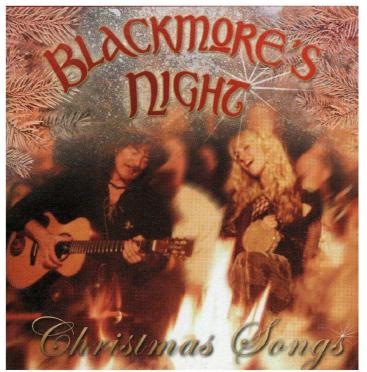
"Winter Carols" CD cover © Minstrel Hall Music 2006

"Emmanuel" is a track that I have described before, as a track that would not necessarily seem out of place on the "Shadow of the Moon" album. It has that same kind of "medieval / acoustic freshness", as the other songs on that album. Yes, this is a favourite of mine (and notice how well it suits Candice's style of singing?)

"We Three Kings" is a song that I had to sing during "Assembly" in my school days. Thus every time I hear this tune, I immediately remember "our" lyrics: "We three kings of Orient are, one in a sputnik, one in a car. One on a scooter, blowing his hooter, following yonder star!" So, it is a song that I can never take seriously but (putting the school days nostalgia aside) it is a traditional song that fits effortlessly into the Blackmore's Night musical style?

On the full "Winter Carols" album itself, there is a diversity of music. The majority of the tracks are indeed traditional European / American carols ("Good King Wenceslas", "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" etc. with Medieval instrumentation mixed into them) but then, there are "other musical gems", such as the excellent acoustic guitar instrumental track "Winter (Basse Dance)" and the Hebrew "Ma-O-Tzur".

The re-used track "Wish You Were Here", from the "Shadows of the Moon" album is perhaps better described as a "winter" song, rather than a "carol"? "? It may have been selected for its romantic / winter sentiments, or perhaps that this track incorporates Fender Stratocaster guitar music? Most of the songs on this album incorporate acoustic guitar, as this is more appropriate, in retaining the "traditional feel" of the songs?



"Beyond the Sunset" Christmas Single © Minstrel Hall 2005

Another positive point that I feel compelled to make is, though Ritchie and Candice both deserve praise for their part in the making of this album, I think that Candice Night especially "stands out", probably because the caroltype of songs especially suit her style of singing?

If there is "a problem" with this album, then I would argue, that it is not the music but rather, it is getting the album "actually heard" by would-be buyers, especially in terms of getting promos of the album actually played on

the radio, on a large scale. At present (in the UK), the album relies more on Internet advertising and word-of-mouth between fans.

Time and again (each Christmas in the UK), we hear the familiar Christmas Hits by Slade, Roy Wood, Wham, Bing Crosby etc. In their time, they became "Hits" because the radio presenters agreed to play the songs, when first given the singles. If only more radio presenters would play tracks from the "Winter Carols" albums, especially the "Christmas Eve" track, then the music would at last be getting a fairer hearing?

This promotional "aspect" is something that the fan Street Teams, Record Company, Management and indeed; Ritchie and Candice themselves, need to discuss further?

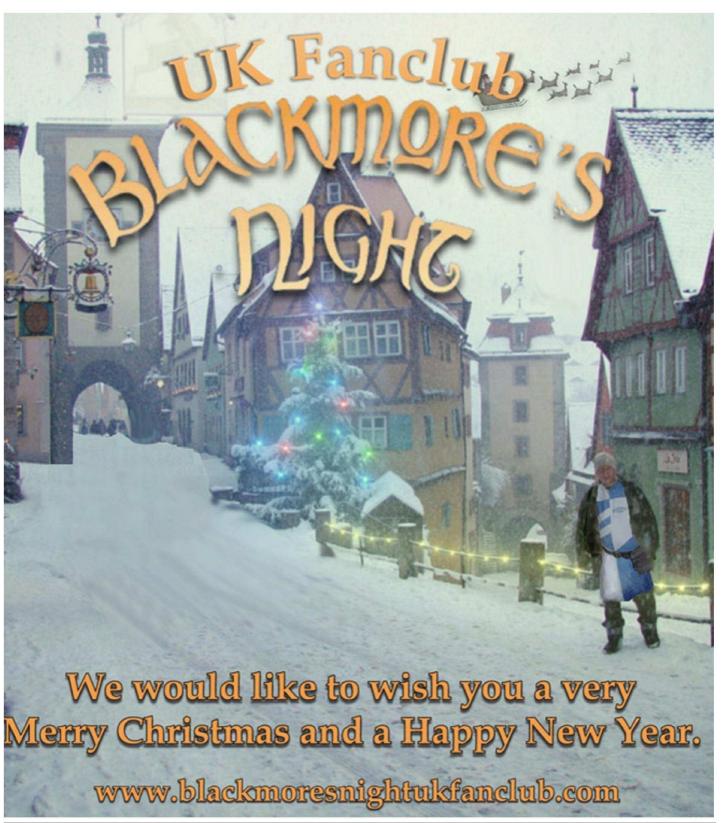
Blackmore's Night fans are also aware that this Christmas sees the second re-release of the album. I know dozens of present fans, who admit that though they love the album, they will not re-buy the album each year but rather (and I agree with their view) they hope that the band might record a new Christmas album in the near-future?

Anyone's guess is as good as mine, in regards to whether this might happen. By all means, as a stop-gap measure, I would like to see the music of "Winter Carols" get greater recognition, especially on the radio shows that will be attracting new fans for the band but a second Christmas album ("Minstrel Carols"?) would prove popular with the fans.

In the meantime, for the fans of "Winter Carols", I hope you continue to enjoy its music at this most appropriate time of the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Mike Garrett



From Elisa & Riccardo (Blackmore's Night Official Italian Fanclub) and all the little friends of the Protection Centre for Homeless Animals!







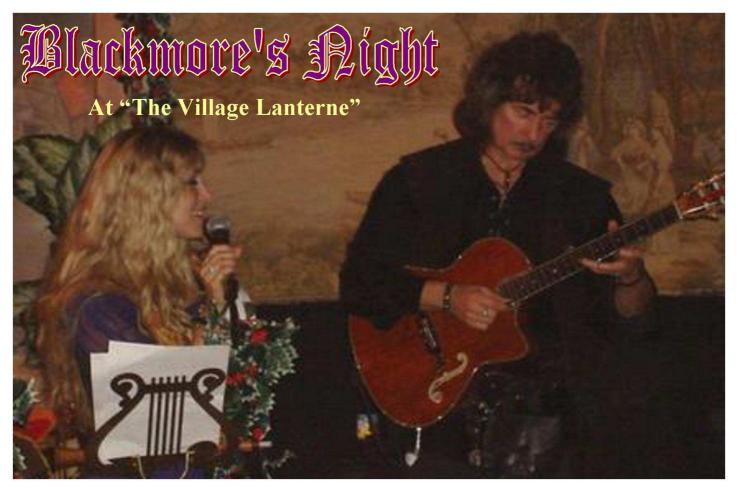
Official Blackmore's Night French Fan Club

Website: http://www.blackmoresnight.fr
Email: BlackmoresNightFrance@gmail.com









Set List: Locked Within The Crystal Ball, Queen For A Day, Under a Violet Moon, Medley: Streets Of London / Times They Are A Changin' / Soldier Of Fortune, Durch den Wald zum Bach haus, Far Far Away, Toast to Tomorrow, Gilded Cage, Home Again - Drink, Falderie (***Intermission***), Hark the Herald Angels Sing, O Come All Ye Faithful, We Three Kings, Fires at Midnight, Midwinters Night, Dandelion Wine, Now and Then, Solo, Christmas Eve, Greensleeves - trad., Peasant's Promise, Wind in the Willows, First of May, Renaissance Fair.

On Wednesday, December 03, 2008, Blackmore's Night performed a Special Holiday Fan Show at "The Village Lanterne", Lindenhurst, New York – in order to raise funds for the Animal Charities; "Save A Pet", "Little Shelter" and "North Shore Animal League".

The "Set List" above was written down and put on the Internet by Tim Rzasa. Tim took the photograph at the top of this page and scanned the menu. All other photos were taken from: http://www.candicenight.com









BEERMENU

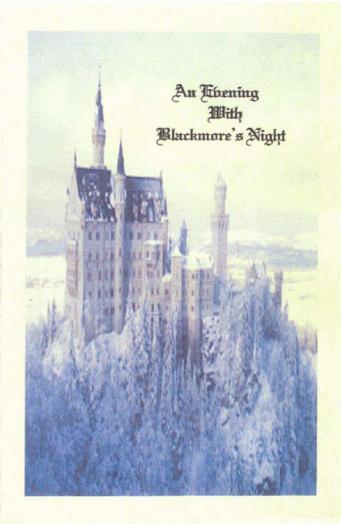
Becks
Dinkel Acker
Spaten
Lowenbrau
Warsteiner

Specialty Beers

Berry Weiss
Long Trail Hibernator
Wild Dog
Weistephaner Dark
Aventinus
Schneider Weiss

On Tap:

Hofbrau HefeWeisen, Original,
Dunkel and Strong Bock
DAB, Amstel Light,
Hacker Pschorr Oktoberfest and
Paulaner Salvator





Blackmore's Night

welcomes you to

The Billage Lanterne

Mednesday Becember 3, 2008



Menu

Garden Salad with Binaigrette Dressing

> Hintrée (choice of)

Sauerbraten with dumplings and red cabbage

Chicken Française with spaetzel and mixed begetables

Pasta Primabera

Dessert

Apple Strudel

This evening was like a step back in time as friends gathered for an evening of food, drink & music. The quality of the food & drink at The Village Lanterne was equalled only by the music of Blackmore's Night and being among friends, both new & old. This was about more than dinner & a show. I can't think of anything more rewarding than experiencing the old world charm and simpler way of life. This was indeed a memorable evening in so many ways, not only for those that attended, but also for the animals that will now have a chance to be adopted into new homes.

Thank you Ritchie & Candice.

Dave Herrle









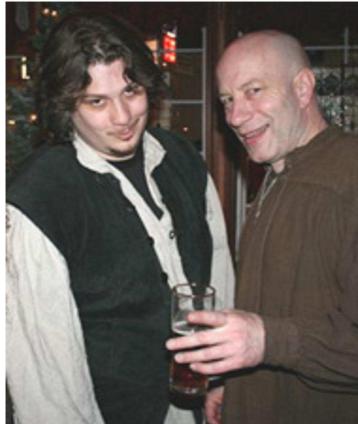




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Save-A-Pet



Animal Rescue and Adoption Center, Inc.

People and Animals Helping Each Other



Little Shelter Animal Rescue & Adoption Center



north shore animal league america





Winter Carols

A review by Kevin Dixon



The idea for an album of winter songs first came about in 2004, with the inclusion of the "Christmas Songs" triple-track CD that was included with the "Beyond the Sunset" box. Candice and Ritchie wrote the song "Christmas Eve" during 2004, and arranged two more traditional tunes, "Emmanuel" and "We Three Kings", for inclusion on the CD. The original video for the single was shot in August at Schloss Abendburg.

Fans responded warmly to these three tracks, and the idea for a whole album of winter songs was born. Over the next year or so, more tracks were recorded, including original instrumental pieces from Ritchie. The final product was finally released in late 2006 on FM Records. The album evokes music sung and performed for hundreds of years, and many of these familiar songs are still enjoyed to this very day.

The album cover is a wintery reprise of the cover from "Under a Violet Moon". Once again the old town gate from Rothenburg ob der Tauber is shown, this time resplendent in a crisp covering of snow. The painting was originally done by the artist Karsten Topelmann.

When asked about the album for the press release, Candice said, "The holiday season has always embodied joy, love, peace, togetherness. We have always been entranced by the magic of the Season. The sentiments of the holidays are what we try to express in our music year round – so this CD is a natural progression. All the music we craft and create has always been about love, unity and friendship. These songs as a whole are beautiful unifying carols – feel the warmth of friendship. Everyone can join in!"

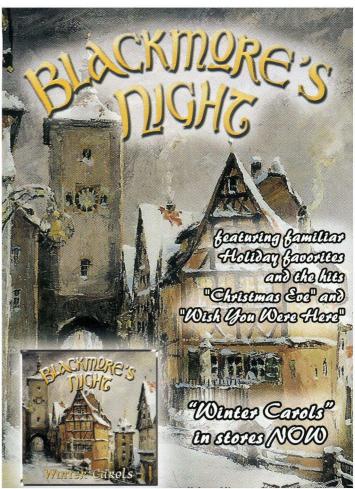
The music itself if a wonderful mix of traditional and Blackmore-isation. From the opening chords from Pat Regan's keyboards and the gentle first verse from Candice, we are led into a wonderfully evocative piece of electric guitar that segues the two opening carols. Setting the tone for the album, this powerful opening combination of "Hark the Herald" and "Come All Ye Faithful" is a great piece of music. The importance of Pat Regan and his contributions cannot be ignored. He does a wonderful job of arranging and producing the album.

A new original instrumental, "Winter (Basse Dance)" is in my opinion one of the best instrumentals ever done by Blackmore's Night. The guitar and keyboards dance around the tune, a traditional renaissance time signature used for a traditional dance, and paint a picture of the 16th

century court dancing away the long winter nights.

When asked at the time, Ritchie had this to say about the songs and their history. "The origin of the word carol meant 'dance' back in the mid 1500s. Most of the Christmas Carols are from the 1400s, 1500s, 1600s. They are brilliant melodies. I am naturally attracted to these melodies – as a kid of 10, 11, 12, I would go from house to house during the holiday time and sing them just to earn some money. Now, as an adult, I thought I could play them and make more money. The bottom line is that most of these are Renaissance melodies. I have a passion for Renaissance music. I love to play these melodies.

These were originally played by peasants in the 1400s, 1500s and 1600s. The Church tried to stop them by saying these songs weren't holy. Most of the music and lyrics revolved around drinking, having fun and debauchery in general.



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So the Church changed the lyrics instead of stopping the music. They put new texts to them and they became religious songs. But they didn't start that way."

"Ma-O-Tzur" is a traditional Jewish song from the 13th Century. The first half of the song is sung in Hebrew, with the second verse being an English-language interpretation of the original verse. The song is about love and joy and the festive candles, which relate to every type of religion and everyone.

One of the striking things about the album is the different arrangements employed by the band: the use of a shawm, hurdy gurdy, penny whistles and harps all add to the traditional melodies. In turn, the album does have a familiar feel to it, yet the joyous nature of the songs makes for very pleasant listening. The guitar playing by Ritchie is quite relaxed and very moving at times.

A familiar friend in the shape of "Wish you were Here" turns up. Originally recorded by the Swedish technogroup The Rednecks, the song had first appeared on the "Shadow of the Moon" album.

This version differs slightly from the original version, though I have to say in my opinion only slightly.

"Christmas Eve"—the song that started the whole chain of events that culminated in this album—is a song that takes the listener back to their early childhood and the wonder that is Christmas to a small child. It recalls that magical time of the first snowfall on Christmas Eve, and encapsulates the wonderful innocence of the time of year by the local children where Candice and Ritchie lived; certainly Candice mentioned the tale in interviews done at the time.

"Winter Carols" is a wonderful album to play at the festive season, a lovely, relaxed and simple album, yet great to listen to and enjoy.

Kevin Dixon

(Article photos taken from the "Winter Carols" album and Official Promo material $\ \$ Minstrel Hall Music 2005 / 2006)

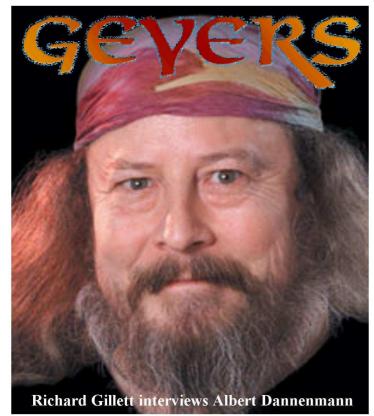


Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes, Paul







RG: It's been over 2 years since the Geyers last played in the UK - Rochester Sweeps 2006 where a certain Dave Pegg from headliners Fairport Convention was mighty impressed with your music. Despite encouraging breakthroughs sadly no further tours have materialised. What are the Geyers aspirations in the UK and would these be as a full band or a duo?

AD: We are always happy to come to the UK and we hope that there is a new possibility soon. The wait for new material has been frustratingly long, with no new acoustic product for over 5 years. Despite rumours of new material and a long awaited 'best of' compilation, nothing has materialised.

RG: What are the bands future recording plans?

AD: We are also frustrated about this but currently we are collecting ideas. We hope that soon we can go into the studio.

RG: It is well documented that the band often play around Germany and indeed Europe as a duo (Thomas & Albert) but are there plans for the band to record as a duo?

AD: No. The times are economically very difficult. The people do not have as much money for their private event, to pay for 4 or 5 musicians. Therefore we have to make appearances in a small cast because we have to live on something also. Incidentally, you can contact us at any time for birthday parties,

weddings and other bookings. We shall be happy any where.

RG: In 2005 / 2006 the release of an official DVD looked to be on the cards. What is the current situation with this? Is it possible that this might eventually see the light of day, as a low budget compilation compiled from fans footage?

AD: I can already imagine it.

RG: I'm aware that an interview was conducted by long-term fan and would-be promoter Richard Gillitt with Ritchie and Candice about the Geyers. Is it possible that this footage could be included?

AD: Yes

RG: I believe in January this year the Geyers (duo version) were booked to play 14 consecutive days in a German Castle and some of your reward was a holiday off the African coast, can you tell us more about this interesting booking?

AD: That was a booking for the restaurant. Every evening we played in different rooms between 6 - 9 o'clock. Incidentally, next January we will do this again.

RG: Aside from Afro-medieval holidays the band have been busy playing all around Germany and other parts of Europe in 2008, what have been the highlights?

AD: There are of course many highlights and each band member has his own. For me, these are the performances in the preliminary program of Blackmore's Night. Very special was the Olympia in Paris. On the last tour it was the Liederhalle in Stuttgart. But the workshops for children at schools in Wales were something special also. The feeling to give children something they do not forget in their whole life, is indescribably beautiful.

RG: The Geyers are a long and well-established act on the prominent German medieval music scene. Are the band better known for acoustic or historock styles? Are you an established act all over Germany or in certain areas predominantly?

AD: All over Germany

RG: Albert and Thomas once again provided the opening entertainment to Blackmore's Night on the 2008 Germany Castles Tour, what were the highlights?

AD: Stuttgart and Essen.



RG: On the recent Blackmore's Night Germany tour you were presented with none other than a Gold Disc for sales of the "Castles and Dreams" DVD; quite an achievement and something which you must be justifiably proud of. How many Geyers CDs would you have had to shift to achieve the same recognition?

AD: I really don't know but I was very pleased to get such recognition.

RG: In your careers you've had many and varied musical experiences particularly since that chance meeting in Gotzenberg but surely few of them will have matched the recent wedding where you were one of the select few invited guests. What did that invitation mean to you?

AD: The friendship of Ritchie and Candice has given me many special events and musical highlights over the years. It was really something quite extraordinary, to be able to witness how Ritchie and Candice committed to their very special day. They were both overjoyed. Candice was a beautiful bride - and the joy and happiness has been spread. It was a great celebration in which everything was perfect. In my career as a musician I play very often at wedding parties, but such a perfect organization I have never experienced. Everything was perfect - even the smallest detail. I am very pleased and grateful that I had the chance to witness it.

RG: The wedding took place at "The Castle on the Hudson" (25 miles north of New York City) can you set the scene for us?

AD: A wonderful autumn day, beautiful weather, very nice people - most of them in historic garb - celebrated a very special event at a castle. The wedding of Ritchie and Candice.

RG: This must have been a momentous occasion for you both; what were the highlights?

AD: To me the wedding ceremony was the absolute peak. It was just beautiful.

RG: After the ceremony I'm told a mass musical jam followed which carried on into the wee small hours. Can you give me a flavour of some of the tunes and who were the musicians?

AD: There were many special events after the ceremony.

RG: Are you both (Albert and Thomas) still pursuing solo projects and what type of show do you both perform, is it made up of Geyers tunes, traditional or own compositions?

AD: Each band member of the Geyers has other projects and these are very different.

RG: What does the future hold for the Geyers?

AD: I don't know. Let's get surprised.

GEYERS Official website: http://www.geyers.info/ Email Albert at: geyers@web.de



MG: Hi Martin, I have not had much chance to speak to for quite a while. After I met you all, in the UK, the band line-up changed.

MV: Yes, we made big changes to our band. Here is a list of the members. Tamara Cisarova (instead of Kamila), she plays violin and sings. Ivan Kudrna (instead of Jan), he plays gittern, sings and sometime plays percussion. Both of these latest members are professional musicians. Remaining from before, there is Marketa Mikesova, she plays shawms, recorders, pipes, gemshorns, chalumeau and sings; then there is myself, Martin Velich, I play davul, gittern, djembe and sing.

MG: Is there any chance of a new album from Gothien?

MV: Now, we are preparing new material (songs) for our second CD. I would like to go to the studio in Spring 2009.

MG: Have you any new plans to "support" Blackmore's Night?

MV: In 2008, we supported Blackmore's Night in Sweden, Finland and in the Czech Republic. As for 2009, all I can say at the moment is that we would be very happy to welcome Blackmore's Night, here in the Czech Republic, once again!

MG: Thanks for the update.

Gothien Website: http://www.gothien.com

Myspace: http://www.myspace.com/gothienmedievalband



Above: Squire Malcolm (BN) and Ivan Kudrna (Gothien)



Helsinki 2008: Tamara Cisarova and a fluffy friend!

Candice Night

The Pre-Wedding Interview



Questions by Mike Garrett & Kevin Dixon

MG/KD: Hi Candice (or should we say, "the-soon-to-be Mrs Blackmore"?), thank you so much for answering this first batch of questions for the CARTOUCHE fanzine. We are looking forward very much, to seeing the photographs of your Special Day, so we can use them in our fanzine. So, after 19 years of engagement, you are "finally" getting married. This is "a bit of a cheeky question" because we are going to ask you, which one of you finally said it was time to go up the aisle, so to speak?

CN: It was Ritchie, actually. We hadn't realized how much time had passed since we 1st met 19 yrs ago this year, and when you see that almost 20 years has gone by, and we had been engaged since 1994 you are just amazed. It is really good actually because obviously after nearly 20 years together you know that you are either "right" with that person or not, and we must be doing something right! Also my little brother is getting married the month after me so that was a wake up call as well!

MG/KD: Are you finding it difficult to "believe" that it is really happening?

CN: I'm finding it difficult to believe how much unprofessionalism and expense surrounds the wedding industry. I don't have a "wedding planner", I am doing everything myself. Which is fine, but I just hate when I hire someone and they don't have the common courtesy to respond or proof read, simple things that they are getting paid to do - I have to do over and over again if I want it to look right. I had no idea how much work goes into the wedding planning. And we're not having a huge wedding. Just 75 closest friends and family, I can't even imagine what those people who go into the 100 people and more on their guest lists! It saddens me that on what is supposed to be the happiest day of your life- people hear the word "wedding" and up their price by at least 3xs. It's crazy. Now I know why brides cry on the wedding day! The off-loading of stress of dealing with all the vendors from the last 7 months! I'll just be happy to watch the faces of our friends when they see all the events and activities planned for the reception.

MG/KD: Renaissance Magazine reported that you are having a Renaissance/Fantasy themed Wedding. This is a theme that many of your fans would have predicted and hoped for. Have you always fantasised that this would be your Wedding theme?

CN: It just kind of made sense. Actually, I always wanted a beach wedding, but my brother has that idea cornered and Ritchie's not a fan of beaches. Lucky I live on the water so I can get my fix of water and sand everyday and not regret not having a beach wedding. So the Renaissance fantasy theme and castle seemed like the perfect setting for us, and our personalities. Everyone is coming dressed up in garbthe bridesmaids will be in bell sleeves, corsets and jagged edge skirts, each a different color of the rainbow. Lucky for those who don't have corsets or tights in their closets, it is nearly Halloween! So the stores are filled with costumes that are easily accessible and affordable right now.

MG/KD: In order to make your Fairytale dream wedding come true, you had to find a castle? There are a limited number of (19th- century built?) castles near to you. How did you decide on the venue you are actually using?

CN: I did a lot of Internet research. We wanted it to be in the US so our friends could get to it easily. It had to look right, not baroque or palatial or plastic; and it had to have all the amenities we needed. Some places looked great but you had to find off-venue catering or had no hotels around the area. We finally found one that had everything we needed that was relatively local. When we went to see it in person it was love at first "site".

MG/KD: The wedding will include "minstrels playing in the minstrels gallery of the great medieval hall". Who will be those minstrels? And following your vows, will you and Ritchie immediately join those minstrels for an impromptu jam session in the castle grounds?

CN: We actually have quite a few minstrels gathering from all over the States and internationally for the festivities. We have asked that everyone bring their instruments and I am sure that there will be many jam sessions throughout the night.

MG/KD: It is reported that "Their wedding bands are celestial themed, proving that their love is timeless and beyond the physical bounds of this earth". Who will make such magnificent wedding bands for you?

CN: After much research I found a company on the Internet in California who makes them. You can see them here:

http://jewelry.about.com/od/choosesetting/ss/bezel 6.htm

MG/KD: "World famous bridal designer Demetrios, is custom-designing Candice's one of a kind wedding dress, complete with corset style top, vintage lace full skirt and crystals hand sewn into the lace flowers.

Bridesmaids are to wear flower maiden bell sleeves, corsets and layered skirts, each one a different colour of the rainbow to represent the colours of our lives and emotions". Candice, did you provide all the bride and bridesmaid dress sketches for Demetrios to work from?

CN: I didn't do sketches, but I did meet with designers and seamstresses to tell them the vision of what I wanted. The dress was a modified design, of one that they had made, but I changed their original design a bit and added hand sewn crystals on the vintage lace. The bridesmaids' outfits were done by the people who make my stage skirts and by the woman who makes my corsets. So its David and Dorita from "Silk Cloque" who hand make and design the skirts, all one of a kind; and Hilary at "Fashions in Time" who did the corsets and tops. She sent me swatches to go through for the specific colours, and I sent her my corset and stage top to copy. Then I went through which skirt we would use with David and Dorita and sent them the swatches to duplicate the colours. Carole is hand making the flower wreaths for the girls to wear as headpieces. It's coming together nicely.

MG/KD: Candice, thank you so much for answering these questions. We have much more to ask, about all that we have discussed above. You and Ritchie will be away on Honeymoon, soon, so Carole will be bombarded with our email questions/requests, as we

work to comprehensively represent your Wedding day in CARTOUCHE fanzine. Good luck with all those final preparations!

CN: Thanks guys and may I commend you on your interview questions, very brave of two guys to tackle this difficult and mysterious subject. I'm impressed you didn't have your wives come up with the questions. Well done! Thanks again.

MG/KD: Thank you very much for this interview!





David and Dorita Reyen, the founders of Silk Cloque, have been providing Candice's stage wear for the past four years.

The work of David and Dorita is based on the concept that clothing is a necessity, but style is a choice. They also believe that true art is timeless, and that apparel is about artistic and individual expression and not trendy fashions. Clothing should be comfortable, well made, and flattering.

Reyen Designs are about colour, texture and drama. Their pieces are designed to become exclamation points for a woman's natural beauty, an outer skin waiting to have life breathed into it by the wearer.

TL: I believe you have been hand-making Candice Night stage skirts for quite some time?

SC: We met Candice and her troupe at the Connecticut Renaissance Faire in 2004 where they graced us with a private performance. Needless to say we were delighted with our meeting. Candice bought her first stage skirt that day, and has been wearing them since. She is such a beautiful woman that she really flatters our clothing.

TL: How did you first feel, when Candice contacted you and said that, this time, she wanted you to make bridesmaid clothing?

SC: We were very excited! It isn't often we get asked to contribute to such a special event but we were also anxious about getting the colours just right. With such an important event, we wanted them to be perfect.

TL: Are the bridesmaid dresses a "conversion" from patterns you already have, or are they a completely new design?

SC: They are the same style that Candice wears on stage. We did import higher quality materials for these dresses. The fabric has a lot more lustre and took the dye beautifully. Also the silk fringe is more luxurious than we have used in the past. Overall, we were quite pleased with the final results.

TL: It can be seen that the bridesmaids (and Carole) are all dressed in different colours. Are all these choices of colours usually available in the range of clothing you make and sell?

SC: Every piece we make is dyed individually, so our colour array is infinite. We can pretty much make any colour you want, and there are dozens of colours in any one piece. For the bridesmaid's dresses, Candice sent us swatches of the colours she wanted. We mixed and matched dyes until we came up with a colour combination that complemented each bridesmaid's ensemble. Also, these skirts are reversible, so we made each side a different combination of colours that matched the other accessories.

TL: How long did it take you to make the bridesmaid dresses and did Candice visit you often, whilst you were doing it?

SC: The most time consuming part was the dyeing. It took a couple of weeks to mix and test the dyes to make sure colours were right before we applied the dye to the fabrics. The dye process itself takes several days to cure, fix and rinse the material so that the colours stay vibrant and don't fade. Once the dyeing is complete, each skirt takes half a day to sew. Candice did not have to visit but we did correspond to make sure we were getting colours she wanted.

TL: Your "Silk Cloque" fabric is stunning. I wonder what the development process was that ended up with this wondrous organic fabric? Was it a 'happy accident' or did you research and develop for years? Does it tend to be used on its own, or in conjunction with other fabrics?

SC: Our "Silk Cloque" is the end result of two years research and experimentation. In 2001, we met a wonderful felter, Polly Sterling, who introduced us to Nuno felt, a process involving layering wool with other fibres to create unusual textural fabric. After apprenticing with her for six months, we spent one and a half years working on our own techniques for felting wool into layers of silk fabric to create a rich organic material that would drape and flatter a woman's body. We then spent several months developing designs that enhanced the flow and fit of the "Silk Cloque". Design continues to be an ongoing process for us as we find new ways to use the fabric. We have now started a line of mens' wear.

David's dye techniques are a result of endless trials, research and experimentation. Along with developing his own dye chemistry to produce vibrant colours, he has developed his own method for applying the dyes that incorporates Japanese Shibori, low immersion and a Jackson Pollack style throw and splash.

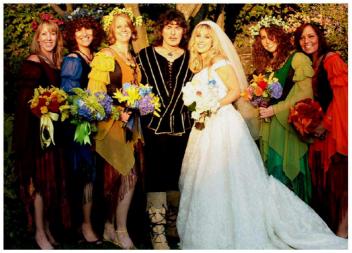
TL: What sort of range of people buy from you?

SC: People who wear our designs cannot be shy. They are outgoing, fun loving and generally artistic and creative people.

These are people who like to express their free spirit and love of life.

Our primary markets are Faerie Festivals and Renaissance Fairs, although we also have a strong market in art galleries and museums.







The home of Silk Cloque Reyen Design Studios http://silkcloque.com/

All photos in this article are taken from: http://www.candicenight.com

We have sold to high-end boutiques, various individual performers, artists, and stylists, arts and crafts shows and music festivals and Pagan Festivals. So our products appeal to a very wide range of people.

What other famous people. Blackmore's Night fans, also wear your fabrics?

SC: Faerie artist Linda Ravenscroft and author Holly Black wear our jackets, tops, skirts and scarves. Also, Kim Cross and the rest of the crew at "Faerie Magazine".

TL: To conclude, how did the "Silk Cloque" company come about; and what is the range of products that you sell?

SC: Both of us have always been freelance designers, David in metals and jewellery and Dorita in costuming. We began our personal relationship in 1998, and found a mutual interest in textiles. When we discovered what we could do with hand-dyed silk and felting, we knew we had a unique product that would challenge our creativity. We put our first designs on the market in 2001 at the New York Renaissance Faire, and have been growing and expanding our market ever since.

Our designs include silk and felted scarves and shawls from 7" wide to 5 feet, hats, several styles of felted tops, skirts, jackets, vests, robes, and now we're doing wings. Our lines include styles for both women and men. Recently we added a collection of raw silk garments with a rough, unfinished rustic look.

TL: Thank you very much, for this interview.



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In Conversation with

Gypsy Rose

Questions by Mike Garrett and Kevin Dixon

MG / KD: Hi Elizabeth, thank you very much for this interview. Many fans know you as the violinist "Gypsy Rose" in the Blackmore's Night band but you actually started playing violin at the age of 9. What inspired you to play at that young age?

GR: I have a large musical family. My dad is an amateur guitarist, my mom has great voice, and many of my cousins, aunts, and uncles play instruments and sing. I loved music from an early age and picked the violin because my Aunt Carol played. She gave my first few violin lessons and has always been very supportive.

MG / KD: Was playing in professional orchestras always your primary ambition, or were you interested in playing Bluegrass, Rock, Folk, and Irish music (very early in your career) also?

GR: When I was a kid my dad and I played folk and fiddle music together, so I always had an interest in playing different genres. I spent a lot of time listening to Jazz, Bluegrass, and Rock violinists. When I decided to go to college for music, my goal was to play in a professional orchestra but once I started playing in bands a lot of new doors opened. Playing with Blackmore's Night is really exciting because it gives me the opportunity to play Gypsy, Classical, Rock, Folk and more. I still think about going back to school for a Masters Degree in classical music.

MG / KD: In the summer of 2007 you joined Renaissance Faire rock stars, "The Empty Hats" as their "northern fiddler". Can you tell us how you came to know of The Empty Hats and what for you is the great appeal in playing with them?

GR: I met Empty Hats in 2007 when they posted an ad seeking a fiddler for the Sterling Renaissance Faire in upstate NY. The Empty Hats are a lot of fun to play with; they're very engaging and charismatic onstage.

MG / KD: A lot of the Empty Hats music is based on traditional Irish tunes; but there is a "bawdy" side of the band, that appeals to audiences at Renaissance Fairs?



Photo from: http://www.myspace.com/lizplaysviolin



Photo from: http://www.myspace.com/igorsegg



St. Petersburg 2008, concert photo from: http://spblife.info/foto session/band Blackmore s Night 2008/index.html

GR: They are definitely bawdy, and very entertaining. People come to the Fairs on the weekends for entertainment and to escape the stress of work and modern life. They like to be immersed in the historical renaissance environment, but they also want to laugh and relax.

MG / KD: Empty Hats have been the opening act for Blackmore's Night on several occasions, so that is how you came to know Ritchie and Candice?

GR: Carl Asch, "Giacomo" from Empty Hats is a friend of Candice and Ritchie. He kept in touch with them after opening for Blackmore's Night. He was the one who contacted them and arranged my audition. (Thanks Carl!!!!!!)

MG / KD: Can you tell us about how you were auditioned and asked to join Blackmore's Night?

GR: My audition was during a show! They invited me to come and sit in on a show in York PA in October 2007. Things went well and they had me return for 2 more shows at the end of the US tour, playing a few more songs each time. I auditioned as a vocalist for them in the spring. I spend the whole winter just hoping that things would work out, it was so exciting when they asked me to join the band and go on tour in May 2008.

MG / KD: What are your memories of recording the "Secret Voyage" album and are there specific moments (or favourite tracks) on that album that you are proud to have contributed to?

GR: I'm very proud of my solo in Gilded Cage - it's such a beautiful melody and sounds great on violin.

MG / KD: Do you think that playing with Ritchie and Candice has pushed you personally, to an even higher musical level?

GR: Playing with Blackmore's Night has definitely inspired me to work towards a higher musical level. I'm much more conscious of balance and blend after playing with them. Learning the schawm has also presented many new musical challenges. At first I found it nearly impossible to play without squeaking and going totally out of tune!

MG / KD: Can you recall the moment when you found out that Ritchie and Candice were getting married?

GR: I found out they were getting married when they asked me to play at the wedding. It was so exciting to be able to help them plan music for the event.



MG / KD: On the day of the Wedding, your string quartet was playing in the grounds of "The Castle on the Hudson". Who were the other members of the quartet that day and what musical pieces were you playing?

GR: The other members of the quartet were Megan Atchley, Carmel Raz, and Matt Rotjan. Megan and Matt were classmates of mine at Ithaca College. We played selections by Bach, Greig, Smetana, and a few Blackmore's Night songs arranged for quartet. For the cocktail hour we played Mozart quartets and arrangements of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos.

MG / KD: What were you playing, as Ritchie and Candice walked down the aisle?

GR: They each had processionals - Candice walked down the aisle to a beautiful melody that she composed for her solo CD. Ritchie walked down the aisle to "In the Hall of the Mountain King". Before the wedding we were joking about playing the "Jaws" theme as he entered.

MG/KD: In early 2009, you are devoting all of your musical energies to the Igor's Egg band?

GR: In between Blackmore's Night tours I'll be splitting my time between Igor's Egg, and hopefully some freelance classical gigs. Igor's Egg is based in Philadelphia and booking a bunch of shows for the spring.





Photos from: http://www.blackmoresnight.com



Photo from: http://www.myspace.com/lizplaysviolin



MG / KD: We were listening to the Igor's Egg instrumental tracks "Awakening of the Prototype", "Amaris" and "The Quest for the Ultimate Tuh". In our opinion, they are not that musically far-removed from the Blackmore's Night; there is some great piano work, electric guitar and even some prominent violin work by someone called Gypsy Rose. Were these compositions influenced by your musical association with Blackmore's Night or had you been working on these tracks with Igor's Egg, before joining Blackmore's Night?

GR: The music for Igor's Egg was written before I joined Blackmore's Night, so there wasn't a direct influence on those tracks. There are some similarities in compositional style due to the fact that both bands are very influenced by classical music. Some of the songs are also similar in orchestration, using synthesized keys and violin. The music of both bands is very melodic and structurally creative.

MG / KD: The Igor's Egg Myspace describes the band as being in the "Progressive/Psychedelic/Rock" bracket. Would you say that this is very a generalised description; given that the tracks Igor's Egg presents are a diversity of styles (i.e. "The Quest for the Ultimate Tuh" and "Energy Exponent" are definitely Progressive-influenced but "Dimension 2x2" shows more of a Funk influence etc, etc)?

GR: Igor's Egg does a lot of genre hopping. We all have very different musical backgrounds and are interested in many styles of music. It's hard to describe a bands sound in the allotted 3 words for the myspace genre description. Maybe if we had unlimited space we would call ourselves Progressive-Funk-Classical-Psychedelic-Science Fiction-Jam-Dur-Bluegrass-Rock.

MG / KD: Thank you very much for this interview. Good luck with all your musical projects and we hope to see you on tour with Blackmore's Night, in the near future.

GR: Thanks Cartouche!



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Interview with Candice's Best Man Questions by Kevin Dixon

KD: How long have you known Candice?

BM: Since she was 2.

KD: Why do you think she asked you to be her Best Man?

BM: None of the bridesmaid's standing behind her could catch her if she fainted!

KD: Were you honoured to be asked?

BM: Absolutely.

KD: On the day itself, were you nervous?

BM: Yes.

KD: Was Candice?

BM: Not at all. She said the spirits were with her. We knew she meant Tequila!

KD: How did you both prepare on the day?

BM: Tequila.

KD: Which one of the best men had the rings?

BM: We both shared this important duty. I held Candy's ring and the other best man held Ritchie's.

KD: Any amusing anecdotes from the speech that you can share with us?

BM: May their love be, like the capital of Ireland - always Dublin!

KD: What gift did you give the married couple?

BM: I found a beautiful vase with some gorgeous flowers at my table. I thought it would make a wonderful gift and took it back to their room for them.

KD: Did you give Candice any fatherly advice before the service?

BM: Yes. I told her that she now must accept the responsibility that comes with being the new wife...she is responsible for making sure her husband does at least half the housework.

KD: Thank you for this interview.

Bridesmaid Interview

"Lady Faerie Dust"

Questions by Kevin Dixon

KD: How were you selected for the role?

LFD: I was locked in the dungeon of the ogre named Goliath Bluetooth who held me for ransom in the stinking pit beneath the Offal Bridge. Candice rescued me from the horror of my imprisonment and asked me to be her bridesmaid. It was such an honour to share that magical day!

KD: What did you have to do that day?

LFD: Spread faerie dust on everyone in my path!

KD: Did you have individual roles or were you acting in consort?

LFD: We all worked together, in the beautiful shadow of the castle.

KD: Were you allowed to choose the colour of those splendid dresses?

LFD: Yes, we chose our own colours with the help of Candice. I was lucky to have the colour blue, which reminded me, of the blue sky and waterfalls of my home.

KD: Thank you for this interview.



MG / KD: Thank you so much for giving this interview to Cartouche fanzine!

CS: It is my pleasure to assist you with this wonderful fanzine!

MG / KD: The fans of Blackmore's Night have seen the photos on the Internet that show the wedding of Ritchie and Candice. What was the preparation period like from your perspective?

CS: I would say it took about a year to put all the pieces together. Candice planned almost every detail, with Ritchie consulting; she did an amazing job!

MG / KD: Were you asked about what castle venue to hire, or what Wedding Dress designer to consult?

CS: Candice and Ritchie searched many territories for the castle that would portray their feelings and dreams and found this one in NY. We were all surprised; it was so close to home. As for the gown, Demetrios was an angel; he took over the personal design and everyone in his NY office worked so hard, from hand sewing on the crystals, to altering the design. They did a fantastic job.

MG / KD: Did you forsake sleep, the night before the wedding, so that you could make ten thousand fresh sandwiches? (Wink!)

CS: Sorry but Lady Candice had it all planned out. We had a really fun time at the rehearsal dinner, the night before the wedding; a beautiful restaurant on the water in Tarrytown and someone ordered a big fireworks display that we watched during dinner. Was that you???

MG / KD: What more details and stories can you tell the fans about the Wedding Dress, that Candice has not mentioned so far?

CS: Apparently the Demetrios office became involved because they had seen Candice's billboards at Magiquest in South Carolina. So when I called to enquire about a gown, they just took the idea and ran with it. Candice helped co-ordinate the design too, so they worked closely together and made the gown for the Princess.

MG / KD: Like the Bridesmaids, you too were happy to have your attire for the day, especially made by "Silk Cloque" and "Fashions in Time"?

CS: Absolutely - we all felt really special and in the castle surroundings it was like stepping into the pages of a fairytale. Candice worked hard on co-ordinating all the colours to match the Fall colours of the garden and then the colours of the Rainbow - and it blended beautifully.

MG / KD: Did you help to select any of the music or performers, for the Wedding Day?



Photo from: http://www.candicenight.com

CS: Candy and Ritchie picked the songs - I sat with the DJ to make sure he could categorize them as he was unfamiliar with much of the European folk and Renaissance music they enjoy - although I did organize the Bottle Dancers and the Horah.

MG / KD: So, at the age of 18, Candice goes to a football game and meets a world-famous guitarist. She then accompanies the band he is in, provides lyrics for his next (reformed) band and then "fronts" his Medieval band, when he decides to go in that new musical direction. Add to this story "a Fairy Tale Wedding" – and we come to the obvious question; how Proud of her, are you (ha ha)?

CS: I have always been proud of her. Even her childhood accomplishments are miraculous and mirror much of her adult ones. I am most proud of how she has reached out to millions worldwide and helped them heal - and brings joy and happiness to the world through her lyrics and her voice; and she has a heart of gold, as you can see by her love and care for animals.

MG / KD: In the New Year, what will Candice and Ritchie be immediately working on, perhaps the film that has been promised or bringing Candice's solo album nearer to release? Are there any more details that you can give us at the moment?

CS: There is lots happening but unfortunately, with the world on holiday vacations, we have to wait till mid January to bring more joyous news! Yes they are still working - rehearsing for their upcoming tour.

MG / KD: A Special Holiday Fan Show was recently performed at "The Village Lanterne" (New York). How long have Ritchie and Candice been going there; and what is the story behind how the event was arranged and prepared?

CS: Tommy, or Sir Thomas of the Lanterne, as he prefers to be called, has built a beautiful German Restaurant called The Village Lanterne with the music of Blackmore's Night as its theme. Even on the menu items, he is so supportive of the band; also it was just the right place to bring such joy to those street team co-ordinators and fans that worked so hard to help make us 19 weeks on top of the Billboard charts here.

I wish we could do the same for you. We know how hard some of your amazing street teams are working in UK, Spain, Holland, Italy, Brazil, Germany, etc but this was close to the holidays and close to home for us and the homeless animal shelters badly need support this time of year.

MG / KD: The "Winter Carols" album is the most appropriate topic to discuss at the moment. Before even the three-track Christmas CD (in "Beyond the Sunset") had been issued, how much fan email was there, asking for the band to record Christmas music?

CS: Since 1997, when "Shadow of the Moon" was released, we have been getting requests for Holiday CDs and for Candice to do a Lullaby CD – or a Children's' CD.

MG / KD: When it came to selecting the tracks to go on the "Winter Carols" album, was this hard to do, or did Ritchie and Candice have favourite Christmas songs that they were regularly singing, anyway?

CS: Yes, Candice and Ritchie have a big holiday party every year to wish their friends well for the holidays and share the joy of music together with them. These were many of the favourites they all sing round the fire.

MG / KD: The song "Christmas Eve" has obvious potential to be Chart Hit. Do you think that it (and possibly the entire "Winter Carols" album) is denied its full potential, purely due to the lack of radio coverage, or does Internet advertising compensate for this anyway?

CS: The first year it was released it charted at number 37 in US on the adult contemporary charts and the Winter Carols CD won Best Holiday CD award but since then, even though the sales are steadily increasing, as is radio play, charting has become a more political thing. We will continue to release it though, around the holidays, as we truly believe in the magic it spreads to all who hear it!!

MG / KD: "Winter Carols" is presently being rereleased for the second time. Fans new to the band will buy the CD but other fans already have it. Do you think it is time to make another Blackmore's Night Christmas album (and will AFM Records help you again, with this)?

CS: That is not my decision. Anyone who knows RB knows that no one tells him what to do or when to do it. When they are ready, they will move on to a new project. I don't know what that will be at this time.

MG / KD: Thank you so much for this interview.

CS: Thank you for all you do for Blackmore's Night and I want to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I hope to see you all soon—"so here's to you, all our friends...don't stay away too long".



I promised you I would tell you if ever Ritchie and I were to walk down the aisle. Well, last weekend (Sunday 5th October 2008) we took those steps. After 19 years together we finally decided to put a halt to our hectic schedules and take some time for us to say those magical vows.

The ceremony was straight out of a fairytale - simply and amazingly beautiful. We got married at the 1st certified "green" castle - Castle on the Hudson. It was truly the wedding of our dreams.

There was a bit of rain that morning, "enough to be good luck" they say. Also enough to form a "heart" puddle which was alluding to the events of that day.

Each one of my bridesmaids was dressed in a different colour of the rainbow to make sure their own individuality and personality shone through like the amazing gems that they are. Their corsets and tops made by Hilary at Fashions In Time and the skirts made by David and Dorita at Silk Cloque. They really brought my visual to life and the girls walked down the aisle as if they were something out of Midsummer's Night Dream.

In a dress by Demetrios and with Ritchie in true renaissance style, we said our vows.

We (Demetrios and I) worked closely together to ensure the perfect design, fit and sparkle. They even added hand-sewn crystals into each of the flowers on the









beautiful vintage lace of my corset gown. It was a dress right out of a faerie tale.

Gypsy Rose's string quartet played us down the aisle to "God Save The Keg", a new instrumental that I wrote called "In Time" and "Waiting Just For You".

The ceremony was amazing - under an arch of willow wood entwined with crystals, monarch butterflies and white roses...the readings incorporated the beauty of nature and the timelessness of love. The programs brought attention to all the symbolism we put in to the surroundings and what each of the symbols meant to us.

Then as a finale to the ceremony, we had a dove release! Doves mate for life and as they took to the sky and found their way home, we walked back to the castle as man and wife with our new celestial themed wedding bands showing that love has no boundaries or limits. It was beautiful.

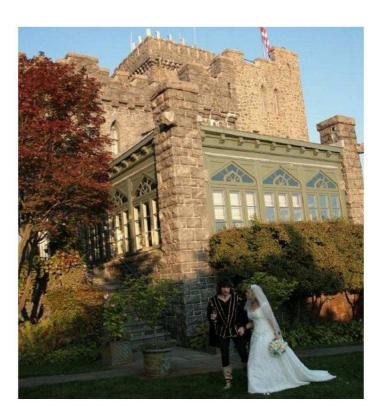
The amazing moments with friends and family were constant that night, so many memories, so much laughter, so much joy.

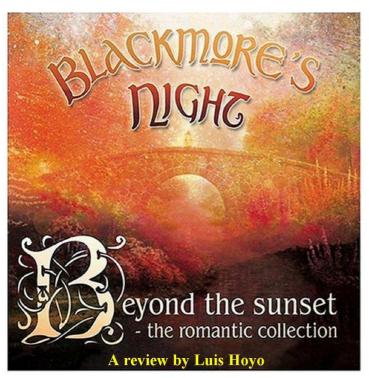
There was a delicious and stunning cake, which was given to us as a gift by Black Forest Bakery.

Our first dance was just beautiful and everyone got up to join us on the dance floor surrounding us with love.

Then the entertainment REALLY began! We had bottle dancers, belly dancers from Majestic Hips; a photo booth that captured some really interesting poses; Johnny Aces who is an amazing magician and after much dancing, drinking and merriment we ended the whole event in the early morning hours with a jam session with all our medieval minstrel friends.

Words and Photos taken from the Candice Night website: http://candicenight.com/





One of the many things to thank Blackmore's Night for; is that they do not edit a compilation every year to take advantage of Christmas as do many other groups. In fact, this is the only official compilation record (apart from the live CDs) that the group has edited in its 11-year career, and it even includes a new song, a jewel, "Once in a Million Years" about which I will speak, below.

The CD itself opens with this new song: "Once in a Million Years", a jewel for me - the best romantic song that has ever been composed by the band. The original melody was composed by Jack White has been adapted by Ritchie. It's the perfect theme song with one of the most beautiful lyrics ever having been composed by Candice; a timeless story of love, a love story that becomes reality, a story that makes you dream of romantic times, magical and far away from the stress and bustle of our current world.

The amazing vocal work of Candice is very well accompanied by the voices of The Sisters of the Moon. In this aspect, the vocal highlights are especially beautiful where the refrain is the voice of Candice "in crescendo", supported by the voices of the Sisters, producing "a wall of impressive vocal sound". For me, this is one of the best Blackmore's Night songs that should be used more often in concerts where it sounds spectacular.

In addition to this gem, the collection of songs on this CD is well chosen. It includes tracks from all the CDs released to date: Shadow of the Moon ("Be Mine Tonight", "Wish You Were Here", Spirit of the Sea"); Under a Violet Moon ("Durch den Wald zum Bach Haus", Castle and Dreams", "Beyond the Sunset, "Now and Then"), Fires at Midnight ("Waiting Just For You", "I Still Remember", "Again Someday", "All Because of You") and Ghost of a Rose ("Ghost of a Rose", "Diamonds and Rust"). All of them are original versions from the CDs except for "Ghost of a Rose" and "Now and Then".

The new version of "Ghost of a rose" is not all that different from the original version. In fact the two versions are recorded with little time difference. Possibly, this new version is a little more careful - instrumentally speaking, compared with the original version and the production is better quality; although the difference between them is minimal.

The version included on this CD, of "Now and then" has a rather more complicated instrumentation and is more complete than the original version on *Under a Violet Moon*, which is practically engraved with Ritchie's guitar and the voice of Candice. This version is even more elaborate than the original but the magic of the first version is so great; that it overshadows this new version. The original version has freshness - it's like a melancholy rainy autumn day, while this new version is not.

An example of a track that is the same version as on the original CD, I would like to note is "Castles and Dreams". It's one of my favourite Blackmore's Night songs and possibly was the first song with which they totally hooked me. I remember the first time that I heard this; was a rainy autumn afternoon and I was totally hypnotized by that song. It's magical, melancholy, tender, romantic, and all with a point of darkness that makes it a masterpiece. BRILLIANT!

In addition to the CD collection itself, the pack includes a DVD, complete with some songs recorded in a concert at castle Schloss Burg, Solingen, 25 July 2002. The DVD perfectly captures the charm of a concert by BN in the unmatched environment of a castle!

In addition to the CD /DVD pack, there is also a mini CD with two traditional Christmas songs arranged by Ritchie; and a new song composed by Ritchie and Candice. These songs were included on the "Winter Carols" CD published two years later.

These are three jewels, especially for me, the wonderful "Emmanuelle". This song has all the magic and charm of the songs of the troubadours. Listening to this song, you can imagine Ritchie (and Candice with a handkerchief in her hair) as he was leaving the scene in the early tours, singing this song in the middle of the central plaza. It's a song that transports you to another world. Candice's voice is soft and tender, perfectly accompanied by Ritchie's guitar (and in many parts, by a flute) that gives you a sweet touch; really mystical.

In short, this compilation, in addition to the excellent new songs that it includes, is a perfect choice of songs from all the CDs previously released by the group. It is perfect as a soundtrack in any kind of event where love is the theme.

Luis Hoyo, (Club De Fans Oficial De Blackmore's Night En España) http://www.blackmoresnightinspain.com

Top Left: "Beyond the Sunset" CD cover © Minstrel Hall 2004

Bridesmaid Interview

Lady Tequila

Questions by Kevin Dixon

KD: How were you selected for the role?

LT: I was the only one who fit into the dress

KD: What did you all have to do on the day?

LT: Lots of tequila shots, yell at the florist and make sure my dress didn't get caught in Candice's.

KD: Did you have individual roles or were you acting together in consort?

LT: I don't know what consort means, but we were a team!!!

KD: Were you allowed to choose the colour of those splendid dresses?

LT: No, but I was really happy with the colours I had!!!





Bridesmaid Interview

Lady Consort

Questions by Kevin Dixon

KD: How were you selected for the role?

LC: I won the beer-drinking contest!

KD: What did you all have to do on the day?

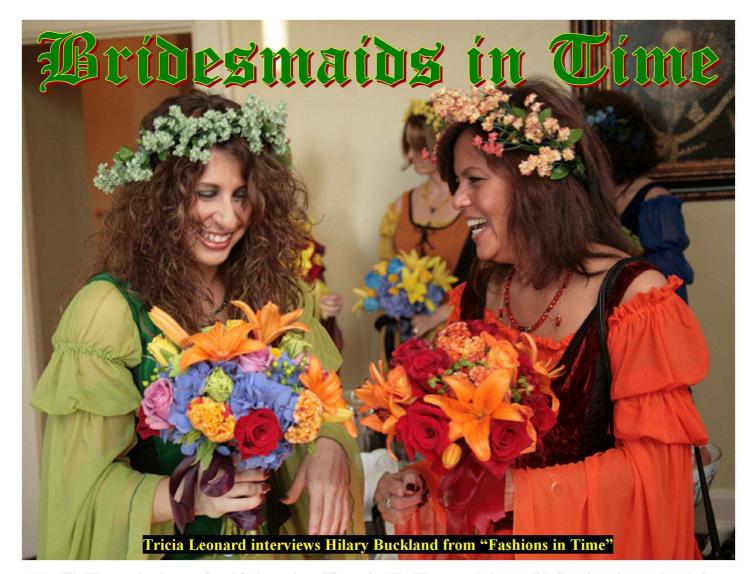
LC: Drink shots of tequila.

KD: Did you have individual roles or were you acting together in consort?

LC: Acting together in consort to hold each other up.

KD: Were you allowed to choose the colour of those splendid dresses?

LC: Of course not. We couldn't see straight!



TL: Hi Hilary, thank you for this interview. First of all, may I ask how you met Candice?

HB: We met at the Sands Point Renaissance Faire. She and Ritchie were shopping at a leather booth (Lusty Leather) and the proprietors (the wonderful Larry and Leenie!) recommended me when Ritchie said he wanted custom shirts made. That was maybe seven years ago I think?

TL: You have been making corsets and other tops for Candice, for some time?

HB: Yes, right after I made the first "Blackmore" shirt, Candice sent me some sketches for herself, and it's been going on ever since.

TL: Can you remember how you first felt, when Candice asked you to help make corsets for her bridesmaids?

HB: It was great! I knew it would be something amazing, since it was Candice. She had an idea for a rainbow of bridesmaids and she knew exactly what she wanted.

TL: How much input did Candice give to the designs and was this usual?

HB: She knew exactly what she wanted, as always. She wanted "her" corset, the "Candice" over her favourite style of stage shirt, in various colours. She always knows exactly what she wants, which makes it so easy for me! I found about 25 different shades of velvet, and Candice made her choices from those. Then she selected the co-ordinating fabric for the chemises from a huge batch of colour samples from Spandex House in NYC.

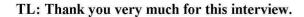
TL: I have looked at your website and am amazed at the extensive range of historical costumes that you are able to supply. What originally inspired you to start your company and make these types of clothing?

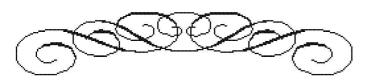
HB: I've been fascinated by the Tudors since I was really young. When I was eight, I was given a Mary Poppins doll. Within a week I had turned it into Anne Boleyn. Weird, right? Fortunately, rather than put me in therapy, my mother bought me my own sewing machine. I've been making historical clothing ever since. In 1991, when I realized that I was spending a

significant amount of time sewing for re-enactor friends, I decided that I could make it my next career, so I founded "Fashions In Time".

TL: What research sources do you use to build up the picture of what the historical garments should look like?

HB: There are plenty of books out there on royal and upper class fashions, but not so much on clothes from real life? I have a BA in Elizabethan History and an MLS in Library Science, so the research has been pretty vast. I have a large personal library of sources for all sorts of time periods, plus the web is a treasure trove of original clothing. You can view all sides of an 18th century ensemble with just a few mouse clicks. I remember when the best you could do was visit a museum and you could never see the back of anything!





Fashions In Time®

Quality clothing for any era

http://www.fashionsintime.com/index.html







Wedding Congratulations to Ritchie and Candice



The Brazilian Fans of Candice and Ritchie are so happy and proud of this Great Celebration.

You both are our favourite couple. Our favourite example of love to a whole life. Congratulations for this so special moment for both of you. You are making magic in all details of your lives, and with our lives too.

To demonstrate our love for you both, we grouped your fantastic wedding photos and put all in an album, with a few words and your own lovely songs.

With Love Brazilian Fans Elen and Lenny from The Blackmore's Night Brazil Street Team

Link of the album:

http://bnbrazil.free-site-

host.com/TheMagicWedding/TheMagicWedding.html

Blackmore's Night Brazil Street Team

Contato: elen.perez@gmail.com

Website: http://www.blackmoresnight.com.br/



Wishing you both a lifetime of everlasting love and happiness! Here's a toast to the perfect couple with all my warm wishes. Congratulations on your wedding!

Paul Deblond

Blackmore's Night Official Scandinavian Fan Club http://www.blackmoresnight.nu



Dear Candice and Ritchie, we wish to express our sincere congratulations for your wedding! You are a magical couple showing the world that love has no boundaries, and that we can all be free and fly to our dreams...if we just stay true to ourselves and believe...

May your life always be filled with love, happiness, light, magic and music!

Sincerely, Elisa & Riccardo

Blackmore's Night Official Italian Fanclub

http://www.blackmoresnight.it/



To Ritchie And Candice,

Sometimes you see a couple and think: "they belong together". They say "opposites attract" and you compliment each other so well, as Ian Anderson once said: "Ritchie, Candice has brought out the Pussycat in you". Many congratulations and may "Christmas Eve" be a festive Number One!

Love And Best Wishes, Gez Shelbourn (Ritchie Blackmore Fans In Lincolnshire)

Fairy-tales do come true!



Wedding Congratulations to Ritchie and Candice







"My very best wishes to Ritchie and Candice for their wedding. I wish them a long life full of happiness, love, light and peace to them and their family and friends. And all the best wishes from all Spanish fans".

Kind Regards, Luis Hoyo

(Official Blackmore's Night Spanish Fan Club) Website: http://www.blackmoresnightinspain.com

Forum: http://blackmoresnight.foros.ws





I want to congratulate Ritchie and Candice on their recent nuptials. May they celebrate together making more music under many more moons.

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a magical, musical 2009!

Lorna Immel (Iowa USA), Moderator

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/joe lynn turner



Marriage greetings from Norway!

Congratulations from the Norwegian fan club and its members! May the marriage be fantastic for you two - and we trust it will give us much more great music!

Ole - President of the Norwegian fan club.

Norwegian Fan Club Website: http://www.blackmoresnight.no/

Webmaster: webmaster@blackmoresnight.no

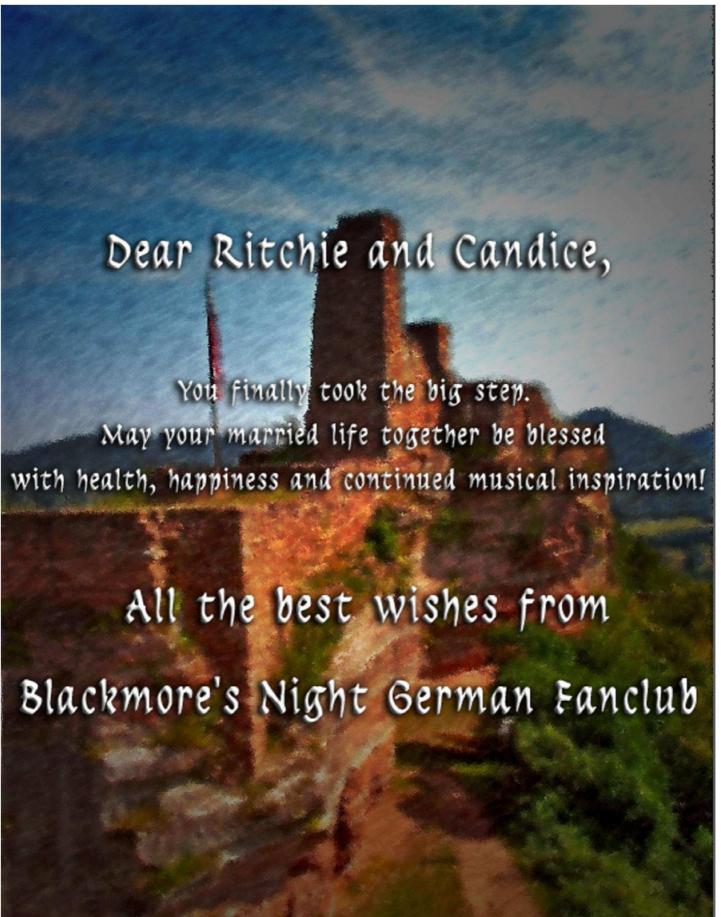
General Enquiries: <u>ole@blackmoresnight.no</u>

Myspace:

http://www.myspace.com/blackmorenorway



Wedding Congratulations to Ritchie and Candice





Congratulations to Ritchie and Candice!

Best wishes for the future from Cartouche Fanzine and the UK Street Team.

Kevin Dixon & Mike Garrett





The "More Black Night" CD was first released in May 2008 (and has been steadily featured on the Internet, since then) to mark a special 40th Anniversary. "May 11th 1968, 5 guys enter into a studio in England to record SHADES OF DEEP PURPLE. Ever since, the man in black has carried a shadow of purple, Deep Purple. The musical adventure has been like a Rainbow - colourful. Way past early days we now have Night, Blackmore's Night".

On this tribute CD, the booklet also explains that: "...we have collected some professional musicians, some struggling to get there and some dreamers from five different countries to celebrate the fab 5 from 1968".

Thus, what we are presented with on this "non-profit making" CD is a compilation of bands and singers that have been "inspired" by the music of Ritchie Blackmore, presenting their own songs.

The track list is: "Blaze" by Robert Curiano, "Sou by Sou West" by Pendragon, "I told You" by Lise Olden, "Morning Light" by Solstice, "Again, again, again" by Bjorn Aslaksen, "Too Late" by Credo, "Lost in Play" by Manning, "Witches of the Mirror" by Midnight, "Summer Again" by Ezra, "Pat the Crop" by Rainstorm Project, "Redemption Blaze" by Riccardo Bacchi's Raven Black Project, "The Chosen One" by Rust, "Winds

are Cryin" by Minstrel Spirit, "Beethoven's Fifth (edit)" Norsk Symfonisk Orkester, "Brynhilde Bride" by Tormod Torresdal, "Magic Chords" by Roar Kleven, "Sometimes" by Vel Unt and "Once and Future King" by Stetner Nilsen.

Robert Curiano (formerly "Sir Robert of Normandy" in Blackmore's Night) opens the album with "Blaze", an excellent rock track that is typical of the above-average quality of all the songs on this album. Quite a few of the songs have a "Progressive Rock" influence, (hence the CD release being partly helped by the Syn-Phonic label http://www.synphonic.8m.com/) but despite this, there is still a wide musical variety of songs presented to the listener.

The closest to the (early) Blackmore's Night style are Minstrel Spirit (who have supported BN in the past) and the Italian band Midnight, who are friends of mine. Both bands present a haunting/atmospheric acoustic guitar style on these tracks, combined with gentle-romantic female vocals. I have only heard the music of Lise Olden, on Myspace (Internet) but I have no hesitation in suggesting, that if you like the songs of Candice Night, then Lise Olden might also suite your musical tastes?

Being a fan of the early Marillion period (Fish on vocals), I was most interested in "Too Late" by Credo, which to my ears, seems much influenced by that style, or is it just my wishful thinking? It is a favourite album track of mine, all the same.

I cannot ignore mentioning "Magic Chords" by Roar Kleven, which is a song about Ritchie composing "Smoke on the Water" and has plenty of other Deep Purple / Rainbow song titles incorporated into the lyrics of the verses.

Although I have not discussed every track in this review, I must say that there is not a weak track on this CD (in my opinion). If you like the music of Ritchie Blackmore or Blackmore's Night, then you will most probably like the style of songs on this CD. You can hear some of the CD tracks on Myspace

http://www.myspace.com/moreblacknight

My special thanks to Ole Svela (Blackmore's Night Official Norwegian Fan Club) for bringing this CD to my attention. I congratulate him for his part in its production.

Website: http://www.blackmoresnight.no/

Email: <u>ole@blackmoresnight.no</u>

Mike Garrett

Blackmore's Right — News Roundup

Ritchie & Candice in "Guitar World" Magazine

"On an unrelated note, I was very pleased that we finally got an extended interview with the great Ritchie Blackmore! We've made numerous attempts over the years to pin Ritchie down for an in-depth interview, but always ran into some sort of roadblock along the way but that ended when our own Andy Aledort was able to spend an entire evening with Ritchie and his wife Candice at a restaurant on Long Island, NY, to discuss his life, career, and the most recent Blackmore's Night album, Secret Voyage. We hope to do even more with Ritchie in 2009, so stay tuned for some major coverage with the Deep Purple/Rainbow legend!

During the interview, Andy asked Ritchie to sign the Guitar World office guitar, and he happily obliged. You can see his signature on the black pickguard, joining the ranks of Slash, Paul Gilbert, Glenn Tipton/K.K. Downing/Rob Halford, Rudolf Schenker/Matthias Jabs, Yngwie Malmsteen, and all the other signatures we've collected the past few months. In any case, thanks to Ritchie and Candice for spending so much time with

Andy for our story. Watch for the piece to appear, most likely in the March issue of Guitar World, on sale in early January".

Words and Photos taken from "Guitar World" website: http://www.guitarworld.com/







The 2008 Greatest Guitarist Poll winner is

Ritchie Blackmore

for his solo in Highway Star

This makes it 5 years in a row for Ritchie at GodofGuitar.com

http://www.godofguitar.com/

Blackmore's Night in "Fireworks" Magazine



See the November / December 2008 Issue! http://www.rathole.com/fireworks/

Win a copy of "Winter Carols"

You can win a Blackmore's Night "Winter Carols" CD on http://www.mittelalter.net/ in co-operation with Lost Legends Shop (a shop for medieval clothing).

"Olde Mill Inn" will be in Jim Carrey's latest film

CONGRATULATIONS!! The Blackmore's Night song "Olde Mill Inn" is in Jim Carrey's latest film "Yes Man!"

Blackmore's Night 2009 Tour Dates

Jan 29th, Zagreb, Croatia Feb 1st, Graz, Austria Feb 3rd, Milan, Italy Feb 6th, Brescia, Italy Feb 7th, Trento, Italy Feb 10th, Budapest, Hungary Feb 12th, Bratislava, Slovakia

For full venue and ticket-booking details, go to website http://www.blackmoresnight.com/

Blackmore's Night fan club in Croatia?

In Croatia, Dario Rakovac is trying to start a Blackmore's Night fan club. Fans that are interested, may email him at: blackmorescroatia@gmail.com

Blackmore's Night fan club in Serbia

Anna and Lady Gwendoleen are keen to renew interest in a Blackmore's Night Serbian fan club.



Serbian Fan Club myspace: http://www.myspace.com/blackmoreserbianight

Serbian Fan Club forum: http://bn-serbia.forumotion.com/

Email: lady gwendoleen@yahoo.com

Secret Voyage" in Paris Disneyland

France: Blackmore's Night "Secret Voyage" is playing in all the Disney Village resort of Disneyland Paris (Hotels, Restaurants, Bars, streets, and everywhere).

Songs are:

- 1. Can't help falling in love
- 2. Far far Away
- 3. Empty words
- 4. Rainbow eyes

Thank you Pascal (French Street Team):

Email: stevegane@club-internet.fr

Myspace: http://www.myspace.com/pascalstevegane



Blackmore's Might Tribute Band

An interview with Marco Carpita

MG: Hi Marco, it is good to talk to you again, so soon!

MC: Hi, Mike, it's always good for me to talk to you

too!

MG: You have another new lead singer?

MC: Yeah, an amazing singer joined us. Her name is Ida Elena De Razza; she's a professional singer and actress with a very big career for her age. When she was born, the arts were written in her destiny, since her parents are two big names of the Italian showbiz. She has a very powerful and strong voice and she always can play with it the way she wants to and make every sound intense.

Still, she has a very pleasant personality, incredibly co-operative and she joined us recently. As you know, the Morning Star's line time, has been through several changes, and it mainly due to our need of improving our sound, while the band was steadily asserting itself. A Blackmore's Night Tribute Band requires lots of commitment, talent and, most of all, lots of humility and Ida Elena has got the whole package. The very first moment we started to look for a new singer, we had lots of replies and we auditioned lots of people, but we finally chose, without the slightest hesitation, Ida Elena, because she was the best ever, since what you can find around can't even compare to her talent. Crisis is welcome when it brings good changes and we're glad Ida Elena joined us.

MG: A familiar face has returned to the "keyboards" position in the band?

MC: You're talking about Bruno Gallozzi, aren't you? Actually he never left us but because of his job, in Italy and abroad, he can't always be with us. It was necessary to find a Keyboardist in addition, Marco Arnaud, someone who could be there when Bruno couldn't. They even played together a couple of lucky times. Luckily, it's never too hard to find someone who would be pleased to join us!

MG: The band recently performed at Teatro Sinopoli (23/12/08). Can you give the readers an idea of the song list and say if you have added any new songs to your repertoire?



MC: I think two or three songs are a "must-play" in a Blackmore's Night Tribute and I'm talking about "Play Minstrel Play", "Under A Violet Moon", "Minstrel Hall", "Past Time With Good Company".

This time, we added "Olde Village Lanterne", because it exalts Ida Elena's voice. Plus, we played "Cartouche", "World Of Stone", "Spanish Nights", "Morning Star", "Queen For A Day", "Diamonds And Rust", "All For One", "Fires At Midnight", "The Clock Ticks On", "Possum Goes To Prague". We also prepared three tracks from the new album "Secret Voyage" for the next show and they are "Locked Within A Crystal Ball", "The Circle" & "Peasant's Promise".

At last, we are preparing an instrumental track that we well soon play in concert, "Difficult To Cure (Beethoven)"- Rainbow album version.

MG: I notice your hurdy gurdy in the show photos. Is this a new addition to your own collection of instruments?

MC: Yes Mike, it's a hurdy gurdy and the great German designer Helmut Seibert manufactured it. Helmut made this expressly for me and he customised it the way I wanted it to be. If you let me Mike, I wish to thank him for the passion he showed making this amazing instrument. I've been waiting for one year to have it, but it was worthwhile because it has an incredibly unique sound.

MG: Which Blackmore's Night songs are you performing, with your hurdy gurdy?

MC: During our last show, "The Clock Ticks On" obviously. I learnt every song which requires its use; songs like "25 Years" and "I Still Remember". I'll find a way to play them all live, eventually. I'm also preparing an acoustic version of "Midwinter's Night" for the hurdy gurdy and other classical songs we could play during the Renaissance faires next summer, when we perform in medieval burghs.

MG: I notice that the band is scheduled to play at "The Funnel" pub (Roma) on the 6th January. Do you expect to get a reasonable audience attendance, given that the Christmas holidays will only be just finished or do you think, that interest in the music is increasing at the moment, due to the "real" Blackmore's Night being scheduled to play in Italy on the 3rd, 6th and 7th of February?

MC: Surely there is great expectation for the coming Blackmore's Night Italian concerts and this could be one of the reasons why we think we'll have a large amount of audience. Plus, the 6th of January is an Italian festivity. Anyway the "Funnel pub" avails a great tradition and it's located in the very heart of









live music in Rome, so it's always crowded and we guess it will be as well, for our concert. We hope, as we always do, it will be good publicity for Blackmore's Night, a good chance for "not-yet-fans" to know them and a nice chance for fans to have a good time "in good company"!

MG: So, attending the Blackmore's Night Italian concerts will be (predictably) both a joy and an inspiration to you?

MC: You know, Mike, a Blackmore's Night concert is always reason of joy and inspiration for us. As we hear about a possible concert in a reachable destination, we always are so glad about it and when the date is sure, we are the firsts to buy the tickets! We have been to a lot of concerts and every time's like the first time. In fact, the Master is my very muse since a long time! I dedicated all of my musical life to him and I'm very proud of it.

MG: Hopefully, you may get a chance to meet Ritchie and Candice again, on the Italian tour? I hope you do. I also hope that the tour generates added interest for the music and subsequently, for the Morning Star tribute band. Thank you again, for this interview.

MC: I really hope this will happen. Lots of people would like to meet Ritchie and Candice backstage and I know it's impossible to content everyone. Hope fate will help us and give us this honour. We'll be there.

Surely, the tour is going to be reason of renewed interest for this amazing band, as it's always been in past. We'll be obviously happy if this amplifies the interest about us but you Mike, already know what I think: Morning Star is just a tribute band and we're glad to promote and spread out the wonderful Blackmore's Night music and to keep on having fun, playing their fantastic songs the best we can. That's enough, for us. Thank you, Mike, for caring about us this much and for following our story with so much interest.

Morning Star

The Funnel Pub Via Ostiense 137, Roma

6th January 2009, 21.00hrs

Morning Star myspace http://www.myspace.com/7morningstar

Morning Star website http://www.morningstarmusic.it/









Cartouche

Blackmore's Night Tribute Band (Based Brighton U.K.)

Website http://beam.to/cartouche

Please e-mail
martin.tricia@ntlworld.com



MIDNIGHT (Italian Blackmore's Night cover band - plus their own material)

Band myspace:

http://www.myspace.com/midnightland

Website:

http://www.the-midnight.com/

