Ray Charles: An Annotated Bibliography

This bibliography is divided into seven categories: non-fiction and academic books, encyclopedias, children’s books, dissertations, music folios, journal and newspaper articles, and websites. It offers literature for scholars pursuing research, musicians looking to learn Charles’ music, and those who are just generally interested in Charles. Sources are annotated if a hard copy was available.

Non-fiction and Academic Books


DeMain, Bill. *In Their Own Words: Songwriters Talk about the Creative Process*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.


Miller, Zell. They Heard Georgia Singing. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1996. Concentrates on musicians who lived or sang about the state of Georgia, and includes a chapter on Ray Charles.


Rowden, Terry. The Songs of Blind Folk: African American Musicians and the Cultures of Blindness. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2009. Examines how blindness, like blackness, has affected the way music has been produced and received. It includes a chapter on Ray Charles.


Encyclopedias


**Children’s Books**


**Dissertations**


**Music Folios**


Journal and Newspaper Articles


Hutchinson, Lydia. “Happy Birthday, Ray Charles—We Miss You!” *Performing Songwriter* 86 (September 23, 2012): http://performingsongwriter.com/raycharles-interview/ Taken from an older interview, Charles discusses songwriting and songs.


Silver, Marc. “Still Soulful after All These Years.” *U.S. News and World Report* 123, no. 11 (September 22, 1997).


Tuttle, Raymond. “Music King Charles.” *Esquire* 128 (August 1997).


**Websites**


Interview with Ray Charles from 1998, as well as other musicians who worked closely with Charles.


Recording includes Charles’ playing piano at home, as well as a small interview talking about his childhood and performing.


Made by Ray Charles’ foundation, which includes a biography and a list of recordings.


Explains the mission statement and history of the Ray Charles Foundation.

“Ray Charles documentary (1986)” YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wVAS_zog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wVAS_zog)

Ray Charles talks about his whole life, his style, and his influences.
“Ray Charles Interview Dick Cavett 1” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tn1ufYulxcc Interview from the Dick Cavatt Show aired in June 1, 1972

“Ray Charles Interview Part 1- The Ed Bernstein Show.” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ4ixUaqt8s&list=RDTn1ufYulxcc&index=3 From a March 18, 1999 interview from the Ed Bernstein Show

“Ray Charles Interview Part 2- The Ed Bernstein Show.” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyvL7nNu5b0&list=RDTn1ufYulxcc&index=8 From a March 18, 1999 interview from the Ed Bernstein Show

“Ray Charles on Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson & Nat King Cole.” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=716GbRD--IU Clint Eastwood interviews Charles about his musical heroes, taken from Eastwood’s 2003 documentary, Piano Blues.

“Ray Charles Talks about Airplanes & His Childhood.” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnUTg1wH-8&index=4&list=RDTn1ufYulxcc Part one of interview from the Dick Cavatt Show aired on September 18, 1972

“Ray Charles Talks about Drugs.” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0QWBoBzMN4&list=RDTn1ufYulxcc&index=2 Part three of interview from the Dick Cavatt Show aired on September 18, 1972.

“Ray Charles Talks about His Musical Preferences.” YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnoTekm60RA&index=6&list=RDTn1ufYulxcc Second part of interview from the Dick Cavatt Show aired on September 18, 1973.