

First of all we'd like to congratulate you and Ritchie with birth of the daughter. How does it influence on the recording process? Have the atmosphere, your singing and playing changed?

CN- Thank you! Of course our daughter influences everything we do these days. But at the time I was pregnant and recording the cd- it was amazing to have the parallel of creating music and creating a life within you. One of the hardest things was playing a 9 piece renaissance woodwind ensemble at 9 months pregnant. That was at the beginning of Journeyman.

Tell us about the recording process

What else inspired you on writing and composing of the new songs?

CN- We are always very inspired by nature. By love and loss, legends myths and faerie tales. Each song takes you on a different journey so you try to just channel what the song wants to be about.

What songs from the new album do you like the most? What is the story behind of this song?

RB- We started with Highland because I always wanted to record that song since hearing it in 1983. Another song was done by another Swedish band which we called Journeyman. The words originally were in Swedish so Candice wrote new lyrics and interpretation of what the Swedish lyrics were.

CN- I think my favorites are Darkness- which we originally got the music from a traditional song from the Brittany area. But lyrically I made it about giving up on mankind and becoming one with nature and the woods. It's very haunting. Also Vagabond which was inspired by the Little Match Girl by Hans Christen Andersen. And of course Strawberry Girl was inspired by our daughter Autumn.

We can see that the last track on the album is already known "Barbara Allen". Have you re-record it?

RB- It was an old song I used to sing at school. I think it was written in the 1700s. When I heard Candice sing it- it had a very melancholy feel to it so I felt it had a lot of potential. That song goes down as one of our best in concert.

The album cover looks very beautiful and I think suits to the songs: the same autumn and romantic mood. Who is the author?

CN- There are 2 different cd covers, 1 was done by the record company Sony – and depicts a castle over fields and the bright orange and golden skies of autumn. The second is one that we worked together with a graphic agency and it is the wanderer.

How do you think how does your music influence on the people. What does your music mean for them? Just beautiful songs which remember them about medieval fairytales or something more? And what does it mean for you?

RB- I have no idea what it means for other people. I just know I like playing them. They can be simple songs, good songs- just pleasing to the ear. And we have a great time playing them.

CN- I think it's a great escape from this world of cyber everything. From air rage and road rage and your senses being bombarded by ambient noise and ambient light. It gets you away from stress and pressure to a simpler time and place.

Have you got any plans to record a duet song with somebody how it was with Halloween?

CN- I am always up for recording new songs with artists. I just have to really live the song. I did vocals on a song recently with a Russian band and I wrote the lyrics and its now called "When I Want To Fly". So I am waiting for them to release that one.

What do you like the most to compose the new songs and the recording process or playing live concerts?

RB- I have come to like being in the studio because the studio is in our house so we are around the things we love. Like our cats . It's a very comfortable surrounding. Not like going into a sterile studio environment. We always have the same producer come out to record us. However I think being onstage

is more of a thrill. I wasn't too keen on the early days of recording. There is a set time you have to complete the songs. Luckily it worked.

CN- Two totally different types of energy. Both are great.

Your records are on the high chart positions not only in Europe but in American charts as well such as in the Billboard chart. It's a little strange cause your music more close and understandable for Europeans. So how to explain this interest?

RB- When we put the project together we never thought of being successful in the accepted way but the more we have been together and the more records we've done, were acquiring more and more fans. However we could just play to 100 people if we wanted to because it's that type of music. It relates to a more intimate show. I don't like to play to more than 3 or 4 thousand people because their attention span is less and trying to keep them quiet for our ballads is difficult. And there is always 3 or 4 loud drunks that try to spoil it for everyone so we have security take care of them. But we don't have that problem with 1500 people or less. We avoid doing big festivals because that attracts the loud people that just want to come and get crazy. If you're blasting out through a Marshall you can get away with it but when you play acoustically you have to have a quiet audience.

Please tell us about other members of the band cause the main interest of the press are you and Ritchie and it's a little known about others.

RB- We have Gypsy Rose on harmony vocals and violin. We found her at a Renaissance Faire. Shes from New York State. Bard David of Larchmont on keyboards. He plays regularly at a church in Connecticut. The drummer we have, the hairless wonder. Squire Malcolm of Lumely who we found at Lumely Castle north of England. He plays in an orchestra. We have recently acquired Earl Grey of Chimay. Our bass player. He's from Long Island. Albert Dannemann plays for a German group called Des Geyers. He plays all woodwinds and baritone voice. He's with us most of the time as hes in another band as well.

Lets talk about yourself a little. What music do you listen in your free time? What books do you like?

RB- I don't listen to a lot of music. When I do it Renaissance and Medieval music most of the time. I like the old 50s and 60s rock and roll. At the moment Im reading a book on Django Rheinhardt. Before that I was reading Pretorius' Syntagma. I like Dennis Wheatly's books. He was big in the 60s in England. The 1st book I read by him was The Devil Rides Out. A cult story based on the 1st world war. Since then I have read all of his books 2ice. I also read a lot of medical books on psychology cause I think I'm going mad. Medicince fascinates me. I always carry medical books with me so if people get sick on the road I can diagnose them. My dr friends talk to me about music and Id rather talk to them about medicine.

CN- I have a very vivid imagination so I don't really turn to books to inspire me. I would rather close my eyes and lose myself in the music or listen to the stories of the local folklore and write about those stories in my lyrics. Musically I love Maggie Reillys voice, Sarah Brightman, Stevie Nicks, Joan Osborne. Of course for nostalgia I go back to my 80's rock music for fun.

Have you read the Scottish poet Robert Burns? I know that his creativity has influenced on some folk bands. What about you?

RB- I've glanced over some of it. I'm not a big fan of his.

What were your dreams in your childhood? Has something comes true?

RB-I used to daydream a lot and look out of the window for long periods of time when I was at school. My school was next to a brothel and I could see through the window.

CN- This life was beyond what I dreamed of. I still can't believe I get to do this for a living.

In one interview you said you like being on the nature. What is your favorite countries and places to visit?

RB- We do a lot of work in Germany and of course England. I am very reluctant to travel by air these days because it takes so long for the aircraft to take off and all the searching and nonsense that occurs

with traveling is annoying so I don't travel as much as I used to. But in this band we can go where we want to not where the agent or manager force us to go.

CN- Im just happy anytime I get to be by the ocean, in a forest, looking at mountains or walking through the rain. I don't even have to travel to do those things.

Can you compare yourself and Ritchie with some animals or fairy creatures?

RB- Badgers and owls.

CN- All animals and faerie creatures. It's important to recognize the magic that surrounds you and for you to respect and protect nature ; and animals ask so little but give so much in return.

I know some people associate your music with fantasy books and movies. Would you like to write soundtracks for movies or TV series? And if yes what about this movie must be?

RB-If you write most film music it must be nondescript so it doesn't interfere with the film. It can be hard to do but there are people in Hollywood with their synths that have that down pat. I rarely see a film with good music in it. Probably the last one I saw was Elizabeth. In the middle they had real renaissance music. Candice and I were astounded that they were brave enough to have that. Usually its either a rock band or synth pads. Chariots of Fire had good music by Vangelis.

You have a beautiful concert clothes. Do you buy it somewhere? Or some designer sew it?

RB- I know a boot maker, a shirt maker, Candice buys tights for me and I acquire belts whenever I can from Renaissance faires.

CN- I piece things together as I go along. I found the tops in a local store, the corsets in a goth shop and the skirts at a Renaissance faire. It's all about making your own look.

Are planning to continue your tour? In which countries? I hope you won't forget about Russia.

RB-We have Russia in the works for next year. Maybe 3 dates. Russia is such a big place and you must travel by air which is what I don't like to do. We always do Moscow and St Petersburg but I'd love to see the little villages and the houses nr Siberia. It's a pity there is not a time machine where you can just go from one place to the other. Our Russian fans are very passionate. Its always good to play to them.

CN- we always enjoy playing for the fans in Russia. We will be back. Last time, we got so upset that they made the ticket prices higher than they told us they were going to be- so after the show we went to a local pub and played for the people for free. That's what music should be about. You, the music and the people. No one in between. The emotion that music brings is true magic.

Thank you very much for the interview