

HELP!



1

Label: Parlophone PCS 3071
Producer: George Martin
Release: August 6, 1965

Side One

HELP!
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:16

One of John Lennon's personal favourites, it was originally written as a slow, Dylanesque acoustic number and he later regretted that the song had been "Beatified". 'Help!' features some of his most deeply personal lyrics, reflecting his increasing dissatisfaction with himself and his life: "It was real... it was me singing 'Help!' and I meant it... I needed the help." He also added, "I don't like the recording much; we did it too fast trying to be commercial."

THE NIGHT BEFORE
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:30

Written by Paul, the song is performed in the film with the band surrounded by tanks and soldiers on Salisbury Plain. John plays the electric piano. The *Help!* album showed that the imbalance between Lennon and McCartney as songwriters was showing signs of levelling out.

YOU'VE GOT TO HIDE YOUR LOVE AWAY
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:06

The clearest manifestation of the power that Bob Dylan's

music had over John Lennon at this time. The song was written, played and sung by John with session men brought in to provide the flutes. 'You've Got To Hide Your Love Away' is another very personal song, of which he later said: "When I was a teenager I used to write poetry, but was always trying to hide my real feelings... instead of projecting myself into a situation I would just try to express what I felt about myself... I think it was Dylan that helped me realize that."

I NEED YOU
(Harrison)
2:25

Written by George – his second writing contribution to the Beatles – 'I Need You' shows a developing confidence, but that his songwriting still lacked the sophistication of the other two writers in the band.

ANOTHER GIRL
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:02

Paul wrote and sang 'Another Girl'. Paul was always considered to be the natural musician of the band. Here, keen to display his fast-growing talents, he also plays lead guitar. John and George provide backing vocals.

YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE THAT GIRL
(Lennon/McCartney)

2:14
John makes a threat that if "you" continue to mistreat your girlfriend he's ready to make a move on her himself. Better watch out.

TICKET TO RIDE
(Lennon/McCartney)
3:03

Already a million-selling single by the time 'Help!' was shown, John wrote the song and rated it among his personal favourites. Paul takes the lead guitar again.

Side Two

ACT NATURALLY
(Morrison/Russell)
2:27

A Beatles album wouldn't have been the same without Ringo stepping out from behind his kit to take the microphone for one song. 'Act Naturally' was a novelty country and western

hit for Buck Owens in America. It tells the story of how easy it is to be a sad movie star because "all you have to do is act naturally".

IT'S ONLY LOVE
(Lennon/McCartney)
1:53

At a time when his lyrical ideas were becoming increasingly sophisticated, John Lennon also showed how he could turn out clichéd rhyming couplets as easily as any Tin Pan Alley hack. Later he would admit: "I was always ashamed of that because of the abominable lyrics." Oddly, a cover of 'It's Only Love', recorded by Gary US Bonds, scraped into the nether regions of the charts as recently as 1981.

YOU LIKE ME TOO MUCH
(Harrison)
2:33

One of nine demos originally handed to Richard Lester for the film, *You Like Me Too Much* was eventually recorded for side two. When George published his autobiography *I Me Mine* in 1980, he made no mention of either of his contributions to *Help!*. This may be because while he would, within a few years, be a more than competent composer in his own right, the tracks presented here show him feeling his way, still well and truly under the shadow of his two senior colleagues.

TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:34

One of Paul's lazier efforts, 'Tell Me What You See' was also rejected from the *Help!* soundtrack.

I'VE JUST SEEN A FACE
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:02

Paul had been playing this tune on the piano for some time back in Liverpool. His Aunt Gin was so taken with the melody that it became known as 'Auntie Gin's Theme'.

YESTERDAY
(Lennon/McCartney)
2:02

One of the most famous songs in pop history. Within ten years 'Yesterday' had been recorded by 1,186 other artists. The figure is now probably approaching 2,000.

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3. George Harrison, Paul McCartney and John Lennon photographed during filming for 'Help!'

DIZZY MISS LIZZY
(Williams)
2:51

When in doubt, the Beatles would always return to their origins. 'Dizzy Miss Lizzy' was another rock and roll classic that they had been performing since the Kaiserkeller days in Hamburg. The Beatles performed several songs by its American author, Larry Williams, whose principal success came in 1958 with the million-seller 'Bony Moronie'.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- On the British pressing of *Help!* only the songs on the first side can actually be heard in the film. The American pressing features only these six songs interspersed with orchestral versions or some of musical director Ken Thorne's incidental compositions.
- 'I've Just Seen a Face' and 'It's Only Love' appear on the US version of the later *Rubber Soul* album.
- 'Yesterday' and 'Act Naturally' appear on the US-only compilation album, 'Yesterday and Today'.

1. Poster advertising the movie 'Help!'

2. The Beatles looking down on street from window.