

Beatles' *Abbey Road* celebrates 50 years

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Fifty years ago on this day, Feb. 22, 1969, the Beatles walked across the zebra crossing for the first time, preparing to begin recording their second to last album titled after the studio Abbey Road. Fifty years later, the legacy those four men left continues to walk on in the new age of music that exists in 2019.

Their influence is evident in music from their era and on. Led Zeppelin, whose career began taking off right as the Beatles broke up, has famously admitted that their band would not have come together without the influence the Beatles left behind.

Many Queen works, as well, have been credited to their influence. Guitarist Brian May once stated that Freddie Mercury considered the Beatles like the Bible, especially when he began to write the smash hit "Bohemian Rhapsody." In fact, when Queen went to record *A Night At The Opera* at the Abbey Road studios, they used the same piano the Beatles used for "Hey Jude" when recording "Bohemian Rhapsody." Mercury also once said that he felt as if Queen's *A Night At The*

Opera was the band's equivalent to the album *Sgt. Pepper's*. Nirvana's drummer Dave Grohl has also admitted that he only got into music and learned to play when he received a Beatles songbook and guitar and used them to learn how.

Beatles influence can even be found in new artists, like solo artist Harry Styles. The first few chords and overall melody of Styles' song "Sweet Creature" are almost exactly like Paul McCartney's "Blackbird." Others like to credit Styles' choice of unique sounds like the choir in "Only Angel" to harmonies in "Because" and his use of rough vocals to McCartney's common use of the raspy rock sound in songs like "Oh! Darling" and "Helter Skelter."

The music the band left behind is not all just inspiration, however. Many of their albums have stood the test of time. In 2016, the demand for Beatles albums to be put on Spotify was so high that the app

listened to public response and finally released the albums for public streaming.

In the first one 100 days of the songs being on the app, the Beatles reached 24 million hours of listening time.

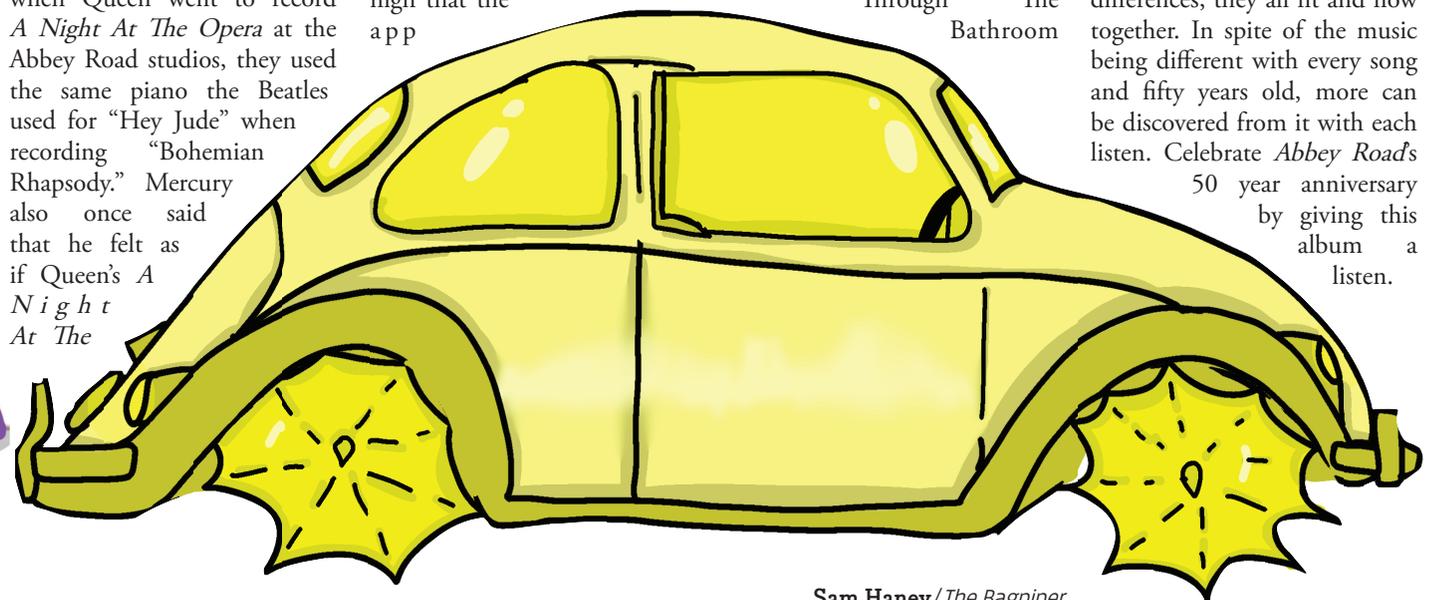
As of now, "Here Comes The Sun" alone has been streamed almost 300 million times on Spotify. Spotify statistics have even shown that "Here Comes the Sun" is highly favored by teenagers ages 12 to 18 while older generations enjoy post-65 music like "Back In The U.S.S.R" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

The most favored songs from the *Abbey Road* album include "Come Together," "Octopus' Garden," and "I Want You (She's So Heavy)." The album includes other notable songs, including a medley of almost 17 minutes of pieces. These pieces include various short-stops that reference various scandals that the four members faced.

The song "She Came In Through The Bathroom

Window" references the time a fan entered McCartney's residence the same way the title suggests. Many of McCartney's songs on the album were about various scandals and hardships he and the band had faced, while Lennon's songs were all about his wife, Yoko Ono. The two remaining Beatles wrote the more optimistic and upbeat songs on the track, which were meant to appeal to long time fans who were used to the doo-wap and boyband image of their early 60s music. George Harrison wrote the hit that was "Here Comes The Sun" while taking a break from the stresses of recording and touring and Ringo Starr wrote "Octopus' Garden" about a vacation that the artists had taken together.

Because of the different styles each of the artists put into their own individual pieces on this album, each piece is unique and unlike the others. The tone of each song is relative enough to the one before that despite their differences, they all fit and flow together. In spite of the music being different with every song and fifty years old, more can be discovered from it with each listen. Celebrate *Abbey Road's* 50 year anniversary by giving this album a listen.



Sam Haney / The Bagpiper