

Blackmore's Night play Friday at World Cafe

May 12, 2011

Some couples as well as some rock bands are bi-coastal with involved parties living on both the West Coast and the East Coast. Blackmore's Night, which is playing the World Café Live at the Queen Friday night, is different. The musical duo featuring the husband-wife team of Ritchie Blackmore and Candice Night is bi-century.

Night and Blackmore are physically living in the 21st century. Musically and spiritually, they bridge the 16th century and the 21st century – the Renaissance era and the high-tech world of today.

Their new album "Autumn Sky" (Spinefarm Records) features electric guitar, keyboards, bass guitar and drums. The list of featured instruments also includes hurdy gurdy, renaissance woodwinds, bombards, gemshorn, nyckelharpa, renaissance drum, pennywhistle and mandolin.

"We like the amenities of this generation – plumbing, medical stuff, things like that – but there is a lot of stress from being here now," said Night, during a recent phone interview. "Some people like to work on cars or watch TV – that's their release.

"We like to get back to a simpler time. It's nice to shut things down -- to unplug from all that stuff and go back to a place where light was provided by a fire. And, there is something special about a maiden in a window of a knight on a horse. With our music, we try to bring people to that escape."

For Night and Blackmore, the love of a time from long ago is not a passing fancy – or something taken lightly.

"When I first met Ritchie, he lived in this dark Tudor house," said Night. "When I first moved in, all his Renaissance music became a soundtrack for nature. Even today, Ritchie doesn't have a computer – no e-mail or anything like that."

Blackmore has been one of Britain's top rock guitarists since the late 1960s. He was a founding member of Deep Purple and played with that band from 1968-1975 and 1984-1993. He fronted his own band Rainbow from 1975-1984 and 1994-1997.

Night and Blackmore have had Blackmore's Night going since 1997 when they released their debut album "Shadow of the Moon." The new album is their eighth studio album. They also released a live album in 2002.

"We recorded 'Autumn Sky' a little over a year ago," said Night. "I was nine months pregnant when we finished it in May 2010. I felt the parallel of creating the music at the

same time I was creating a life form. The energy of that force brought the music to another level.”

The couple dedicated the new album to their newborn daughter – Autumn Esmerelda Blackmore.

What: Blackmore’s Night

When: May 13, 7:30 p.m.

Where: World Café Live at the Queen, 500 N. Market St., Wilmington, Delaware

Tickets: \$39

Information: 302-994-1400 or queen.worldcafelive.com.