



The Beatles Yellow Submarine

NOTHING IS REAL



YELLOW SUBMARINE

UK Release: 17 January 1969

US Release: 13 January 1969

Intl CD No: CDP 7 46445 2

Running Time : 40:15

Apple PMC 7070: PCS 7070

Apple SW 153

Producer: George Martin

SIDE ONE: Yellow Submarine; Only A Northern Song; All Together Now; Hey Bulldog; It's All Too Much; All You Need Is Love.

SIDE TWO: Contains incidental music by George Martin and Orchestra as played in the film.

This is the soundtrack album for the feature-length cartoon film of the same name based loosely around the lyrics of Yellow Submarine.

The contract for the film and album, signed by Brian Epstein, stipulated that The Beatles were to supply at least three previously unreleased recordings for use in the soundtrack. The Beatles felt Brian Epstein had let them down and initially wanted nothing to do with the project but eventually decided to supply songs that would not normally have been seriously considered for release. However one song, 'Baby You're A Rich Man', originally recorded for inclusion on this album, was issued six months previously as the B side to 'All You Need Is Love' (see the *Magical Mystery Tour* album).

The four songs reluctantly supplied for use in the film: 'Only A Northern Song', 'All Together Now', 'Hey Bulldog' and 'It's All Too Much' were considered by The Beatles to be throwaway recordings. The original plan was to release the four new tracks as an EP, but after consideration it seemed that an album would sell better. Unfortunately for Beatles fans this turned out to be a one-sided Beatles album with George Martin's orchestral score of the film's incidental music on the second side. When issued in Britain, The Beatles' previous soundtrack albums, had included on their second sides tracks not used in the respective films and it was a great pity that this album was not compiled in the same way.

The film soundtrack has these six album tracks plus parts or complete recordings of 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', 'With A Little Help From My Friends', 'Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds', 'Within You, Without You', 'When I'm Sixty-Four', 'A Day In The Life', 'Eleanor Rigby', 'Nowhere Man', 'Baby, You're A Rich Man', 'Think For Yourself' and 'Love You To'.

SIDE ONE

Yellow Submarine (Lennon-McCartney) 2:40

John Lennon: Acoustic Guitar and Backing Vocal

Paul McCartney: Acoustic Guitar and Backing Vocal

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

Chorus: Includes George Martin, Patti Harrison, Mal Evans, Neil Aspinall and Geoff Emerick

Session Musicians: Brass Band

Previously issued on Revolver, this is an eternally fresh song which does not seem to have dated

Only A Northern Song (Harrison) 3:23

John Lennon: Piano and Various Discordant Instruments

Paul McCartney: Bass Guitar and Various Discordant Instruments

George Harrison: Organ, Various Discordant Instruments and Solo Vocal

Ringo Starr: Drums and Various Discordant Instruments

This track seems to reflect George Harrison's displeasure with the project. His one-line comments are thinly linked together into what can be loosely described as a song. The ironical title was also a sarcastic jibe at the publishing company, Northern Songs. The backing is a cacophonous tune-up reminiscent of 'Tomorrow Never Knows' and 'Revolution 9'. Ringo's drums and Paul's bass guitar are the only musical parts of the backing. The organ intro is good, but gets lost amid the continuous burps and interruptions of off-key instruments. As this is a mono recording, it is difficult to tell if it continues throughout the recording. At present the track is not available in stereo.

All Together Now (Lennon-McCartney) 2:08

John Lennon: Banjo and Backing Vocal

Paul McCartney: Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar and Lead Vocal

George Harrison: Harmonica and Backing Vocal **Ringo Starr:** Drums and Finger Cymbals

Paul's contribution sounds rather half-hearted. His lead vocal, with backing from John and George, seems to lack real enthusiasm, although it comes across reasonably well and is still enjoyable.

Hey Bulldog (Lennon-McCartney) 3:09

John Lennon: Piano, Lead Guitar and Lead Vocal

Paul McCartney: Bass Guitar and Harmony Vocal

George Harrison: Lead Guitar and Tambourine

Ringo Starr: Drums

John's sole contribution was, as he described it, 'a filler track for the album'. The recording was not intended for use in the film, as the contract demanded only three new songs, but finally it was included. John's lead vocal, without sounding over-enthusiastic, manages to give the recording power and excitement. He insisted on this title for the song rather than the more obvious 'You Can Talk To Me', although nowhere in his original lyrics was there any reference to a bulldog. He decided to include the words 'Hey Bulldog' right at the end of the song.

It's All Too Much (Harrison) 6:27

John Lennon: Lead Guitar and Harmony Vocal

Paul McCartney: Bass Guitar and Harmony Vocal

George Harrison: Lead Guitar, Organ and Lead Vocal

Ringo Starr: Drums and Tambourine

Session Musicians: Two Trumpets

On this, his second contribution to *Yellow Submarine*, George's lead vocals sound more enthusiastic than his first probably because it was not recorded with the project in mind. This, and the recording used in the soundtrack that has a verse not included here are reputed to have been edited from a 30-minute recording, although this has never been verified. George includes two rather odd lines. One is a line previously used in the Merseys' hit record 'Sorrow'; the second is the mysterious line in which he sings 'We are dead'.

All You Need Is Love (Lennon-Mccartney) 3:47

John Lennon: Harpsichord and Lead Vocal

Paul McCartney: Arco String Bass, Bass Guitar and Backing Vocal

George Harrison: Violin, Lead Guitar and Backing Vocal

Ringo Starr: Drums

George Martin: Piano

Chorus: Includes Mick Jagger, Marianne Faithfull, Keith Richard, Gary Brooker and Keith Moon

Session Musicians: Four Violins, two Cellos, Trumpets, Trombones, Saxophones and an Accordion.

This is a completely different version of the track included on the *Magical Mystery Tour* album. This recording, although using the same pre-recorded rhythm track as the single recorded during the Our World broadcast on 25 June 1967, has a different main track and lead vocal from John. This recording is also ten seconds shorter than the single and is in stereo whereas the single is in mono.

SIDE TWO

The George Martin Orchestra

Pepperland (Martin) 2:18; **Sea of Time** (Martin) 2:58; **Sea Of Holes** (Martin) 2:14;

Sea of Monsters (Martin) 3:35; **March of the Meames** (Martin) 2:16; **Pepperland Laid Waste**

(Martin) 2:09; **Yellow Submarine in Pepperland** (Lennon-Mccartney arr. Martin) 2:10