

Artist: Blackmore's Night

Title: Autumn Sky

Genre: Folk-Rock-World

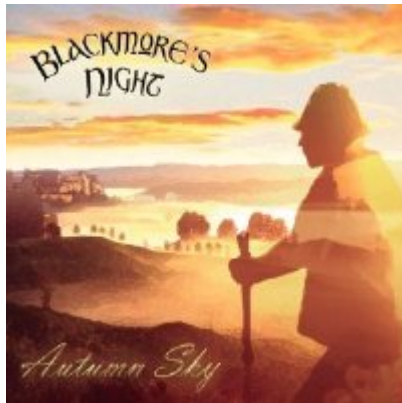
Label: Spinefram Records

Website: <http://www.blackmoresnight.com>

Buy Link:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00417HV6E?ie=UTF8&tag=muzikmassoundscr&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B00417HV6E>

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With their eighth studio album *Autumn Sky* Blackmore's Night proves once again why they stand alone atop the mountain with their own brand of Celtic/Medieval influenced folk-rock music now suddenly defined as New Age because of the difficulty of placing them into one particular box as it were, and why not? New Age can cover a lot of ground. It must hold some validity as they have been #1 on the New Age Billboard Charts for several weeks now.

My personal preference is to call it folk-rock influenced by medieval and Celtic music (i.e. "Sake of the Song"). Any way you want to look at it this music is magical and they continue to cast their spell upon their worldwide faithful while gathering more along the way to raise

their glasses to toast life and the love of a simpler time.

Autumn Sky features the legendary Ritchie Blackmore on lead guitar and his wife Candice Night fronting the band with her angelic vocals and incredible magnetism. Night weaves her web and draws you into every story while Blackmore and band play their intricate and complex melodies. When you listen to the trademark Blackmore electric guitar licks on "Journeyman" you know its Ritchie, that sound is unmistakable. I heard it when he was with Deep Purple and Rainbow and now for several years in this compelling configuration he created. When he plays electric guitar it is definable however when he is playing in an acoustic setting it does not click as much but I am getting there. Blackmore also plays renaissance drum, nyckelharpa, hurdy gurdy, mandola and mandolin, quite array of instruments to get their unique sound. Of course Mr. Blackmore is not only surrounded by the most beautiful vocals for this music, the rest of this band is spot on as the leader pushes them to be their very best in every track.

I love the way "Highland" kicks off the album with an upbeat and happy flavor to it. This is in general very positive and upbeat music with the lyrical content on the lighter side of life. There are times when they move to the other side of life such as on the instrumental workout "Dance Of The Darkness" albeit with a bit of gaiety to put you in the right mood then with Ritchie launching into a blistering solo, and the sad lament of "Barbara Allen" to close out the recording. The best part about the instrumental track is that you get to write your own story. The one track interestingly enough that moved me the most emotionally was their excellent cover of The Kinks classic "Celluloid Heroes." There is something about that song that gives me goose bumps, making me feel reminiscent and sad all at the same time. Candice sings like an angel and totally owns this song reminding us that success walks hand in hand with failure along Hollywood Boulevard. I absolutely loved it. It is not easy to cover a classic tune and make it your own and they succeed in doing so.

Another track that got my blood pumping is "Keeper Of The Flame" which is the perfect blend of old and new. The guitars are electric and acoustic mixed in to give it all a fresh rock Celtic feel throughout. If you are looking for the Blackmore's Night signature sound this is one of the tracks that will show you the way. This is also a track I could see the beloved Ronnie James Dio singing in Rainbow. Ritchie has given us

so much great music over the years and I have been a big fan since the early seventies and I am so glad he continues to bring us this incredible music. I think Ritchie has fulfilled all his dreams with this music and Candice has been a blessing to him and now they have their first child together. What more could they ask for?

You can catch them live this year in the U.S. on their summer tour, more info [here](#).

5/5 Stars

Key Tracks-Sake Of The Song, Journeyman, Keeper Of The Flame

Keith "MuzikMan" Hannaleck-MuzikReviews.com Founder

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| Tracks:
01. Highland
02. Vagabond (Make A Princess Of Me)
03. Journeyman
04. Believe In Me
05. Sake Of The Song
06. Song And Dance (Pt. II)
07. Celluloid Heroes
08. Keeper Of The Flame
09. Night At Eggersberg
10. Strawberry Girl
11. All The Fun Of The Fayre
12. Darkness
13. Dance Of The Darkness
14. Health To The Company
15. Barbara Allen |
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