



PO Box 935, Byron Bay  
NSW, 2481 Australia  
Tel: (02) 6687 4441  
Fax: (02) 6687 4445

TRADING GROUP Pty Ltd ABN 78 093 907 914

International  
Tel: 61 2 6687 4441  
Fax: 61 2 6687 4445  
Web: <http://www.aiminternational.com>  
E-Mail: [info@aiminternational.com](mailto:info@aiminternational.com)

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Mississippi  
Fred McDowell

Train I Ride

*Legendarily  
Masters Series*

# Mississippi Fred McDowell

*Train I Ride*

**AIM 0012 CD**

1. **Levee Camp Blues**
2. **You Gotta Move**
3. **Get Right Church**
4. **Big Fat Mama**
5. **Unknown Blues**
6. **Good Morning Little  
School Girl**
7. **Keep Your Lamp  
Trimmed And Burning**
8. **Train I Ride**

Total Playing Time 32:26

Mississippi Fred McDowell (born January 12, 1904, Roseville, Tennessee. Died July 3, 1972, Memphis Tennessee) was born in Roseville Tennessee, and spent his formative years there, however he had long been a resident of Como, in Mississippi's hill country, when "discovered" by noted roaming Folklorist Alan Lomax, who first recorded him.

The area where Mississippi Fred McDowell lived is known to have a "North Mississippi Blues" style, as against the "Mississippi Delta Blues" style to be found 100 miles east and along Highway 61 and the Mississippi River, whose centre is Clarksdale. The Hill Country continues to have "Fife and Drum Bands" as well as it's blues style, which can best be described as "a droning, hypnotic blues style."

The 1959 Lomax recordings confirmed McDowell as one of the last great exponents of the traditional bottleneck style, and McDowell's discovery and subsequent popularity, caused a number of blues aficionados to travel the south (and further) searching for blues greats to be discovered or re-discovered and contributed to finding the whereabouts of such blues luminaries as Mississippi John Hurt, Big Joe Williams, Bukka White, Son House (in Rochester, New York), Sleepy John Estes etc.

The difference with McDowell (and also Robert Pete Williams) was that they were true discoveries, a revelation to the expanding white blues audience in the early 60's, that un-discovered blues musicians of such astonishing talent continued to live and perform in Mississippi in relative obscurity. The "discovery" of R. L. Burnside in the 90's (also from Mississippi's hill country) parallels McDowell's.

Upon hearing Lomax's field recordings of McDowell which were released over 20 albums of material on separate labels including Atlantic and Prestige, Chris Strachwitz of Arhoolie Records travelled to Como, Mississippi, and recorded Fred McDowell on what has been described as "one of the most impressive debut albums of all time", titled curiously "Mississippi Delta Blues", and later "You Gotta Move" after the Rolling Stones recorded that track from McDowell's recording on their 1971 album "Sticky Fingers."

In 1969 Fred McDowell was signed to the major record label, CAPITOL, for whom he recorded "I Don't Play No Rock 'N' Roll", one of country blues finest recordings.

Everything Fred McDowell recorded came out sounding like Fred McDowell - and no one else, he was a true original of the blues - a good humored, modest man, who's brilliant metal slide guitar playing, unerring sense of rhythm and timing, strong expressive voice, brilliant original songs and fine arrangements of traditional blues put him in a league above all other blues musicians discovered for the first time during the folk-blues revival of the late 1950's and 1960's.

Legendary Masters Series  
Mid Price



AIM 0012 CD



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