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Purple Men in The News



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By Alexander Baron

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Progressive rock band Deep Purple was formed in 1968, and three of its founder members are still very much in the news. Long term keyboard player Jon Lord died in July 2012, but is only now getting the recognition he deserved as a classical composer. In 1969, his *Concerto For Group And Orchestra* was performed live with the Royal Philharmonic; by that time vocalist Rod Evans and bass player Nic Simper had left to be replaced respectively by Ian Gillan and Roger Glover.

In May this year, Lord's *Durham Concerto* will see its German premiere; full details and a lot more about the man and his work can be found on the [official Jon Lord website](#) where currently you can also hear a snatch of its 2007 premiere at Durham.

Ian Paice played drums for the band; he was related to Lord by marriage, and will be giving free drum lessons in Reading, Berkshire [on Saturday](#), which has been designated *National Learn To Play Day*.



Ritchie Blackmore on the right playing a guitar, 1977

(Image credits: Helge Øverås)

Also in the news and still performing is Ritchie Blackmore. The songwriting partnership between Blackmore and the late Jon Lord was the backbone of the short lived Deep Purple Mark I. The two men were poles apart temperamentally, but they produced some truly great music, which you can check out at [Songfacts](#). From Deep Purple, Ritchie went on to form Rainbow, then back to Deep Purple, and eventually to form Blackmore's Night. In 1989, he met a young American fan named Candice, who asked him for his autograph. Two years later they became lovers. What would you say if your teenage daughter brought home a thrice married and divorced hirsute rock musician 26 years her senior? You'd probably say nice to meet you, then show him the door. Thankfully for the world that didn't happen. It was not until 2008 that they tied the knot, and the alluring Candice is now a mother of two, but romance aside, this was a marriage made in Heaven.



Candice Night live in concert with Blackmore's Night, 2012

(Image credit: Nsoveiko)

Blackmore's Night takes up where Deep Purple Mark I left off; together with lyricist and now multi-instrumentalist Candice, the man in black has produced what is arguably the finest music of his long career. In July, Mr and Mrs Blackmore will be taking their full band in period costume on a short tour of Germany which will include one date in Paris and another in the Czech Republic. Check out their [official website](#) for details, and some of their music on YouTube starting with *I Guess It Doesn't Matter Anymore*, an uptempo track about an American legend, Resurrection

Mary. Or is she more than a legend? You can also find the music of Blackmore's Night tastefully packaged on Amazon.



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It's a shame that it is so hard to find new "classical" works. Copyright is so destructive.

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