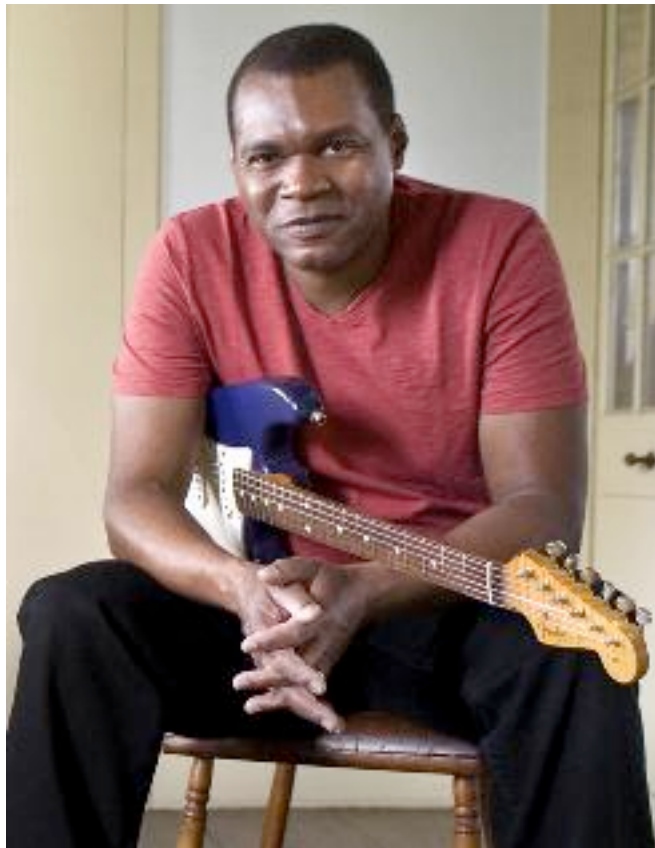




Playlist: Cray's 'Kitchen' and new tunes from Jay-Z, Blige

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By [Steve Jones](#), USA TODAY



Blues guitarist Robert Cray has a warning for his woman in *Chicken in the Kitchen*, and George Benson, *Sounds of Blackness*, Jay-Z, Rakim and Mary J. Blige impress with songs from their new albums.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Chicken in the Kitchen
Robert Cray

The blues guitarist cautions his woman about coming home late for dinner. Cray declares he's the only one who's to be cooking for her. You get the feeling that when he talks about being a master chef, it's not really food he's dishing up. — Steve Jones

THE PLAYLIST

USA TODAY music critic Steve Jones highlights 10 intriguing tracks found during the week's listening.

Wootwo/Cosmic Slop
Method of
Defiance

Bill Laswell's latest experiment finds some Funkadelic in the test tube. P-Funk stalwart Bernie Worrell assists in the lab.

Rainy Night in Georgia
George Benson

The jazz guitarist updates Brook Benton's melancholy soul classic on his new *Songs and Stories*.

How I Got Over
The Roots

Black Thought urges people to keep striving in the face of life's struggles over a hard-driving funk groove.

Optimistic
Sounds of
Blackness

The Minneapolis choir updates its inspiring 1991 hit on its upcoming *The 3rd Gift: Story, Song & Spirit*.

Rather
Missy Elliott

Elliott does so many rambunctious rap jams, she sometimes needs to remind us how well she sings.

**We Run This
Town**
Jay-Z featuring
Rihanna/Kanye

The defiant single from his upcoming *Blueprint 3* finds Jay-Z boasting about his command of the rap game.

My Child
All-4-One

Soulful quartet offers a heartfelt plea to estranged ex to allow father to remain part of your son's life.

Holy Are You
Rakim

The "God MC" previews his long-awaited *The Seventh Seal* with a lyrically adept reminder of how he earned the name.

Stronger
Mary J. Blige

The title track to Blige's upcoming album also is on the soundtrack of the LeBron James documentary *More Than a Game*.

Down
Jay Sean
featuring Lil
Wayne

The Brit R&B star makes his U.S. debut with this pulsating pop ditty that's bolstered by Wayne's punchy rhymes.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/life/music/reviews/2009-08-17-playlist-cray_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip