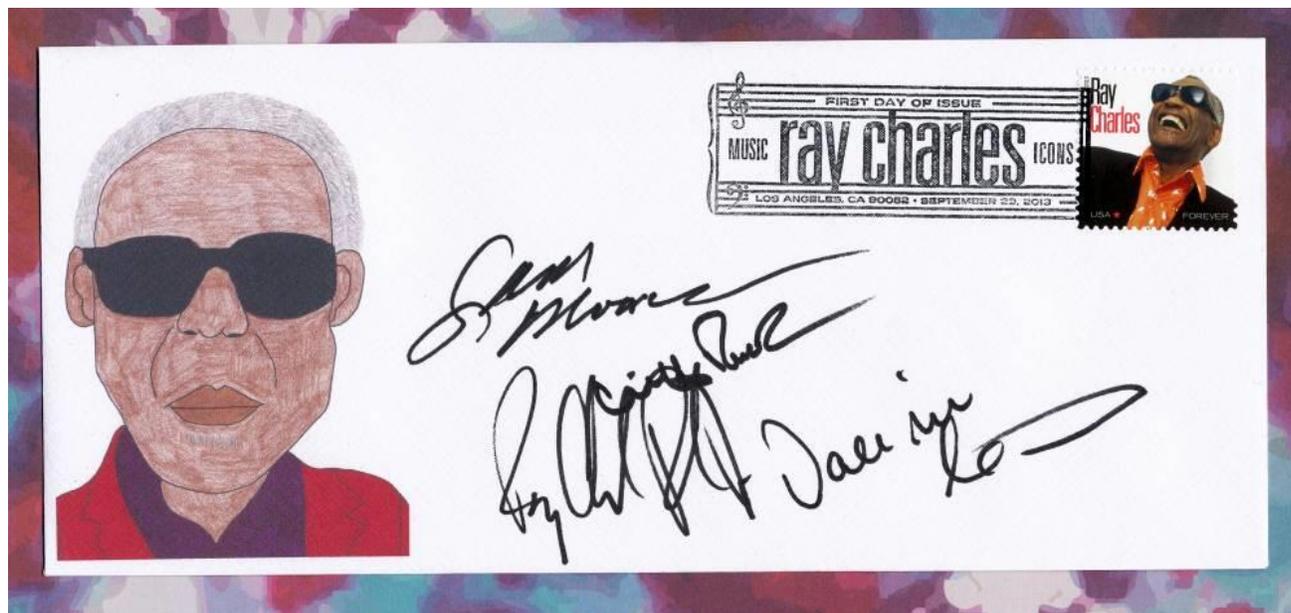


My Hand Drawn Ray Charles Cover

By Christopher William Anton Janson



I came up with the idea for this cover while watching the recent movie, "Ray", about Ray Charles.

After doing some sketches, I had the difficult decision of having to choose the one I liked the best.

Having made my selection, I spent about two days sketching a more detailed image of Ray Charles on a piece of paper, which involved outlining him very lightly in pencil.

After the sketch was done, I used my colored pencils and markers to color him in. Then, I scanned the artwork into my computer and used my computer software to clean it up. The final step was to print the cachets onto my envelopes.

On September 23, my Uncle Bill picked me up and drove to the Grammy Museum in downtown Los Angeles where the First Day event was to take place. Once we arrived, we bought the Ray Charles stamps, put them on our covers, and got them cancelled.

The First Day of Issue ceremony started at about 1:00 PM and lasted for almost 1 ½ hours. Eloquent and inspirational remarks were spoken by Ray Charles Robinson, Jr., the son of Ray Charles, Mark Ridley Thomas, Chairman/Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and Rev. Jesse Jackson. Other comments were made by Valerie Ervin, President/Ray Charles Foundation, Cliff Rucker, VP/Sales/USPS, and Robert Santelli, Director/The GRAMMY Museum. Musical performances were given by GRAMMY Museum Summer Sessions students, with the most noteworthy

performance done by Chaka Khan, ten-time GRAMMY Award-Winning singer.

Before the autograph session, there was a 30-minute break to allow the media to photograph and interview the dignitaries.

At the signing, the ceremony dignitaries signed two of my Ray Charles covers and my ceremony program. I loved that they got to see my artwork that I did for this event. One of my signed covers is shown here.

This article is dedicated to Ray Charles. . . . a true musical genius. He is TRULY MISSED and LOVED all over the WORLD.