

COUPLETS FOR RAY

Garland Strother

Ray Charles, blind black singer, erupted in blues.
Inflections of sound said it: he's paid his dues.

The first time we heard his "America" we knew
that no one else's would ever again begin to do.

Southern born ebony son of new world slaves,
he found the soul in his country's amber waves.

Out of Africa but raised in the American grain,
he looked for truth and made beauty out of pain.

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