



In 1933 John A. Lomax made the first of his field-recording trips through the American South. He visited notorious Southern penitentiaries – among them Sugar Land in Texas; Angola in Louisiana; Parchman Farm in Mississippi – in search of anachronistic strains of African American folk-song preserved outside the influence of the radio, the phonograph, and cross-pollination with whites. Accompanied by his son, Alan, John Lomax recorded the songs of timber and ground-clearing gangs, chants of the road and railroad crews, solo field hollers, comic songs, blues, and spirituals. By late 1934, they had recorded dozens of singers and hundreds of songs – "poetic expressions," as Lomax described them, "of pungent wit, simple beauty, startling imagery, extraordinary vividness and power."

"Jail House Bound," a production of West Virginia University Press, collects the earliest of the Lomaxes' prison recordings – made between July and December 1933 in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee – and draws on new remasters from the fragile original acetate discs. The album is introduced and annotated by noted American music scholar Mark Allen Jackson (author of *Prophet Singer: The Voice and Vision of Woody Guthrie*).

Title: *Jail House Bound: John Lomax's First Southern Prison Recordings, 1933*

Artist: Various Artists

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Howlin' Wuelf Media
(215) 428-9119
howlingwuelf@aol.com

Performers include:

Mose "Clear Rock" Platt
Ernest "Mexico" Williams
James "Iron Head" Baker
"Lightning" Washington
John "Black Sampson" Gibson

and several groups of unidentified prisoners from the Mississippi State Penitentiary system and the Shelby County Workhouse in Memphis. The album features several previously unreleased tracks plus a rare 1933 interview with John A. Lomax.

Jail House Bound is released digitally by Global Jukebox in collaboration with West Virginia University Press. Also available as a CD through WVU Press.



www.globaljukeboxrecords.com