

The Great Kat - Beethoven on Speed (1990)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Beethoven on Speed* [1:56] 02. *Ultra-Dead* [3:20] 03. *Flight of the Bumblebee* [2:09] 04. *Revenge Mongrel* [1:34] 05. *Funeral March* [3:08] 06. *Kat-Abuse* [1:55] 07. *God!* [1:17] 08. *Made in Japan* [1:49] 09. *Sex & Violins* [1:29] 10. *Beethoven Mosh* [2:09] 11. *Gripping Obsession* [2:22] 12. *Paganini's 24th Caprice* [1:53] 13. *Worshipping Bodies* [2:31] 14. *Guitar Concerto in Blood Minor* [2:42] 15. *Total Tyrant* [2:01] 16. *Back to the Future: For Genuises Only!* [0:27] Kat - Vocals, Guitars, Violin

An unorthodox heavy metal singer/guitarist specializing in thrash versions of classical pieces, the Great Kat was a cult figure of the 1980s and early '90s whose mission seemed to be converting headbangers to classical music. Kat -- who really was classically trained at the prestigious Julliard School of Music -- took herself much too seriously and managed to alienate a good bit of the metal world with her frequent condemnations of bands like Slayer, Testament and Metallica. But while Kat's abrasiveness and exaggerated sense of self-importance didn't help her career, *Beethoven on Speed* and its predecessor *Worship Me or Die* proved quite entertaining. Forceful, aggressive and obnoxious as well as amusing, the snarling Kat's speed-metal interpretations of Beethoven's music are nothing if not original. ---Alex Henderson, AllMusic Review

Guitar virtuoso the Great Kat was born Katherine Thomas in Swindon, England. After her family moved to Long Island, Thomas began studying music, taking up piano at age seven and violin two years later. Thomas won a scholarship to Juilliard and studied classical music, but upon graduating with honors, she took up heavy metal guitar in addition to violin and retooled herself as the Great Kat. Billing herself as the "High Priestess of Shred Guitar" and "the Reincarnation of Beethoven," the Great Kat issued her debut album, *Worship Me or Die*, in 1987. 1990's

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Beethoven on Speed continued her approach of blending originals with speed metal arrangements of well-known classical pieces. A spate of similar albums followed over the '90s, including Guitar Goddess and Bloody Vivaldi, and her persona and stage show became increasingly S&M-themed. In 2000, the Great Kat issued a six-and-a-half-minute CD titled Rossini's Rape, which featured a run through the William Tell Overture. ---Steve Huey, allmusic.com

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