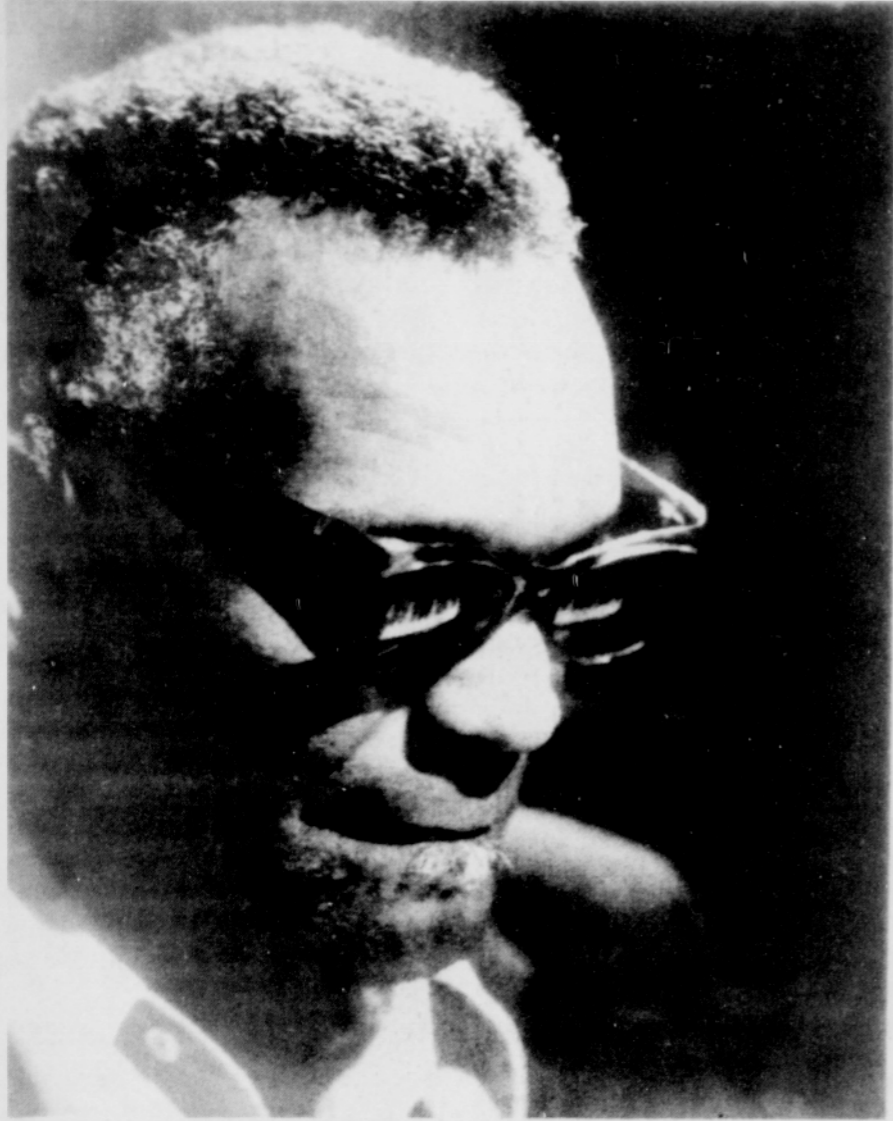




ENTERTAINMENT



Ray Charles In Concert With the Oregon Symphony



The Oregon Symphony will feature Ray Charles in a special concert on Thursday, April 12 at 8:00 pm at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Red Lion Hotels & Inns is the concert sponsor.

The Oregon Symphony will be featured on the first half of the program, under the baton of Associate conductor Norman Leyden. Featured works will include Youmans' "Flying Down to Rio" overture, Rose's "Holiday for Strings," Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday," a Paris medley, and some of Carmichael's greatest hits such as "Georgia on My Mind," "Blue Orchids," and "Stardust."

Ray Charles will join the Oregon Symphony for the second half of the concert in a program of jazz, ballads, blues, and rock that he will announce from the stage.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 to \$40 and may be purchased at the Oregon Symphony Ticket Office in downtown Portland at 719 SW Alder, open weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. Tickets may be charged by telephone at 228-1353. Tickets also are available at the Performing Arts Center Box Office, 10am to 5:30 pm (248-4496); and at all G.I. Joe's Ticketmaster ticket centers.

Ray Charles

Ray Charles has the distinction of being both a national treasure and an international phenomenon. His name appears on a star on Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame. A bronze bust of Charles is enshrined in the Playboy Hall of Fame. He's also in the Halls of Fame for Rhythm & Blues, Jazz, and Rock & Roll. In addition, Charles has been the recipient of 10 Grammy awards and has had numerous gold records.

Born Ray Charles Robinson in Albany, Georgia, in 1930, Charles had almost seven years of sight before going blind. At the time, he was accepted as a charity student at a school for the blind in Florida. There he learned Braille and how to type. He also discovered mathematics and its correlation to music and learned to compose and arrange music in his head.

After leaving the school, Ray set out as a struggling professional musician, "earning his dues" throughout Florida. He began by building a solo act, imitat-

ing Nat "King" Cole. When he felt it was time to move on, Ray asked a friend to find him the farthest point from Florida on a map of the continental United States: Seattle, Washington, was the response.

In Seattle in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Ray became a minor celebrity. One of the groups he formed, the McSon Trio—Robin (son) and (Mc)Gee—was the first Black group to have a sponsored TV show in the Pacific Northwest. From Seattle, Ray went to Los Angeles to cut his first professional recording. Along the way, Ray Charles Robinson shortened his name in deference to the success of "Sugar" Ray Robinson.

As Ray Charles, he toured for about a year with Lowell Fulson'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. During these years, Charles formed a band of his own and made his first big hit, "I Got A Woman."

By the early 1960s, Ray Charles had accomplished his dream. He had come of age musically. 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).

Over the years, Ray Charles has taken virtually every form of popular music and broken through its boundaries. Rhythm and blues became universally respectable through his efforts. Jazz found a mainstream audience it had never previously enjoyed. And country-and-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 and roll. 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.

Ray Charles records exclusively for Warner Brothers Records.

Krawd Kontrol: Another Home Grown Product



Eric Smith

Another home-grown product is fastly emerging as starts in the music industry.

Krawd Kontrol, one graduate of Jefferson High School (Class of '63) claims not to be just an entertainer, but also hopes to be a role model for the community. Their producers are Marlon McClain, Mike Maverolos and Larry Beil.

Along with other members of the band, Solomon David, Kris Dryer and Connel Ferral, the group "hope to convince teens to avoid drugs and gangs and to stay in school."

"The only way this can happen is, kids must do the right thing," said Eric Smith, spokesperson for the band.

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Compact Discs: Cost And Care

Q. How much do compact discs and players cost?

The discs today are getting closer and closer to the costs of conventional LPs—anywhere from about \$9 or so to \$20 for some titles. Players are available at a wide range of costs and features, starting at about \$100 for a basic unit and reaching as high as \$1,500 for ultra high-end units aimed at "audiophiles."

Q. How can I protect my Compact Discs?

A. Simple. Handle them with care, always holding them by the rim rather than by the surface of the disc. Keep them away from extreme heat or cold and always return them to their containers when they're not actually in use.

For more tips on caring for your compact discs, send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope and 45 cents to: EIA, P.O. Box 19100, Washington, D.C. 20036. If you have any additional questions write Sally Browne, c/o EIA.

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