

2. What are your party plans for News Years Eve?

Going anywhere special?

CN- We just returned from a trip to Germany. It was partially a work trip as we had performances to do on their Christmas tv shows, but we turned the remaining days into a partial vacation, by travelling with friends who had never been there and we all went through the Christmas markets of Rothenburg- an amazing medieval city-, Chemnitz's medieval Christmas market, and Nurenburg. We drank the hot spiced wine, walked along the cobblestone streets and the air smelled like gingerbread. Then we took some days off in a castle called Schloss Rabenstein and invited our closest fans and street team members for a private intimate concert that lasted till 6am. Now that we're home we have our annual Holiday party which takes a few days to recover from and includes inviting everyone into our home to celebrate, and then Christmas day will be spent with just a handful of close friends and relatives- a big dinner and finish it all up by roasting chestnuts on the fire and singing songs together. The real spirit of the season.

3. What are your New Years Resolutions?

CN- Each year I promise myself that I will take time for me. Even if its just 1/2 hr of walking through the woods. But I usually get so bogged down by doing things for others that its hard to keep that resolution. I have a tendency to place the needs of others before myself, whether its our work, charity work, home life...but in retrospect- although its exhausting, I suppose its a good thing because I get to help others.

For 2008:

1. Any new tours or album details we should know about?

CN- We just released our cd/dvd box set Paris Moon which is in a beautiful old world style box and shows the band at our 1st gig in France in 10 years. We shot a video for Village Lanterne which is only available right now on the internet and involved me being submerged in a tank of water for about 6 hours! As well as band shots at a beautiful 12th century castle. Winter Carols is being rereleased for the holiday season and just entered in at #1 on the NAR charts. And we have 5 songs recorded for the new album which will be released summer of next year, 2008. We'll start touring in the Spring and the circle begins again!

2. How will your band change over the next year? Any different outlook?

CN- Our outlooks always tend to reflect where we are at the moment so its hard to assume what your outlook or direction will be in a few months time. We are in the process of looking for a bass player/rhythm guitarist so the line up of the band will change slightly. But the heart and soul of Blackmore's Night always stays

true to itself. And the more the band tours the more in synch we all are. Because we are all such close friends and the musicianship is excellent we have a great time on stage and off wherever we are.

3. What do you think illegal music downloaders should know about for 2008? How is it directly affecting you as an artist? If you could do something about it, what would it be?

CN-Our music is not usually spread through the normal channels like radio or MTV so we don't usually get effected by these things as much as the bands who get radio play all the time and rely on the usual way to buy music gets effected. Even though the "normal" channels are so corrupted these days anyway its hard for anyone who doesn't have major Sony backing to be heard on radio. I love the itunes idea that you pay per song- and its \$.99 which is affordable for everyone. If something is to be done, there should be a geek squad that is hired by the major record lables who have the funds to have a whole division of people monitoring the illegal sites that impose viruses on the individual songs when they are downloaded illegally. That would deter people from doing illegal downloads for the fear of the virus that they may obtain. The music world is going through a hard time right now in a lot of different ways. Somethings going to have to change soon.

4. Out of all the positive things that the Internet can do for you as an artist, what has it been?

CN- Break down the walls that have kept "different" music out. The internet is so vast that it is so easy to have your music on sites so anyone can hear, if they are looking for it. A few years ago, if you weren't on the radio or on the tv you would not get heard period. It made those mediums all important and almost impossible to get on if you didn't have millions of dollars behind you. But it got so corrupt that MTV doesn't even play music anymore and no ones listening to the radio because its always the same 5 bands being pushed hundreds of times a day for a month- then the next 5 fashionable bands gets pushed and so on. It really has nothing to do with talent or music and there is no variety at all. Most of the people I know don't even listen to the radio anymore. But now with the internet it evens the playing field. It gives everyone a forum.

5. Are you more optimistic or pessimistic for 2008 compared to 2007?

CN- In what way? Musically? Personally? Politcally? I think you have to be optimistic each day and always try to be the change you want to see in the world. If you don't- you just become one of those people who complain about everything at the breakfast table- but the change never makes it out into the world. I try to be optimistic- I get hurt, I get angry, I get let down, but I get back up again and fight the good fight on the side of right each day. If everyone does a little bit of that- the change begins in your home and then spreads to your neighborhood, then onto the town and the city. I have hopes and dreams and beliefs that the

good changes will spread the more people are trying to make them happen. I see things realistically but believe in good and change for the future for us all.