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Nox Arcana - Gothic (CD review)

Written on 31. October 2015 by Krähenkönig Riccardo

Nox Arcana is a music group from Cleveland, Ohio, founded in 2003 by Joseph Vargo and William Piotrowski. The nature of her music is based on classical horror literature by numerous authors such as H. P. Lovecraft and Edgar Allan Poe; further influences are caused by styles such as New Age, Classical, Rock and Film Music. Before its foundation, Master Vargo was a famous gothic/a fantasy artist. He produced covers for books and CDs, posters and other products. Since 2003, albums have been released every year, sometimes even 3 in a year, 21 are now. The last one was released in 2014 and called itself "Ebonshire - Volume 2".

Now this year the 22nd year is published. Masterpiece with the right title "Gothic". Anyone who calls his album so can potentially go wrong. 21 tracks are on it. It begins with the atmospheric-tort "Testament", which plays with a typical old cemetery mood including a creepy organ. A distorted voice roars towards the listener and makes the horror perfect. Goose bumps and very strong entry! The "Grimstone Manor" mentioned in the opener continues. Electronic-epic organ, large-scale synths, classical voices, threatening and sensitive mood. You get a magnificent insight into how this property must be. Really fantastic! "Forgotten by Time" goes in a similar direction only without singing. An epic-nobbler choir replaces the singing here. "Ashes to Ashes" begins with a fine piano game that reminds a very old instrumental of Goethe's heirs and Lacrimosa. A fantastically beautiful pearl, where you just want to switch off and dream. There is a minimal increase from the middle by the organ, otherwise pure fine piano piece. "The Portrait Gallery" is introduced by a thunderstorm and presents itself as a very dark classical piece, which lets you drive an ice-cold shower over the back accompanied by a fat goose bumps. Deftig hearty! This gallery really has it all. "Into the Darkness" is particularly threatening and the name is really the program here. You have to find out yourself. "The Beast within", which probably symbolizes something like the musical continuation, follows seamlessly. This becomes particularly dramatic with "Rise of the Ancestors", the penultimate chapter and part 3 of this musical journey. It continues with familiar favourite places, which leave a lot of space for self-interpretation by their name alone. "Familiar Haunts" impresses with a balanced change of horror and feel-good moments. Truly wonderful! Fortunately, "The House beyond the Graveyard" goes only 1:02, that's sufficient. A more than creepy ghost children's voice, which tells of that very estate, truly teaches you fear and makes it clear what the person has to look like. Truly violent food! The unfinished halls ("Unhallowed Halls") are then a little more reassuring again, although the horror really does not let go. The deeper it goes into the walls, the worse it gets. It is not possible to say exactly which components of the house are meant. Behind the word hall are several terms. Choose one out and think out the story, Halloween would be saved. "The Doll House" is further proof of the most blatant horror scenarios who find their way into the horror sector in connection with children and their toys. For me personally, dolls have something very scary about themselves anyway, this song reinforces it for me. At least with "Melancholy Memories" you can relax and switch off again, but without thinking it is possible here and the melancholy adheres to every single note. enticing and deeply contacting. A small fine breather that

will probably not last long. I should be right. "Stir of Shadows" decreases after this little break. How could it be otherwise when shadows look up... . But "Dark Realm" is again a little more reassuring. This carousel ride of emotions is really very stressed at this point. These changes between relaxation and pure horror follow here really blow at night. I guess I have to say nix to "Beyond the forbidden Gate". I think of itself. The fact that my boxes creaks does not make it better. As a nice compensation there is the fantastically beautiful number "In the Blood". Classical music is very important here. "The black Crypt" is another of these creeping, short-cracked pearls. Quietly clinging to oneself, death follows closely close to one here. "Wake the Dead" is now really putting on the devil's crown. After you walked through the black crypt / the black vault of the crypt, you can wake up the dead by the way. It is precisely this resurrection here that is represented extremely well musically. With "The Others" there is a fine ghost story, which takes place here briefly, but precisely. Of course, the crowning finale, which is celebrated here with "Dark Surrender" should not be missed. Darker no longer works, truly everything comes together here. Horror cabinet at its finest - welcome to hell! What happens here can be imagined. **Conclusion:** This record has it all! Fans of Nox Arcana should listen to this album without their toddlers, there is really pure horror. As already often mentioned, the deeper it goes into Grimstone Manor, the more cruel and nerve-racking it becomes. A musical masterpiece that finds its master here. The Outro puts it in a nutshell: "The House beyond the Graveyard is no place to stay". Scarce cinema in music form - never heard, very horny, frightening and truly hearty food! I bow down to this work and thank the creators of this scenario. You have a lot of joy with it; here you need very strong nerves!

release: 03.10.2015

Genre: Gothic Instrumental/ Dark Neoclassical

Label: Monolith Graphics

Nox Arcana on the web:

Tracklist:

01. Testament
02. Grimstone Manor
03. Ashes To Ashes
04. Forgotten By Time
05. The Portrait Gallery
06. Into The Darkness
07. Familiar Haunts
08. The House Beyond The Graveyard
09. Unhallowed Halls
10. The Doll House
11. Melancholy Memories
12. Stir Of Shadows
13. Dark Realms
- 14th. Beyond The Forbidden Gate
15. In The Blood
16. The Beast Within
17. The Black Crypt
18. Wake The Dead
19. The Others
20. Rise Of The Ancestors
21. Dark Surrender

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