

**LET IT BE**



# Let It Be (By The Beatles)

Reviewed By Logan Kennett

There is no denying that The Beatles are the most influential band in music history. They have influenced tons of famous musicians over the years and continue to influence more to this day. If someone ever says “The Beatles didn’t influence (Insert Artist Here)” then that person is wrong. If The Beatles didn’t directly influence the particular artist, I can almost guarantee that the Beatles influenced another artist, that in turn, influenced (Insert Artist Here) mentioned by the person. Just to name a few notable names, The Beatles influenced Queen, Oasis, Radiohead, and David Bowie.



### **A little History of the band**

The Quarrymen, Formed in 1956, marked the beginning of a band that would later become The Beatles, albeit after undergoing various name and member changes. Formed in Liverpool, UK, a busy port city with a population over one million people. The band started with John Lennon and some others. As time passed and members left and joined we ended up with a band that consisted of 4 guys. Their names were John Lennon (Rhythm guitar and vocals), Paul McCartney (Bass and vocals), George Harrison (Lead guitar and vocals), and Richard Starkey, more commonly known as Ringo Starr (Drums). The Beatles were a hit band with the release of their first single “Love Me Do,” but that was far from what the Fab Four would evolve into. Until The British Invasion (1964), The Beatles were really only popular in Europe. It took the release of their single “I Want to Hold Your Hand” in the United States of America to truly grab the attention of North America and start the invasion. Throughout the years they would grow as a band, having countless hits and even changing up their style. Going from writing simple yet good love songs, to creating masterpieces. They truly did turn music into an art form.

## Creating Let It Be

Many people state that the album *Let it Be* was The Beatles weakest album but I beg to differ. I would argue that it is one of their best albums. It includes many strong songs as well as emotional songs. It is truly a tear jerker of an Album.



The recording sessions started after the recording of the self titled Double LP: *The Beatles*, more commonly known as *The White Album*. The tensions were extremely high in the band at the time due to many reasons. A few of which are personal issues carried from their personal lives, fatigue from constant recording and working, and creativity. However, the music in the album is astonishing. *Let it Be* was the result of the changed *Get Back* project. The Beatles were to have their sessions for the album recorded and turned into a film. This would supposedly end up being a promotional film for the live concert that would happen at the end of the sessions. This concert would, in turn, be recorded for the live album *Get Back*.

On the verge of breakup, the album would mark the second to last Beatles album recorded and last to be released. Rehearsal sessions started on the second of January, 1969, at Twickenham studios. These sessions would proceed into a downward spiral for a while as there were many problems throughout the group. George Harrison felt as though his ideas were not being listened to, John Lennon was heavily addicted to heroin and Paul McCartney came across as controlling. Issues later led to even the temporary departure of George Harrison from the band! With Harrison's return, there were some terms set in place in hopes to keep the band in order. The band switched studios to a much more acceptable studio where they would be able to work on and record the rest of the album, partially scrapping the concert idea. In the end, this resulted in the creation of the movie *Let it Be*, a movie depicting the band in a very bad way showing off tons of their arguments and problems. A rooftop concert was also held in the end with only a few recordings actually making it on the album. Despite all of this, the creation of a masterpiece of an album happened with tons of strong and emotional songs.

## Track Listing

As stated previously, I believe *Let It Be* was one of The Beatles best albums. There are so many tracks on it, none of which are bad. I will only be discussing five of the tracks off this album. These tracks are “Two Of Us,” “Get Back,” “I’ve Got a Feeling,” “The Long and Winding Road,” and what I (and many others) believe is a masterpiece: “Let it be.” A full tracklist of the album is as the following:

**Side One:** “Two Of Us,” “Dig A Pony,” “Across The Universe,” “I Me Mine,” “Dig it,” “Let It Be,” “Maggie Mae,”

**Side Two:** “I’ve Got A Feeling,” “One After 909,” “The Long And Winding Road,” “For You Blue,” and finally “Get Back.”



## Ratings

One thing to note is that I will not be using a number system to rate these songs. Songs are very subjective and hard to compare to one another. Some days I may feel a song could be a 8/10 while other days I would feel it is 10/10. Instead, I will be describing key aspects and stating my opinions of the songs. However, I will let you, the reader, determine what you like and dislike about each song.



## Two Of Us

“Two Of Us” is an interesting choice of an opening track to the album. It is not a song that catches the audience from the start. It is a softer and simpler tune compared to The Beatles other tracks at the time. It previews to the listeners that this album may be less experimental than the previous albums. The album is more straightforward and not as technologically complicated as other Beatles albums. Despite all of this, it is also a great opening tune. It is quite an appealing song and leaves the listeners intrigued to hear the rest of the album. This song features three guitars, drums, and vocals. It is an interesting decision to include three guitars and no bass, however Paul McCartney wanted the song to be more acoustic. It was determined that the song would revolve around the acoustic guitar, which there were two of. Layering on the acoustics, an Electric guitar part and drum part added a lot to the mix. Despite being written about his wife Linda, the songs lyrics do seem to fit with the problems McCartney was having with Lennon at the time. The vocal harmonies in this song are also astounding, adding many more unique layers to the piece of art. “Two Of Us” may not be for all but it is certainly a must listen.

## The Long And Winding Road

“The Long And Winding Road” is quite an emotional sounding song. Nonetheless I would still consider this song a true work of art. It happens to be the last number one hit for The Beatles before their break up. The song opens with just McCartney and the piano, shortly after an orchestra enters and continues to blow the audience away. The orchestration is done by none other than Phil Spector, the man known for the creation of the wall of sound as well as wielding a gun in the studio, but that’s for another day. Despite the other Beatles being a fan of Spector’s work on the album, McCartney was not. He was quite annoyed by it to a point where he took it to court. In summary, McCartney claimed he was offended by the work Spector had done. Personally, Spector’s orchestration adds a ton to the song and I cannot imagine it without it. No matter the mental state the listener is in, I promise the song will make you quite emotional. Its lyrics are relatable no matter the situation, they can apply in many, many different situations.



### [I've Got A Feeling](#)

Personally, one of my favorites on the album, "I've Got A Feeling" is truly a sign of The Beatles amazing versatility. It shows that they can manage to make a song out of just a few chords sound absolutely incredible. With Preston on the keyboard, Lennon on rhythm guitar, Harrison on lead guitar, Starr on Drums, and McCartney on Bass, the instrumentation is not too far from perfect. It features a simple yet groovy verse section starting off with quiet vocals from McCartney. Not long after the song starts, McCartney is already belting and Lennon is adding vocal harmonies to the mix. If you ever want to hear some good belting, have a listen to the bridge section. The song ends with a beautiful and powerful vocal duet between Lennon and McCartney. The song's lyrics are very relatable to no matter who you ask. It truly allows the listener to really relate to the song. "I've Got A Feeling" is one of the three songs to have been recorded during the rooftop concert and actually put on the album. The others being "One After 909" and "Dig A Pony." No matter your music taste, I would say "I've Got A Feeling" is a must listen.

### [Get Back](#)

"Get Back" is actually the last song on the album *Let It Be*, and it certainly is one heck of a tune to end with. It features a simple yet driving chord progression, and astonishing vocals from McCartney. Ringo holds a tight groove on the drums adding tons to the song. Unlike most Beatles songs, Lennon plays lead guitar on this track while Harrison plays rhythm guitar. You may be thinking to yourself: "Logan, but there is a keyboard on the song as well." You are absolutely correct! Billy Preston, an American keyboard player and friend of the Beatles played keyboards on this track. Not only did he add lots to the backing track of the song but he also added a killer solo! Preston also plays on many other tunes from the album. The song was created from practically just a jam session. The melody was worked out by McCartney and the others, while lyrics came later. Although get back was performed on The Beatles rooftop concert for their live album, the takes from the concert were not chosen to be put on the album. Instead, a studio recording of "Get Back" was used for the album. As the last song on the last album to be released by The Beatles, I'd say it's certainly a powerful one and a fine choice.

## Let It Be

I really mean it when I say I saved the best for last. "Let It Be" is by far my favorite Beatles song. I would go as far as to say that it is one of their best works. "Let It Be" is a masterpiece in its own right. The song starts with just McCartney singing and playing his piano in a very tear jerking manner. The verse following the first chorus has to be the best part of the song. The lyrics represent hope and improvement in this moment, and the buildup of the instruments also add to this. Quietly drums enter, followed by bass, eventually leading up to the chorus and epic guitar solo. The song continues in a wonderful manner, eventually ending on a powerful and hopeful note. As the listener, you may have actually heard two versions of this song. The single and album versions are both quite a bit. The album version features Phil Spector's orchestration as well as a distorted guitar solo, while the single features George Martin's production in addition to a calmer guitar solo. Although both versions are great, I would say I much prefer the album version as the guitar solo is a huge deal breaker. McCartney wrote the song following a dream he had about his mother, in which she came to him during hard times stating to "Let It Be." Although the song is written about McCartney's mother, the lyrics are emotional and versatile. They could apply in many situations and it really is up to the listener on how they interpret them. To reiterate what I said earlier, the song truly is a masterpiece and I believe that no matter who you are, you could find something good and relatable out of this song.

## Conclusion

*Let It Be* really is a masterpiece of an album. I would even go as far as to say that it is underrated and underappreciated. It features gorgeous and emotional ballads, as well as heavy and driving rock tunes. Whether you are driving in the car or building that new lego set you bought, take out your phone (NOT WHILE DRIVING) and pop on the album *Let It Be*. If there is not enough time to listen to the album at once, listen to it in pieces. Despite all the hard times The Beatles were going through during this time period, they still did write and produce one heck of an album.

