

Sonny Fortune – Long Before Our Mothers Cried (1974)

Written by bluesever

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- 1 *Long before our mothers cried*
- 2 *A tribute to a holiday (billie)* [play](#)
- 3 *Sound of silents*
- 4 *Five for trane*
- 5 *Wayneish*

Sonny Fortune, fl, as, ss
Charles Sullivan, trumpet;
Stanley Cowell, p, elp;
Wayne Dockery, bs;
Angel Allende, congas, perc;
Chip Lyle, ds;
Mario Munoz, ds, timbales;
Richie Pablo Landrum, cowbell, shaker

Sonny Fortune is one of the most exciting saxophonists in jazz today, with a searing sound that is all his own. Fortune served as a sideman with a variety of leaders, including Elvin Jones, Mongo Santamaria, Buddy Rich, McCoy Tyner, Miles Davis and Nat Adderley, but it as a leader that he has truly made his mark in music. He currently leads a quartet, is co-leader with Gary Bartz and Vincent Herring of the cooperative group The Three Altos, and has an incendiary duo with Rashied Ali. Fortune also runs his own record label, Sound Reason, which releases his original music.

This is classic Strata-East and classic Sonny Fortune. Most of Fortune's albums feature him switching off between sax and flute, and feature a mix of latin jammers with long exploratory spiritual/modal jazz numbers, and this one pretty much set the prototype for all his albums

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which followed.

The album makes the most of its host of percussionists, and the two horn combo of Fortune and underrecorded Strata-East label mate Charles Sullivan takes that classical Blue Note modal harmony sound to a new level. The key tracks for me here are the opening Afro-Latin jam title track, and the meditative groover "Sound of Silents."

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