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COPERNICUS

Worthless!

2013 (CD, 58:47)

NEVERMORE NCD2093

AVANT-GARDE/SPOKEN WORD

RATING 15

Copernicus (see interview this issue) means what he says. But since he also believes that nothing is real, you can take it to mean that the opposite of what he believes might also be true. Such as the title of this album, although *Worthless!* is far from that. It's also more expansive than the rest of this mysterious performance poet's work – decidedly funkier, recorded with a large band featuring multiple guitars, horns, African and Latin percussion and a female singer. *Worthless!*

demonstrates Copernicus embracing a broader musical context for his always compelling, almost-always-improvised poetic rants about science and other arcane matters.

Sizzling opener "Quantum Mechanics" is downright danceable with background singer Sari Schorr imploring, "Listen! Listen! Listen!" while Copernicus – no one's Barry White – lays down lines such as "Reality is in the subatomic!" The lyrically less-complex "You Are Not Your Body" is buoyed by powerful electric guitar work.

You'll never find this record at a karaoke bar. But if you're at all curious about Copernicus, *Worthless!* suits a range of moods and tastes.

– JASON M. RUBIN

WILLIAM SHATNER

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