

# Ray Charles Quotes

*People, Music, Country, Play, Mean, Song, Believe, Mom, Men, Music Is, Heart,  
Dream, Thinking, Genius, Blind, Piano, Knows, Clothes, Years, Trying*

Don't go backwards - you've already been there.

~Ray Charles

Music to me is like breathing. I don't get tired of breathing, I don't get tired of music.

~Ray Charles

Just because you can't see anything , doesn't mean you should shut your eyes.

~Ray Charles

What is a soul? It's like electricity - we don't really know what it is, but it's a force that can light a room.

~Ray Charles

Love is a special word, and I use it only when I mean it. You say the word too much and it becomes cheap.

~Ray Charles

Affluence separates people. Poverty knits 'em together. You got some sugar and I don't; I borrow some of yours. Next month you might not have any flour; well, I'll give you some of mine.

~Ray Charles

Learning to read music in Braille and play by ear helped me develop a damn good memory.

~Ray Charles

There are many spokes on the wheel of life. First, we're here to explore new possibilities.

~Ray Charles

Live each day like it's your last, 'cause one day you gonna be right

~Ray Charles

There's nothing written in the Bible, Old or New testament, that says, 'If you believe in Me, you ain't going to have no troubles.'

~Ray Charles

Dreams, if they're any good, are always a little bit crazy.

~Ray Charles

Before I begin, let me say right here and now that I'm a country boy. And, man, I mean the real backwoods! That's at the start of the start of the thing, and that's at the heart of the thing.

~Ray Charles

Music is about the only thing left that people don't fight over.

~Ray Charles

I don't think any of us really knows why we're here. But I think we're supposed to believe we're here for a purpose.

~Ray Charles

Absence makes the heart grow fonder and tears are only rain to make love grow.

~Ray Charles

What I've got to live up to, is being myself. If I do that, the rest will take care of itself.

~Ray Charles

The important thing is to feel your music, really feel it and believe it.

~Ray Charles

I never wanted to be famous. I only wanted to be great.

~Ray Charles

Music to me is just like breathing. I have to have it. It's part of me.

~Ray Charles

My mom taught me a lot. A lot about minding your own business and leaving other people's business alone. And let them think what they want.

~Ray Charles

I really feel that if you're gonna be good, you gotta practice... Practice whatever the hell you do.

~Ray Charles

Sometimes my dreams are so deep that I dream that I'm dreaming.

~Ray Charles

Goodbye don't mean gone.

~Ray Charles

[On his heroin addiction:] I did it to myself. It wasn't society...it wasn't a pusher, it wasn't being blind or being black or being poor. It was all my doing.

~Ray Charles

I can't help what I sound like. What I sound like is what i am. You know? I cannot be anything other that what I am.

~Ray Charles

Crying's always been a way for me to get things out which are buried deep, deep down. When I sing, I often cry. Crying is feeling, and feeling is being human.

~Ray Charles

Even though I'm not Jewish...Israel is one of the few causes I feel good about supporting.

~Ray Charles

Music is my life, professionally, for nearly 60 years. To be recognized by the academy is still the highest honor.

~Ray Charles

Music is the chalk to the blackboard of life. Without it everything is a blank slate

~Ray Charles

I was born with music inside me

~Ray Charles

Just like you can buy grades of silk, you can buy grades of justice.

~Ray Charles

I cant retire from music any more than I can retire from my liver. Youd have to remove the music from me surgicallyâ€”like you were taking out my appendix.

~Ray Charles

There's such a thing as too much happiness and sadness. What I'm after is contentment.

~Ray Charles

I just want to make my mark, leave something musically good behind.

~Ray Charles

Now Listen You know I work so hard, all day long Everything I try to do, Seem to always turn out wrong That's why I wanna stop by on my way home and say Let's go get stoned

~Ray Charles

Other arms reach out to me, Other eyes smile tenderly, Still in peaceful dreams I see, The road leads back to you.

~Ray Charles

Hit the road Jack, don'tcha come back no more, no more, no more, no more. Hit the road Jack, don'tcha come back no more.

~Ray Charles

You never can overwhelm an instrument. You will never get out all that's in an instrument. An instrument will bring you to your limits.

~Ray Charles

Drunken talk isn't meant to be printed in the paper.

~Ray Charles

If you can play the blues, you can do anything.

~Ray Charles

It's like Duke Ellington said, there are only two kinds of music - good and bad. And you can tell when something is good.

~Ray Charles

Many times during auditions, I was told that I couldn't carry a note with a bucket, and that I sure couldn't play the piano.

~Ray Charles

Nowadays they say you need a special chip to put in the TV so kids can't watch this and that. In my day, we didn't need a chip. My mom was the chip. End of story.

~Ray Charles

My music had roots which I'd dug up from my own childhood, musical roots buried in the darkest soil.

~Ray Charles

Women anchor me. They're there when I need them. They're sensitive to me, and I'm sensitive to them. I'm not saying I've loved that many women.

~Ray Charles

Art Tatum -- he was a genius. And Einstein, not me.

~Ray Charles

Rhythm and blues used to be called race music. ... This music was going on for years, but nobody paid any attention to it.

~Ray Charles

I don't know what would have happened to me if I hadn't been able to hear.

~Ray Charles

Sighted people, you gotta deal with them.

~Ray Charles

I never said I was a genius. I never said I was a cornerstone. I've never said I'm a legend in my own time. You never heard me say nothing like that.

~Ray Charles

What makes my approach special is that I do different things. I do jazz, blues, country music and so forth. I do them all, like a good utility man.

~Ray Charles

I always stay out of the rehearsal room you know when they first come in. Then once they had chance to play a little bit, then I walk in. Because I've seen guys fall apart.

~Ray Charles

I was born with music inside me. That's the only explanation I know of

~Ray Charles

I think that most great artists who are extremely known, as I am, would

intimidate a lot of people. I don't want to do that to people, but I know I do.

~Ray Charles

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

~Ray Charles

If somebody don't like something that I do, that's his or her prerogative. Just like it's mine.

~Ray Charles

I set my own rhythm, and I do believe it was usually a little faster than most other people's.

~Ray Charles

I had to pawn my clothes just to pay my rent.

~Ray Charles

I got a cow that went dry and a hen that won't lay, a big stack of bills that gets bigger each day.

~Ray Charles

I sing what I sing true. Each night I sing it the way I feel that night.

~Ray Charles

I don't sing a song unless I feel it. The song don't tug at my heart, I pass on it. I have to believe in what I'm doing.

~Ray Charles

I heard someone say that all black people got rhythm. Bullshit.

~Ray Charles

All my life I've always been so blue, born to lose, and now I'm losing



you.

~Ray Charles

The role of the designer is basically that of a good host, anticipating the needs of the guest.

~Ray Charles

I know it sounds strange - a blind teenager buzzin' round on a motorcycle - but I liked that; that was me. I had always been nervy, and I always had a lot of faith in my ability not to break my neck.

~Ray Charles

The fact of the matter is, you don't give up what's natural. Anything I've fantasized about, I've done.

~Ray Charles

**Related Links:**

- People Quotes
- Music Quotes
- Country Quotes
- Play Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Song Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Mom Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Music Is Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Dream Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Genius Quotes
- Blind Quotes
- Piano Quotes
- Knows Quotes
- Clothes Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Trying Quotes