

FOCUS

Grammys Fitting Ray Charles Eulogy 'Genius Loves Company' wins eight awards



A tribute to the late Ray Charles at the 47th Annual Grammy Awards. (AP photo)

(AP)— On the night when all of music bands together for one genre-busting party, Ray Charles received a fitting eulogy Sunday as his final album, "Genius Loves Company," won a leading eight Grammys.

Much like his career, the album Charles recorded in the final months of his life spans soul, rock 'n' roll, R&B, country, jazz and blues. It won album of the year and best pop album; the song "Here We Go Again," with Norah Jones, won record of the year and best pop collaboration with vocals.

"I'm going to cry, actually," Jones said as she accepted the trophy for record of the year. "I think it just shows how wonderful music can be."

Other winners included Alicia Keys and Usher, each nominated for eight Grammys. Keys won four while Usher had three. They shared one award, for best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals for their chart-topping duet, "My Boo."

U2 won three awards, including best rock performance by a duo or group. Green Day, the most nominated rock act with six for their politically charged punk opera "American Idiot," won best rock album.

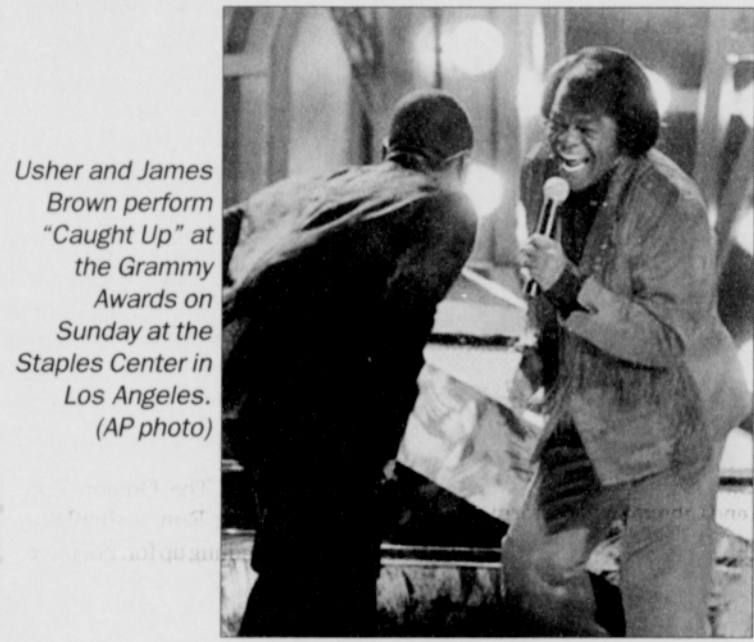
The most nominated artist of the year was perhaps the most multifaceted — Kanye West, the songwriter-producer who made his rap debut in 2004 with the cutting-edge CD "The College Dropout." He was nominated for 10 Grammys, including album of the year, but only took home three, including best rap album and best rap song for "Jesus Walks."

He was upset in the best new artist category, losing to Maroon 5 in a race that also included country singer Gretchen Wilson, the Los Lonely Boys and soul siren Joss Stone.

West went on to deliver an eye-popping performance of "Jesus



Alicia Keys poses with her four Grammy Awards for best R&B album, best R&B song, best R&B female vocal performance and best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals. (AP photo)



Walks" and an emotional acceptance speech for best rap album. Perhaps the evening's most exhilarating performance was from Melissa Etheridge. The rocker, who is battling breast cancer, took to the stage for a Janis Joplin tribute with a shaved head but strong voice, and received a standing ovation. But ultimately, the night belonged to Ray Charles. "Genius Loves Company" sold more than two million copies — the most of his 60-plus albums. Besides the four awards for best album and song, "Genius Loves Company" won for best instrumental arrangement accompanying a vo-

calist, best gospel performance, best engineered album and best surround sound album. Charles was 73 when he died in June, with a total of 12 Grammys in his 50-plus year career. The most he ever won in one night was four in 1960, including two for the classic "Georgia On My Mind." That was the song performed Sunday by Keys and the actor Jamie Foxx, considered an Oscar lock for his portrayal of Charles in "Ray." Foxx, a more than decent musician, sat at a piano opposite Keys as Quincy Jones conducted the orchestra. "For an old friend," Foxx said as he began to play.

Oprah Wants to Return to Acting

(AP) - Oprah Winfrey's been bitten by the acting bug again - and you can thank the desperate housewives.

Marc Cherry, creator of the hit ABC show, wrote a "Desperate Housewives" skit for Winfrey's daytime talk show. She got to play several of the roles.

Her last acting stint was in the 1998 movie



Oprah Winfrey

"Beloved," which wasn't a hit in theaters. In retrospect, Winfrey said that should have been on TV.

"I thought I was done with my acting days, but I loved being a part of the 'Desperate Housewives' so much that I'm thinking I might do something else soon," Winfrey told reporters Sunday.

"You got any ideas?" she asked. "I'm open."

Jazz Pioneer Fused Sounds

(AP)— Jimmy Smith, an award-winning jazz organist who was considered a pioneer with the instrument, died Feb. 8 of natural causes at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 79.

"Jimmy Smith transformed the organ into a jazz instrument. Jazz has lost a pioneering talent, not to mention a one-of-a-kind personality," National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia said.

Born in Norristown, Pa., in 1925, Smith ruled the Hammond B-3 organ in the 1950s and 1960s, fusing R&B, blues, and gospel influences


with bebop references. Smith's sessions with record label Blue Note from 1956 to 1963 included collaborations with Kenny Burrell, Lee Morgan, Lou Donaldson, Tina Brooks, Jackie McLean, Ike Quebec and Stanley Turrentine. He started playing the Hammond organ in 1951.

"Jimmy was one of the greatest and most innovative musicians of our time," said fellow Hammond B-3 artist Joey DeFrancesco.

The two recently recorded an album together called Legacy, which is scheduled to be released next week.




Jimmy Smith



Great ideas have no racial boundaries.





The son of a former slave, **Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928)** enlisted in the Navy at age 16 and served as a cabin boy aboard the U.S.S. Massasoit. After the Civil War, he learned mechanical drawing while working in a patent attorney's Boston law office. He later became a chief draftsman. In 1873 he invented a toilet system for railroad cars. In 1882, his job with the United States Electrical Lighting Co. led him to work with Thomas Edison and become one of the famous Edison Pioneers. Latimer also supervised the installation of electric lighting in New York City, Philadelphia, and Montreal. His textbook, "Incandescent Electric Lighting: A Practical Description of the Edison System," was published in 1890.

◆ **PACIFIC POWER**

Salutes Black History Month

www.pacificpower.net

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2005


Reed College celebrates with an art exhibition & special lectures

CORNEL WEST
LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING
7:30 p.m. February 18
Kaul Auditorium

Cornel West is the Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion at Princeton University. West's scholarship weaves together the American traditions of the Baptist church, transcendentalism, socialism, and pragmatism. His best-selling book, *Race Matters*, changed the course of America's dialogue on race, justice, and democracy; the follow-up, *Democracy Matters*, has recently been published. West received his bachelor of arts from Harvard and his Ph.D. from Princeton.



TIM SEIBLES
POETRY READING
Author of *Buffalo Head Solos*
8 p.m. February 24
Vollum Lounge



BLACK PANTHERS 1968: Photographs by Ruth-Marion Baruch & Pirkle Jones
EXHIBITION
Through February 20
Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery



All events are free & open to the public; seating is limited. Visit web.reed.edu/black_history_month/ or call the Reed events line at 503/777-7755.



Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.
Portland, Oregon