Ted Curson - Pop Wine (1971)



A1. Pop Wine (5:05) <u>play</u> A2. L.S.D.Takes A Holiday (12:40) A3. Song Of The Lonely One (5:44) B1. Quartier Latin (13:12) B2. Flip Top (6:31)

Musicians: Ted Curson - Trumpet, Piccolo Trumpet Georges Arvanitas - Piano Jacky Samson - Bass Charles Saudrais - Drums Recorded 18th June, 1971 at Europasonor Studio, Paris

This Futura CD issue of vanguard trumpet legend Ted Curson with the Georges Arvanitas Trio in a Paris studio is one of those very special dates where everything seems to go right. Curson is in excellent form here, whether he is playing free improvisation as on "Latin Quarter," which opens the set and is a fiery 13-minute excursion into the outer reaches of free jazz, or turning in a slightly bent but nonetheless streaming hard bop performance as he odes on the next track, "Flip Top." The Arvanitas Trio, an under-celebrated band that backed virtually every major American musician in Paris proves how well it adapts to Curson's muscular style by responding with more muscle. Arvanitas' left-hand rhythm comping is tough and full of fire and edges. On "L.S.D. Takes a Holiday," Arvanitas pushes Curson hard to the edges of a harmonic shelf that finally bleeds off into a blazing symmetry of angles that is propelled into an abyss by the ferocious bass playing of the under-heralded Jacky Sampson. Also noteworthy are Curson's compositions here that, like much music of their time, leave tradition to the dust. He engages it and the blues in a sort of modal inquiry, where he wraps extant ideas about form, tonal sonance, and intervallic architecture in a phraseology and compositional elegance that was beyond most of his peers. Futura's CD version sounds warm, lovely, and very much alive. Thank goodness this is available again. --- Thom Jurek, Rovi

This album sets Ted Curson with the Georges Arvanitas Trio in a Paris recording studio. Ted like many Americans ventured to the continent to find acceptance for his new compositions and

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Wpisany przez bluesever Piątek, 28 Październik 2011 08:27 - Zmieniony Czwartek, 21 Maj 2015 11:35

to be one of a vanguard of players in the Free Jazz movement that erupted across Europe in the late 60's and early 70's. All compositions are by Ted and are great examples of the transition that was rocking the old jazz traditions. "Pop Wine" gets it all rolling along with Ted blowing some great highs with the backing of the mighty George Arvanitas trio. They are very tight and very under-rated unit that adapts to Ted's high velocity escapades. George Arvanitas' piano stomping, especially on "L.S.D. Takes a Holiday, really set the music on edge giving Ted even more liberty to soar higher. His phrasing on "Song of The Lonely One" is beautifully delivered. He is quite at home playing free improvisation and digs deep into free jazz explorations; "Latin Quarter," is a fiery 13-minute example. At the same time he can turn a hard bop performance as in "Flip Top" into an amazing modal inquiry. There are sections where the bass playing by Jacky Samson is so intense that even the listener can't avoid being propelled further into the beat. Overall Curson is able to wrap together formal jazz structures into exploratory tonal excursions full of elegance. This style certainly sets him apart from most players/composers of this time. --- liveinjazz.ge

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