

A medieval music celebration Rockin' the past with Blackmore's Night

By John Black
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It's being billed as a concert, but if Candice Night has her way, people walking out of the Somerville Theatre next Tuesday night will feel like they've been transported back in time to one heck of a party.

"There's something about the music we're making that makes people want to celebrate," Night said, referring to Blackmore's Night, the band she formed with legendary Deep Purple guitarist Ritchie Blackmore back in 1997. "It's not very commercial, meaning you aren't going to hear us on the radio, but it's the kind of music that makes a real connection with people, particularly when they hear it live. Performing it in a hall brings what we do to another level."

What Blackmore's Night do, in concert and on CD, is weave together traditional renaissance and medieval tunes with modern folk music styles (and a dose of good old fashion rock) to create a unique blend that sounds sound like a feast at Camelot turned up to 11. And the world seems to love what they are doing. Over the past 12 years Blackmore's Night has released seven albums and two DVDs, one of which, *Castles & Dreams*, went gold and hit #1 on the German DVD charts. Their *Secret Voyage* CD (released August 2008 on SPV America), held the top 10 spot on Billboard's New Age charts for 56 weeks.



"It's been an amazing journey for us as musicians," Night said. "There are nights when we leave after a show and there are all these local musicians waiting for us with tapes they've made of their own traditional folk music, the music they heard from the parents or grandparents, music that's been passed through generations. It's so fabulous that they want to share that part of their culture, of their souls, with us."

Of course, Night admits that every so often a die hard Deep Purple guitarist will show up at a Blackmore's Night show to yell out "Play Smoke on the Water" from the back of the hall. "It happens, but not too much anymore," she said. "I don't think Ritchie even hears it. He's too busy making sure everybody has a beer and is having as good a time as he is."

Blackmore's Night play the Somerville theatre on Tuesday Oct. 27. For more information visit blackmoresnight.com.