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"Beyond the graveyard at the edge of town, far from any living soul, an old Gothic mansion looms among the withered vines and trees. The ancient doors creak slowly open and ghostly whispers echo from the shadows, beckoning you inside. Welcome to Grimstone Manor, where dark secrets lie in wait for those who dare to explore its unhallowed halls.

Nox Arcana invites you to embark on a musical journey through the shadows of a haunted mansion with a dark soundscape of eerie melodies and pulse-pounding orchestrations."

The ghostly story above that accompanies this album is all you need to know about Joseph Vargo's new masterpiece "Gothic." I would never throw out such overused words as "masterpiece" without giving careful consideration as to what that implies. But I humbly sit here with nothing less to call the new album from Nox Arcana as it's so fitting. I've always found it hard to choose which of the twenty plus Nox Arcana albums could possibly be called my favorite, until now. "Gothic" IS MY FAVORITE album from their catalog.

The album begins with "Testament" where we are told we must stay in Grimstone Manor until morning so we can fully appreciate the old gothic mansion and experience all the secrets the castle holds. From there we are swept into the spirit world as the album explodes into pipe organs and chanting. The music brings so many emotions out it's almost too incredible to put into writing. You draw out every chord from deep within yourself and your mind weaves a tapestry of the old crumbling mansion and its ghosts. It feels as if Vincent Price is by your side showing you the magic of what lies just beyond the long hallways and corridors.

Selections like "The Doll House" and "The Others" help build the rooms of the manor and the ghosts inside them and tracks such as "The House Beyond The Graveyard" gives you a better understanding of the spirit's and their intentions throughout your journey. This is a home haunt album. From the start of the album to its finish you could easily play the entire thing on Halloween night for the little demons at your door. It also would fit in perfectly for haunted attractions, or just background music as you read or write, or drown out trash television and really give your artistic side a real workout.

If you haven't gotten my somewhat obvious recommendation yet, here it is. You must pick this up. Thank You NOX ARCANA.