

The Latest News

Mr And Mrs Blackmore Present



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By Alexander Baron



4
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Legendary guitarist Ritchie Blackmore appears to have finalised his plans for a return to his rock roots next year with a series of four concerts in the UK and Europe. Meanwhile, his wife, Faerie Queen Candice Night, has released a new solo album.

According to *Blabbermouth*, the Birmingham show of June 26 will be his **first UK rock show** in over 20 years. While that is technically correct, Blackmore's Night have been known to rock on occasion, including **at York in 2012** which saw him picking up his Stratocaster on *The Circle* and *Journeyman*. There is no suggestion that the lovely Candice will be joining him on stage, but no one should rule it out. He has recruited a new lead vocalist and Robert Curiano, who has played

with Blackmore's Night. The band is styled as Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow, but they will be playing Deep Purple material too.

This month, Candice released *Starlight, Starbright*; this contains 13 tracks, and she is clearly doing her own thing. She begins with *Rock A Bye Baby* – yes, **that one!** *Robin Redbreast* is a curious song to include because it appeared on her first album, *Reflections*, which was released in 2011. Still, Queen did something similar with their first two albums. Likewise, *Once In A Garden* is not a new song. There is also a cover of *Annie's Song*, which John Denver wrote for his first wife and true love. The Candice Night version is distinctly downtempo.



Starlight, Starbright may be an acquired taste, but if you can't eventually acquire a taste for Candice Night, you must be braindead. Finally, if you haven't yet checked it out, Blackmore's Night released a new album in September; this too includes covers but also the uptempo single *Will O' The Wisp* which sees Candice at her lyrical and mystical best.

4
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