ABC of the Blues CD33 (2010)

CD33 - Mississippi Fred McDowell & Mississippi John Hurt *33-01 Mississippi Fred McDowell – I'm Going Down to the River 33-02 Mississippi Fred McDowell – When the Train Comes Along 33-03 Mississippi Fred McDowell – Shake 'em On Down*
play
33-04 Mississippi Fred McDowell – Worried Mind 33-05 Mississippi Fred McDowell – Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning 33-06 Mississippi Fred McDowell – What's the Matter Now? 33-07 Mississippi Fred McDowell – Good Morning Little Schoolgirl 33-08 Mississippi Fred McDowell – You Done Told Everybody 33-09 Mississippi Fred McDowell – Wished I Was in Heaven Sitting Down 33-10 Mississippi Fred McDowell – 61 Highway 33-11 Mississippi John Hurt – Candy Man Blues 33-12 Mississippi John Hurt – Blessed Be the Name 33-13 Mississippi John Hurt – Nobody's Dirty Business 33-14 Mississippi John Hurt – Louis Collins 33-15 Mississippi John Hurt – Praying on the Old Camp Ground
play
33-16 Mississippi John Hurt – Spike Driver Blues 33-17 Mississippi John Hurt – Avalon Blues 33-18 Mississippi John Hurt – Ain't No Telling 33-19 Mississippi John Hurt – Blue Harvest Blues 33-20 Mississippi John Hurt – Got the Blues

Mississippi Fred McDowell was born Fred McDowell in Rossville, Tennessee, January 12, 1904. He died in Memphis,Tennessee on July 3, 1972. He was a blues singer and guitar player in the North Mississippi style.

His parents, who were farmers, died when McDowell was a youth. He started playing guitar at the age of 14 and played at dances around Rossville. Wanting a change from ploughing fields, he moved to Memphis in 1926 where he worked in a number of jobs and played music for tips. He settled in Como, Mississippi, about 40 miles south of Memphis, in 1940 or 1941, and worked steadily as a farmer, continuing to perform music at dances, and picnics. Initially he played slide guitar using a pocket knife and then a slide made from a beef rib bone, later switching to a glass

slide for its clearer sound. He played with the slide on his ring finger.

A pure delta blues musician, he played “just the straight, natural blues,” and he “do not play no rock and roll.” McDowell initially played the recognizable resonator guitar but, during tours and recordings beginning in the 1960s, he adopted the use of electric guitar and was probably the first original delta- or country blues musician to do so. McDowell’s style is distinctive and recognizable; perhaps the dirtiest sounding guitarist ever and one of the most influential. The slide guitar styles of Bonnie Raitt as well as Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood of The Rolling Stones, as well as Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys are all heavily influenced by McDowell’s technique.

“Mississippi” John Hurt was Born July 3, 1893, Teoc (Carroll County) MS and died November 2, 1966, Grenada, MS. John’s father was Isom Hurt and his mother was Mary Jan McCain. John was one of 3 children. He and his wife, Jessie, had 14 children.

Mississippi John Hurt’s quiet dignity, humor, superb guitar style, and his tender and expressive voice made him one of the most popular artist of traditional country blues re-discovered by the public in the sixties.

John arranged classic American folk and blues songs to entertain his neighbors on Saturday evenings.

Mississippi John never pursued success. In 1928, a mobile unit of the Vocalion company came to Avalon, Mississippi to look for new talents. An audition in Avalon resulted in John being called several months later to go to New York for a recording session under the direction of Lonnie Johnson. The depression led to the reduction in pressing of records and John stayed in Avalon and lived quietly on his farm with his 14 children.

Guided by the words of one of the titles recorded in 1928 by Hurt, “Avalon My Home Town”, the folklorist Tom Hoskins decided in 1963 to go to Avalon. He met Hurt, who was shocked to see

that someone remembered his 1928 recordings that had brought him only twenty dollars a song.

John Hurt's new career lasted only three years, but at Newport Festival, on college campuses, and in the folk clubs of Washington D.C., he displayed his talents as storyteller, entertainer, and singer. He overwhelmed the public with his outstanding mastery of the guitar.

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