Mp3 Totem Maples - Trip To The Sun (revised)



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Totem Maples are doing some amazing things with spoken word and music. Not since The Doors' classic American Prayer album has there been such detailed artistry within the spoken word genre regarding poetry AND MUSIC. 18 MP3 Songs SPOKEN WORD: With Music, ROCK: Jam-band Details: So why a revised TRIP TO THE SUN (Nus eht ot pirt)???? Just listen and compare! Totem Maples have released a second edition of their soon to be out of print classic. Same songs, new instruments, new solos, new members that were absent from the first edition. Plus 8 additional new tracks! Everything on TRIP TO THE SUN is totally rerecorded. Along with art work by Angela Zhu and studio wizardry by Ben Egghorn of Pushstart Wagon, TM have created an album for the spoken word genre what THE CHRONIC was for rap and what BITCHES BREW was for Fusion Jazz. Trip to the Sun is the album to buy! Just listen and Chang's article on Saul Williams ["Om Nia Merican", May 11-17]. I am glad that trendy Los Angeles is finally recognizing the spoken-word scene. For so long, poetry has been ignored because it has been viewed as too boring or over-the-head-something only for colleges or cafes. But thanks to bands like Totem Maples (of which I am a member) and Saul Williams, the art is once again being pushed into the light. What intrigued me most in the article was the author's hanging question: "Is it hip-hop"? I've always responded to that question with this answer: "No, We're not hip-hip...we're PRE-hop." Hip-hop [the rap element of hip-hip] began as poetry. Langston Hughes recited poetry to jazz long before Kerouac, and long before Blondie did "Rapture", and long before "Rapper's Delight." The hip-hop world needs to re-examine its roots. There is so much more you can say through poetry that you can't say when you're too busy freestyling out ghetto nursery rhymes. -Larry Handy Monrovia (Taken from a published letter in LA Weekly, May 2001.)

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