

Ray's Trophies (as featured in "s Conniff" 4/2001)

I have often been asked, how many gold and platinum awards Ray has received in his career, and so far I could only vaguely answer this question, because I was only able to list the ones presented to him in the USA. I did know about some others given to him in countries of Middle and South America, but was not exactly sure which albums they referred to. During this year's trip to California, I asked Ray whether I could check all the awards in his trophy room, and he did not mind. As the room had been redecorated only a few weeks ago, not all of his gold albums were on display. You know, after I thought I had finished the job, Ray joined me in that room and said he had just spoken with Vera on the phone in Switzerland who had reminded him of the ones which still were in the cupboard.

Once I was at it, I decided to complete the list by adding other awards as well, even some which may appear less important. Anyway, below are my findings. Isn't this a most impressive list?



Gold and platinum records / important awards:

Country	Year	Text featured on documents / plaques
USA	1957	The Cash Box Award to Ray Conniff voted the most programmed up and coming orchestra in the Cash Box Disk Jockey Poll 1957
USA	1958	The Cash Box Award to Ray Conniff voted the most promising orchestra in the Cash Box Disk Jockey Poll 1958
USA	1959	The Cash Box Award to Ray Conniff voted the most programmed studio orchestra, The Cash Box Disk Jockey Poll 1959
USA	1962	To Ray Conniff commemorating the sale of over \$ 1,000,000 of the Columbia Long Playing Record "s Marvelous" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1962	To Ray Conniff commemorating the sale of over \$ 1,000,000 of the Columbia Long Playing Record "Concert in Rhythm" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1962	To Ray Conniff commemorating the sale of over \$ 1,000,000 of the Columbia Long Playing Record "Memories Are Made of This" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1962	To Ray Conniff commemorating the sale of over \$ 1,000,000 of the Columbia Long Playing Record "So Much In Love" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1963	To Ray Conniff commemorating the sale of over \$ 1,000,000 of the Columbia Long Playing Record "Christmas with Conniff" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1966	Presented to Ray Conniff to commemorate the sale of more than one million dollars worth of the Columbia Long Playing Record "Somewhere My Love" (Framed golden LP); note: this album also went platinum in 1986
USA	1969	Presented to Ray Conniff to commemorate the sale of more than one million dollars worth of the Columbia Long Playing Record "Honey" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1969	Presented to Ray Conniff to commemorate the sale of more than one million dollars worth of the Columbia Long Playing Record "It Must Be Him" (Framed golden LP)
USA	1969	World Star Festival / This golden record is presented to the Ray Conniff Singers on the occasion of the sale of the first millionth copy, Spring 1968 / Record issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Note: This album by various artists features the Ray Conniff Singers' "Somewhere My Love")
UK	1974	Pickwick International Gold Award presented to Ray Conniff and his orchestra for record sales in excess of 650,000 and tape sales in excess of 120,000 on Pickwick's Hallmark label, 24 th November 1974, Theatre Royal Drury Lane, London, (award / statue looks like a caricature of a British guy)
Latin America (?)	1981	A: Ray Conniff por las ventas del año 1981 en su album "Exclusivamente Latino" (Note: This is a gold LP)
Latin America (?)	1983	CBS / Columbia Internacional, S.A., Ctorga el presente disco de Oro a Ray Conniff por ventas superiores a 100,000 copias en el año 1983 (Note: This is a gold LP, it does not bear a title)
USA	1988	Presented to Ray Conniff in recognition of three decades of Columbia Record & Tape Club, Selections of the month, CBS / Columbia House 1988 (Two golden LP's are framed, "s Marvelous" and "Always in My Heart")
USA	1989	To Ray Conniff commemorating the sale of over \$ 1,000,000 of the Columbia Long Playing Record "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (Framed golden LP); note: this album also went platinum in 1989

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Country	Year	Text featured on documents / plaques
Middle America	1994	Otorgado a Ray Conniff, Commemorando que el album publicado por Sony Music titulado "Fantastico" alcanzó el Galardón de Disco de Oro Agosto 1994, America Central (This is a framed gold CD)
Middle America	1994	Otorgado a Ray Conniff, Commemorando que el album publicado por Sony Music titulado "Supersonico" alcanzó el Galardón de Disco de Oro, Agosto 1994, America Central (This is a framed gold CD)
Middle America	1994	Otorgado a Ray Conniff, Commemorando que el album publicado por Sony Music titulado "Exclusivamente Latino" alcanzó el Galardón de Disco de Platino, Agosto 1994, America Central (This is a framed platinum CD)
Middle America	1994	Otorgado a Ray Conniff, Commemorando que el album publicado por Sony Music titulado "Siempre Latino" alcanzó el Galardón de Disco de Platino, Agosto 1994, America Central (This is a framed platinum CD)
Venezuela	1995	Homenaje de Sony Music Venezuela a nuestra artista Ray Conniff por sus 40 años de exitos en esta compañía, Junio 1995, (Note: This is a framed "Fantastico"-CD)
Venezuela	?	Presented by CBS Records International and CBS Records Venezuela to Ray Conniff commemorating the sales of 100,000 units in Venezuela of the CBS album "Fantastico" (Note: This is a gold LP)
Brazil	?	Exclusivamente Para Amigos, Ray Conniff, Disco de ouro CBS pela venda superior a 100,000 cópias, Premio CBS, Em homenagem a Ray Conniff pela venda superior a 100,000 cópias no Brasil (Note: "Exclusivamente Para Amigos" (= "Exclusivamente Latino"), gold LP, framed.)
Brazil	?	30 Anos de Sucesso, A tribute to Ray Conniff for sales over 100,000 units of the album "30 Anos de sucesso" in Brazil (Note: This is a golden LP, framed)

Nominations / Honors:

Country	Year	Text featured
USA	1968	The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences presents this certificate to Ray Conniff and the Singers in recognition of Nomination for the best contemporary-pop performance-chorus, "Honey", for the awards period 1968, (signed: Mort L. Nasatir, National President)
USA	1969	The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences presents this certificate to Ray Conniff and the Singers in recognition of Nomination for the best contemporary performance by a chorus, "Jean", for the awards period 1969 (signed: Irving Townsend, National President)
USA	1999	The American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers for consistent achievement in music arranging, orchestration and composition, The Society Honors Ray Conniff June 16, 1999 (signed: Ian Fraser, President)

Grammy / Crystal Globe:

Country	Year	Text featured
USA	1966	National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Ray Conniff: Best performance by a chorus – 1966 "Somewhere My Love", The Ray Conniff Singers
USA	1977	Crystal Globe Award, presented to Ray Conniff by CBS Records International to commemorate the overseas sales of more than 5,000,000 albums, June 1977 (Note: This was the 5 th Crystal Globe ever awarded; it was made by Tiffany & Co.)

Statues etc.

Country	Year	Text featured on plaques / notes
?	1983	A Ray Conniff por 29 años de exitos, Radio Mil, Octubre de 1983 (The statue of this award looks like a kangaroo)
Italy	1962	Premio 1962 della critica discografica Italiana (statue of a lady)
Chile	1979	En homenaje al gran musico y director norteamericano Ray Conniff con motivo de su visita al XX Festival de la Canción de Viña del Mar Chile le rinde este homenaje perpetuandola en bronce, Bronceria Chile en colaboración von Diario la Teraera de la Hora / Viña del Mar Febrero 1979 (This award is a bust of Ray. It has both the Chelonian and the USA flags, and above the plaque you can see a golden seagull (Gaviota).)
Brazil	1981	This is a golden statue that has a winged lady on top of a globe, positioned on top of a fundament of four columns
Brazil	1981	Troféu / Orden dos Musicos de Brasil, Ao Regente Ray Conniff, S.P. 31-3-81

Plaques, medals and other trophies:

Country	Year	Text featured
Mexico	?	A Ray Conniff, el major director de Orchesta de America / Festival internacional artistico de Mexico APERM / Asociacion de periodistas especializados de la Republica Mexicana / Año de Juarez (note: The frame of this plaque also contains a golden eagle)
Brazil	1958	O Globo radiolandia / Disco de Ouro – 1958, Orchestra dançante RC – Columbia (This is a coin)
Brazil	1959	O Globo radiolandia / Disco de Ouro – 1959, Orchestra dançante RC – Columbia (This is a coin)

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Country	Year	Text featured
USA	1961	WRCV Music Festival Award to Ray Conniff selected best vocal group by Philadelphia Radio Listeners 1961
Uruguay	1962	La Mañana discometro mundial Los Mejores del Año Orquesta de Jazz: RC (C.B.S. Columbia)
UK	1962	To Ray Conniff commemorating sales outside the United States of over 1,000,000 records during 1962, CBS Records, Best-selling artist in 1962
Uruguay	1963	La Mañana discometro mundial Los Mejores del Año Orquesta de Jazz: RC (CBS)
USA	1967	National Assicoation of Record Merchandisers NARM / Best selling orchestra 1967 / Ray Conniff, Columbia Records
?	1967	Disquito de oro 1967, Fravega Records a Ray Conniff (Note: This is a coin)
Puerto Rico	1968	CBS International Robert R. Pampe Award presented to Ray Conniff in recognition of his outstanding sales and popularity in the internetonial record market, San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 1968
USA	1969	October 4, 1969 / Ray Conniff ... in grateful tribute for your continuing efforts through music to bring fame and recognition to the city of Attleboro, Massachusetts
USA	1978	To a wonderful man, Ray Conniff, for enriching our lives through his gracious sharing and teaching of his art / Presented May 23, 1978 by the Neshaminy Langhorne High School Concert Choir (Note: Ray gave a couple of concerts with this choir)
Chile	1979	"The Gaviota" (= the Seagull), no inscription. <i>Notes: Ray appeared as a performing artist at the Viña del Mar festival in Chile in 1979. After his renditions of "Besame Mucho", "Brazil", and "Somewhere My Love" the audience was shouting "Gaviota, Gaviota", but they did not have any prepared for Ray, because he was not taking part in the contest. However, after the encore ("Hello, Dolly", for which Vera and Tamara joined him on stage), they gave him one, but without any inscription. This moment is captured on the cover photo of "Exclusivamente Latino". To Ray, this is a very important award.</i>
Brazil	1979	Lembrança do Ilha Porchat Clube São Vicente / A Directoria Ray Conniff e sua Orquestra a homenagem de Ilha Porchat Clube / Oclarcio Oliveira Ducci, Presidente, São Vicente, 24 de agosto de 1979
Venezuela	1984	Ronda de Venezuela / Premio Ronda de Venezuela 1984
Mexico	1985	Otorga esta presea a Mr Ray Conniff por su exitosa temporada, Mexico, D.F. Marzo 1985 (Note: This award is a small trombone)
Argentina	1994	A Ray Conniff por cuatro decadas de musica y ritmo Sony Music Argentina, La compañía de la Musica, Bs. As. (=Buenos Aires) (Note: This is a silver cup)
USA	1996	(Ray was given a large silver bowl on his 80 th birthday party with this inscription:) "To Ray Conniff – 40 years you have given us your music around the world. Happy 80 th birthday, your friends at Sony Music."
USA	2000	SPCA Friends for Life – 2000 outstanding foster parents Vera & Ray Conniff as a friend for life



Here is another view of Ray's "trophy room", which also serves as a guest room. I took the photograph of Ray sitting in an armchair in this room, too. (It is on the cover of this edition.)

I hope many more awards will be added to the list above. Doug is going to create a special website devoted to this topic soon. The pictures shown here can already be viewed and downloaded in colour from this URL: <http://members.aol.com/dmitchel99/awards/index.html>

You may have noticed that I added a couple of notes in the list above, such as the story about the "Gaviota" that Ray told me when I held it in my hands.