

Blackmore's Candice Night of Port Jeff goes solo

Glenn Gamboa | DROPS

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Candice Night laughs at the apparent contradiction of the two major events in her life this year.

Yes, she married Ritchie Blackmore, the legendary guitarist from Rainbow and their current band, Blackmore's Night, in October, after being together for 19 years. And yes, she's started work on her first solo project away from Blackmore's Night.

"It's a little strange, isn't it?" says Night, calling from her home in Port Jefferson. "What happened is that at one point, I had so many lyrics, so many ideas backing up and came to Ritchie and said, 'I need more music. Give me more music. I want to put these to songs.' And he just looked me and said, 'Come up with the music yourself because I'm kind of busy with what I'm doing.' And I had never thought of that before. I thought, 'Maybe I should do that.'"

The result is a solo album that sounds more contemporary than Blackmore Night's very successful "Renaissance rock" sound, picking up on some of Night's other musical influences.

"Because I do more artistic writing, I really connect to story lines in lyrics, so I've always been intrigued by country music and I gravitate toward that," Night says. "Some of the songs have some country feel to it. Some have a pop influence. There's something for everyone."

Night is looking to release the album early next year, after Blackmore's Night supports its "Winter Carols" album, which has become an annual favorite nationally on those all-holiday-music radio stations, as well as the recent "Secret Voyage" album. She plans to fit the solo album in between working on the next Blackmore's Night album and an upcoming film.

"It's all about the creativity," Night says. "There's so much anger and violence in the world. We hear from so many people who say our music helped them through a hard time, through a divorce, or from people who use our music in birthing rooms because it helps them heal. We're trying to heal the world a little bit at a time."

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