



COPERNICUS
VICTIM OF THE SKY
Nevermore Records, L.P.

LIKE HIS POLISH astronomer namesake, Copernicus, alias Joseph Smalkowski, is a pioneer in his field. Though burdened with the label avant-garde, he defies all musical classification. Starting in the late '70s with his so-called "musical mother and father," Larry Kirwin and Pierce Turner, Copernicus still remains a poet at heart. Ad-libbing against an aural backdrop that is itself spontaneously erected, he bursts forth with hard-edged observations on the shape of

today's reality. Music and lyrics are unrehearsed, making each performance unique. Genres too are often at variance, from the jazz-funk flavor of the title track to the New Age minimalism of "Lies," to the countrified twang of "The Wanderer." The beauty of it all is that it works; words and music gel into a tight unison. Indefinable but potent.

—M

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