

SLIDE
Books

PRESS RELEASE

And the Band Begins to Play The Definitive Guide to the Songs of the Beatles by Steve Lambley



SPEND TIME IN THE STUDIO WITH THE GREATEST BAND EVER BE A FLY ON THE WALL AS THE BEATLES MAKE HISTORY

@Macca Sagging off recording I'm Only Sleeping to perform @NME Annual Poll Winners party tomorrow for the fourth time – will there be a fifth? [30 April 1966]

@John_BiggerthanGod_Lennon Thanks Mr Kelloggs – a good morning to you too. Cracking on with the next LP – it's gonna be different! [8 March 1967]

@Ringo Done it. A whole song that's all mine – took long enough [22 July 1968]

@George_TheQuietOne And we're done. That's my last time as a performing Beatle. And the last time ever on a freezing cold rooftop [30 January 1969]

@yokoono I never was the person who broke up The Beatles and that's a fact and I can relax with that truth [23 September 2013]

If only ...

For the library of books written, the hours of surviving footage and, of course, the 12 culturally defining LPs, it's a sad fact that, unlike today where every recording artist can share the details of their latest efforts via Twitter and Facebook, those day-to-day moments have been lost for one of history's most important musical groups, the Beatles. That is until now.

Thanks to many years of research by Beatles expert and musicologist Steve Lambley, there is now a book offering the chance to sit in on the recording sessions that have defined a generation, and then some ...

And the Band Begins to Play is the definitive, in-depth guide to every song recorded by the Beatles.

Where other books attempt to draw back the curtain on the world of the Fab Four, or focus on the society and politics which brought these four geniuses together only to tear them apart just seven years later, this volume goes further than the usual song-by-song, album-by-album, guide.

Instead, *And the Band Begins to Play* is a diary of every moment that the Beatles came together to record, from the first EMI session in 1962 to their acrimonious break-up in 1970. In short, it's the blueprint to every recording made by the Beatles: 12 albums and 22 singles that make a portfolio of 208 songs which undeniably changed the shape of modern music forever.

From 'Love Me Do' to 'Let It Be', Steve Lambley provides full analysis of every track, not only for its lyrical meaning, its position in the Beatles catalogue and the impact it made on the charts, but also from the point of the science of the songs – an exceptional achievement in an admittedly busy area of popular music studies. Thanks to the author's astute understanding of just how music works, as well as the recording processes of the day, this book includes a level of a musical analysis rarely seen in career-spanning publications today.

While it's one thing to visit Abbey Road's Studio 2 and to sit near the stairwell that Paul McCartney once used for its perfect acoustics – it's quite another to read *And the Band Begins to Play's* descriptions of the recording process, see the breakdown of the track instrumentation, details of overdubs and of course to experience the chatter in the studio.

What's more, as shown by the frenzy that followed the announcement of the release of a further collection of BBC archive recordings this autumn, there remains a wealth of production innovations and recording anomalies in the group's recordings which continue to inform and excite popular music today.

And of course, the story of the group's music also tells the story of the group itself. The book therefore takes the reader by the hand on a magical tour through the conquering of America, the band's film, TV and radio appearances, the 'bigger than Jesus' storm, the death of Brian Epstein, the Maharishi experience and the rise and fall of the original Apple business, and much more.

And backing up this journey are extensive – and again unique – appendices covering detailed listings of all the Beatles' recordings, including:

- *the original source of every quote used in the book*
- *a complete UK and US discography*
- *a chronology of all recordings, including the nominal key signature, period over which the recording took place and key facts about each song*
- *the dates and take numbers of all tracks*
- *the UK and US chart achievements of all releases*
- *calendars of recording sessions and concert appearances.*

Unquestionably, the Beatles remain the key band of the rock era. *And the Band Begins to Play* tells, for the first time in one single volume, the story of their unique musical legacy.

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by Steve Lambley

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