

# Ray Charles



# Ray Charles

*"I was born with music inside me. Music was one of my parts. It was a force already within me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me—like food or water."* — Ray Charles

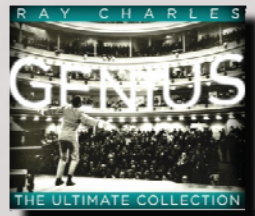


- Ray Charles won 17 Grammy Awards and is the only artist to record a Grammy Award winning song in all five Grammy era decades.
- Ray Charles is the only recording artist to record a Billboard Top 10 Hit in five different musical categories. He is also the only artist to record a Billboard Top 100 Chart Hit in all seven Billboard era decades.
- Rolling Stone Magazine ranked Ray Charles number two on their November 2008 list of "The 100 Greatest Singers of All Time."
- Ray Charles' last recorded album, "Genius Loves Company" earned an unprecedented 8 Grammy Awards in 2005 including Best Album of the Year, Best Pop Vocal Album, and Record of the Year. It was the best selling album of his career.
- Hit songs such as "Georgia On My Mind" (US#1), "Hit the Road Jack" (US#1), "What I'd Say (US#6)" and "Unchain My Heart" (US#9) helped Ray transition to pop success.
- Honors and Awards:
  - Inducted into almost every music Hall of Fame including the first class of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees in 1986.
  - Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1981.
  - Received the Kennedy Center Honor in 1986 and the National Medal of Arts in 1993.
  - In 1987, Ray was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.
  - In 2004, Ray Charles was featured on the cover of the *New Yorker* magazine and Google changed their logo to commemorate his birthday.
  - The U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously in recognizing Ray Charles as a "national treasure" in 2004.
  - The 2005 Grammy Awards was dedicated to Ray Charles.



### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Highlights for 2009-2010 include:**

- Brand new digitally re-mastered album "Genius – The Ultimate Ray Charles Collection" and *Yes Indeed!* - the first Ray Charles photography book published in a limited edition of 2,500 copies and published by Genesis Publications.
- Two-year re-mastered album strategy.
- Traveling Tribute Show
- Grand opening of Ray Charles Memorial Library.
- Special Blu-Ray release of the Academy Award-winning feature film, *Ray*.
- QVC – 2010 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anthology Package
- Special DVD of Ray's Greatest Television Performances



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