

## Introduction by Carlton Haney

**Merle Haggard**

The heart of the people of any great nation is its songs  
Added to the list of songs written by the great Jimmie Rodgers  
and Hank  
Williams are the songs of our next guest  
Songs that he has written about life and love happiness and lon  
eliness  
and freedom. Until a man loses his freedom can he really know w  
hat it  
means. Such is the man that is going to sing for you  
Here with his Strangers is the only Merle Haggard...