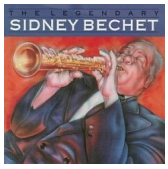
Sidney Bechet – The Legendary Sidney Bechet (1988)



1. Maple Leaf Rag - The New Orleans Feetwarmers 2. I've Found A New Baby - The New Orleans Feetwarmers 3. Weary Blues - Tommy Ladnier 4. Really The Blues - Tommy Ladnier 5. High Society - Jelly Roll Morton 6. Indian Summer 7. Sidney's Blues 8. Shake It And Break It 9. Wild Man Blues 10. Save It, Pretty Mama 11. Stompy Jones 12. Muskrat Ramble - Dr. Henry Levine 13. Baby, Won't You Please Come Home 14. The Sheik Of Araby (One Man Band) 15. When It's Sleepy Time Down South 16. I'm Coming Virginia 17. Strange Fruit (Trio) 18. Blues In The Air 19. The Mooche 20. Twelfth Street Rag 21. Mood Indigo 22. What Is This Thing Called Love? Sidney Bechet - Bass, Clarinet, Composer, Drums, Piano, Sax (Soprano), Sax (Tenor), Vocals Bernard Addison - Guitar Gus Aiken - Trumpet Henry "Red" Allen - Trumpet Everett Barksdale - Guitar Wellman Braud - Bass Teddy Bunn - Guitar Happy Caldwell - Sax (Tenor) Big Sid Catlett - Drums Kenny Clarke - Drums Sidney DeParis - Trumpet Vic Dickenson - Trombone Baby Dodds - Drums Don Donaldson - Piano Hank Duncan - Piano Henry Goodwin - Trumpet J.C. Heard - Drums Arthur Herbert - Drums Victor Herbert Composer J.C. Higginbotham - Trombone Earl Hines - Piano Charlie Howard - Guitar Cliff Jackson - Piano Elmer James - Bass Lem Johnson - Sax (Tenor) Manzie Johnson - Drums Claude Jones - Trombone Tommy Ladnier - Trumpet John Lindsay - Bass Lawrence Lucie - Guitar Mezz Mezzrow - Clarinet, Sax (Tenor) Morris Morland - Drums Jelly Roll Morton - Piano Wilson Myers - Bass The New Orleans Feetwarmers Albert Nicholas - Clarinet Teddy Nixon - Trombone Charlie Shavers - Trumpet Zutty Singleton - Drums Willie "The Lion" Smith - Piano Rex Stewart - Cornet James Toliver - Piano Jim Tolliver - Piano Sonny White - Piano Sandy Williams - Trombone Ernest Williamson - Bass

This collection of Bechet tracks cut between 1932 and 1941 would be worth owning if for nothing else than the inclusion of his one-man-band recording of "Sheik of Araby," the first known instance of overdubbing with Sidney playing clarinet, tenor sax, piano, bass and drums. But everything on here is fine, spirited New Orleans music, played with verve and wild energy. Kicking off with a wild version of "Maple Leaf Rag" by the New Orleans Feetwarmers, the set moves to include Bechet with Jelly Roll Morton, Tommy Ladnier (excellent versions of "Weary Blues" and Mezz Mezzrow's "Really the Blues"), Dr. Henry Levine's Barefoot Dixieland

Philharmonic, and Sidney's later versions of the Feetwarmers. While some of the later configurations are too rooted in a more modern style, Bechet's brilliant lines and clear tone come through every time. With the exception of the sometimes quite naturally grainy "Sheik" overdub session, everything here is brilliantly captured with remarkable fidelity considering the source. ---Cub Koda, Rovi

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