ben harper

francis scott key unlocked our musical future many years ago

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territory, made all the more melancholy by the underlying themes of loss and relationships that have reached their breaking point. It's a good thing that the CD Extra portion brings a little levity into the picture with clips recorded in the studio that depict the artist in a somewhat better mood. "Try" to master the enigmatic card game that rewards your efforts by unlocking a secret video. The disc will also link you directly to the Web page, located at (*http://www.michaelpenn.com*).

Cirque du Soleil - *Quidam* (BMG Quebec): This charmng soundtrack album can serve as an interactive souvenir of the long running alternative circus, or as an introduction for the uninitiated who've been wondering what all the hoopla is about. Enter the Big Top and click on each of the eleven derbys to reveal slides and video clips of the performers in action. When you've completed your mission, prepare to be struck by lightning that will, in turn, lead you to hidden interviews with the director and a visual narrative of the show's themes. For these areas, you'll need to have some knowledge of French, or at least a glass of wine and a slab of brie.

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