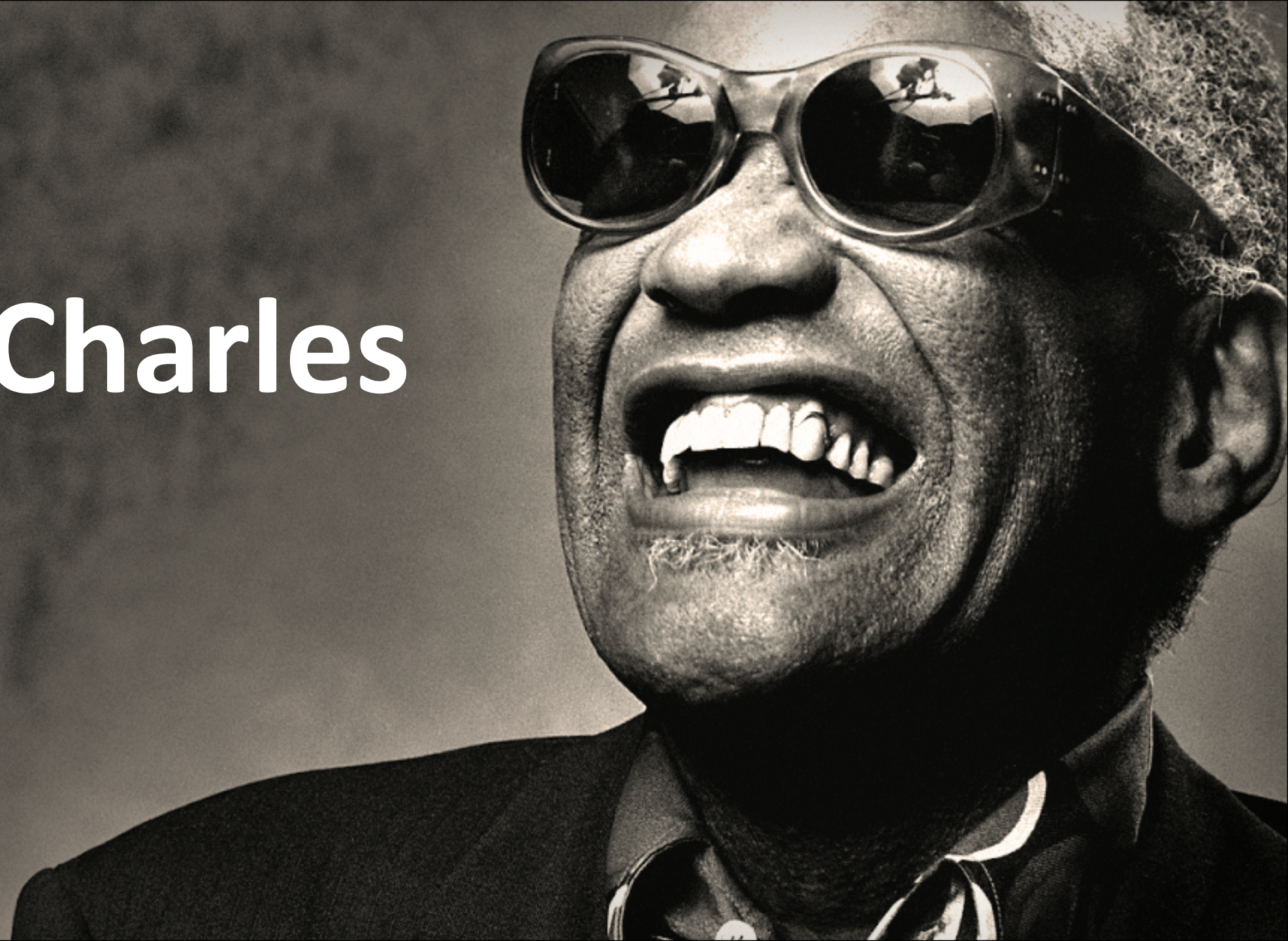


Ray Charles



Early Life

Ray Charles Robinson was born on September 23, 1930 in Albany, Georgia. His parents were Aretha and Bailey Robinson. Ray was a very smart boy. Before the age of five he knew how to play the piano. Around then came something the Robinson family thought would never happen. His younger brother, at the age of four, drowned in his mother's washtub. Ray tried to save him, but already going blind and only five, he couldn't. After this happened, and after ray went blind because of glaucoma , his mother and father decided it was best for him to go to a school for the blind. While attending Florida school for the deaf and blind his mother and father died. This left him a poor blind orphan, though he used what he learned at school to earn money. Soon later, Ray began to sign contracts, and his career began.





Music Time!

In 1949 Ray Charles released his first song with the name Confession Blues. Around a year later, he moved to Los Angeles and spent the next few years with the blues musician Lowell Fulson, working as his director. He sung with Swing Time Records, and soon after Ray recorded Two more R&B hits. The names of the songs were Baby, Let Me Hold Your Hand (1951), and Kissa Me Baby (1952). These two songs reached No. 8 and 5. The following year Ahmet Ertegun signed him to Atlantic.

Career

Ray Charles' most famous song was Hit The Road Jack, and his first song was confession blues. He wrote many types of music including the blues, jazz and pop.



Quotes



"I never **wanted** to be **famous**, I only wanted to be **Great**."



"Music is **powerful**. As people **listen** to it, they can be **affected**. They **respond**."

"I don't **know** what would've **happened** to **me** if I hadn't been able to **hear**"

