



# HEY JUDE

**UK Release:** 21 May 1979

**US Release:** 26 February 1970

**Intl CD No:** None

**Running Time:** 32:59

**Parlophone PCS 7184**

**Apple SW 385**

**Producer:** George Martin

**SIDE ONE:** Can't Buy Me Love; I Should Have Known Better; Paperback Writer; Rain, Lady Madonna; Revolution.

Previously available only on import from the USA, this album eventually was released in Britain in May 1979 nearly nine years after its first appearance in the US. The album includes most of The Beatles' later singles released in 1968 and 1969 together with both sides of the 1966 single 'Paperback Writer'. Two rather odd and out of sequence inclusions are 'Can't Buy Me Love' and 'I Should Have Known Better' both from the A Hard Day's *Night* album that were included in place of 'The Inner Light' and 'Get Back' even though their respective A and B sides, 'Lady Madonna' and 'Don't Let Me Down', are included.

**SIDE TWO:** Hey Jude; Old Brown Shoe; Don't Let Me Down; The Ballad Of John And Yoko.

## SIDE ONE

**Can't Buy Me Love** (Lennon-McCartney) 2:15

**John Lennon:** Rhythm Guitar

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar

Previously included on the album *A Hard Day's Night*.

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar and Solo Vocal

**Ringo Starr:** Drums

**I Should Have Known Better** (Lennon-McCartney) 2:42

**John Lennon:** Acoustic Guitar, Harmonica and Solo Vocal

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar

**Ringo Starr:** Drums

Previously included on the album *A Hard Day's Night*.

**George Harrison:** Lead. Guitar

### **Paperback Writer** (Lennon-McCartney) 2:25

**Recorded:** 13 and 14 April 1966, EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London

**John Lennon:** Rhythm Guitar and Backing Vocal

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar and Lead Vocal

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar and Backing Vocal

**Ringo Starr:** Drums

This track was recorded in two takes with one overdub during the Sessions for *Revolver*, and was issued as a single on 10 June 1966, about two months prior to the release of that album. The song, written mainly by Paul, with John contributing some of the lyrics, was inspired by John Lennon's two books *In His Own Write* and *Spaniard In The Works*, and tells of Paul's wish to become a writer too. It begins with an a cappella, introduction, followed by one of the best instrumental backings on any Beatles record. The guitar sound on this record could be regarded as a foretaste of heavy metal. The lead vocal comes from Paul, who also joins John and George for the three-part harmony backing vocals, that are a combination of the title, together with a section of the French song *Frère Jacques*.

### **Rain** (Lennon-McCartney) 2:59

**Recorded:** 14 and 16 April, 1966, EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London

**John Lennon:** Rhythm Guitar and Lead Vocal

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar and Backing Vocal

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar and Backing Vocal

**Ringo Starr:** Drums and Tambourine

Previously issued as the B side to 'Paperback Writer', this track features a stronger heavy guitar sound than the A side, making the latter sound rather tame by comparison. The sound was to influence artists such as The Who, Cream and Jimi Hendrix. The guitars attack from the beginning; Ringo's superb drumbeat accentuates the heaviness of the sound and John's laconic sententious lead vocal grinds out of the left-hand channel. At the end of this recording one line of John's vocal is played backwards: 'Rain, when the rain comes they run and hide their heads'. Note the substitution of 'When' for 'if', that is used in the main recording. Apparently, John took a copy of the master tape home and accidentally played it backwards, liked it, and included it on the final record. After this experiment, backwards-playing tapes were also included on 'I'm Only Sleeping' and 'Tomorrow Never Knows' on the *Revolver* album among others. The instrumental track that was played fast, was recorded on 14 April 1966 and then remixed with the tape running on slow/var-speed. The vocal track was added two days later on 16 April 1966 and, after eight takes, the seventh was chosen for the released stereo version.

**Lady Madonna** (Lennon-McCartney) 2:17

**Recorded:** 3 and 6 February 1968, EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London

**John Lennon:** Rhythm Guitar and Backing Vocal

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar, Piano and Lead Vocal

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar and Backing Vocal

**Ringo Starr:** Drums and Backing Vocal

**Harry Klein:** Baritone Saxophone

**Bill Jackman:** Baritone Saxophone

**Ronnie Scott:** Tenor Saxophone

**Bill Povey:** Tenor Saxophone

This was the last single issued by The Beatles on the Parlophone label in 1968 before the dream of Apple became a reality later that year. It was written and sung by Paul, who also plays piano in true rock'n'roll style, showing the influence of Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis. The song is rather like a rock version of his earlier 'Eleanor Rigby' song with loneliness again as the main theme. It was recorded in five takes on 3 February 1968 and completed with the saxophone backing played by Ronnie Scot, Harry Klein, Bill Povey and Bill Jackman three days later. According to various reports the saxophone Segment in the middle was originally 15 to 20 seconds longer but was edited. The vocal backing, by all four Beatles, was reputed to have been achieved by them singing with their hands cupped around their mouths.

**Revolution** (Lennon-McCartney) 3:22

**Recorded:** 10-12 July 1968, EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London

**John Lennon:** Lead Guitar and Solo Vocal

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar

**Nicky Hopkins:** Electric Piano

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar

**Ringo Starr:** Drums

Previously issued as the B side to 'Hey Jude' The Beatles' first Apple single on 30 August 1968, this Lennon-written anti-war song written by John in India was recorded in 16 takes between 10 and 12 July 1968 and features session man Nicky Hopkins on piano. The sound of a distorted guitar, played by John, is heard at the beginning of the record to which Ringo adds an electronically compressed drumbeat to give the recording a solid heavy sound. John's lead vocals were recorded several times and rejected because he was dissatisfied with the result and eventually completed after he had lain on his back on the floor of the studio and sung them once more, finally achieving the sound he wanted.

## **SIDE TWO**

**Hey Jude** (Lennon-McCartney) 7:11

**Recorded:** 31 July and 1 August 1968, Trident Studios, Wardour Street, London

**John Lennon:** Acoustic Guitar and Backing Vocal      **Paul McCartney:** Piano and Lead Vocal

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar and Backing Vocal      **Ringo Starr:** Drums

**Session Musicians:** 36-Piece Orchestra

This was the A side of the first single issued by The Beatles on their own Apple label, on 30 August 1968. It was the longest single issued to that date, totalling with 'Revolution', its B side, 10 minutes 33 seconds. Written by Paul, the song had started out as Hey Jules, about John's son Julian. The Beatles first attempted to record this at Abbey Road on 29 July 1968 but moved to Trident Studios in Soho where they recorded the song in four takes on 31 July before selecting take 1 for further overdubbing on 1 August. Paul sings lead vocal and accompanies himself on piano with backing vocals from John and George. The song starts simply, the main part lasting 3 minutes 11 seconds, but builds up until it finally explodes into a four-minute fade-out, the longest on a Beatles record. The fade consists of all four Beatles plus a 36-piece orchestra rather than the 100-piece ensemble Paul had originally envisaged playing and singing along to a one-line chorus of 'na, na-na-na-na, na, na'.

**Old Brown Shoe** (Harrison) 3:16

**Recorded:** 16 and 18 April 1969, EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London

**John Lennon:** Rhythm Guitar

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar, Piano and Backing Vocal

**George Harrison:** Lead Guitar, Hammond Organ and Lead Vocal

**Ringo Starr:** Drums

Originally issued as the B-side to the 1969 single 'The Ballad Of John And Yoko', this was the second George Harrison song used as the B side of a Beatles single. The first was 'The Inner Light' on the B side of 'Lady Madonna' in 1968. It was recorded in four takes on 16 and 18 April 1969, a few days after the completion of 'The Ballad Of John And Yoko'. This, unlike the A side, features all four Beatles and is quite an up-tempo song from George, who during the previous two years had been writing either Indian mantras or slower, more doleful songs like 'While My Guitar Gently Weeps' and 'Blue Jay Way'.

**Don't Let Me Down** (Lennon-McCartney) 3:34

**Recorded:** 28 January 1969, Apple Studios, Savile Row, London

**John Lennon:** Lead Guitar and Lead Vocal

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar and Harmony Vocal

**George Harrison:** Rhythm Guitar

**Ringo Starr:** Drums

**Billy Preston:** Organ

Previously issued as the B side to the 'Get Back' single on 11 April 1969, this recording, made within minutes of 'Get Back' on 28 January 1969, features an extremely raw lead vocal from John, with harmony vocals from Paul. The Beatles are once again joined by Billy Preston who adds to the backing and also has a solo in the middle. The lyrics to this powerful blues-influenced song, written by John with Yoko in mind, are minimal with John simply repeating the title over and over.

**The Ballad Of John And Yoko** (Lennon-McCartney) 2:58

**Recorded:** 14 April 1969, EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London

**John Lennon:** Acoustic Guitar, Lead Guitar, Percussion and Lead Vocal

**Paul McCartney:** Bass Guitar, Drums, Piano, Maracas and Harmony Vocal

**George Harrison:** Not Present

**Ringo Starr:** Not Present

This was released as a single on 20 May 1969 while 'Get Back' was still at No. 1. It was recorded in 11 takes. Take ten being the released version on 14 April 1969 three days after the release of 'Get Back'. The track was recorded at Abbey Road during an eight-and-a-half-hour Session at which John and Paul played all the instruments. John is on lead vocal, acoustic and lead guitars and percussion, and Paul plays bass guitar, drums, piano and maracas and supplies a harmony vocal in places. The song tells the story of John and Yoko's wedding in Gibraltar the previous month and of their subsequent week-long bed-in for peace at the Amsterdam Hilton.