

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

Snopek's recital is chaotic cabaret

By Jim Higgins

The chaotic cabaret inside the mind of Sigmund Snopek III was revealed Sunday afternoon during a recital at Benjamin's Too, 801 N. Cass St.

The fortunate audience heard some of the strangest and most entertaining chamber music one could find in Milwaukee.

Snopek has been heard in Wisconsin in every musical context from pop to classical. Recently he most often has been found as a sideman with the Violent Femmes or leading his own ensemble, the Noisemakers from Hell.

Sunday's recital focused attention on his considerable abilities as a composer, particularly of "new music." That's the term applied to classical music when it stops sounding so classical.

Snopek's "Silver Wire and the Miniature Fugue" was performed by a string quartet, whose members frequently were called on to recite gibberish culled from books, maga-

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zines and newspapers. The fugue was based on the melody from "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

During "Two Flutes and Vic," Victor De Lorenzo recited selections from five books while Snopek and Karen Keene accompanied, prodded and besieged him on flutes.

De Lorenzo's improbable texts included Anais Nin (erotica), Jorge Luis Borges (exquisite fantasy) and alleged transcripts of conversations between interstellar aliens.

But the most engaging were satirical aphorisms from the late Milwaukee poet Jim Spencer:

"The best way to become a leader is to find out which way the herd is heading, then run up to the front. . . . A friend is an enemy with special privileges. . . . The only promise I make to you is that I will make no further promises. . . . When in doubt, doubt."