



Copernicus

Genre: Spoken Word

Secondary Genre: Rock

New York

New York

USA

[✉ Contact](#)

The solo concert of Copernicus will be a very powerful acting out and expounding of the lyrics of his new album, 'disappearance'. With the use of mobile wireless microphone, he will take full charge not only of the stage but of the audience. Solo act backed by the prerecorded music and effects.



supersonic



Bio



Audio



Video



Photos



Press



Set List



BasicReq



Calendar

Artist Information

Biography

Perhaps the most fitting way to describe Copernicus is as a performance poet. Even though he (originally named Joseph Smalkowski) plays keyboards, Copernicus refuses to be categorised as a musician. Despite often having inhabited the alternative New York rock'n'roll scene, his music also exudes strong elements of jazz, classical and the avant garde. Even though Copernicus' preferred recording strategy is that of improvisation, his epic pieces tend to revolve around themes, riffs and repeated clusters, moving along a clearly linear pathway.

The booming delivery and abstract texts evoke the spirit of classic beat generation poetry, but the Copernicus stance goes back even further to the theatrical confrontations of the Dada movement. He's always preferred the improvisatory approach, even though each poem's grist might be prepared in advance, their rhythms and content might be disassembled in the moment.

Copernicus has always been fiercely independent, since he first started recording in this manner, back at the dawn of the 1980s. He organizes the recording sessions, sculpts the assembled band, oversees the album artwork and releases each disc on his own Nevermore, Inc. label. 1985 brought *Nothing Exists*, which emphatically laid out the themes of his subsequent work. A burst of creativity led to the swift succession of *Victim Of The Sky* (1987), *Deeper* (1989) and *Null* (1990). Often, Copernicus would perform with large-scale ensembles, but in 1991 he initiated the practice of giving completely solo performances, revealing his declamations in a stripped, confrontational space. He views himself as a conduit for abstract ideas and philosophical notions. Copernicus decided that his particular marriage of music and narrative was the best way to communicate his thoughts and concepts to a receptive audience.

He released *No Borderline* in 1993, but there was to be a longer gap before 2001's *Immediate Eternity* which moved in a completely different direction as its creator was spending increasing amounts of time in Ecuador, where the Spanish version of the album *La Eternidad Inmediata* was released the same year. The album is followed by 2005 releases of *Immediate Eternity II*, *Die Sofortige Ewigkeit II* (in German),

L'Eternite Immediate II (in French) and La eternidad inmediata II (in Spanish). Copernicus was evolving after having spent three years penning his book, also called Immediate Eternity. He linked up with Los Nomadas from Guayaquil, the country's biggest city, and his music moved temporarily more towards the zone of jazz-rock fusion. Now, with disappearance, Copernicus has made a return to the old established methods, refining them into what is probably his key distillation of an ongoing obsession with the freedom and beauty of nothingness.

Instrumentation

COPERNICUS - voice
+ sound engineer

Discography

New album:

disappearance (2009, Nevermore/MoonJune Records)

COPERNICUS poetry, lead vocals, keyboards;

PIERCE TURNER musical director, Hammond B3 organ, acoustic piano, vocals, percussion;

LARRY KIRWAN electric guitar, vocals; MIKE FAZIO electric guitar; BOB HOFFNAR steel guitar;

RAIMUNDO PENAFORTE violin, acoustic guitar, bandolin, percussion, vocals;

CESAR ARAGUNDI electric & acoustic guitar; FRED PARCELLS trombone;

ROB THOMAS violin; MATTY FILLOU tenor saxophone, percussion;

MARVIN WRIGHT bass guitar, electric guitar, percussion;

GEORGE RUSH tuba, contrabass, bass guitar;

THOMAS HAMLIN drums, percussion; MARK BROTTOR drums, percussion;

JAMES FRAZEE recording & mixing engineer.

All lyrics by Copernicus. All music created spontaneously and instantly by the musicians.

All rights reserved. All vocals of Copernicus created by Joseph Smalkowski.

Executive production by Joseph Smalkowski.

(C) Nevermore, Inc. 2009. (P) Nevermore, Inc. (Ski Music Division) 2009.

Recorded on November 2nd, 2008 at Water Music Studios, Hoboken, NJ. Mastered by Kim Rosen at West West Side Music/ Deko Music.

Special thanks to Michael Theodore. Additional thanks to Fernando Natalici & Adnor Pitanga.

Very special thanks to Marcela Smalkowski, Leonardo Pavkovic and Pierce Turner without whom this album would not have been created.

This album is dedicated to Jimmy No Coats.

Previous discography:
Nothing Exists (1985)



Victim of the Sky (1986)
From Bacteria (1987)
Deeper (1989)
Null (1990)
No Borderline (1993)
Immediate Eternity (2001)
La Eternidad Inmediata (2001)
Immediate Eternity II (2005)
La Eternidad Inmediata II (2005)
Die Sofortige Ewigkeit II (2005)
L'Éternité Immédiate II (2005)

Links

<http://www.coperniconline.net/>

[COPERNICUS' complete discography](#)