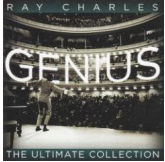


Ray Charles – Genius! The Ray Charles Ultimate Collection (2009)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Hit The Road Jack* 2. *What'd I Say (Part 1)* 3. *Busted* 4. *I Can't Stop Loving You* 5. *Sticks And Stones* 6. *Drown In My Own Tears* 7. *Unchain My Heart* 8. *Georgia On My Mind* 9. *I've Got A Woman* 10. *You Are My Sunshine* 11. *Take These Chains From My Heart* 12. *Hide Nor Hair* 13. *Let's Go Get Stoned* 14. *You Don't Know Me* 15. *Hallelujah I Love Her So (Live)* 16. *Crying Time* 17. *A Fool For You* 18. *One Mint Julep* 19. *Here We Go Again* 20. *Yesterday* 21. *America The Beautiful*

Concord's 2009 compilation *Genius: The Ultimate Collection* is merely one in a long line of Ray Charles hits packages -- not to mention merely one in a long line of releases that have either the word "Genius" or "Ultimate" in their titles -- and "Ultimate" may be too strong a word for a collection that has only 21 tracks, but it nevertheless does function as an excellent sampler of Ray's iconic hits of the '50s and '60s. This samples his Atlantic and ABC recordings relatively equally, ever so slightly favoring the latter. While some of his rawest early R&B will be missed by those who care about such things, those who lodge a complaint already know and have that music in their collections. This is an introduction and sampler for those who don't know Ray Charles' prime, or only need him at his very best, a side that this compilation presents cleanly and efficiently. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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