

Sports & Entertainment

Tangerine Records announces Ray Charles remasters to celebrate his impact on country music and to honor his 94th birth year

The many musical faces of the great late Ray Charles whose style still lives in American culture

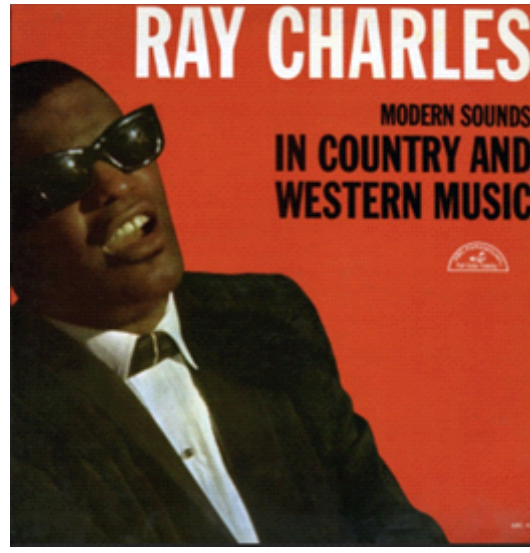
“Here’s Ray Charles doing country songs, introducing those songs to millions and millions of people who, otherwise, would have never had a chance to hear them.” – Willie Nelson

– Ray Charles changed the way the world perceived country music. In celebration of what would’ve been his 94th birthday on September 23, Charles’ own Tangerine Records announced five newly remastered albums – four classic titles, and a new entry into the Ray Charles canon – that remind us of his influence in breaking down boundaries as one of the first major Black artists in country music.

Listeners can hear the roots of today’s country renaissance in these timeless recordings, beginning with the game-changing 1962 albums *Modern Sounds In Country And Western Music* and *Modern Sounds In Country And Western Music Vol. 2*, both available this Friday, September 27. These will be followed by 1965’s *Country & Western Meets Rhythm & Blues* and 1966’s *Crying Time* on October 18, marking the first time these two rare albums will be available on vinyl since their original pressing. On November 15, a new compilation album titled *Best of Country & Western* will be released, featuring highlights from across Charles’ country music recordings. All will be available on vinyl, CD and all streaming platforms.

This series showcases Charles’ unparalleled interpretations of country classics and serves as a timely reminder of his role as a cultural pioneer who helped bridge racial divides through the universal language of music.

Originally released in 1962, the groundbreaking *Modern Sounds In Country And Western Music* changed the course of popular music and led Willie Nelson to remark, “Ray Charles did more for country music than any other



Fans can enjoy this musical event in history when Tangerine Records releases remasters from the discography of Rhythm & Blues legend Ray Charles who masterfully crossed over music charts to gain country music & western fans at a time when even the music industry was segregated. Ray Charles’ love and appreciation for both genres made him both loved and well-respected across what was once the racial music divide. Tangerine Records will release Ray Charles’ “Best of Country & Western” on November 15; “Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music” and “Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music Vol. 2” on September 27”; and “Country and Western Meets Rhythm and Blues” on October 18. (Photos/Courtesy: Tangerine Records)

On 1966’s *Crying Time* album, Charles delivers the definitive version of that Buck Owens classic, which won the GRAMMY for Best Rhythm & Blues Solo Vocal Performance Male, and Charles recognition as Producer of Best Rhythm & Blues Recording by The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. As if that weren’t enough, the album also boasts Charles’ #1 R&B Billboard smash “Let’s Go Get Stoned.”

The new *Best Of Country & Western* album features a tracklist of iconic songs hand-picked to tell the story of Charles’ impact on the genre. With thoughtful attention to detail, this collection showcases Ray’s unparalleled interpretations of country classics.

“These are the recordings that established Ray Charles as the



Genius of Country, a legend who’s been enshrined in the Country Music Hall of Fame and whose influence can still be heard at the top of the country charts as artists continue to walk through the doors he opened and channel his singular sound,” says Exceleeration Music Co-Founder John Burk, who produced Charles’ GRAMMY-winning final studio album *Genius Loves Company*. “These albums tell the story of how Ray single-handedly reshaped country music, expanded its audience and, in the process, transformed himself from artist to icon.”

“We’re beyond thrilled to present these definitive albums, which chronicle the breadth and depth of Ray Charles’ unprecedented contribution to the country music landscape,” says Valerie Ervin, President of The Ray Charles Foundation. “It also

gives me great joy to know that all of this music will be widely available not only on streaming but also on vinyl so that everyone can experience the True Genius of Ray Charles.”

Ray Charles’ recordings are major landmarks in American culture. By blending country and roots with other popular sounds, this legendary singer, songwriter, pianist and composer brought his expansive musical vision to a worldwide audience. Charles’ albums, released during the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, broke down both racial and genre barriers. He continued to do something no other artist had done before or since, conquering all genres of music, from gospel and R&B to soul, country, jazz, blues, pop and beyond.

Dubbed by Frank Sinatra as the

Please see sports-Ent. 4

Email entertainment news and photos to MSTentertainment@prodigy.net

Listeners can hear the roots of today’s country renaissance in these timeless recordings, beginning with the game-changing 1962 albums *Modern Sounds In Country And Western Music* and *Modern Sounds In Country And Western Music Vol. 2*, both available this Friday, September 27.

artist.” It quickly became one of the best-selling albums recorded by a Black musician of the time, as well as one of the best-selling country albums. This first installment spawned four hit singles, including the #1 Billboard Hot 100 smash “I Can’t Stop Loving You,” which won Best Rhythm & Blues Recording at the fifth annual GRAMMY Awards. Charles remains the first and only Black performer to earn a GRAMMY Award and a #1 Billboard pop chart hit with a country song. Volume 2 followed its predecessor that same year and received similar critical acclaim and commercial success, featuring three hit singles including the classic, “You Are My Sunshine.”

The success of the *Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music* albums paved the way for Charles’ creative freedom as an artist. In 1965, he continued to show his deep affinity for country music with *Country & Western Meets Rhythm & Blues*, a.k.a. *Together Again*, which features his unforgettable version of the Buck Owens staple “Together Again.” This album also holds the distinction of being the first album Charles recorded in his own RPM International recording studio.



DAREDEVIL

— BORN AGAIN —