

## Ted Curson - Plays Fire Down Below (1991)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Fire Down Below* 4:35 2. *The Very Young* 4:47 3. *Baby Has Gone Bye Bye* 4:44 4. *Show Me* 4:26 [play](#) 5. *Falling In Love With Love* 5:28 6. *Only Forever* 6:56 Musicians: Ted Curson (trumpet) Gildo Mahones (piano) George Tucker (bass) Roy Haynes (drums) Montego Joe (conga)

The main fault of this otherwise superior CD reissue is that there are only 31 minutes of music. Trumpeter Ted Curson, who by the early '60s had his own distinctive sound and an advanced yet accessible style, performs two standards ("Show Me" and "Falling in Love With Love") and four obscurities, with pianist Gildo Mahones, bassist George Tucker, drummer Roy Haynes, and (on four numbers) Montego Joe on conga. Curson, 27 at the time, is heard in top form on one of the very few of his sessions to be reissued on CD. --- Scott Yanow, AMG

Theodore "Ted" Curson (born June 3, 1935, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) is a jazz trumpeter. He is perhaps best-known for recording and performing with Charles Mingus.

Curson became interested in playing trumpet after watching a newspaper salesman play a silver trumpet. Curson's father, however, preferred that Ted become an alto saxophone player like Louis Jordan. Finally, when Ted was 10 years old, he received a "raggedy" trumpet.

Curson attended Granoff Musical Conservatory. At the suggestion of Miles Davis, he moved to

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New York in 1956. Curson performed and recorded with Cecil Taylor in the late 1950s and early 1960s. His 1964 composition "Tears for Dolphy" has been used in the films Teorema, Last Date, and The Brown Bunny. Curson is currently residing in Montclair, New Jersey.

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