

HARDROCK HAVEN

CD/DVD Review

Secret Voyage SPV

by John Kindred
Staff Writer



Comments: While old school Blackmore fans await the valiant return of Rainbow or the reunion of whatever your favorite lineup of Deep Purple (as long as it includes Blackmore) we give you Blackmore's Night latest studio release *Secret Voyage*.

Blackmore and Candice Night are back again with traditional folk music electrified by Blackmore's signature phrasing. Along for the journey are Bard David of Larchmont (keyboards/vocals), Earl Grey of Chimay (bass/rhythm guitar/vocals), Squire Malcolm of Lumley (percussionist), and Gypsy Rose (violin/vocals). Blackmore describes the music of Blackmore's Night as to be less constraining than his previous bands. And so the band journeys where they will whether that be folk, rock, ballads, instrumentals, or tavern songs.

Musically the band adapts folk songs from several countries into their musical repertoire. Those songs include; from France "Gilded Cage", Russia "Toast To Tomorrow", Germany "Prince Waldeck's Galliard" and England "Peasant's Promise." And also cover Elvis Presley's "Can't Stop Falling In Love" as well as Rainbow's "Rainbow Eyes."

It is going to be obvious without breaking each song down what this album is about. Pleasant vocal melodies by Night sung over the music of a very talented group of musicians. Night takes listeners into other worlds of magic, fantasy and enchantments that are made real with her in depth story telling.

Either you love or hate the current direction that Blackmore has chosen to take. You can't deny his mark on guitarists across the globe. Listening to his current releases one can still hear some of today's best electric guitar work. Blackmore's phrasing is beyond brilliant.

Leave the man be and let him enjoy his musical whims. He deserves it after giving such great and classic rock songs on studio and live releases.

Band:

Candice Night (v)

Ritchie Blackmore (g)

Pat Regan (various instruments)

Gypsy Rose (violin)

Track Listing:

1. God Save The Keg
2. Locked Within The Crystal Ball
3. Gilded Cage
4. Toast To Tomorrow
5. Prince Waldecks Galliard
6. Rainbow Eyes
7. Circle, The
8. Sister Gypsy
9. Can't Help Falling In Love
10. Peasants Promise
11. Far Far Away
12. Empty Words

Hardrock Haven rating: 7/10