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Will Candice Night Join Deep Purple?



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By Alexander Baron



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For some time there has been talk of a Deep Purple reunion, like with Ritchie Blackmore. The band was formed way back in 1968, and is still going today, although only one founder member is left, drummer Ian Paice. Founder member Jon Lord died in 2012, and although they are both still alive, original bass player Nic Simper and vocalist Rod Evans have long since left the scene. That leaves only Blackmore, who has been doing his own thing in spectacular style with [Faerie Queen Candice Night](#) since 1997.

It is arguable that Blackmore's Night are as big as Deep Purple ever were, certainly their music is every bit as inspirational and then some. Most fans regard Deep Purple Mark II as the definitive,

with bass player Roger Glover and vocalist Ian Gillan. Like Ian Paice, these two are still with the band, although Gillan has also had a very successful solo career while as well as contributing to the music, Glover has dabbled in producing, but the music of Blackmore's Night is really more thematic of [Deep Purple Mark I](#), Mediaeval melodies included.

As might be expected, over a period of close on half a century, the list of former members has grown, but surprisingly not by much. Apart from Lord, who succumbed to cancer aged 71, the only other fatality so far is Tommy Bolin, who was drafted in after Blackmore quit to form Rainbow. He recorded one album before dying from a heroine overdose in 1976. Axe hero Joe Satriani filled in briefly after Blackmore quit the band for the second time, but apart from him, the only other lead guitarist the band has had is Steve Morse.

Recently, [Ritchie confirmed](#) that he will indeed be reuniting with the band next year, for four shows. Deep Purple are currently touring Europe, while Ritchie and Candice have a new album out, but the only thing that appears not to have been discussed so far is the possibility of Candice fronting the reunion with Ian Gillan. Over the years, Blackmore's Night have performed a number of Deep Purple songs including [Black Night](#) (which was released the year before Candice was born!) and [Child In Time](#).

Moreover, [Black Night](#) was performed as a duet, as was the Rainbow track [Street Of Dreams](#) – with co-writer and original vocalist Joe Lynn Turner. When, not if, this project comes to fruition, might we see Candice providing the lead vocal for the classic [April](#), and perhaps playing shawm on the lengthy introduction? Maybe we could even call on Dr Who to take her back to 1968 to duet with Rod Evans on [Anthem](#) from [The Book Of Taliesyn](#)? Let's keep it real! This has the makings of a great event for true rock fans everywhere. Keep your eye on the official [Blackmore's Night site](#) for developments.

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