



Genre: Spoken Word
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Tracks

- 1. Into the Subatomic
2. Free at Last!
3. Mud Becomes Mind
4. I Don't Believe
5. Matter is Energy
6. Comprehensible
7. Infinite Strength
8. Where No One Can Win
9. Step Out Of Your Body
10. The Cauldron

Copernicus
CIPHER and DECIPHER

The most fitting way to describe Joseph Smalkowski (stage named Copernicus) is as a performance poet. Even though he plays keyboards, Copernicus refuses to be categorized as a musician. Despite often having inhabited the alternative New York rock and roll scene, his music also radiates strong elements of jazz, classical and the Avant Garde. The delivery and theoretical texts evoke the spirit of classic beat generation poetry, but the Copernicus stance goes back even further to the theatrical disagreements of the Dada movement. In CIPHER and DECIPHER, Copernicus is documenting the evolution of an old-world human confronting modern physics.

With musical direction by Pierce Turner, Copernicus' powerful vocals are accompanied by a 13 piece band, featuring among others members of Celtic rock band Black 47 (Larry Kirwan, Thomas Hamlin and Fred Parcells).

The music is spontaneous, chaotic, at times psychedelic and to me, totally creepy. Copernicus is conveying madness and steadily ranting at raving at something that he is undoubtedly very passionate about. But backed by a band, I cannot tell if this experimental music is something that students would listen to in class or that hipsters would listen to in their state of fixation. No disrespect to Copernicus; he is obviously a smart man on an ambitious pursuit. I just have a hard time grasping the music behind the poetic story-telling.

All songs relate to that of the universe. In "Matter is Energy," Copernicus states that "The weight of a paperclip blew up Hiroshima." While in "Infinite Strength," the Universe is mentioned once again. "Gravity has infinite strength, which means that the entire universe is bound together." And "Comprehensible" is completely incomprehensible to me; "Standing at the edge of the universe, in the middle of the black hole of no return, eating the glass of the supernova."

This clearly isn't the type of music one would listen to while driving in their car, cleaning their room, relaxing pool side or entertaining guests. This could possibly help someone calm down and focus. If you are interested in astronomy and the universe, this may possibly be for you. There is definitely talent and flair in these philosophic spoken words. But to be utterly blatant, CIPHER and DECIPHER was actually something I could not decipher at all.



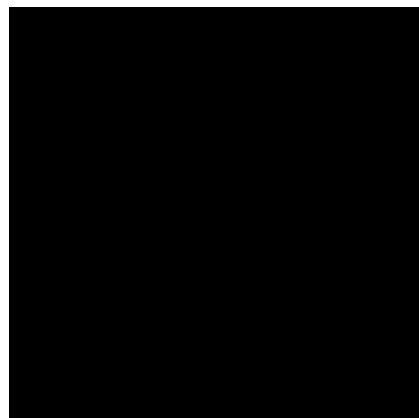
Key Tracks: Matter is Energy, Comprehensible, Infinite Strength

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April 8, 2011

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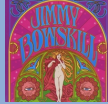
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