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New York and Region

Sincerest Flattery

Ritchie Blackmore, the former Deep Purple guitarist, is perhaps the most widely imitated guitarist in the world.

"We'll walk into a guitar shop, and there will be a sign hanging on the wall that says: 'Please do not play "Smoke on the Water." We've heard it enough,'" said Candice Night, who has been Mr. Blackmore's partner for 16 years. His power riff in the song has long since become an anthem for aspiring rock guitarists everywhere.

How does Mr. Blackmore feel about that? "As long as it pays the bills, it's fine with me," he said somewhat resignedly while picking at a guitar during a phone interview from the couple's home in Mount Sinai.

These days, those revenues help to support Ms. Night's and Mr. Blackmore's other passion, their Renaissance-tinged band, Blackmore's Night. The eight-piece ensemble will appear at 8 p.m. Monday on WLIW-TV, Channel 21, in "Blackmore's Night: Castles and Dreams," an hourlong special culled from their two-part DVD of the same name, filmed last year at a castle in Germany. Afterward, Ms. Night, a Long Island native, and Mr. Blackmore will answer viewers' questions live in the studio.

It's easy to imagine Ms. Night's being swept up by a white knight on a horse, her blonde hair streaming behind. But Mr. Blackmore, a 60-year-old native of England, isn't exactly that fellow. "He calls himself the Prince of Darkness," she said, laughing.

Mr. Blackmore and Ms. Night, who is now 34, met when she was 18. "When I first met him, he asked, 'What can you do?'" she recalled. Turns out she could carry a tune. Ms. Night began by writing lyrics for Deep Purple and Mr. Blackmore's other band, Rainbow, and eventually sang background vocals.

But she learned that her hard-rock virtuoso was another man entirely. When he stepped offstage, he would put on purist Renaissance music. Soon, the couple were weaving their own Renaissance-inspired tunes. In 1997, they recorded their first album, "Shadow of the Moon." Since then, they have recorded four more studio albums.

In Mount Sinai they have transformed their waterfront home from a white-walled contemporary into a dark-curtained castle. Not that they are the best of neighbors.

"We do owl prowls in the middle of the night, dressed in black hooded robes," Ms. Night said, giggling. "And Ritchie likes to play his hurdy-gurdy at 2 a.m. and point the amplifiers over the bay area. I think all of our neighbors think we're the Addams Family."