LEGENDARY PERFORMERS

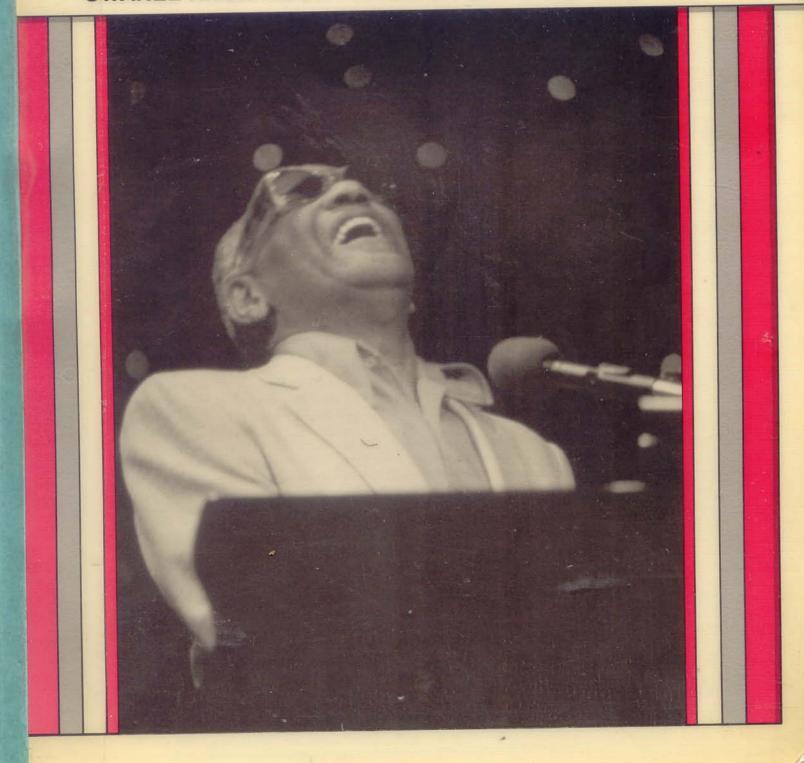
Volume 5

BOOGIEWOOGIE.RU

Piano/Vocal/Chords

Ray Charles A MAN AND HIS SOUL

Featuring... BORN TO LOSE • GEORGIA ON MY MIND HIT THE ROAD JACK • I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU • RUBY SWANEE RIVER ROCK • WHAT'D I SAY ...and many more





Volume 5

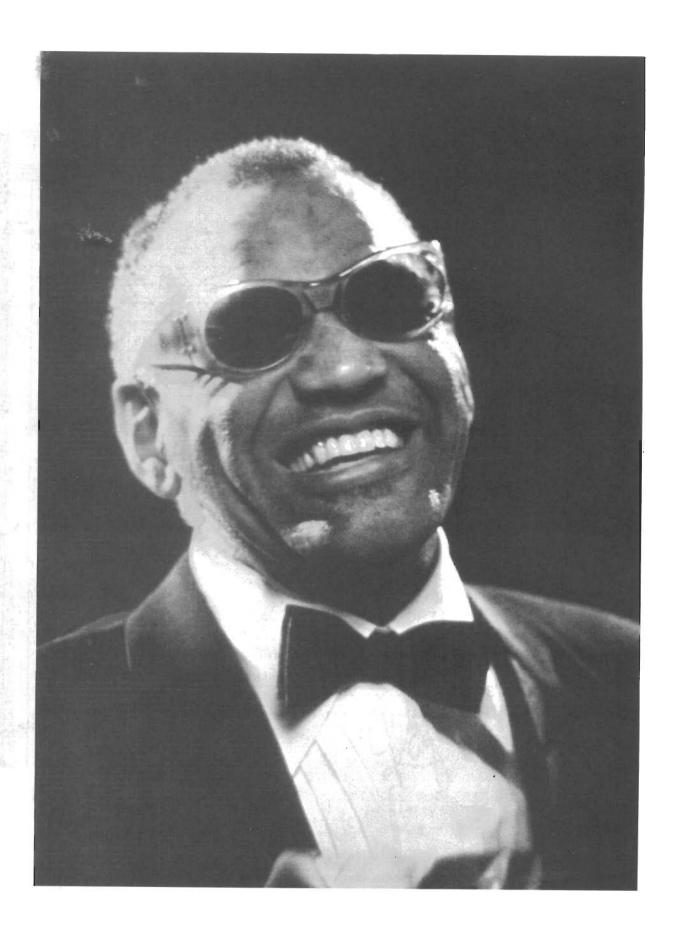
Ray Charles MAN AND HIS SOUL

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RAY CHARLES has the distinction of being both a national treasure and an international phenomenon.

He started out from nowhere; years later finds him a global entity.

Hundreds of thousands of fingers have hit typewriter and word processor keyboards telling and retelling his story because it is uniquely American, an examplar of what we like to think is the best in us and our way of life.

The Ray Charles story is full of paradoxes, part and parcel of the American Dream.

Rags to riches. Triumph overcoming tragedy. Light transcending darkness.

The name Ray Charles is on a Star on Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame. His bronze bust is enshrined in the Playboy Hall of Fame. There is the bronze medallion cast and presented to him by the French Republic on behalf of its people. There are the Halls of Fame: Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, Rock & Roll. There are the many gold records and the 10 Grammys.

There is the blackness and the blindness. There was the extreme poverty; there was the segregated South into which he was born.

It is music, Ray Charles' single driving force, that catapulted a poor, black, blind, orphaned teenager from there to here.

"I was born with music inside me. That's the only explanation I know of ..." he remarks in his autobiography

"Music was one of my parts. ...Like my blood. It was a force already with me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me — like food or water.

"Music is nothing separate from me. It is me. ...You'd have to remove the music surgically."

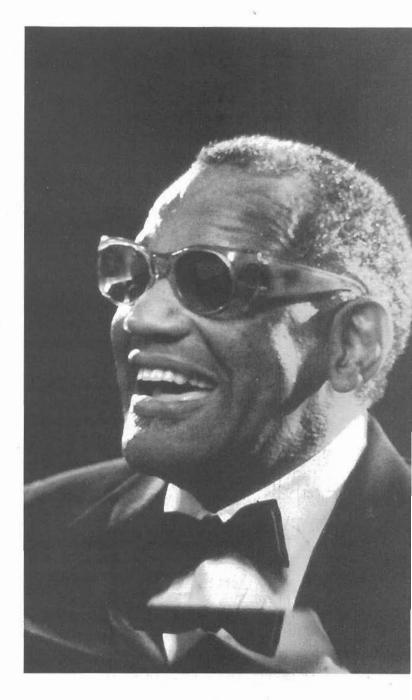
Ray Charles Robinson was not born blind, only poor.

The first child of Aretha and Bailey Robinson was born in Albany, Ga, on September 23, 1930.

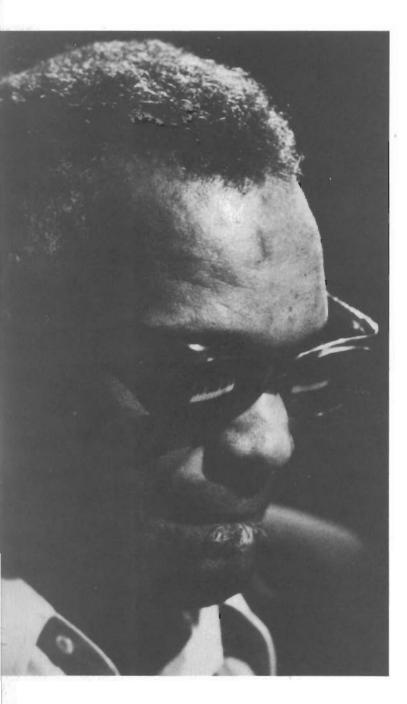
He hit the road early, at about three months, when the Robinsons moved across the border to Greenville, FL. It was the height of the Depression years. And the Robinsons had started out poor.

"You hear folks talking about being poor."
Charler recounts. "Even compared to other blacks... we were on the bottom of the ladder looking up at everyone else. Nothing below us except the ground."

It took three years, starting when Ray Charles was four, for the country boy who loved to look at the blazing sun at its height, the boy who loved to try to catch lightning, the boy who loved to strike matches to see their fierce, brief glare, to travel the path from light to darkness.



a



But Ray Charles has almost seven years of sight memory — colors, the things of backwoods country, and the face of the most important person in his early life: his mother, Aretha Robinson.

St. Augustine's was the Florida state school for the deaf and blind. Ray Charles was accepted as a charity student.

He learned to Braille and to type. He became a skilled basket weaver. He was allowed to develop his great gift of music.

He discovered mathematics and its correlation to music. He learned to compose and arrange music in his head, telling out the parts, one by one.

He remained at St. Augustine's until his mother's death when he set out "on the road again" for the first time as a struggling professional musician.

The road to greatness was no picnic, proverbial or literal. In fact, while earning his dues around and about Florida, he almost starved at times, hanging out at various Musicians' Locals, picking up gigs when he could.

He began to build himself a solo act, imitating Nat "King" Cole. When he knew it was time to head on, he asked a friend to find him the farthest point from Florida on a map of the continental U.S.

Seattle, WA. For Ray Charles, the turning point.
In Seattle he became a minor celebrity in local clubs. There he met an even younger musician, Quincy Jones, whom he took under his wing, marking the beginning of an intertwining of two musical lifetimes.

It was from Seattle that he went to Los Angeles to cut his first professional recording. And it was in Seattle, with Gossady McGee, that he formed the McSon Trio — Robin (son) and (Mc) Gee — in 1948, the first black group to have a sponsored TV show in the Pacific Northwest.

Along the way he'd shortened his name in deference to the success of "Sugar" Ray Robinson.

As Ray Charles he toured for about a year with Lowell Fulsom's band. He formed a group and played with singer Ruth Brown. He played the Apollo, the landmark showcase for black talent. He aspired to Carnegie Hall, then as now epitomizing the pinnacle of artistic success.

These were also the years that brought Charles the first band of his own, his first big hit record, "I Got A Woman."

By the early 1960's Ray Charles had accomplished his dream. He'd come of age musically. He had become a great musician, posting musical milestones along his route.

He'd made it to Carnegie Hall. The hit records ("Georgia," "Born to Lose") successively kept climbing to the top of the charts. He'd made his first triumphant European concert tour in 1960 (a feat which, except for 1965, he's repeated at least once a year ever since).

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He'd treated himself to the formation of his first big band in 1961. In 1962, together with his long-time friend and personal manager, Joe Adams, he oversaw construction of his own office building and recording studio in Los Angeles, RPM International.

He had taken virtually every form of popular music and broken through its boundaries with such awe-inspiring achievements as the LP's "Genius Plus Soul Equals Jazz" and "Modern Sounds in Country & Western."

Rhythm & blues (or "race music" as it had been called) became universally respectable through his efforts. Jazz found a mainstream audience it had never previously enjoyed. And country & western music began to chart an unexpected course to general acceptance, then worldwide popularity. Along the way Ray Charles was instrumental in the invention of rock & roll.

His music is still marked by the unpredictability that is the genius of consummate artistry.

He is master of his soul, musically and personally.

To this day he selects and produces his own recording material with utter disregard for trends. He doesn't find the time nor necessity to write as much as

he once did, but what he gleans, "from the attic of my mind," either old or new, is inevitably surprising, unique, "right."

In the past decade he has taken on George Gershwin ("Porgy and Bess"), Rodgers and Hammerstein ("Some Enchanted Evening," "Oh What a Beautiful Morning") and "America the Beautiful" — all with resounding, if unexpected, success.

Despite his intense reticence to expose the personal portion of his life to public scrutiny, Ray Charles is as outspoken about his opinions on matters of global interest as he is about matters of music.

As a Southern black, segregation was Ray Charles' dubious birthright. But racial tension and friction were not a part of his early rural years. At St. Augustine's the rules of segregation were strictly adhered to, both for the deaf and the blind children, a fact that even young Ray Charles found ironic.

"I knew being blind was suddenly an aid. I never learned to stop at the skin. If I looked at a man or a woman, I wanted to see inside. Being distracted by shading or coloring is stupid. It gets in the way. It's something I just can't see."



It was on the road in the 1950's that the realities of segregation, its evils, its injustices, even its ludicrous moments, became apparent to Charles and his troupe of traveling musicians.

It was a concert date in Augusta, GA that brought the issue of segregation vs. civil rights to a head for Ray Charles.

> "A promoter insisted that a date we were about to play be segregated: the blacks upstairs and the whites downstairs."

told the promoter that I didn't mind ⇒ segregation, except that he had it backwards... After all, I was black and it only made sense to have the black folk close to me... Let him sue. I wasn't going to play. And I didn't. And he sued. And I lost."

This was the incident that propelled Ray Charles into an active role in the quest for racial justice, the development of social consciousness that led him to friendship with moral and financial support of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960's.

> "... early on, I decided that if I was going to shoot craps on anyone's philosophy, I was putting my money on Martin Luther King, Jr."

"I figured if I was going to pick up my cross and follow someone, it could only be Martin."

Despite his deep commitment to King and the cause of black Americans, Charles came to the logical conclusion that there was no place for him physically in the front lines:

> "First, I wouldn't have known when to duck when they started throwing broken bottles at my head. And I told that to Martin personally.

"When he intentionally broke the law, he was hauled off to jail. And when you go to jail, you need money for lawyers, for legal research. for court fees, for food for the marchers. I saw that as my function; I helped raise money."

His awareness of racial injustice was not limited to the home front: The same years he fought the war against racial injustice in the American South found in Charles a growing awareness of racial injustice abroad, particularly the notorious policy of apartheid in South Africa.

Uniformed anti-apartheid groups have occasionally questioned Charles' 1981 concert appearances there.

> "It burns me up," he retorts acidly, "because people should've checked my record on civil rights before they opened their mouths.

"How can anyone tell me where I can play my music? I went to South Africa because people - black and white - wanted to hear me.

And it was in my contracts that the blacks wouldn't be seated in the rear."

Charles' manager, Joe Adams, himself black, further sets the record straight:

> "In the late 1970's, our office received a number of requests from several of the new Black Nations of South Africa for Ray Charles to come and perform. These requests were answered in 1981 when he made numerous appearances for these black nations. This tour represented the first totally integrated audiences in such major cities as Johannesburg and Capetown. He was approached to play Sun City for a huge fee. Instead he chose to play before totally black or integrated audiences with a fully integrated show.

"As now, the orchestra consisted at the time of Asians, Latins, Caucasians, and blacks, all of whom performed together on the same stages, traveled together on the same buses, and staved at the same hotels - an unheard of feat in South Africa and one that could have brought severe penalties to all concerned."

Modes to the point of mum about his humanitarian and charitable activities. Ray Charles makes an exception for the State of Israel and world Jewry.

Among the many, the world leader Charles has most enjoyed meeting is David Ben-Gurion, with whom he had a conversation of many hours during a concert tour of Israel not long before Ben-Gurion's death.

And the award among the hundreds he claims to have touched him most is the Beverly Hills Lodge of the B'nai Brith's tribute to him as its "Man of the Year" in 1976.

> "Even though I'm not Jewish," he explains, "and even though I'm stingy with my bread, Israel is one of the few causes I feel good about supporting.

"Blacks and Jews are hooked up and bound together by a common history of persecution...

"If someone besides a black ever sings the real gut bucket blues, it'll be a Jew. We both know what it's like to be someone else's footstool."

It all comes back to music, so inseparable from Ray Charles.

He keeps rolling along, doing what he does uniquely and wondrously well.

Ray Charles is a national treasure and a global phenomenon for this obvious reason: He is a master of his soul; he is music; he is himself.

GEORGIA ON MY MIND



Georgia On My Mind - 3 - 1





I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU





WHAT'D I SAY

Words and Music by



What'd I Say - 4 - 1



What'd I Say - 4 - 2







What'd I Say - 4 - 4

SWANEE RIVER ROCK BOOGIEWOOGIE.RU

Words and Music by RAY CHARLES



Swanee River Rock - 3 - 1



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Ruby - 3 - 1





ONE MINT JULEP







HIT THE ROAD JACK

Words and Music by PERCY MAYFIELD





Hit The Road Jack - 3 - 2



YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

Words and Music by JIMMIE DAVIS and CHARLES MITCHELL







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TAKE THESE CHAINS FROM MY HEART



Take These Chains From My Heart - 2 - 1



THAT LUCKY OLD SUN



That Lucky Old Sun - 2 - 1





You Don't Know Me - 3 - 1





DON'T CHANGE ON ME



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IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT



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UNDERSTANDING

(Is The Best Thing In The World)

Words and Music by JIMMY HOLIDAY and RAY CHARLES



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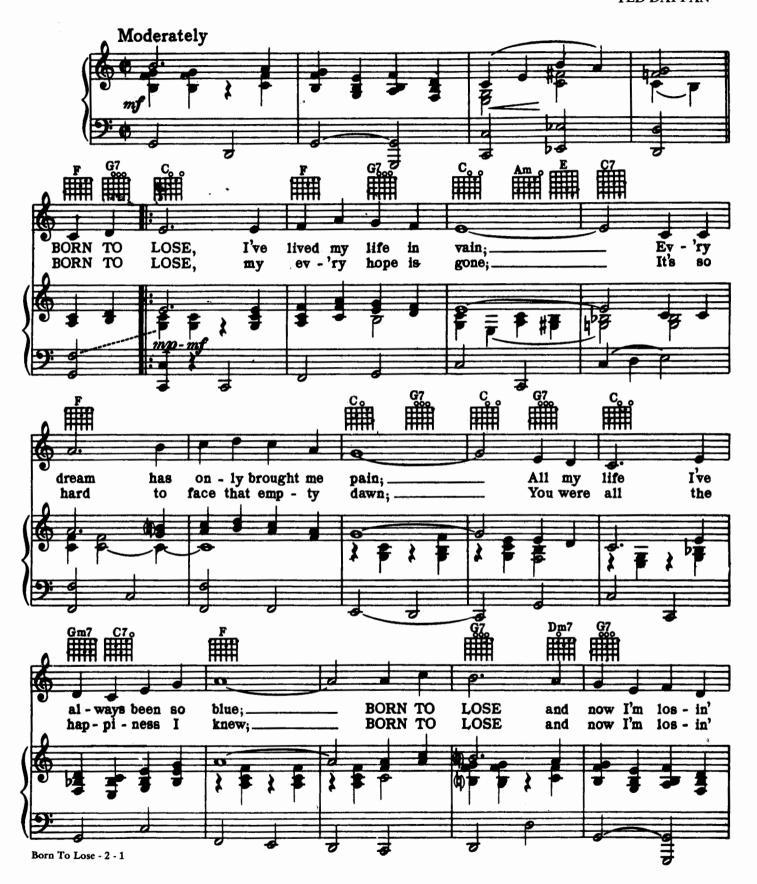
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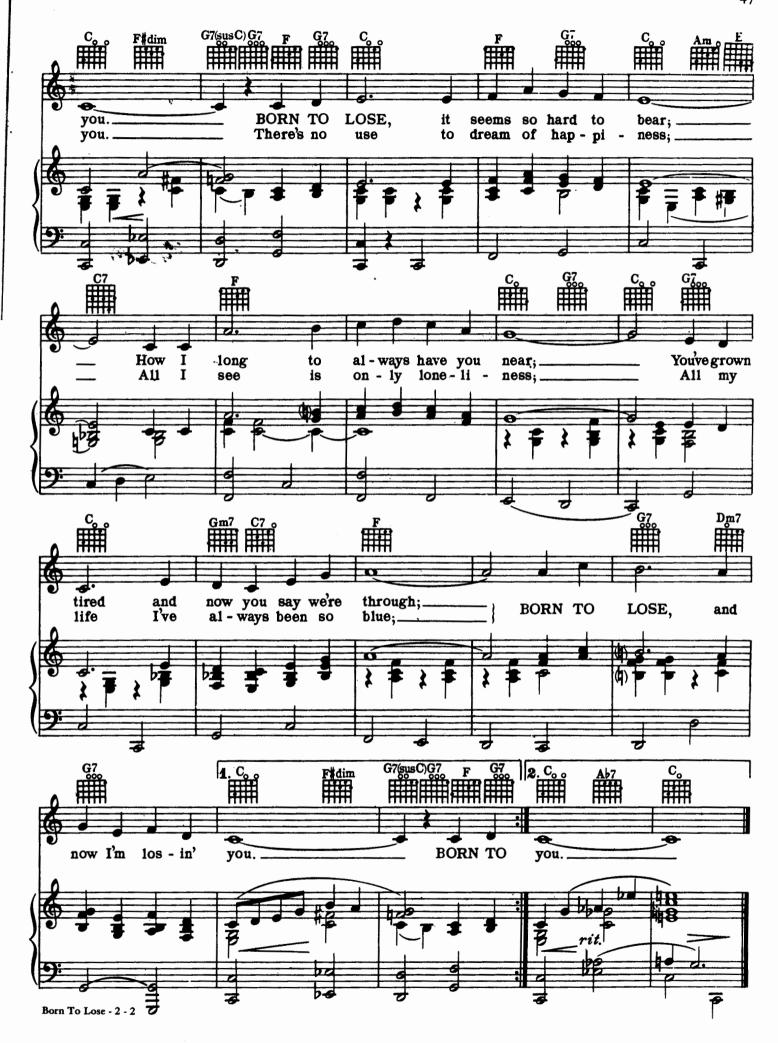




BORN TO LOSE

Words and Music by TED DAFFAN





CRYING TIME

Words and Music by



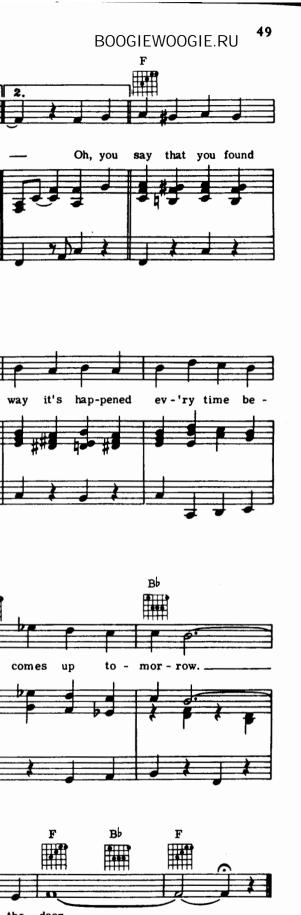
Crying Time - 2 - 1

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2.

Oh, they

That's the

F7

as the sun

Crying Time - 2 - 2

C7

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some - one you

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cry - ing years____

loved __

bet

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And as sure

time.

old.

NO ONE

Words and Music by DOC POMUS and MORT SHUMAN



No One - 2 - 1



A BIT OF SOUL

Words and Music by RAY CHARLES



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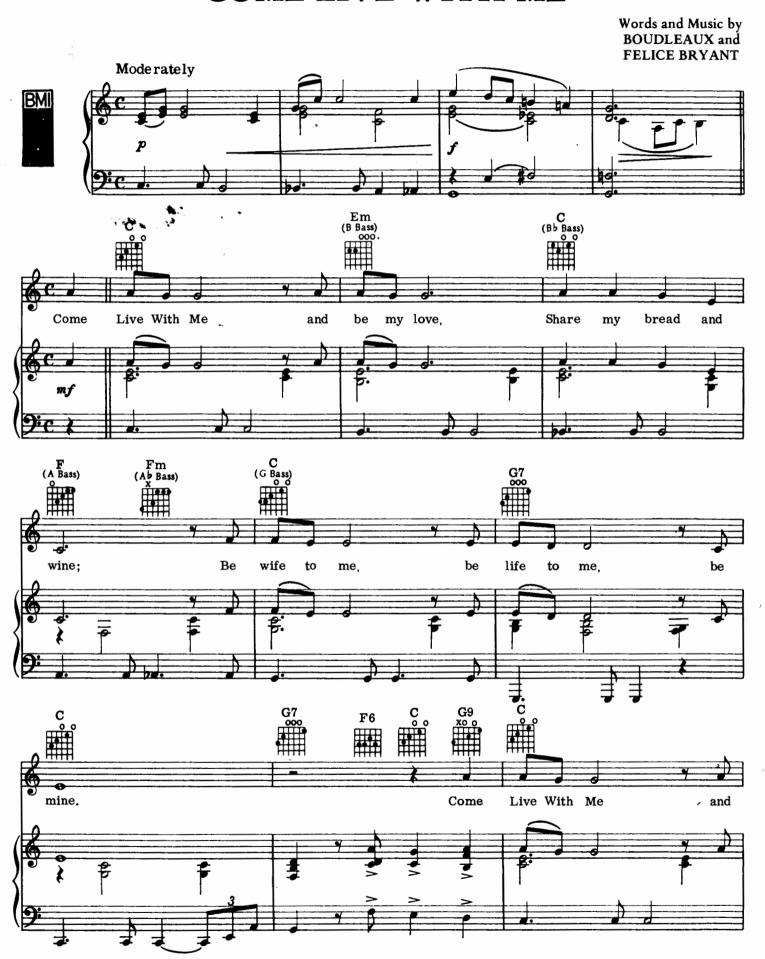
LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



Let The Good Times Roll - 2 - 1



COME LIVE WITH ME



Come Live With Me - 3 - 1





LIVING FOR THE CITY







- 3. His sister's black but she is sho'nuff pretty.
 Her skirt is short but Lord her legs are sturdy to walk to school.
 She's got to get up early, her clothes are old; but never are they dirty.
 Living just enough, just enough for the city.
- 4. Her brother's smart, he's got more sense than many.
 His patience's long but soon he won't have any. To find a job
 Is like a haystack needle, 'cause where he lives they don't
 Use colored people. Living just enough, just enough for the city.

HALLELUJAH I LOVE HER SO

Words and Music by RAY CHARLES



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Hallejuah I Love Her So - 4 - 2





A PERFECT LOVE

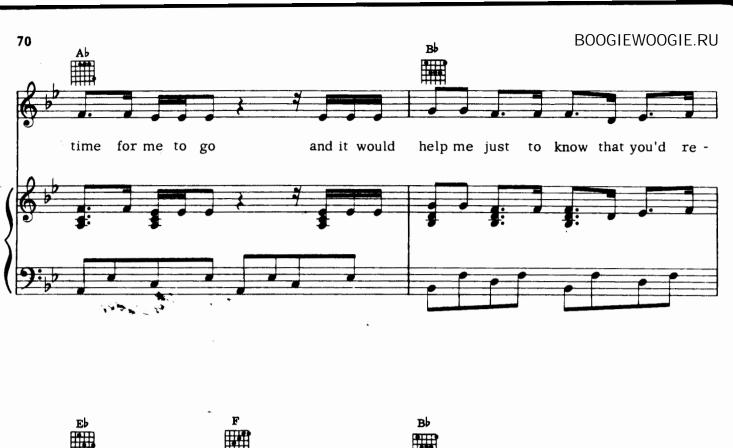


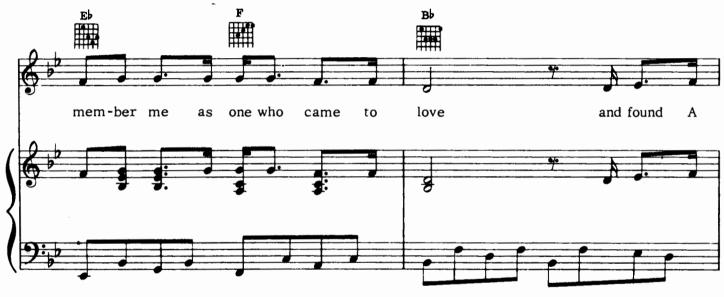
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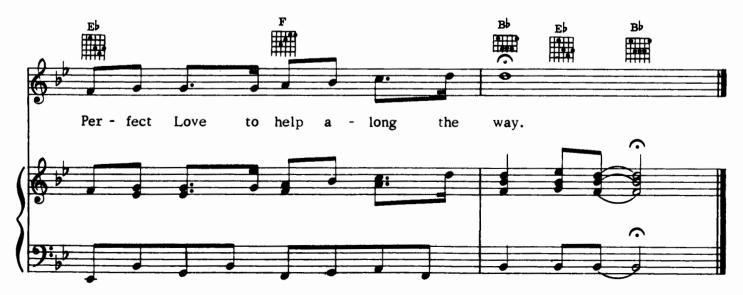








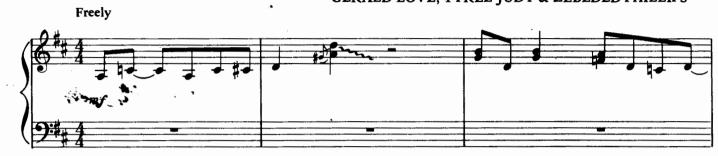


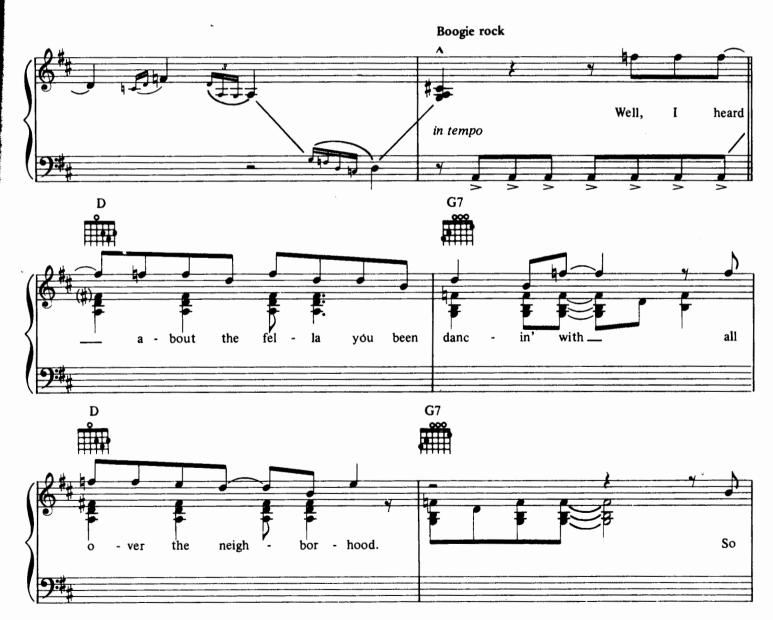


A Perfect Love - 5 - 5

SHAKE YOUR TAIL FEATHERS

Words and Music by
RUDY LOVE, PEGGY LOVE, DIANNE LOVE, DENISE LOVE,
GERALD LOVE, TYREE JUDY & ZEBEDED PHILLIPS

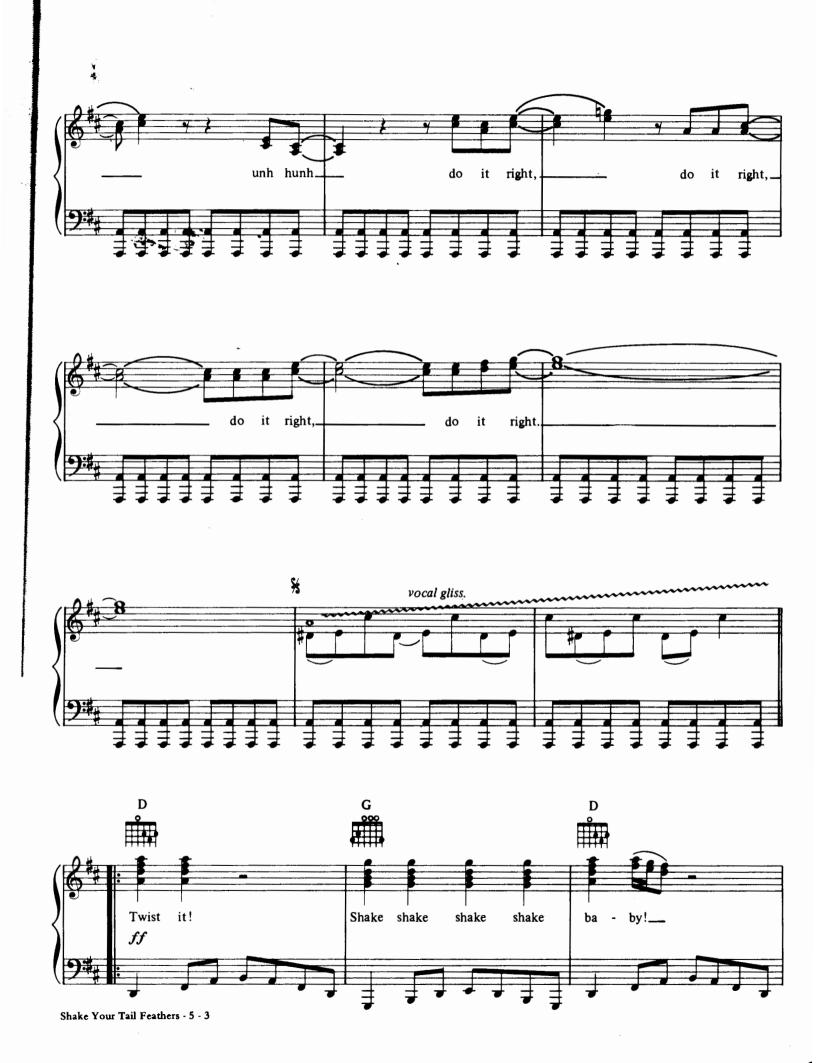




Shake Your Tail Feathers - 5 - 1



Shake Your Tail Feathers - 5 - 2

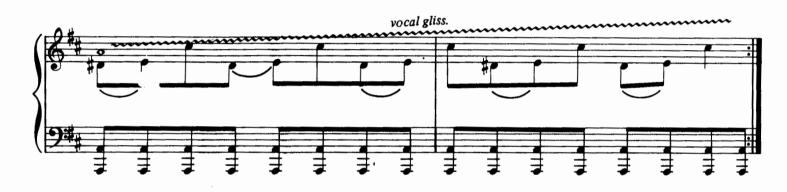


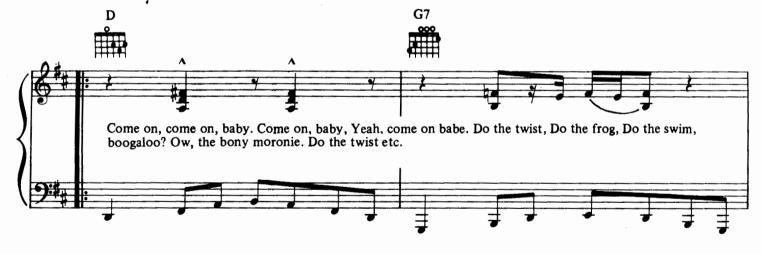


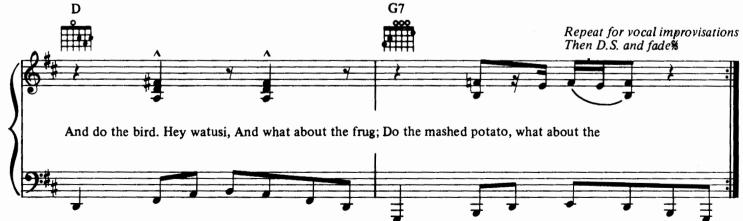
I know, well let me see you shake your tail - feath-er, Come on and let me

Shake Your Tail Feathers - 5 - 4









Shake Your Tail Feathers - 5 - 5

IT AIN'T GONNA WORRY MY MIND







Verse 2:

Got no money in my pocket; You don't get rich working over-time. But long as you can't buy springtime in Virginia, It ain't gonna worry, it ain't gonna worry, It ain't gonna worry my mind.

Verse 3:

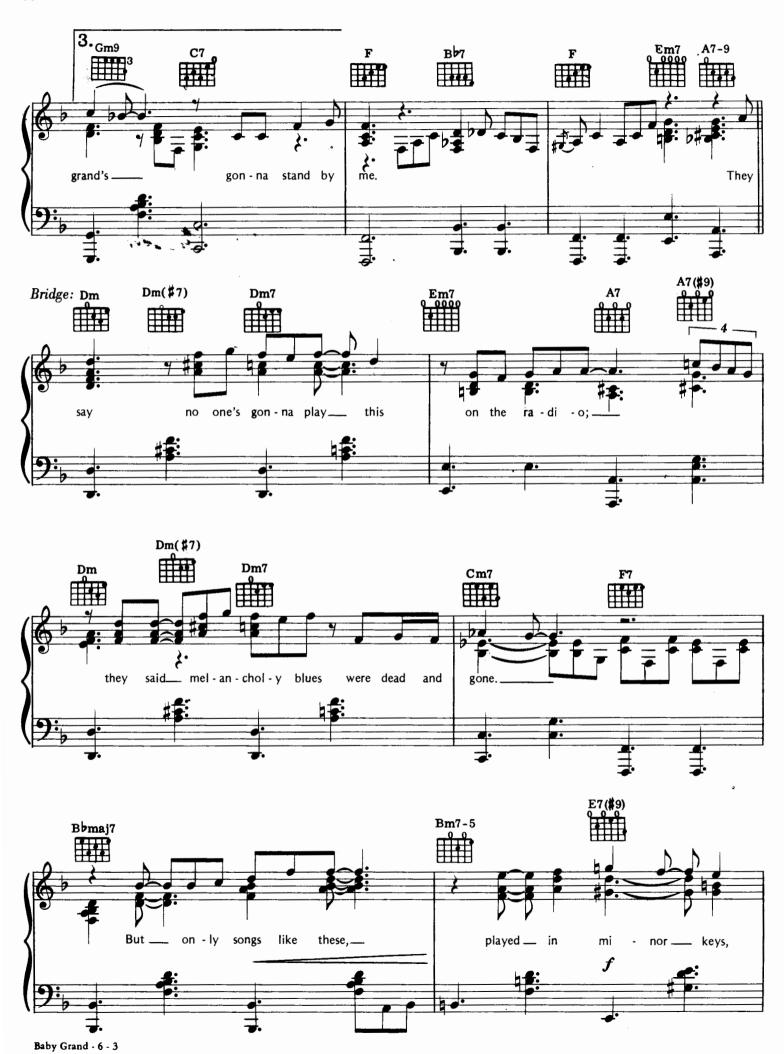
So go on wishin', go on prayin'.
Go on sayin', I'll hit better times.
But how in the world could she love me any better? It ain't gonna worry, it ain't gonna worry, It ain't gonna worry my mind.

BABY GRAND



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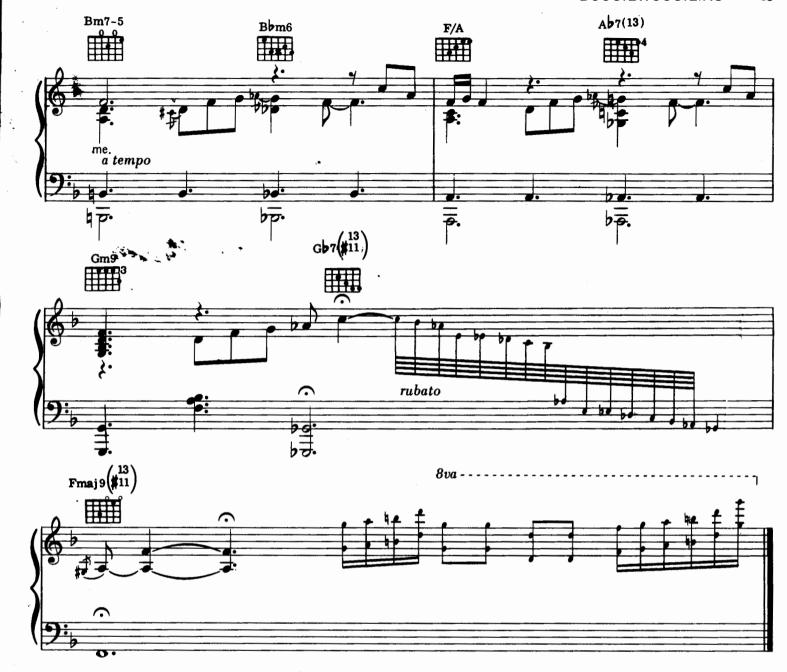






Baby Grand - 6 - 4





Verse 2: In my time, I've wandered everywhere Around this world; she would always be there, Any day, any hour; All it takes is the power in my hands. This baby grand's been good to me.

Verse 3:
I've had friends, but they slipped away.
I've had fame, but it doesn't stay.
I've made fortunes, spent them fast enough.
As for women, they don't last with just one man;
But Baby Grand will stand by me.

(To Bridge:)



Billy Joel with Ray Charles



Mickey Gilley with Ray Charles



ay Charles

In January, 1986, Ray Charles was one of the original inductees into The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, in tribute to his versatility as a musician and to the lasting imprint he has made on all forms of popular music in the last 30 years.

Ray Charles was one of the participants in the historic 1985 "We Are the World" recording to benefit USA for Africa.

Ray Charles was honored in 1983 by the NAACP's Image Awards as recipient of its "Hall of Fame Award." He also received an award that year at the NAACP's televised ceremonies for Best R & B Male Vocalist.

To date Ray Charles has won a total of 10 Grammy Awards, the latest in 1975.

In recognition of both his artistic and humanitarian achievements, Ray Charles received a Star on Hollywood Boulevard's "Walk of Fame" December 16, 1981.

In 1963 Ray Charles starred in his first feature film, "Ballad in Blue." In 1980 he was a featured star of "The Blues Brothers Movie."

In the 1970's Charles received many major awards, among them:

- The Golden Plate Award was presented to him in 1975 by the American Academy of Achievement for his outstanding contributions.
- The National Association for Sickle Cell Disease's first "Man of Distinction" Award was presented to him, also in 1975.
- The Bicentennial Year brought Charles the honor of being named "Man of the Year" by the Beverly Hills Lodge of the B'nai B'rith. He was inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.
- In 1979 Ray Charles' classic rendition of "Georgia On My Mind" was approved as the Official Song of the State of Georgia, and Charles was invited to be present at the State Capitol to sing its first performance.
- He has long been Honorary Life Chairman of The Phyther & Plusa Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the Playboy Magazine has topped that magazine's readers' poll in several vib vo musik most recently in 1976 as Best Jazz Male Vocalist.

78.794 Charles, Ray

Ray Charles - a man and his s sider

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