

Ray Charles: The Genius Behind the Music of Black Americans

Ray Charles Robinson, known as Ray Charles, was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and composer. He is considered one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century.

Early Life and Career

Ray Charles was born in Albany, Georgia, on September 23, 1930. He lost his sight at the age of seven due to glaucoma.



Ray Charles: Musician (Black Americans of Achievement) by Janet Hubbard-Brown

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1974 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 111 pages



Charles began playing piano at an early age and developed a distinctive style that blended gospel, blues, and jazz. He formed his own band, the Raelettes, in the early 1950s.

Rise to Fame

Charles's first hit single, "I Got a Woman," was released in 1954. The song reached number one on the Billboard R&B chart and helped to launch his

career.

Charles continued to release hit songs throughout the 1950s and 1960s, including "What'd I Say," "Georgia on My Mind," and "Hit the Road Jack."

Later Career

Charles's career continued to flourish in the 1970s and 1980s. He released several successful albums, including "Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music" (1962) and "Genius Loves Company" (2004).

Charles also appeared in several films and television shows, including "The Blues Brothers" (1980) and "Ray" (2004).

Legacy

Ray Charles is considered one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. His music has been praised for its originality, passion, and soul.

Charles has won numerous awards, including 17 Grammy Awards and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Charles's music continues to be enjoyed by people all over the world. He is a true icon of American music.

The Book

The book "Ray Charles: Musician Black Americans of Achievement" is a comprehensive biography of the legendary musician.

The book explores Charles's life and career in detail, from his early days as a struggling musician to his rise to stardom.

The book also examines Charles's personal life, including his struggles with addiction and his relationships with family and friends.

The book is written by award-winning author Michael Eric Dyson.

Book Details

- **Title:** Ray Charles: Musician Black Americans of Achievement
- **Author:** Michael Eric Dyson
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