

The Dirge Carolers

Band set for first full-length album

By Rebecca Carter

With a hint of the turn-of-the century Rasputina vibe, post-punk synch and some Bauhaus twang thrown in for good measure; The Dirge Carolers are Worcester's contribution to a resurging Goth-Renaissance underground.

Formed in 1997, The Dirge Carolers have had a rotating line-up; it which currently consists of Chris Harnois on lead vocals, bass, drum and keyboard programming, Peter Nulton on guitar, Heather Nulton on keys and Dorian James also on guitar. In their time together, The Carolers have graced such bohemian haunts as The Rat, CBGB's, Sky Bar, The Living Room, and our own The Lucky Dog, to name a few. To date, they've recorded five DIY EPs in their own studio.



The band's latest, *Walk Like Men*, has a very '80s feel (no, not Tiffany '80s, definitely Joy Division '80s), but in this genre that's nothing but a plus. Whereas as the new wave of Goths and Industrialists have succumbed to the gleam of overproduction, the DIY feel of *Walk Like Men* harkens back to the days when even the pioneers were learning how to use their synthesizers. The vocals on the three song EP are quite reminiscent of Bauhaus' Peter Murphy, at times maybe a little too reminiscent. But Harnois sites Murphy as a major influence.

"We are all inspired by Bauhaus, especially Peter Murphy," he explained. "[He] has an awesome, versatile voice, which ranges all over the place from baritone crooner like Sinatra to craziness like Jello Biafra."

The Dirge Carolers are currently at work on their first full length album, set to be released this year on Triforium Records.

"*Walk Like Men* was recorded in our own studio, where the follow up album is in production," Chris described. "We used the EP as a sort of test of our home recording skills. Based on the positive response that we got we decided to record a full length LP using the same method, only spending a bit more time polishing it up."

The Dirge Carolers are unique, a nice change to the "new alternative," but they are part of a scene that has been slow to gain acceptance in Worcester. "We'd love to play out in Worcester more, but the style we play doesn't seem to have that strong of a following in this area," explained Chris. "We fare better in Providence and Boston, and would love to see the same kind of response here."

For more information on The Dirge Carolers visit www.dirgecarolers.com or www.myspace.com/thedirgecarolers