

**Sgt. Pepper's
Lonely
Hearts Club
Band**

An album by
the Beatles
December
1966 –
April 1967

"perhaps the
most
creative 129
days in the
history of
rock music"



Meet The Beatles

Albums recorded 1963-1970



1964

Observations & questions

- Song analysis models
- Is this album a unified work of art similar to a symphony, suite or song cycle in classical music?
 - The invention of the "concept album"
 - McCartney "... like writing your novel"
 - Lennon disagreed
 - The first album to *print the lyrics* on the sleeve

Producer George Martin

"The 5th Beatle"



contexts & consequences

- Pop music gets its own Art Tradition
- Queen – "We don't compose songs, we compose albums"
- Punk reacts against this (Metallica struggles on)
- The Recording is the Work
 - Before, recordings were supplements to the 'real thing,' live performance
 - Now, the live concert is the supplement to the recording
 - Financially, this may be reverting back, but the recording still seems to be the site of music

'The Frame'

- Opening (title) song (SPLHCB)
- Alter ego/distancing (dissimulation) tactic
- Polystylistic now, polystylistic then, but in the future?
- 12 + 5 bar phrase lengths – gives it a chopped up feel?

With a Little Help . . .

- A “character song” (as in an opera or musical)
- Musical traits? (Simplicity of harmony seems to set up the next song)
- Drug reference? Surrealistic verse?
- Rating on your personal normalcy/weirdness chart?
- Appeal to fantasies/Beatlemania?

Getting Better

- Optimism with one or two negative, even shocking, twists in the lyrics
- “the album’s first track with no harmonic innovations” – Walter Everett
 - (but I think that guitar spiking away on a note that may or may not fit into the chords is really cool)
- Falsetto “foolish rules”

With a Little Help . . .

Chorus:

I get by with a little help from my friends,
I get high with a little help from my friends. Etc.

The enigmatic lines:

What do you see when you turn out the light,
I can't tell you, but I know it's mine.

Getting Better

It's getting better all the time
I used to get mad at my school
the teachers who taught me weren't cool
You're holding me down, turning me round,
filling me up with your rules.

foolish rules

I've got to admit it's getting better
a little better all the time
I have to admit it's getting better
it's getting better since you've been mine.
Me used to be angry young man
Me hiding me head in the sand
You gave me the word
I finally heard
I'm doing the best that I can.
I've got to admit it's getting better

Can't get no worse

I used to be cruel to my woman
I beat her and kept her apart from the
things that she loved
Man I was mean but I'm changing my scene
and I'm doing the best that I can.

Chorus

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

- Nothing to do with LSD? It's *dream* imagery, not *drug* imagery . . .
- Contrast in **meter**
- cleverly ambiguous harmony
- Instruments: electric organ “bell” stop, bass, tambura, two types of guitars
- fx (compression, phasing) & tape speed trick on the vocals

Fixing a Hole

- Instruments: harpsichord (and the usual guitar, bass and drums)
- Lovely mix of major and minor (the drifting dreamy state of mind?)
- Intro is short a couple of beats – throws everything else off? (otherwise straight 8-bar phrases)
- Artist & society?

Fixing a Hole

I'm fixing a hole where the rain gets in
and stops my mind from wandering
where it will go
I'm filling the cracks that ran through the door
and kept my mind from wandering
where it will go

and it really doesn't matter if I'm wrong
I'm right
Where I belong I'm right

Where I belong. See the people standing there who disagree and never win
and wonder why they don't get in my door.
I'm painting my room in a colorful way
and when my mind is wandering
there I will go.

Being For the Benefit of Mr. Kite

- FX (reverb, tape, waltz recorded at half-speed, etc.)
- Swirl of harmony
- Text from an antique poster
- Lennon wanted to "smell the sawdust"
- Contrasting use of triple meter

Fixing a Hole

And it really doesn't matter if
I'm wrong I'm right
where I belong I'm right
where I belong.

Silly people run around they worry me
and never ask me why they don't get past my door.
I'm taking the time for a number of things
that weren't important yesterday
and I still go.
I'm fixing a hole where the rain gets in
and stops my mind from wandering
where it will go.

Within You Without You

- George Harrison's song for the album
- Harrison is the "spiritual Beatle" – seriously engaged with meditation & Indian music
- Instruments: drone (tambura) tabla, bowed sarangi-like dilbura, Indian zither, sitar, chamber ensemble strings played in an Indian style
- No chords or harmony; like Indian music, focus is on melody & scale
- Contrasting section in quintuple meter

She's Leaving Home

- The view from the other side of the "Generation Gap"
- Very straightforward narrative
- Instruments: harp & strings; as in "Eleanor Rigby," 'old-fashioned' arrangement
- Triple meter
- Nice details in the lyrics:
"kitchen . . . clutching . . . handkerchief"
- Relationship to the SPLHCB album concept?

Within You Without You

- Lyrics from a conversation

We were talking about the space between us all and the people
who hide themselves behind a wall of illusion,
never glimpse the truth, then it's far too late when they pass away.

We were talking about the love we all could share when we find it
to try our best to hold it there with our love,
with our love, we could save the world if they only knew.

Within You Without You

Try to realize it's all within yourself, no one else can make you change.

And to see you're really only very small,
and life flows on within you and without you.

We were talking about the love that's gone so cold and the people,
who gain the world and lose their soul,
they don't know, they can't see. Are you one of them?

When you've seen beyond yourself then you may find peace of mind
is waiting there

And the time will come when you see we're all one,
and life flows on within you and without you.

Good Morning, Good Morning

- Most irritating song on the album
- Aggressive, distorted timbre of brass (!) instruments
- Meter is quite "natural" in following the text's rhythm, but that makes it quite complicated!
- Lyrics a social critique again?
- Animal sounds at end in order of animals that would frighten or eat the preceding one

When I'm Sixty-Four

- Tune sketched by McCartney in the late 1950s
- Quite a contrast!
- Does the style/generational theme connect to album concept?
- Instruments: clarinet, bass clarinet, tuba-like bass, bells, piano, brushes in drum kit
- Square, functional (bass movement by fifths) harmony (but a nice minor section contrast)
- Very chromatic melody but within that square harmony

Good Morning, Good Morning

Good morning, good morning, good morning ah

Nothing to do to save his life call his wife in
Nothing to say but what a day how's your boy been
Nothing to do it's up to you
I've got nothing to say but it's OK

Good morning, good morning etc.

Going to work don't want to go feeling low down
Heading for home you start to roam then you're in town
Everybody knows there's nothing doing
Everything is closed it's like a ruin
Everyone you see is half asleep
And you're on your own you're in the street

Lovely Rita

- Least interesting song on the album?
- Square harmony
- I like the sound and rhythmic play of the lyrics
- Connect to album concept? "milit'ry man"?
- FX include speed recording/playback trick on piano to modify its sound
- simulated sex in the coda? The 'virtual reality' of the album?

Good Morning, Good Morning

After a while you start to smile now you feel cool
Then you decide to take a walk by the old school
Nothing is changed it's still the same
I've got nothing to say but it's OK

Good morning, good morning, etc.

People running round it's five o'clock
Everywhere in town is getting dark
Everyone you see is full of life
It's time for tea and meet the wife

Somebody needs to know the time, glad that I'm here
Watching the skirts you start to flirt now you're in gear
Go to a show you hope she goes
I've got nothing to say but it's OK

SPLCHB Reprise

- Sealing off the album? A bookend to the concept but wait! There's more . . .

KARLHEINZ STOCKHAUSEN



A Day in the Life

- a product of Lennon & McCartney
- References to the news transformed
- Orchestral sweep tied to "avant garde" "classical" composers

KARLHEINZ STOCKHAUSEN

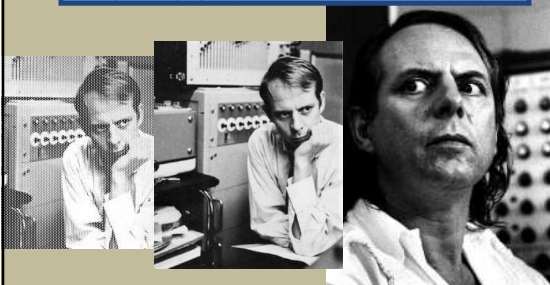


KARLHEINZ STOCKHAUSEN

b. 1928

given an electronic music studio in 1953

[Gesang der Junglinge clip on YouTube](#) or [Gruppen Part 1 Part 3](#)



A Day in the Life

I read the news today oh, boy
About a lucky man who made the grade
And though the news was rather sad
Well, I just had to laugh
I saw the photograph
He blew his mind out in a car
He didn't notice that the lights had changed
A crowd of people stood and stared
They'd seen his face before
Nobody was really sure if he was from the House of Lords

I saw a film today oh, boy
The English army had just won the war
A crowd of people turned away
But I just had to look
Having read the book
I'd love to turn you on.

A Day in the Life

Woke up, fell out of bed,
Dragged a comb across my head
Found my way downstairs and drank a cup
And looking up, I noticed I was late
Found my coat and grabbed my hat
Made the bus in seconds flat
Found my way upstairs and had a smoke
Somebody spoke and I went into a dream, Ah

I read the news today oh, boy
Four thousand holes in Blackburn, Lancashire
And though the holes were rather small
They had to count them all
Now they know how many holes it takes to fill the Albert Hall
I'd love to turn you on

Key reference work

- *The Beatles as Musicians: Revolver Through the Anthology*, Walter Everett, Oxford University Press, 1999.

The Locked Groove

- an infinitely repeating loop of sounds at the end of the album
- That Paul!
- Message(?): "Wake up"!

A unified work of art?

- Large scale harmonic plan? (maybe; Everett opinion)
- Motivic connections? (doubt it)
- A balancing of contrasts and a variety of techniques to achieve and intensify those contrasts (Meckler opinion)
- A theme of generational conflict & social critique (drugs not the only consistent theme in the lyrics!)