

## 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.

"Couplets for Ray" © 2006 by Garland Strother

*Contemporary Rhyme* Vol. 3 No. 4 2006