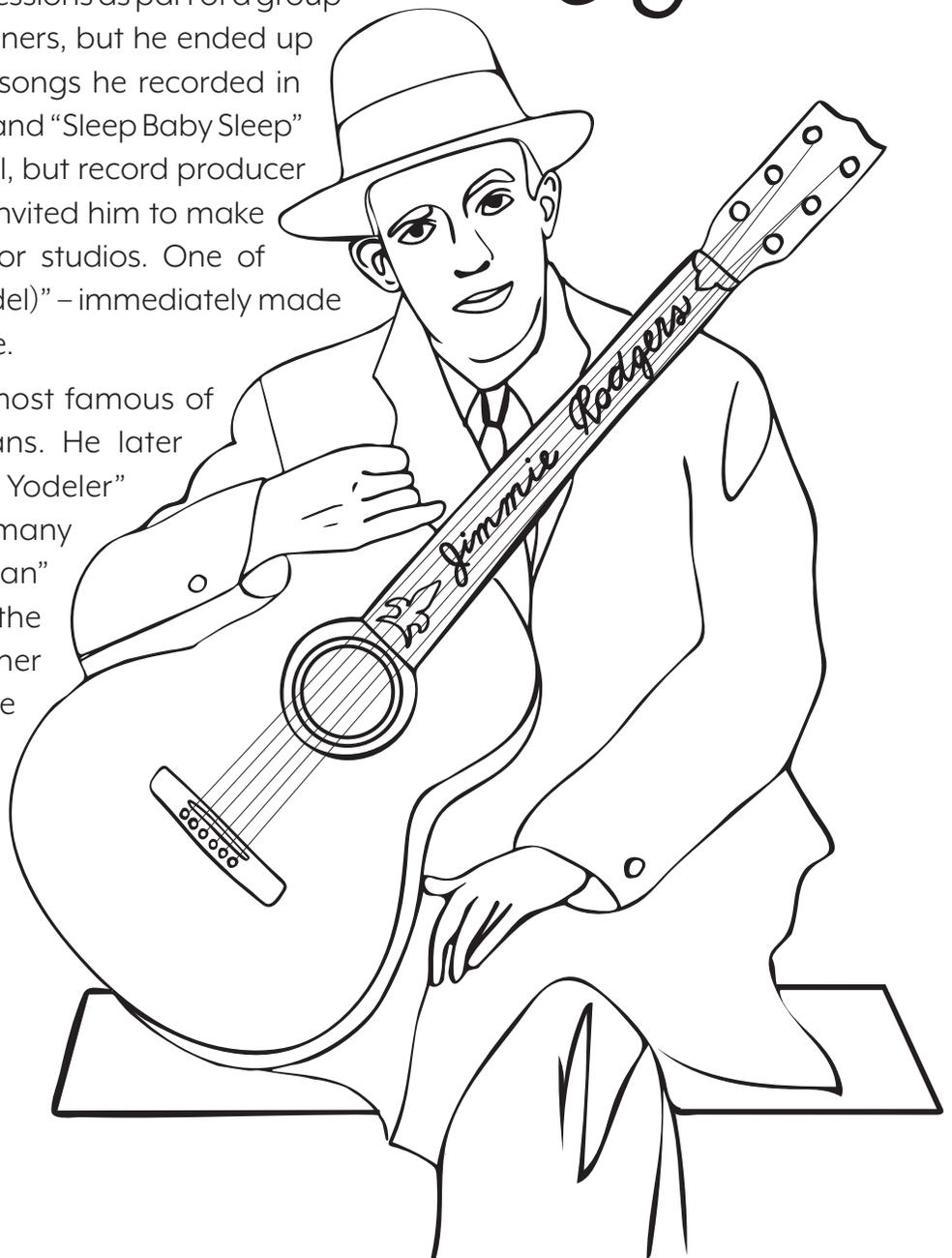# JIMMIE RODGERS

Jimmie Rodgers, born in Meridian, Mississippi, on September 8, 1897. He came to the 1927 Bristol Sessions as part of a group called the Jimmie Rodgers Entertainers, but he ended up recording as a solo act. The two songs he recorded in Bristol – "The Soldier's Sweetheart" and "Sleep Baby Sleep" – were not commercially successful, but record producer Ralph Peer saw his potential and invited him to make additional recordings at the Victor studios. One of those songs – "T for Texas (Blue Yodel)" – immediately made him a national star upon its release.

Jimmie Rodgers was one of the most famous of the 1927 Bristol Sessions musicians. He later became known as "America's Blue Yodeler" (due to the yodeling included in many of his songs), "The Singing Brakeman" (due to his time working on the railroads), and finally, "The Father of Country Music" (due to his huge influence on country music). He died on May 26, 1933, having recorded over 100 songs in his short career.

COLOR IN JIMMIE RODGERS!

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Jimmie Rodgers spent a lot of time listening to other musicians, and his music was influenced by a variety of musical styles – from African American blues to vaudeville to more popular songs. And while he recorded a wide variety of songs, Jimmie became known for his signature stylistic device: the Blue Yodel.

Yodeling involves changing the pitch of an extended note repeatedly, making a high-low-high-low sound. This vocal technique is used in many parts of the world – from a communication method in the Swiss Alps to its use in classical Persian music to different types of African singing. It is also very common in country and bluegrass music, influenced by Jimmie Rodgers' "blue yodel" songs of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Listen to these different yodels:

- "The Lonely Goatherd" from *The Sound of Music*
- Franzl Lang, German alpine yodeler
- "California Blues (Blue Yodel No. 4)" by Jimmie Rodgers
- "Arizona Yodeler" by the DeZurik Sisters

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