



SUN RA Berkeley Lecture, 1971

Label

CORBETT VS. DEMPSEY

Format

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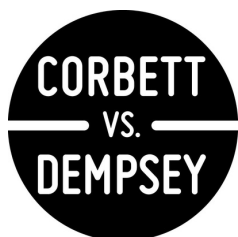
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Territory

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Genre

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DESCRIPTION

The beginning of the 1970s was a watershed moment in the terrestrial life of **Sun Ra**. With his band, the **Arkestra**, he began touring internationally. He and his manager **Alton Abraham** penned a deal with ABC-Impulse! for a series of records which introduced him to many new and distant listeners, as did his Blue Thumb LP *Space is the Place*. The film of the same name was under way in northern California at the time, too, and Ra accepted a lectureship at University of California, Berkeley, in 1971, teaching a class titled "The Black Man and the Cosmos." This course of study was held in some secrecy, apparently open exclusively to Black students who were strictly forbidden to record the lectures. Ra's assistants did, however, document the sessions, and some of these recordings have made their way to YouTube. The incredible half-hour of *Berkeley Lecture* presented here, however, is previously unknown, extracted from the Creative Audio Archive's extensive holdings. It presents Ra walking his students through a series of wonderful paradoxes and riddles, the sound of his chalk on the chalkboard serving as a kind of Greek chorus, commenting on or complementing his highly creative pedagogy. At the end of the lecture, Ra performs two musical demonstrations, the first a piano version of the Arkestra classic "Love in Outer Space," followed by a blistering 16-minute solo on the Moog synthesizer. Available for the first time ever, with cover images of the original tape box and reel featuring Ra's annotations. Transfer by **Todd Carter**. Mastering by **Alex Ingilizian**. Original tape box and reel from CAA. CD designed by **David Khan-Giordano**. Produced by **John Corbett**.

TRACKLISTING

01. Berkeley Lecture (32:16)
02. Love in Outer Space (4:58)
03. Moog Solo (16:17)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sun Ra** lecture with piano and Moog solos recorded at University of California, Berkeley, in 1971 as part of Ra's course "The Black Man and the Cosmos."
- Courtesy of the Creative Audio Archive at Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago.
- This release presents Ra walking his students through a series of wonderful paradoxes and riddles, the sound of his chalk on the chalkboard serving as a kind of Greek chorus, commenting on or complementing his highly creative pedagogy.
- At the end of the lecture, Ra performs two musical demonstrations, the first a piano version of the **Arkestra** classic "Love in Outer Space," followed by a blistering 16-minute solo on the Moog synthesizer.

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