In 1959 and 1960, at the height of the Folk Revival, Alan Lomax undertook the first-ever stereo field recording trip through the American South to document its still thriving vernacular musical culture. He traveled through Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, and North Carolina, making over 70 hours of recordings. The trip came to be known as Lomax's "Southern Journey," and its recordings were first issued for the Atlantic and Prestige labels in the early '60s.

“I'm Gonna Live Anyhow Until I Die” features, among others, Bluebird hillbilly recording artists J.E. Mainer and his Mountaineers; menhaden fisherman chants of the Bright Light Quartet; Blue Ridge country gospel composer and bus driver E.C. Ball; Bessie Jones and the Georgia Sea Island Singers; Pentecostal Holiness congregational singing from Memphis; the Mississippi Hill Country dance music of the Pratcher brothers; and one of the debut recordings of bluesman Mississippi Fred McDowell.

The Alan Lomax Archive is the repository of thousands of hours of Lomax’s field recordings from across his seven-decade career, and Global Jukebox is its first independent music label. It will draw on the full range of the archive’s worldwide collections, beginning with five albums commemorating the 50th anniversary of Lomax’s storied Southern Journey. Compiled and annotated by Nathan Salsburg, the albums draw on new transfers of the original tapes, and include considerable previously unreleased material and extensive booklets of photos and notes.

Title:  
Label:  Global Jukebox  
Catalog #:  GJ1005  
UPC:  847108024497  
Genre:  Folk, Blues, Traditional, Gospel, Appalachian, Prison Songs  
Street Date:  1.25.11  
PDF booklet:  12-page booklet of photos and song notes.  
Publicist:  Howard Wuelfing, Howlin’ Wuelf Media, 215-428-9119  
Also available as an LP on Mississippi Records.

Track List

1. J.E. Mainer’s Mountaineers: “Number 111”  
2. Fred McDowell: “61 Highway”  
3. Bright Light Quartet: “Chantey medley” †  
4. E.C. Ball & Lacey Richardson: “Tribulations”  
5. Bessie Jones & the Georgia Sea Island Singers: “Daniel In the Lion’s Den”  
6. Unidentified woman & Pentecostal Temple congregation: “Heaven Is Mine” *  
7. Emma Hammond: “Shout Lula” *  
8. Ervin Webb & prisoners: “I’m Going Home”  
9. WROS Scottsboro Old-Time Religious Hour excerpt *  
11. Sid Hemphill & Lucius Smith: “The Devil’s Dream”  
14. Vera Ward Hall: “The Last Month of the Year”  
15. Miles & Bob Pratcher: “I’m Gonna Live Anyhow Until I Die”  

*Previously unissued.  
†Previously unissued version.