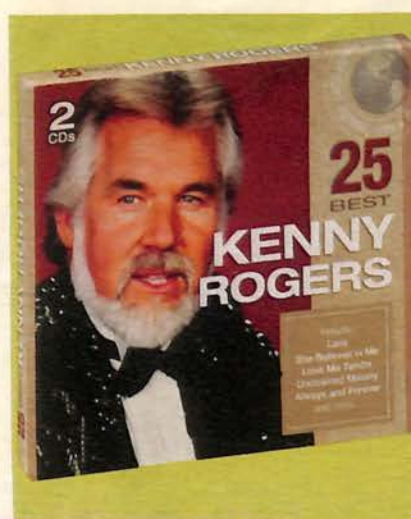




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Dolly Parton will join her longtime friend Kenny Rogers at
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July 20, 2017 D-4 COL 5 ATLANTA JOURNAL

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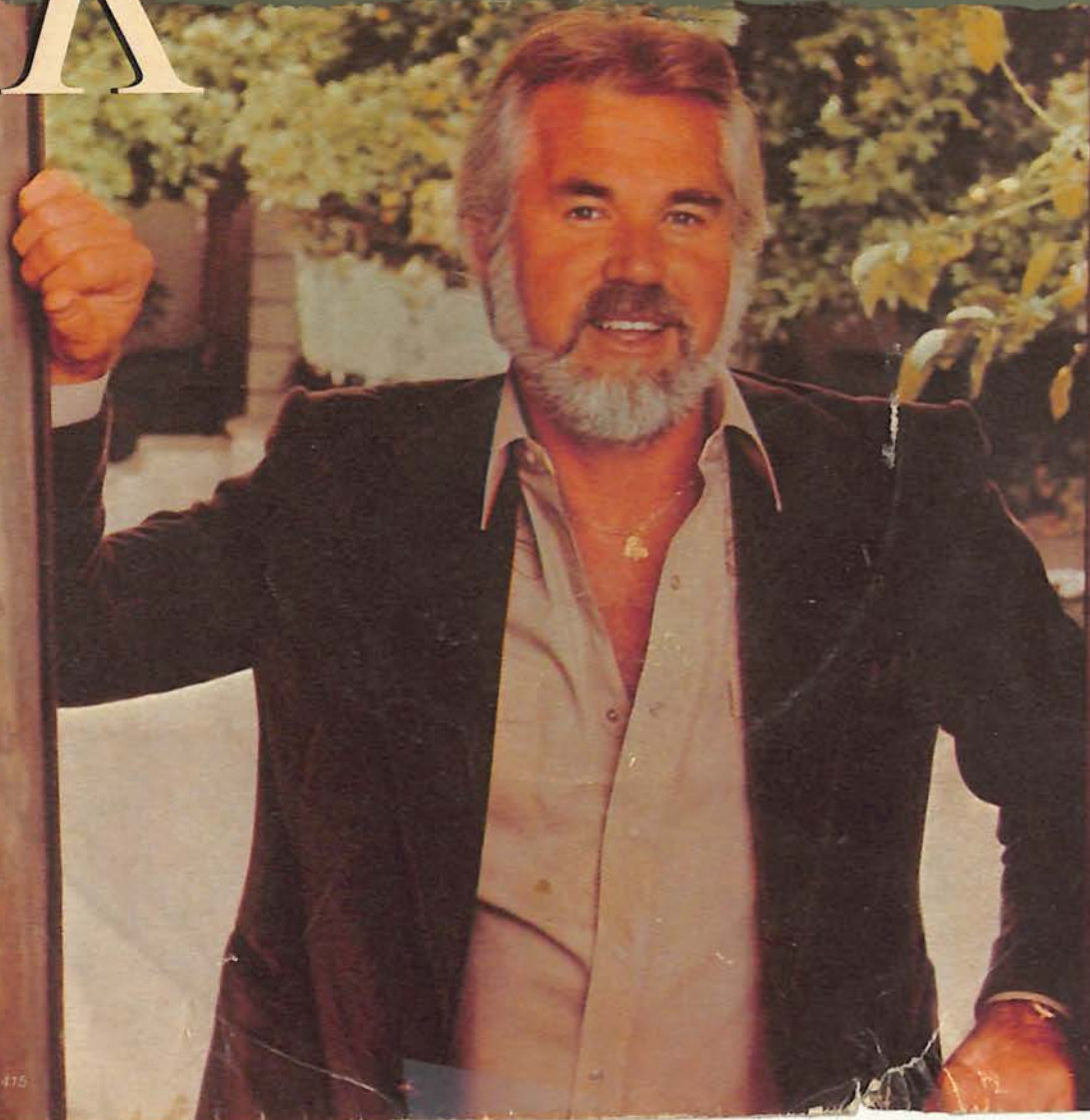
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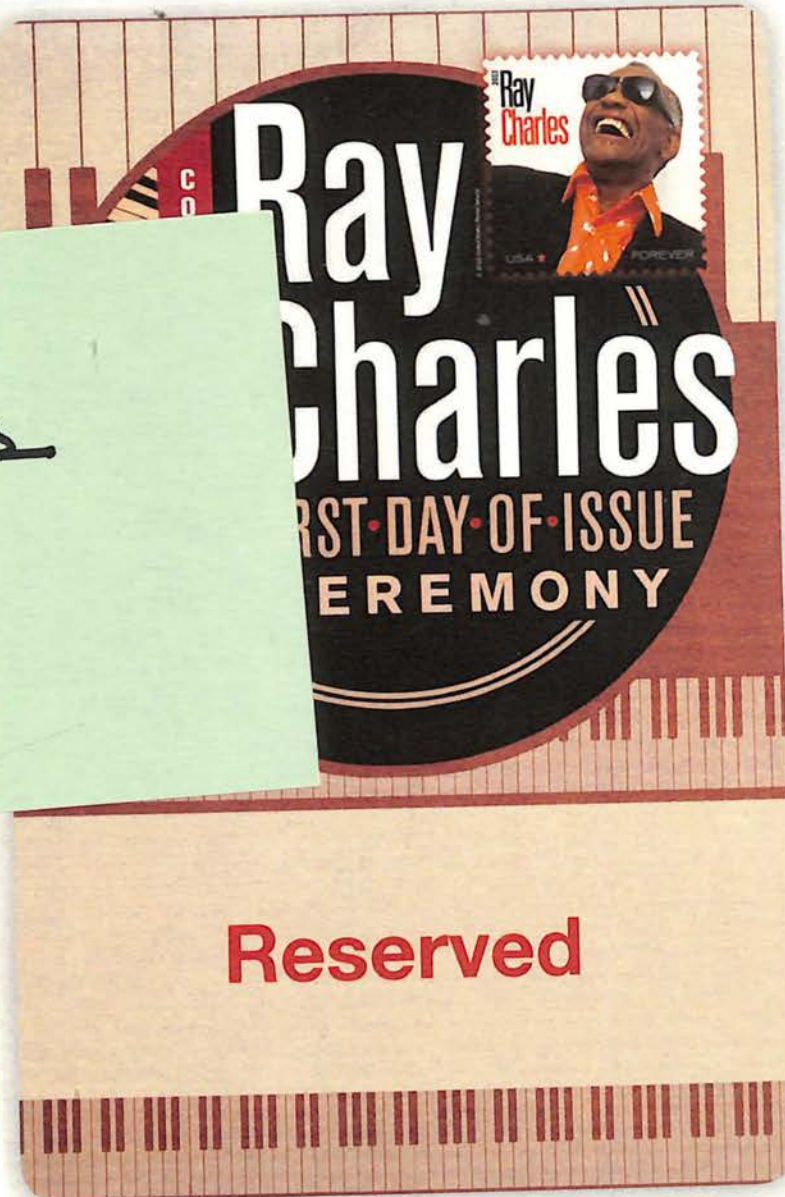
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- **You Are So Beautiful**
- **She Believes In Me**
- Don't Fall In Love With A Dreamer, Kenny Rogers & Kim Carnes • Share Your Love With Me • Lady
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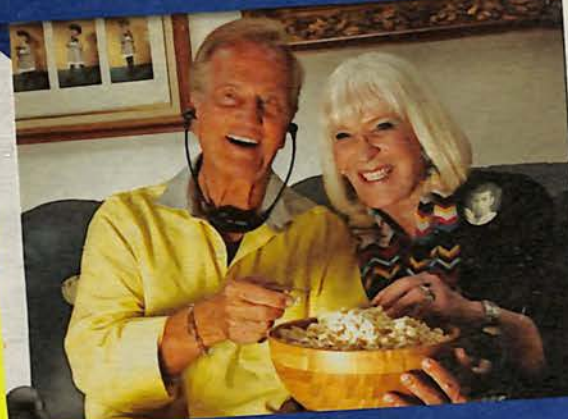
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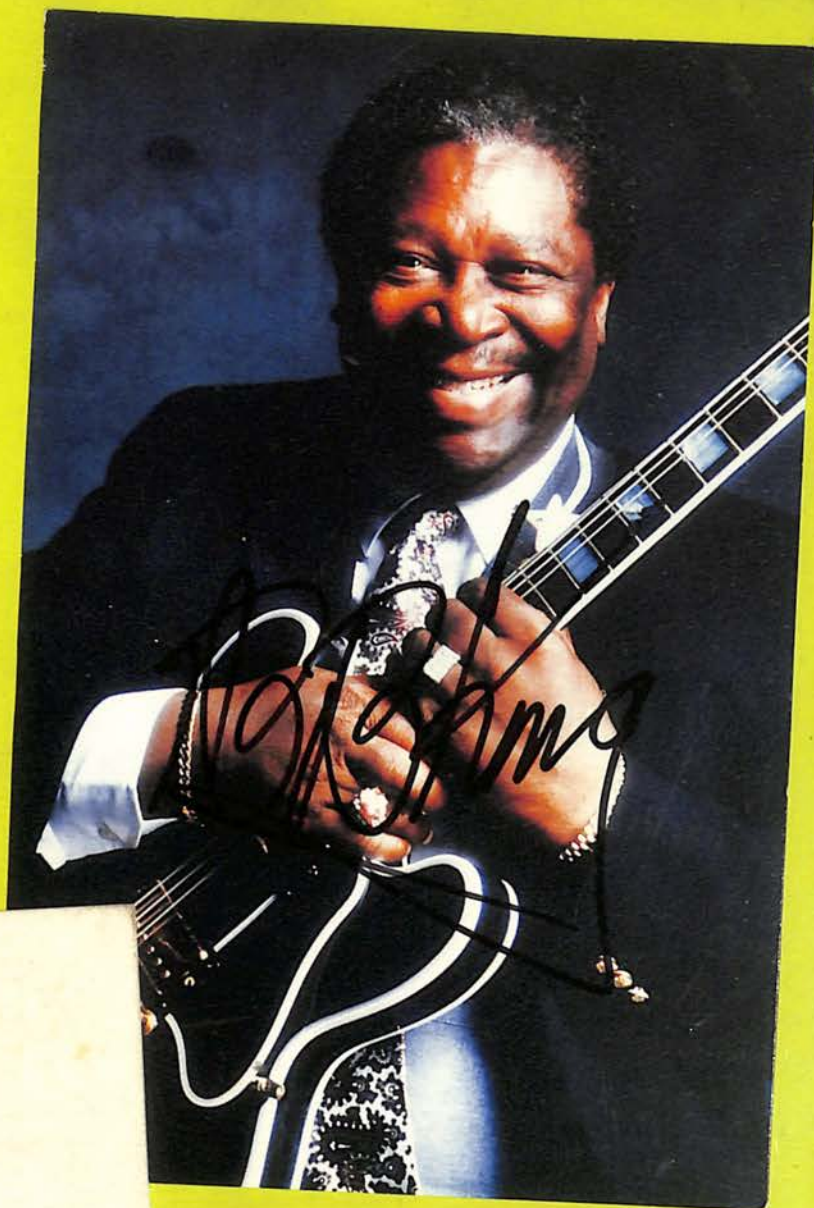
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Marty
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James
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BB King

Johnny Cash wanted people to know entire story, even the bad.

OCT 20, 2013 E-4
By Steve Weinberg Q1-1
For the AJC ATLANTA JOURNAL

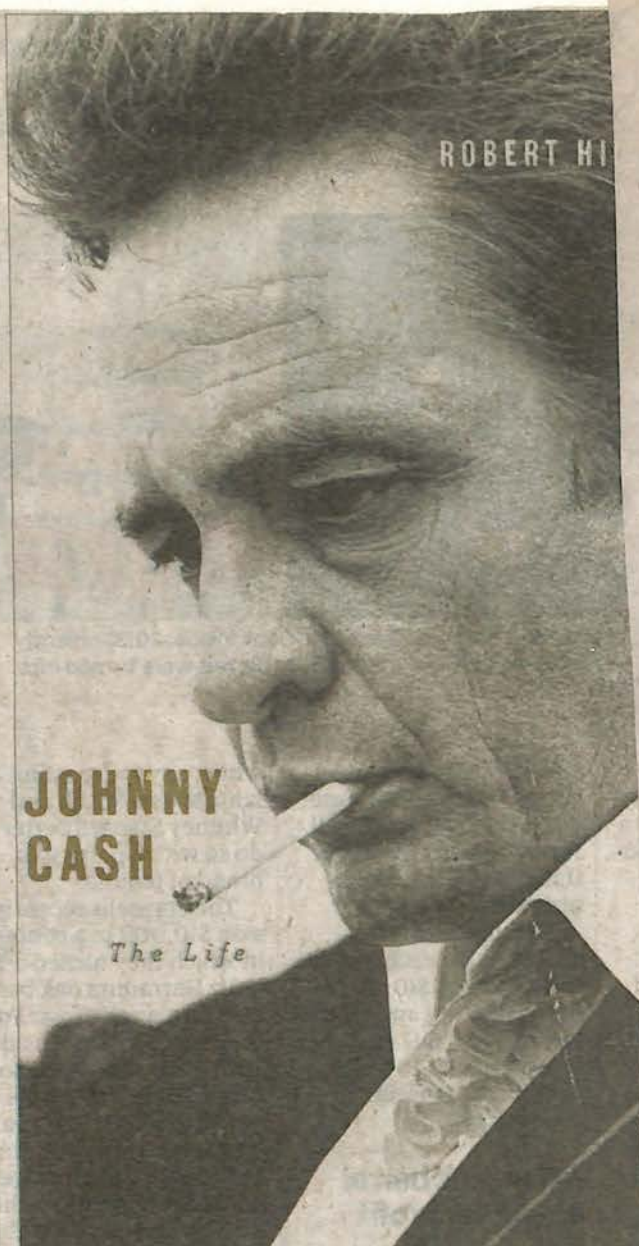
Nobody who heard the rich timbre of Johnny Cash's baritone voice could delete it from the sound track of the brain; nobody who paid attention to his arresting lyrics could deny their rhythmic poetry. When he died a decade ago, Cash was one of the most influential singers in the country, embraced by audiences across musical genres despite his country roots.

As for Cash's life offstage — well, it seemed larger than life, even to casual music consumers. He was the "man in black." And hadn't he served prison time? Making revelations in a biography about a life so familiar seemed unlikely. And yet, Robert Hilburn, the insightful veteran music writer for the Los Angeles Times, suspected much of the Cash saga was yet to be revealed.

He asked Lou Rubin, Cash's manager, how much of the singer's story had been told. "Only about 20 percent," Rubin replied. After four years of research, Hilburn found that Cash's life was far more complex than he had imagined. "And some of the more troubling discoveries caused me to question just how much the public needs to know about an artist," he said.

Hilburn faced a classic biographer's dilemma: If the primary reason for a subject's fame is artistry — in this case, songs performed by and often written by Cash — does it matter to the millions of fans whether the artist is also a drug addict and a breaker of marital vows and a frequently inattentive father, among other flaws? Evaluating Cash's life off stage became especially complex because he was at his core a devout Christian, a husband who loved his wives, a father who loved his children, a friend of intense loyalty to many less fortunate than himself.

The result of Hilburn's wrestling with his subject's life and with his own moral compass is perhaps the richest biography of a musician I have ever read, and one of the best bi-



NONFICTION

"Johnny Cash: The Life"

by Robert Hilburn
Little, Brown, 688 pages, \$32

first-rate stylist. His sentences often sing.

About Cash's famous Folsom Prison concert in 1968, Hilburn writes: "Cash once again demonstrated his ability to immerse himself in his subject matter, a sensitivity so strong he could virtually take on the personality of the people he was singing about ... But never had he empathized with his themes as completely as he would at Folsom. Cash knew what it was like to be in jail, to stand before his loved ones in handcuffs, and to walk through the seedy parts of town in search of drugs. He knew the deep pain of break-

they too could be redeemed no matter how they had stumbled," Hilburn explained.

The story starts in rural Arkansas.

Born in 1932, Cash knew as a child he wanted to write and perform songs in front of large audiences. He had no connections to draw on and no knowledge of the music industry, but he possessed determination.

Following a stint in the Air Force after high school, he traveled to Memphis and caught the attention of recording impresario Sam Phillips at Sun Studios. Slowly he began to make his mark.

The rise to stardom was not exactly meteoric. When fame happened, though, it happened big.

Radio play, concerts, television exposure, appearances in Hollywood movies — it seemed Cash was everywhere.



"Last Portrait" captured Johnny Cash four days before the country music icon died on Sept. 12, 2003.

CONTRIBUTED BY © MARTY STUART

Country music isn't musician's only talent

Marty Stuart's photographs featured in exhibit at Booth Museum.

AUG 5, 2013 E-1 COL 5
By Andrew Alexander
For the AJC ATLANTA JOURNAL