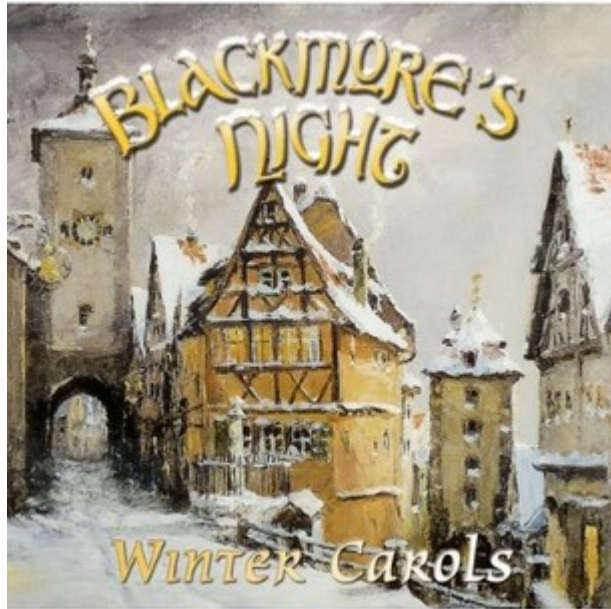


Christmas is in two days.

I can't believe it. It just seems like yesterday we celebrated New Years, 2009.
How fast time flies.

Speaking of the speed of time, it's been three years since one of my favorite Holiday CDs was released — "Winter Carols," by Blackmore's Night.



Those of you who are not familiar with Blackmore's Night, read on.

The band was formed by former Deep Purple/Rainbow founder and guitar hero Ritchie Blackmore and his wife, Candice Night. The band is a rock band heavily influenced by Renaissance music. They even use baroque-era instruments in their compositions.

Anyway, in keeping with that sound, Blackmore's Night recorded and released "Winter Carols" in 2006.

Candice Night's angelic vocals are the perfect partner for Blackmore's pentatonic-scale creations and work wonderfully with the traditional carols, such as "I Saw Three Ships," "Emmanuel" and "We Three Kings."

The opening track "Hark the Herald Angels Sing/Come All Ye Faithful" is captivating and intrigues the listener, who is left wondering what the rest of the CD has in store.

"Good King Wenceslas," and the original works "Christmas Eve" and "Wish You Were Here," bring to mind castles, minarets and moats of long ago.

My favorite track is the fanfare-laden "Lord of the Dance/Simple Gifts." The celebratory work lifts the spirits and makes all who hear merry.

Unfortunately, I can't find my copy. So in the next couple of days I need to track it down. And I hope you all will, too.

Merry Christmas everyone.