

Blues Pt. I

Ole blues
Then Ray Charles blues
with weeping

willow tree Blues

I mean Milt Jackson

"Soul Brothers"

Brothers in the Lord

Lord God Blues

Who created

Leadbelly

& Jimmy Yancey

& Lightnin'

Watts

Ole Black God

Up in Blues-Heaven

With the angel

of Bessie Smith on his left hand

Leadbelly on his right

& Jimmy Yancey

Jimmy Yancey

Who recently died

11 years ago

Ole Jimmy Yancey

His Christ

Jimmy Yancey

Messiah of piano players

Buddha of the Blues

How mournful
& Ray Charles
In the dark
Ray Charles
Who lives in hell
Who spits anguish
and agony of sightlessness
Through his alto sax
on old traditional
"How Long Blues".

Oh God /
Ray Charles
When you die
& go to blessed heaven
God will bow down before you
as his superior
& what man with soul
can ever forget
that charism

on Soul Brothers:
"How Long Blues",
or "Sweet 16 Bars."
On this "Soul Brothers"
which I listen to
you have also
the late Oscar Pettiford

↓

who fell off a bicycle

In Germany

And lay asleep on the cobbles

Until they found him

& Rushed him

to a hospital.

Too late

He hemorrhaged.

The great Oscar Pettiford

Composer of "Bohemia After Dark"

But on the date in question

When they recorded "How Long Blues"

He knew his place

in relation

to Ray

& the Bags

He kindly stepped back

to let his mentors pass.

But to the music:

I play it

over and over

again.

Yeah

Here comes that Ray Charles solo again

That crying alto saxophone

Groaning in the night

In eternal night

for the man who plays it
for the man
who will never see me
on his album covers
on his audiences
or the recording engineers
with tears in their eyes
marveling at the beauty
of it all

Ray Charles
and the blues
and my tears
Oh yes.

Pt. II

The blues

Go get um, bags
Whail in

tear in up
oh rockin' blues

Blue Funk

Oh soul, Bags

Yeah! —

Charge 'em

You know

that secret

you go

Go

Rock

These blues are tough blues
and angry