

MOE Magazine

COPERNICUS: No Borderline.
(Neverscore, Box 170150, Brooklyn,
NY 11217)

You'll find this CD in the "Alternative" or maybe the "Experimental" section of your local well-stocked music store. That's because most stores don't have a section labelled "Prophecy".

Copernicus is a performance art prophet, giving us prose-poems that are as often created extemporaneously in front of an audience as carefully crafted at home. While the themes of many of the pieces (eg. "nothing exists", "modern life is terminally lonely") will come as no surprise to anyone schooled in existentialism or classical Buddhism, Copernicus reminds us that these are, at their core, emotional and personal truths, not just intellectual ones. In

visceral, enrapturing, mind-blowing verbal explosions, Copernicus opens his inner world to us in a manner reserved for the most honest of poets. There's music behind them as well, mostly juzzy, academic sorts of experimental sounds. All of that is secondary to Copernicus' unique vision, however. The words are the stars here, and the ideas. This stuff is in no danger of becoming club or MTV hits, nor is it ever likely to be something you put on just for background. It's always challenging, but the rewards match the challenge. (In a really odd coincidence, two weeks after I first heard and fell in love with this CD, I found his immediately previous work in a department store cut-out bin for four dollars. Sometimes synchronicity is just plain scary.) - Andrew Bryan.