



Weekend Report: Blackmore's back (yet again)

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The name Ritchie Blackmore is most readily associated with Deep Purple's late 1960s/early 70s breakthrough period in Britain, which eventually led to worldwide acclaim. Following his first exit from the band, the famed slinger is also known for founding Rainbow (featuring Ronnie James Dio on vocals) and being named number 55 on *Rolling Stone's* "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time" list. The latest chapter in the switch hitter's career revolves around Blackmore's Night, which may seem relatively new to the general public, but thanks to a dedicated niche of hardcore fans, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

Thus far in its tenure, the band's played a slew of traditional clubs all around the globe, but is most known for performing in several castles throughout Germany, Italy, Poland, England and Scotland

(amongst many others). The six-piece Renaissance rockers sweep through the States playing tunes from last year's *The Village Lanterne*, plus previewing the forthcoming CD/DVD projects *Paris Moon* (out November 6 on Eagle). This weekend includes tonight's performance at Frauenthal Theater in Muskegon, Michigan (www.startickets.com), Sunday's show at Kent Stage in Kent, Ohio (www.kentstage.org), winding into next week's October 18 appearance at Chicago's House of Blues (www.ticketmaster.com).



"Our set list changes every night, which means there are a lot of things for the band to remember," singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Candice Night tells *Concert Livewire*. "Usually the first three or four songs are the same and then we start looking over at Ritchie- either with baited breath or fear- to find out what's next. If we're indoors in a theatre or club, the audience pulls us one way or another. If we're in a castle with tall stone walls, we'll play quieter songs with a resonance that's echoes naturally. So we may do something from a Blackmore's Night CD, something from Ritchie's 40 year catalogue, some folk- whether that be Baez or Dylan- or tavern songs because it's difficult to choose one genre!"