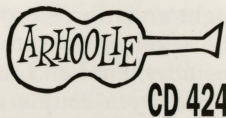


Mississippi

Fred McDowell

"Good Morning Little School Girl"



CD 424

Part I: THE BLUES

1. GOOD MORNING LITTLE SCHOOLGIRL (3:17)
2. LITTLE GIRL, LITTLE GIRL, HOW OLD ARE YOU (2:56)
3. FRED'S RAMBLING BLUES (4:42)
4. DON'T LOOK FOR ME ON A SUNDAY (6:55)
5. I WALKED ALL THE WAY FROM EAST ST. LOUIS (4:16)
6. RED CROSS STORE BLUES (3:01)
7. GRAVEL ROAD BLUES (4:58)
8. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE ROOSTER CROWED 'FORE DAY (3:30)
9. DROP DOWN MAMA (2:50)
10. I LOOKED AT THE SUN (3:19)
11. EARLY THIS MORNING (3:20)
(Write Me a Few of Your Lines)

Part II: CHURCH SONGS

12. KEEP YOUR LAMP TRIMMED AND BURNING (2:49)
vocal by Fred & Annie Mae
13. GET RIGHT CHURCH (2:25)
vocal by Annie Mae & group
14. I'M GOING OVER THE HILL (2:38)
vocal by Annie Mae

15. AMAZING GRACE (3:28)
vocal by Annie Mae & group
16. I WISH I WAS IN HEAVEN SITTING DOWN (1:41) *vocal by Fred & group*
17. YOU GOTTA MOVE (3:42)
vocal by Fred, Annie Mae, & group
18. IT'S A BLESSING (2:42) *vocal by Annie Mae*
19. BYE AND BYE (2:59)
20. I'M SO GLAD, GOT GOOD RELIGION (4:23)
21. LOOK WAY DOWN THAT LONESOME ROAD (3:25)
22. WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN (2:17)

Total time: 77:08

Fred McDowell – guitar and vocals; Part II with Annie Mae McDowell, and several members of the congregation.

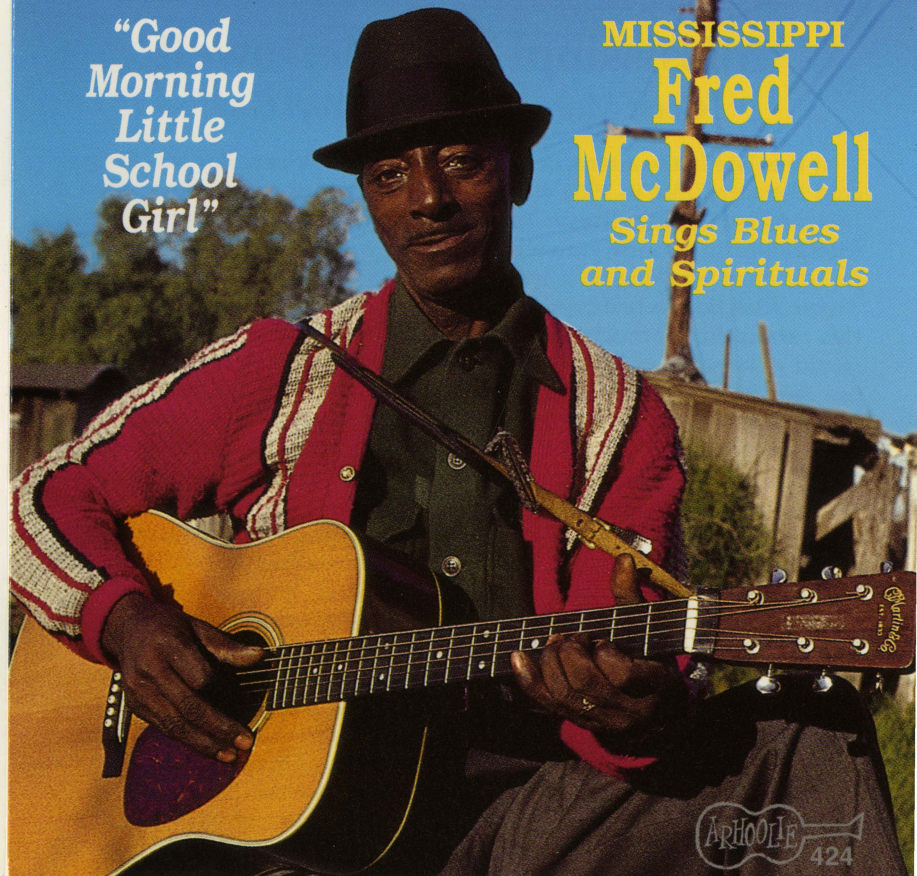
Recorded and produced by Chris Strachwitz
Cover photo by Peter Feldman
Cover by Wayne Pope

(Continued on inside flap)

Copyright © & © 1964, 1973 & 1994 by Arhoolie Prod., Inc.

"Good Morning Little School Girl"

MISSISSIPPI
Fred
McDowell
Sings Blues
and Spirituals



424

Mississippi Fred McDowell

"Good Morning Little School Girl"

It was late in the afternoon on a cold February 13th in 1964 when I first met Fred McDowell near Como, Mississippi, in the farm yard where he was then working as a tractor driver. Alan Lomax had introduced this extraordinary musician to the world at large when he released a few selections on an album of field recordings made during a southern journey in the late 1950s. When I heard the cuts on that Atlantic LP, I was absolutely overwhelmed by Fred McDowell's amazing rhythmic and emotional delivery. I contacted Alan who kindly sent me Fred's address. That winter, early in 1964, I drove to Houston, Texas, to meet up with Horst Lippman who was determined to bring Lightning Hopkins to Europe later that year. I had become good friends with Lightning and he finally agreed to fly if I went along. Once in the area, I took the opportunity to

visit New Orleans for Mardi Gras that February and also recorded a Hopkins family reunion of sorts, when we made a trip to Waxahachie with his brother Joel and his mother to meet and tape his oldest brother John Henry. (See ARH CD 340.) Through Lightning I also met Clifton Chenier on that visit and recorded his first session for Arhoolie.

From New Orleans I drove up to Como in the Mississippi delta. After stopping at the post office to obtain directions to the rural route Alan Lomax had sent me, I had the luck, honor and pleasure of suddenly shaking hands with Fred McDowell. He had just got off a tractor on the farm where he worked and lived, north of town, west of highway 51. Fred invited me to spend the night at his house and I'll never forget the breakfast which included black molasses with our bread. We recorded late into the

night and we recorded some more the next day when to the best of my memory, Fred and Annie Mae were joined by a couple of members of their church congregation. Fred played mostly on his own guitar which had an eerie, high, ringing sound. On a few numbers Fred played a bassier sounding guitar which I was carrying in my car for just such purposes. Arhoolie's first album release by Fred McDowell (LP 1021) was also Fred's first full record under his name and contained 13 selections recorded that night. That entire album is now available on Arhoolie CD 304: **You Gotta Move** with the addition of several later recordings. CD 304 also includes several cuts with his teacher and mentor, Eli Green and Fred's original recording of "You Gotta Move" which the Rolling Stones learned and included on their **Sticky Fingers** album.

Today, 30 years later, the music on the tapes from that magic first recording session sounds as powerful, fresh and spirited to me as it did that night. With the extra time now avail-

able on a CD I have selected several more performances from that first session along with some from about a year later to compile this second CD by Fred McDowell. I visited Fred again in 1965 in Mississippi where I recorded some more spirituals and that summer he came to Berkeley to appear at folk festivals and clubs. Fred regularly accompanied his wife, Annie Mae and the congregation at a local church. Both were members of the small but dedicated group known as the Hunter's Chapel Spiritual Singers and performed every Sunday morning during the services in Como. Although Fred McDowell's solo version of "You Gotta Move," which the Rolling Stones recorded, is heard on our first (CD-304) release, I have included here a version of it as sung by the Hunter's Chapel Spiritual Singers with Annie Mae singing lead and Fred's magnificent slide guitar backing. Although the balance is not quite right, I hope it gives the listener an idea of how the group performed the song.

In October of 1965 I again joined the annual American Folk Blues Festival tour of Europe which that year included Fred McDowell and Big Mama Thornton among others. During that month of touring I finally had the opportunity to record Big Mama Thornton with some of the musicians on the tour including Buddy Guy. Although they never played together on stage, Fred and Big Mama would frequently jam together in the hotel or on the bus and Fred backed her with only his slide guitar on two remarkable cuts we recorded in London which are now available on ARH CD 305 by Big Mama Thornton.

Over the years Fred McDowell came to the West Coast many times and we traveled together and I took the opportunity to make additional recordings. The last time I saw Fred McDowell was in Como in the spring of 1972 when I brought him a substantial check for royalties collected from the Rolling Stones' recording of "You

Gotta Move." By then Fred was living in a pleasant trailer home and was delighted not only with the money but with the knowledge that his music had found a new life. Although Fred knew by then that he was terminally ill, he was remarkably cheerful and drove me around visiting the Hunter's Chapel and other familiar places. Fred's good friend Tom Pomposello had just visited for a week with his family and helped to cheer him up. Bonnie Raitt who not only recorded several of Fred's songs but also took him on tours to make appearances together, was always in touch with him and so was his long time friend and manager, Dick Waterman. On July 3, 1972 Fred McDowell died in Como, Mississippi.

(Chris Strachwitz - 1994)

For our complete 100-page illustrated catalog of CDs, Cassettes, Videos and LPs, send \$2.00 to:

ARHOOLIE CATALOG
10341 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

(continued from back)

All songs arranged and/or composed by Fred McDowell and © by Tradition Music Co. (BMI) and administered by Bug Music Co. – Hollywood, Ca.

#1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, & 15: recorded on February 13 & 14, 1964 near Como, Miss., in Fred McDowell's home.

#5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, & 22: recorded on July 5, 1965 in Berkeley, Ca.

#16, 17, & 18: recorded on May 2, 1965 in Como, Miss.

#9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, & 22: previously unreleased. # 1, 2, 4, & 6: previously issued on ARH LP 1068; #3: previously issued on ARH LP 1018. #5, 6, 7, 8, & 10 previously issued on ARH LP 1027.

All recordings made by Chris Strachwitz with one Capps condenser microphone and a Magnecord recorder.



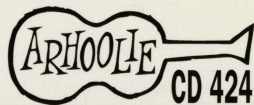
Houseparty at Fred's house

Photo © by Chris Strachwitz

Mississippi

Fred McDowell

"Good Morning Little School Girl"



Almost 78 Minutes of Classic BLUES Music

Part I: THE BLUES

1. GOOD MORNING LITTLE SCHOOLGIRL (3:10)
2. LITTLE GIRL, LITTLE GIRL, HOW OLD ARE YOU (2:50)
3. FRED'S RAMBLING BLUES (4:40)
4. DON'T LOOK FOR ME ON A SUNDAY (6:50)
5. I WALKED ALL THE WAY FROM EAST ST. LOUIS (4:15)
6. RED CROSS STORE BLUES (3:00)
7. GRAVEL ROAD BLUES (5:00)
8. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE ROOSTER CROWED 'FORE DAY (3:30)
9. DROP DOWN MAMA (2:50)
10. I LOOKED AT THE SUN (3:15)
11. EARLY THIS MORNING (3:20)
(Write Me a Few of Your Lines)

Part II: CHURCH SONGS

12. KEEP YOUR LAMP TRIMMED AND BURNING (2:50)
vocal by Fred & Annie Mae
13. GET RIGHT CHURCH (2:20)
vocal by Annie Mae & group
14. I'M GOING OVER THE HILL (2:30)
vocal by Annie Mae

15. AMAZING GRACE (3:28)
vocal by Annie Mae & group
16. I WISH I WAS IN HEAVEN SITTING DOWN (1:41) *vocal by Fred & group*
17. YOU GOTTA MOVE (3:42)
vocal by Fred, Annie Mae, & group
18. IT'S A BLESSING (2:42) *vocal by Annie Mae*
19. BYE AND BYE (2:59)
20. I'M SO GLAD, GOT GOOD RELIGION (2:43)
21. LOOK WAY DOWN THAT LONESOME ROAD (3:25)
22. WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN (2:17)

Total time: 77:08

Fred McDowell – guitar and vocals; Part II with Annie Mae McDowell, and several members of the congregation.

Recorded and produced by Chris Strachwitz
Cover photo by Peter Feldman
Cover by Wayne Pope

Copyright © & © 1964, 1973
& 1994 by Arhoolie Prod., Inc.



0 9629-70424-2