

Ray Charles | A Song for You

SONG TITLE: A SONG FOR YOU

ALBUM: MY WORLD

RELEASED: 1993

LABEL: WARNER

GENRE: BLUES/SOUL

VOCALS: RAY CHARLES

PIANO: RAY CHARLES

GUITAR: PAUL JACKSON JR.

BASS: ABE LABORIEL

DRUMS: STEVE GADD

HORNS: LEE THORNBURG

WRITTEN BY: LEON RUSSELL

PRODUCED BY: SHAUN LABELLE,
RICHARD PERRY

UK CHART PEAK: NOT RELEASED AS A
SINGLE IN THE UK

This song was originally written and recorded by pianist Leon Russell in 1970 and has been dubbed by Elton John an "American Classic". Charles decided to cover the song on his 1993 album *My World*. It won him a Grammy in the same year and reached No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The album, *My World*, was intended to feature some cover versions by contemporary artists and showcase his ability in contemporary R&B also.

Notably, the song was performed in New York at a tribute for country artist Willie Nelson's 70th birthday celebrations. Charles and Nelson have formally collaborated. Original writer Leon Russell sang the first verse, Nelson the second and Ray Charles sang the remainder of the song. The performance apparently moved Willie Nelson to tears.

Ray Charles became blind at the age of seven. He learnt to play piano at school, using braille. It is not an easy process and involves students having to memorise their parts, using one hand at a time to read the braille and play piano with the other hand to finally put them together. Charles was originally

♩ = 56
N.C.
8va

taught to play classical music at school including Bach, Mozart and Beethoven but he much preferred playing Jazz and Blues and would often perform in his local neighbourhood when he was younger.

Ray Charles states that four great jazz piano players influenced him: Art Tatum, Bud Powell, Nat "King" Cole and Oscar Peterson. In his early career, his style tended to imitate his idol Nat "King" Cole but he gradually developed his own soul style blending Gospel, Blues and Jazz. He later became known by the nickname "The Genius" due to his ability to blend music from a variety of genres and following his successful Soul releases on Atlantic, moved into country music also. Frank Sinatra referred to him as "the only true genius in show business".

Throughout his career he was awarded a total of 12 Grammy Awards. He holds the record for the most posthumous awards won in one night at the 2005 Grammys where he was awarded five.

A Song for You

Ray Charles

♩=56
N.C.

8va-

The piano introduction consists of two systems of music. The first system features a treble clef staff with a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes, and a bass clef staff with whole notes. The second system continues the melodic line in the treble clef, with the bass clef staff remaining mostly empty.

The piano accompaniment for the first system consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef staff with a melodic line and a bass clef staff with whole notes. The second system continues the melodic line in the treble clef, with the bass clef staff having a few notes at the end. A G7 chord is indicated above the final measure.

Cm

I've been so ma-ny pla - ces in my life and time.

G7/B

[5]

The first system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in the treble clef, starting with a rest followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff, with chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. A Cm chord is indicated above the first measure, and a G7/B chord is indicated above the final measure. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

Cm/B^b

I've sung— a lot of songs,— I've made some bad rhymes.

Cm/A

[7]

The second system of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in the treble clef, starting with a rest followed by the lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in the grand staff, with chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. A Cm/B^b chord is indicated above the first measure, and a Cm/A chord is indicated above the final measure. A quintuplet of eighth notes is marked with a '5' above it.

A^b **E^bsus²** **Fm⁷** **E^b/G**

I've act - ed out my life on sta - ges with ten thou - sand peo - ple watch - ing, —

[9]

A^b **E^b/B^b** **B^b7sus⁴** **E^b** **G⁷**

but we're a - lone — and I'm just a - sing - ing this song — for you.

[11]

Cm **G⁷/B**

I know your i - mage of me is what I hope to be, — ba - by.

[13]

Cm/B^b **Cm/A**

I treat - ed you un - kind - ly but girl, — can't you see —

[15]

A^b **E^b/G** **Fm⁷** **E^b/G**

there's no - one more im - por - tant to me. — So darl - ing can't you please see through me

[17]

A^b **E^b/B^b** **B^b7^{sus}4** **E^b** **G⁷**

'cos we're a - lone and now I'm — sing - ing my song for you. —

[19]

Cm **G⁷/B** **Cm/B^b** **Cm/A**

You taught me pre - cious sec - rets of the truth with - hold - ing no - thing. —

[21]

A^b **E^b/B^b** **A^b/E^b** **E^b** **G⁷**

You came out in front and I was hid - ing. — yeah.

[23]

Cm G⁷/B E^b/B^b Cm/A

But now I'm so much bet - ter so if my words don't come to - ge - ther,

[25]

A^b Gm⁷ F⁷ B^b7sus⁴ B^b

lis - ten to the me - lo - dy 'cos my love's in there hid - ing.

[27]

N.C. G⁷

gva

[29]

Cm G⁷/B

I love you in a place where there's no space or time,

[31]

Cm/B^b **Cm/A**

I love— you for my life, 'cos you're a friend of mine.—

[33]

A^b **E^b/G** **Fm⁷** **E^b/G**

And when my life is ov - er re - mem - ber when we walked to - ge - ther,

[35]

A^b **E^b/B^b** **B^b7^{sus}4** **E^b** **E^b/D^b**

we were a - lone— and I — was sing - ing my song— for you.—

[37]

A^b

[40]

Gm⁷b⁵ C⁷

[42]

Fm⁷ Fm⁷/E^b Dm⁷b⁵ G⁷#⁵ G⁷

[43]

Cm G⁷/B Cm/B^b

loved_ you in a place_ where_ there's no space or time,_ I've loved_ you for my life,_ yes,

[45]

Cm/A A^b E^b/G

you're a friend of mine._ And when my life is ov - er re -

[48]

Fm7

E♭/G

A♭

E♭/B♭

mem-ber when we were to - ge - ther, — we were a - lone and I — was

[50]

B♭7sus4

E♭

A♭

E♭/B♭

B♭7sus4

E♭

sing - ing my song_ for you. Yes, we_ were a - lone_ and I_ was sing - ing this song_ for you. — Yeah,

[52]

A♭

E♭/G

D♭

A♭

we_ were a - lone_ and I_ was sing - ing my song, sing - ing my song, — sing - ing my

[55]

A♭/E♭

E♭

poco rall.

B♭

song, — sing - ing my song, — sing - ing my song, —

[58]

8vb