Written by Jeremy Webster
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In its 14-year history, Midnight Syndicate—the collaborative musical project of Edward Douglas and Gavin Goszka—has become a touchstone of the ambient, Gothic and Halloween music markets. Indeed, what would your annual Halloween specialty shop be without a CD selection rack featuring most, if not all, of the duo’s previous CDs displayed prominently on its shelves?

Douglas and Goszka have found success crafting moody melodies fitting a conceptual framework they’ve referred to as “soundtracks to imaginary films.” They’ve also found room to stretch their talents outside the “Halloween soundtrack” box with an official DUNGEONS & DRAGONS game soundtrack, the score for the Robert Kurtzman film THE RAGE and the 2010 release of their own first feature film, THE DEAD MATTER. Now, with autumn just a hop, skip and jump away, 2011’s Halloween season will once more find Midnight Syndicate haunting spooky stores and stereos with its new release, CARNIVAL ARCANE.

As the title suggests, CARNIVAL ARCANE, Midnight Syndicate’s 14th studio album, presents their audio interpretation of the “Dark Carnival” concept. Those unfamiliar with this theme would do themselves a great service by checking out Ray Bradbury’s classic novel SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES. (There’s a movie too, and Jason Robards is really, *really* good in it—but trust me, go with the
book
first.)

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