

Abbey Road

See Hunter Davies, *The Beatles*, with a new introduction, New York: Norton, 2009 and Tim Riley, *Tell Me Why: A Beatles Commentary*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

Released September 26, 1969

The Beatles are involved in individual projects, some through Apple Records

July: according to George Martin, Paul called him to help make an album “the way we used to do it.” Martin agreed and recording started in the summer.

Paul wants a conceptual album; John wants rock-and-roll.

Side 1 has each of the Beatles with their track; Side 2 is more of a collage of sound

Side 2 feels continuous musically

End of “Polythene Pam” to “She Came in Through the Bathroom Window”

Guitar “Because” to orchestral timbres (“Golden Slumbers”)

Blues of “Oh Darling” (vocals by Paul who practiced screaming) puts the Beatles in line with Rolling Stones (“Prodigal Son”) in contrast to late 1960s trend toward country/religious (Bob Dylan’s *John Wesley Harding* 1967; country/ *Nashville Skyline* 1969)

“Something” (*Abbey Road* and as a single with “Come Together” first A side for Harrison as a Beatle)

Harrison

Ringo’s drums fall into the song

Paul on bass with solo material as counterpoint while being harmonic support

At “don’t wanna leave her now” Paul goes to higher register to highlight moment

Strings enter at this point and grow (Martin’s style)

High keyboard at end of verse 2

Verse in C major

Bridge “drops” to A major

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