

## **Spring 2019, OLLI Cal/Lafayette: Thursdays, 1-3**

### **Course Title: “Great Voices; an in-depth look at six iconic rock and R&B singers”**

#### **Course Description:**

Throughout the rich, long arc of popular music there has always existed the *great singer*, the individual who elevates the *great song* to another dimension, a place where, as listeners, we are thrilled and inspired for the rest of our lives when we hear their work. This course will cover the lives and careers of six legendary rock and r&b singers from the period 1955-75, five Americans and one English singer whose work has embodied American roots music. Although all of them are also known as songwriters and performers, they made their mark as vocalists, who could rock our socks off one minute, while with the next breath cajole the sweetest melodies from the material they so passionately tackled. Taught chronologically, the six classes will be presented as a cultural and musical journey through the amazing lives and work of these artists when they were at the forefront of popular music. The course will do this through several media: lectures, slide shows, photographs, recorded music, film clips and the use of live music. The instructor will play piano, guitar and sing, and will choose appropriate examples from each genre to perform in class. In this class we will cover:

Week One: The “Genius,” **Ray Charles**

Week Two: The “King of Soul,” **Sam Cooke**

Week Three: The “Voice,” **Roy Orbison**

Week Four: The “The White Queen of Soul.” **Dusty Springfield**

Week Five: The “Big O,” **Otis Redding**

Week Six: The “Queen of Soul,” **Aretha Franklin**

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#### **Suggested reading, listening, viewing**

##### **Week One; Ray Charles**

Brother Ray: Ray Charles' Own Story, by Ray Charles and David Ritz 2004

Ray Charles, Man and Music, by Michael Lydon

*Ray Charles, his 1<sup>st</sup> album, Atlantic, 1957*

*The Genius of Ray Charles, 1959*

*The Genius Hits the Road 1960*

*Ray Charles' Greatest Hits 1962*

*Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music, 1962*

Blues Brothers, the movie, 1980

Ray, a film, starring Jamie Foxx 2004

##### **Week Two; Sam Cooke**

Dream Boogie: The Triumph of Sam Cooke, by Peter Guralnick, 2006

You Send Me: The Life and Times of Sam Cooke, by Daniel Wolff, 1996

*The Wonderful World of Sam Cooke, 1960*

*Ain't That Good News, 1964*

*Sam Cooke at the Copa, 1964*  
*Greatest Hits, 1998 (21 songs)*  
American Masters; Sam Cooke: Crossing Over, 2010

### **Week Three; Roy Orbison**

Rhapsody in Black: The Life and Music of Roy Orbison, by John Kruth, 2013  
The Authorized Roy Orbison, by Wesley, Roy Jr., and Alex Orbison  
*Crying, 1962*  
*In Dreams 1963*  
*Pretty Woman 1964*  
*Traveling Wilburys 1988*  
Roy Orbison: One of the Lonely Ones, BBC 2015  
Roy Orbison and Friends: A Black and White Night, with Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Bonnie Raitt and others, 1988

### **Week Four: Dusty Springfield**

Dusty: Biography of Dusty Springfield Hardcover by Lucy O'Brien  
Dusty: An Intimate Portrait of a Musical Legend by Karen Bartlett  
*Very Best of Dusty Springfield*  
*Dusty in Memphis*  
*What Have I Done to Deserve This? (with Pet Shop Boys)*  
("Just Dusty") documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUNnfRklMZE>  
Full Circle--The Life & Music of Dusty Springfield, available on youtube.

### **Week Five; Otis Redding**

Otis Redding; an Unfinished Life, by Jonathan Gould, 2017  
Dreams to Remember: Otis Redding, Stax Records, and the Transformation of Southern Soul by Mark Ribowsky 2015  
*Pain in My Heart 1964*  
*Otis Blue: Otis Redding Sings Soul 1965*  
*Complete & Unbelievable: The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul 1966*  
*Dock of the Bay 1968*  
*The Immortal Otis Redding 1968*  
Monterey Pop, 1967  
Stax Volt Revue, Live in Norway 1967

### **Week six; Aretha Franklin, 1942-2018**

Aretha: From These Roots, by David Ritz, 1999  
Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin, by David Ritz, 2015  
I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You, 1967  
*Lady Soul, 1968*  
*Aretha Now 1969*  
*Who's Zoomin' Who 1985*  
Blues Brothers, 1980  
Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul |PBS American Masters documentary