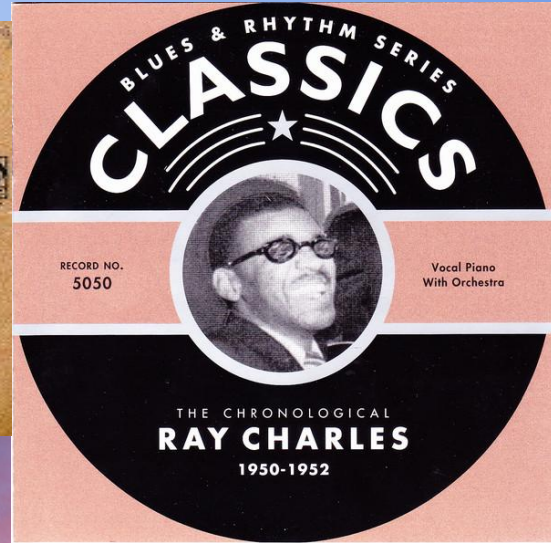
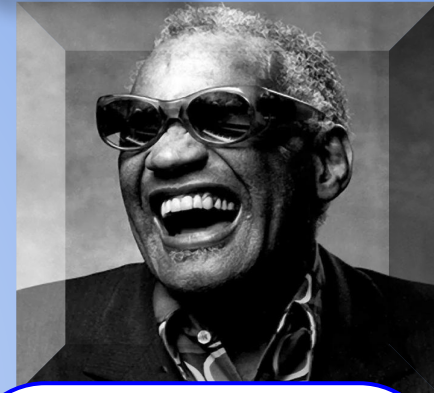
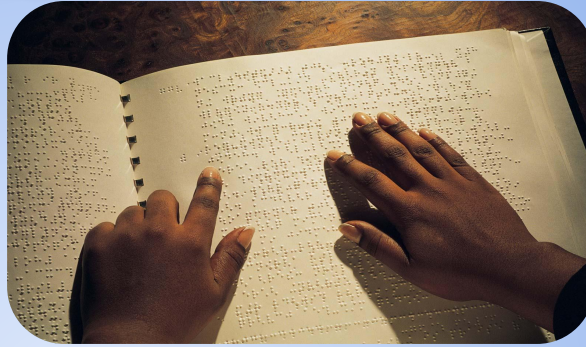


✦ Ray Charles Robinson aka "The Genius" ✦





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Ray Charles Robinson was born in Albany, Georgia on September 23, 1930. Growing up his family struggled financially, when he was 7, he lost his vision entirely to a disease called Glaucoma. His mother sent him to the St. Augustine School for the Deaf and the Blind, there he learned to read, write, and arrange music in Braille.

He was a blind, African-American orphan living in the South at the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement. Atlantic Records signed Ray as a recording artist in 1952. Then in 1955, his first major hit release, "I Got a Woman," deemed him the nickname, "The Genius." He was a role model for people with disabilities as he went on to win 12 Grammy Awards, in 1986 he created The Ray Charles Foundation

Braille is a system of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision. Braille is not a language, it is a code by which many languages—such as English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and dozens of others—may be written and read. It provides a means of literacy for all over the world in their native languages.

Ray struggled with substance abuse and a 17-year addiction to heroin, he sought help and was able to overcome his dependence. Living drug free until his death in 2004, the life of Ray Charles ended on June 10, 2004, at the age of 73, due to liver disease. The movie, "Ray," was produced in 2004 to celebrate his life and his struggles. Ray's contribution to the music industry in the 1950's will never be forgotten as his legacy continues to live on.