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Your site says you've been developing in a smelly gaseous way for some time, yet this was the first CD? Why so?

Chris H. ~ Actually this is not the first Dirge CD, we formed in 96 and have put out 2 EP's that I later put into one CD and half completed another CD that never got finished due to quitting members. That's always been our biggest problem - we started out as a full band and have gone through so many line-ups that I am the only original member. The current guitar player, Drake, is not the person on the current CD. Brad, who played on the disc, had a family medical emergency that forced him to give up playing music for a while. I was lucky to meet Drake so soon afterward, he was able to pick up everything in no time. I have also had to deal with the leaving of the band's keyboard player about a year ago. She was one of the original members and was a friend of mine for over ten years but we ran into some issues that she would not compromise on. This forced me to have find ways to adapt without her on the sequencer.

I was struck by the way the lyrics often verged on a quality far higher than the music. How much time do you give to each, and how easy do you find this? Are there arguments galore, or are you just picky?

Chris H. ~ I write everything and I always have. This is not an ego thing it's just the way it has always been. I am a vocalist first and I play bass out of necessity so this may be why sometimes the arrangements aren't as slick as they could have been.

Is there an official Dirge Carolers tattoo?

Chris H. ~ Not unless Drake wants there to be one (please avert your eyes from my naked arms)

Drake ~ I have enough for everyone in the group.....LOL I don't think there is an official DC tattoo but seeing I am also a tattoo artist perhaps someday there shall be a design that we can call official.

I have to ask – the duo thing? Is this simple expediency in that you have tired of auditioning unreliable people, or does no-one you've encountered bought into your worldview (yet)?

Chris H. ~ The Duo is just survival. There has always been an open audition for the band, problem is we seem to be just a stepping stone for most. I believe you have heard of the band

THE DIRGE CAROLERS have recently made an intriguing little CD which is absurdly tricky to find or order, but I think they're getting that sorted now. Detailed visual lyrics coupled with noxious, frisky tunes that you can love.



that our drummer left us to join.....The Dime Store Halo's . He is still a friend of mine and I wish everyone who has played with us the best I'm just tired of getting left in the dust all the time.

Drake ~ I like the duo thing because it makes for an easier practice and less set up and tear down time in a live situation and seeing most venues rush you on and rush you off you really have a limited time and with drums , keys and extra people you have to worry about everyones monitor mixes and stage volume and with the two of us we just play and it is a simple set up so we just plug and go.

Also, I would like to be able to record some more and get some distribution for the recordings even if it doesn't amount to much monetarily.

Drake ~ For me it was never a hobby, I have been in music since I was 11 and have played in a few indie signed metal/ alternative acts over the years and this is something I have to do period.

I have 3 loves in life , my tattooing , my music and of course my girlfriend April who is a major supporter of the band and someone that is there when I need her so I can say I take everything seriously.



'Unexamined Life' does show a very romantic, warm approach. What is it about this that appeals to you?

Chris H. ~ The simplicity of this song is what I like about it. Lyrically it's just sort of a lament for things I haven't done or for things I have to do that I'm not all that fond of..

Given the humour involved, which can clash somewhat with the adventurous lyrics of something like 'In A Song' what are you trying to achieve here? Is it playful, it is dramatic?

Your music has its roots in hard rock according to your My Space bio. You seem to have disguised this well!

Chris H. ~ The word Rock is still part of gothic Rock. I sang in Metal bands in the late eighties when I was just a wee thing but I always wanted something more out of my music, something uniquely me. Also we all change as time goes on.

Drake ~ I come from a long line of metal bands and seeing I was a bass player for 23 years I still have the metal and bassist sound that follows me. My style is different from most classic goth rock acts but I think it makes us sound more like us and less like every other band.

Being a duo is just the sort of thing to make people regard your band as a hobby thing. How serious is it to you?

Chris H. ~ Music is just something I have to do whether I make money at it or not. At this point in my life I'm not holding out to be a rock star or anything but I enjoy playing out and want to have the band be recognized on a more worldly scale even if its just recognition and a few shows a little further away from home.

Chris H. ~ The styles of the songs represent the ups and downs of my personality. Sometimes humor is the only defence we have against life and sometimes, in introspective pieces like "In a Song", it's me taking a cynical look at myself and my surroundings. I suppose I'm moody or something.

Drake ~ One can never take one's self too serious or you will never find a happy place in life. I know many Goth bands sound like life sucks and life is over and so on however that is cliché and we are just ourselves and we like to have fun and let people enjoy their time with us when we play shows.

I think too many people already have trouble dealing with life so we can relate but we also can try to take them away for the 30-50 minutes we play. Chris has some really good ideas and we are really working on making all the songs have a new life to them so all the emotion can come across in the music.

We will be recording a new CD soon with a lot of the songs that are already on the older cds. I have some friends that are really talented that are going to work with us , Grammy Award Winner Jay Frigoletto (His work has earned a Grammy award, several Grammy and Latin Grammy nominations, and gold and platinum record awards)