

= Something (Beatles song) =

" Something " is a song by the Beatles , written by George Harrison and released on the band 's 1969 album Abbey Road . It was also issued on a double A @-@ sided single with another track from the album , " Come Together " . " Something " was the first Harrison composition to appear as a Beatles A @-@ side , and the only song written by him to top the US charts before the band 's break @-@ up in April 1970 . The single was also one of the first Beatles singles to contain tracks already available on an LP album .

The song drew high praise from the band 's primary songwriters , John Lennon and Paul McCartney ; Lennon stated that " Something " was the best song on Abbey Road , while McCartney considered it the best song Harrison had written . As well as critical acclaim , the single achieved commercial success , topping the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States and making the top five in the United Kingdom . The song has been covered by over 150 artists , making it the second @-@ most covered Beatles song after " Yesterday " . Artists who have covered the song include Phish , Elvis Presley , Frank Sinatra , Ray Charles , James Brown , Shirley Bassey , Tony Bennett , Andy Williams , Smokey Robinson , Ike & Tina Turner , Eric Clapton , Joe Cocker , Isaac Hayes , Julio Iglesias and Neil Diamond . Harrison said his favourite version of the song was James Brown 's , which he kept in his personal jukebox .

= = Background and inspiration = =

George Harrison began writing " Something " in September 1968 , during a session for the Beatles ' self @-@ titled double album , commonly known as " the White Album " . In his autobiography , I , Me Mine , he recalls working on the melody on a piano , while Paul McCartney carried out overdubs in a neighbouring studio at London 's Abbey Road Studios . Harrison put the composition " on ice " at first , believing that with the tune having come to him so easily , it might have been the melody from another song . In I , Me , Mine , he adds that the middle eight for " Something " " took some time to sort out " .

The song 's opening lyric was taken from the title of " Something in the Way She Moves " , a track by Harrison 's fellow Apple Records artist James Taylor . While musically Harrison imagined the composition in the style of Ray Charles , his inspiration for " Something " was his wife , Pattie Boyd . In her 2007 autobiography , Wonderful Today , Boyd recalls : " He told me , in a matter @-@ of @-@ fact way , that he had written it for me . I thought it was beautiful ... " Boyd discusses the song 's subsequent popularity among other recording artists and concludes : " My favourite [version] was the one by George Harrison , which he played to me in the kitchen at Kinfauns . "

Having begun to write love songs that were directed at both God and a woman , with his White Album track " Long , Long , Long " , Harrison later cited alternative sources for his inspiration for " Something " . In early 1969 , according to author Joshua Greene , Harrison told his friends from the Hare Krishna Movement that the song was about the Hindu deity Krishna ; in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine in 1976 , he said of his approach to writing love songs : " all love is part of a universal love . When you love a woman , it 's the God in her that you see . " By 1996 , Harrison had denied writing " Something " for Boyd , adding that " everybody presumed I wrote it about Pattie " because of the promotional film accompanying the release of the Beatles ' recording , which showed each member of the band with his respective wife .

= = Composition = =

In the version issued on the Beatles ' 1969 album Abbey Road , which was the first release for the song , " Something " runs at a speed of around 66 beats per minute and is in common time throughout . It begins with a five @-@ note guitar figure , which functions as the song 's chorus , since it is repeated before each of the verses and also closes the track . The melody is in the key of C major until the eight @-@ measure @-@ long bridge , or middle eight , which is in the key of A major . Harrison biographer Simon Leng identifies " harmonic interest ... [in] almost every line " of

the song , as the melody follows a series of descending half @-@ steps from the tonic over the verses , a structure that is then mirrored in the new key , through the middle eight . The melody returns to C major for the guitar solo , the third verse , and the outro .

While Leng considers that , lyrically and musically , " Something " reflects " doubt and striving to attain an uncertain goal " , author Ian Inglis writes of the confident statements that Harrison makes throughout regarding his feelings for Boyd . Referring to lines in the song 's verses , Inglis writes : " there is a clear and mutual confidence in the reciprocal nature of their love ; he muses that [Boyd] ' attracts me like no other lover ' and ' all I have to do is think of her , ' but he is equally aware that she feels the same , that ' somewhere in her smile , she knows . ' " Similarly , when Harrison sings in the middle eight that " You 're asking me will my love grow / I don 't know , I don 't know " , Inglis interprets the words as " not an indication of uncertainty , but a wry reflection that his love is already so complete that it may simply be impossible for it to become any greater " . Richie Unterberger of AllMusic describes " Something " as " an unabashedly straightforward and sentimental love song " written at a time " when most of the Beatles ' songs were dealing with non @-@ romantic topics or presenting cryptic and allusive lyrics even when they were writing about love " .

= = Pre @-@ Abbey Road recording history = =

= = = The Beatles ' Get Back rehearsals = = =

Harrison first introduced " Something " at a Beatles session on 19 September 1968 , when he played it to George Martin 's stand @-@ in as producer of The Beatles , Chris Thomas , while the latter was working out the harpsichord part for Harrison 's track " Piggies " . Despite Thomas 's enthusiasm for the new composition , Harrison chose to focus on " Piggies " . He told Thomas that he intended to offer " Something " to singer Jackie Lomax , whose debut album Harrison was producing for Apple Records . " Something " was not among the tracks released on Lomax 's album , however , much of which was recorded in Los Angeles following the completion of the White Album .

After Harrison rejoined the Beatles in January 1969 for their Get Back film project (later released as Let It Be) , " Something " was one of many recent compositions that he offered to the group . Leng describes this period as a prolific one for Harrison as a songwriter , comparing it with John Lennon 's peak of creativity over 1963 ? 64 , yet Harrison 's songs received little interest from Lennon and McCartney amid the tense , uncooperative atmosphere within the band . Martin was also unimpressed by " Something " at first , considering it " too weak and derivative " , according to music journalist Mikal Gilmore .

The Beatles rehearsed the song at Apple Studio on 28 January . With the proceedings being recorded by director Michael Lindsay @-@ Hogg for the planned documentary film , tapes reveal Harrison discussing his unfinished lyrics for " Something " with Lennon and McCartney , since he had been unable to complete the song 's second line , which begins " Attracts me ... " To serve as a temporary filler , Lennon suggested " like a cauliflower " , which Harrison then altered to " like a pomegranate " . In their study of the available tapes , Doug Sulpy and Ray Schweighardt write that the Beatles gave the song two run @-@ throughs that day , which was the only occasion that they attempted it during the Get Back / Let It Be project .

= = = Harrison solo demo = = =

Following the Beatles ' brief efforts with " Something " on 28 January , Harrison talked with Lennon and Yoko Ono about recording a solo album of his unused songs , since he had already stockpiled enough compositions " for the next ten years " , given his usual allocation of two tracks per album , and in order to " preserve this , the Beatle bit , more " . Lennon offered his support for the idea , similarly keen that his and Ono 's recording projects outside the Beatles could continue without jeopardising the band 's future . On 25 February 1969 ? his 26th birthday ? Harrison entered Abbey

Road Studios and taped solo demos of " Something " , " Old Brown Shoe " and " All Things Must Pass " , the last two of which had also been rejected recently by Lennon and McCartney .

With Ken Scott serving as his engineer , he recorded a live take of " Something " , featuring just electric guitar and vocal . By this point , Harrison had completed the lyrics , although he included an extra verse , sung to a counter @-@ melody , over the section that would comprise his guitar solo on the Beatles ' subsequent official recording . This demo version of " Something " remained unreleased until its inclusion on the Beatles ' outtake collection Anthology 3 in 1996 .

= = = Joe Cocker demo = = =

In March 1969 , Harrison gave " Something " to Joe Cocker to record , having decided that it was more likely to become a hit with Cocker than with Lomax . Referring to this and similar examples where Harrison placed his overlooked songs with other recording artists , Ken Scott has refuted the idea that he lacked confidence as a songwriter in the Beatles , saying : " I think he was totally confident about the songs . The insecurity may have been , if the Beatles kept going , ' How many songs am I going to be able to get on each album ? ' , and with the backlog sort of mounting up ... [to] get it out there , and get something from it . "

Assisted by Harrison , Cocker recorded a demo of the song at Apple . While musicologist Walter Everett suggests that this was the same recording of " Something " that appeared on the Joe Cocker ! album in November 1969 , Beatles historian Mark Lewisohn writes that Cocker subsequently remade the track .

= = Recording and production = =

The Beatles undertook the recording of Abbey Road with a sense of discipline and cooperation that had largely been absent while making the White Album and Let It Be . Having temporarily left the group in January 1969 partly as a result of McCartney 's criticism of his musicianship , Harrison exhibited a greater level of assertiveness regarding his place in the band , particularly while they worked on his compositions " Something " and " Here Comes the Sun " . In addition , like Lennon and McCartney , Martin had come to fully appreciate Harrison as a songwriter , later saying : " I first recognised that he really had a great talent when we did ' Here Comes the Sun . ' But when he brought in ' Something , ' it was something else ... It was a tremendous work ? and so simple . "

The group recorded " Something " on 16 April before Harrison decided to redo the song , a new basic track for which was then completed at Abbey Road on 2 May . The line @-@ up was Harrison on Leslie @-@ effected rhythm guitar , Lennon on piano , McCartney on bass , Ringo Starr on drums , and guest musician Billy Preston playing Hammond organ . On 5 May , at Olympic Sound Studios , McCartney re @-@ recorded his bass part and Harrison added lead guitar . At this point , the song ran to eight minutes , due to the inclusion of an extended coda led by Lennon 's piano .

After taking a break from recording , the band returned to " Something " on 11 July , when Harrison overdubbed what would turn out to be a temporary vocal . With the resulting reduction mix , much of the coda , along with almost all of Lennon 's playing on the main part of the song , was cut from the recording . The piano can be heard only in the middle eight , specifically during the descending run that follows each pair of " I don 't know " vocal lines . Lennon later reprised the piano chords from the discarded coda in his 1970 song " Remember " . On 16 July , Harrison recorded a new vocal , with McCartney overdubbing his harmony vocal over the middle eight and Starr adding both a second hi @-@ hat part and a cymbal .

Following another reduction mix , at which point the remainder of the coda was excised from the track , Martin @-@ arranged string orchestration was overdubbed on 15 August , as Harrison , working in the adjacent studio at Abbey Road , re @-@ recorded his lead guitar part live . Writing for Rolling Stone in 2002 , David Fricke described the Beatles ' version of " Something " as " actually two moods in one : the pillowy yearning of the verses ... and the golden thunder of the bridge , the latter driven by Ringo Starr 's military flourish on a high @-@ hat cymbal " . Leng highlights Harrison 's guitar solo on the recording as " a performance that is widely regarded as one of the great guitar

solos " , and one in which Harrison incorporates the gamaks associated with Indian classical music , following his study of the sitar in 1965 ? 68 , while also foreshadowing the expressive style he would adopt on slide guitar as a solo artist .

= = Release = =

Apple Records issued Abbey Road on 26 September 1969 , with " Something " sequenced as the second track , following Lennon 's " Come Together " . Lennon considered " Something " to be the best song on the album ; having ensured that " Old Brown Shoe " was chosen as the B @-@ side for the Beatles ' single " The Ballad of John and Yoko " , according to his later recollection , Lennon now pushed Allen Klein to release " Something " as a single from Abbey Road . Coupled with " Come Together " , the double A @-@ side single was issued on 6 October in America (as Apple 2654) and 31 October in Britain (as Apple R5814) .

The release marked the first time that a Harrison composition had been afforded A @-@ side treatment on a Beatles single , as well as the only time during their career that a single was issued in the UK featuring tracks already available on an album . In a 1990 letter to Mark Lewisohn , Klein refuted a claim made by Lewisohn in his book *The Complete Beatles Recording Sessions* , that the single was intended as a money @-@ making exercise ; Klein said it was purely a mark of Lennon 's regard for " Something " and " to point out George as a writer , and give him courage to go in and do his own LP . Which he did . " Following the Beatles ' break @-@ up in April 1970 , Harrison 's ascendancy as a songwriter would continue with his triple album *All Things Must Pass* , building on the promise of White Album tracks such as " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " and his two contributions to Abbey Road .

= = = Commercial success = = =

Although its commercial impact was lessened by the ongoing success of the parent album , " Something " / " Come Together " was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on 27 October . During the single 's chart run on Billboard in the US , " Something " peaked at number 3 until the magazine changed its practice of counting sales and airplay separately for each song ; following this change on 29 November , the single topped the Billboard Hot 100 , for one week . " Something " / " Come Together " thereby became the Beatles ' eighteenth number 1 single in the US , surpassing Elvis Presley 's record of seventeen .

As the preferred side , " Something " was number 1 in Canada (for five weeks) , Australia (five weeks) , West Germany (two weeks) , New Zealand and Singapore . In the other US national charts , Record World listed " Something " / " Come Together " at number 1 , while in Cash Box magazine , which continued to rank each song separately , " Something " peaked at number 2 and " Come Together " spent three weeks at number 1 . The combined sides reached number 4 in Britain . There , the release was highly unusual , given the traditional preference for non @-@ album singles ; in addition , according to former Mojo editor Paul Du Noyer , " so enormous were sales of Abbey Road that demand for the single was inevitably dampened . "

On 17 February 1999 , " Something " was certified double Platinum by the RIAA . In its 2014 list titled " The Beatles ' 50 Biggest Billboard Hits " , Billboard places the double A @-@ side single in sixth place , immediately after " Let It Be " and ahead of " Hello , Goodbye " . Additionally , " Something " is placed again at number 30 , representing the song 's performance before the November 1969 Hot 100 rule change .

= = = Promotional video = = =

The promotional video for " Something " was shot shortly after Lennon had privately announced that he was leaving the band . By this time , the individual Beatles had drawn apart and so the film consisted of separate clips of each Beatle walking around his home , accompanied by his wife , edited together . The film was directed by Neil Aspinall .

The promo film is included in the Beatles ' 2015 video compilation 1 .

= = Critical reception , awards and legacy = =

Among contemporary reviews , Time magazine declared " Something " to be the best track on Abbey Road , while John Mendelsohn wrote in Rolling Stone : " George 's vocal , containing less adenoids and more grainy Paul tunefulness than ever before , is one of many highlights on his ' Something , ' some of the others being more excellent drum work , a dead catchy guitar line , perfectly subdued strings , and an unusually nice melody . Both his and Joe Cocker 's version will suffice nicely until Ray Charles gets around to it . " Writing in Saturday Review magazine , Ellen Sander described " Something " as " certainly one of the most beautiful songs George Harrison has ever written " and added : " He feels his way through the song , instinctively cutting through its body and into the core , emoting so clearly and so gracefully that at the moment he peals ' I don 't know , I don 't know , ' it is shown that even what is not known can be understood . " In his review of the single , Derek Johnson of the NME lauded the track as " a real quality hunk of pop " with a " strident lead guitar which exudes a mean and moody quality " . Johnson stated his regret that Harrison " isn 't featured more regularly as a singer " , and concluded of " Something " : " It 's a song that grows on you , and mark my words , it will ? in a big way ! " .

Writing in his book Revolution in the Head , critic and author Ian MacDonald described " Something " as " the acme of Harrison 's achievement as a writer " . MacDonald highlighted the song 's " key @-@ structure of classical grace and panoramic effect " , and cited the lyrics to verse two as " its author 's finest lines ? at once deeper and more elegant than almost anything his colleagues ever wrote " .

Like Lennon , both McCartney and Starr held the song in high regard . In the 2000 book The Beatles Anthology , Starr paired " Something " with " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " as " Two of the finest love songs ever written " , adding , " they 're really on a par with what John and Paul or anyone else of that time wrote " ; McCartney said it was " George 's greatest track ? with ' Here Comes the Sun ' and ' While My Guitar Gently Weeps ' " . Among Harrison 's other peers , Paul Simon described " Something " as a " masterpiece " and Elton John said : " ' Something ' is probably one of the best love songs ever , ever , ever written ... It 's better than ' Yesterday , ' much better ... It 's like the song I 've been chasing for the last thirty @-@ five years . " .

In a 2002 article for The Morning News , Kenneth Womack included Harrison 's guitar solo on the track among his " Ten Great Beatles Moments " . Describing the instrumental break as " the song 's greatest lyrical feature ? even more lyrical , interestingly enough , than the lyrics themselves " , Womack concluded : " A masterpiece in simplicity , Harrison 's solo reaches toward the sublime , wrestles with it in a bouquet of downward syncopation , and hoists it yet again in a moment of supreme grace . " Guitar World included the performance as the magazine 's featured solo in June 2011 . Later that year , " Something " was one of the two " key tracks " highlighted by Rolling Stone when the magazine placed Harrison at number 11 on its list of the " 100 Greatest Guitarists " .

In July 1970 , " Something " received the Ivor Novello Award for " Best Song Musically and Lyrically " of 1969 . In 2005 , the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) named it as the 64th @-@ greatest song ever . According to the BBC , the song " shows more clearly than any other song in The Beatles ' canon that there were three great songwriters in the band rather than just two " . The Beatles ' official website states that " Something " " underlined the ascendance of George Harrison as a major songwriting force " .

With more than 150 versions , " Something " is the second most covered Beatles song after " Yesterday " . In 1999 , Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) named " Something " as the 17th @-@ most performed song of the twentieth century , with 5 million performances . In 2004 , the track was ranked at number 278 on Rolling Stone 's list of " The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time " . In 2010 , " Something " appeared at number 6 on the magazine 's " 100 Greatest Beatles Songs " list . Four years before this , Mojo placed it 7th in a similar list of the Beatles ' best songs .

= = Cover versions = =

== = Shirley Bassey == =

Among the song 's many cover versions , Welsh singer Shirley Bassey recorded a successful version of " Something " . It was released in 1970 as the title track to her album of the same name . Also issued as a single , it became Bassey 's first top @-@ ten hit in the UK since " I (Who Have Nothing) " in 1963 , peaking at number 4 and spending 22 weeks on the chart . The single also reached the top twenty in other European countries and peaked at number 6 on Billboard 's Easy Listening (later Adult Contemporary) chart .

Although she had been unaware of the song 's origins when recording " Something " , Bassey later suggested that she and Harrison could become a singer @-@ and @-@ songwriter pairing on the scale of Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach . After reading these comments in 1970 , Harrison wrote " When Every Song Is Sung " with Bassey in mind , although it was not a composition that she ever recorded .

== = Frank Sinatra == =

Frank Sinatra was particularly impressed with " Something " , calling it " the greatest love song of the past 50 years " . According to Du Noyer , he " especially admired the way the lyric evokes a girl who isn 't even present " . Aside from performing " Something " numerous times in concert , Sinatra recorded the song twice : in October 1970 as a single for Reprise Records (a version that later appeared on Frank Sinatra 's Greatest Hits , Vol . 2) , and for his 1980 triple album Trilogy : Past Present Future . With the sides flipped to favour the B @-@ side , " Bein ' Green " , the 1970 single peaked at number 22 on Billboard 's Easy Listening chart .

During his live performances , Sinatra was known to mistakenly introduce " Something " as a Lennon ? McCartney composition . By 1978 , however , he had begun correctly citing Harrison as its author . Harrison went on to adopt Sinatra 's minor lyrical change (in the song 's middle eight , singing " You stick around , Jack ... ") in his live performances over 1991 ? 92 . In The Beatles Anthology , Harrison says he viewed Sinatra as being part of " the generation before me " and so only later came to appreciate the American singer 's adoption of the song .

== = Other artists == =

Harrison 's composition began accumulating cover versions almost immediately after the release of Abbey Road . In addition to Joe Cocker , Peggy Lee and Tony Bennett each issued recordings of the song at the end of 1969 . Lena Horne recorded " Something " in the jazz style for her 1970 album with guitarist Gabor Szabo , titled Lena & Gabor . An instrumental version by Booker T. & the M.G. ' s , from their Abbey Road tribute album McLemore Avenue , peaked at number 76 on the Billboard Hot 100 in August 1970 . Other artists who released covers of the song that year include Della Reese , Perry Como , Duane Eddy , the Ray Conniff Singers , Jerry Butler , Johnny Mathis , Engelbert Humperdinck , Isaac Hayes , King Curtis , Martha Reeves & the Vandellas and the Shadows . Ray Charles issued his version on the album Volcanic Action of My Soul in 1971 , the same year that recordings appeared by Andy Williams and Junior Walker & the All Stars , while Buddy Rich , Blue Mink and Ike & Tina Turner were among the acts who covered it in 1972 . Referring to the song 's popularity among easy @-@ listening artists , Harrison later said : " When even Liberace covered it [in 1970] , you know that it 's one of them that ends up in an elevator ... "

" Something " was one of the rare Beatles songs that Elvis Presley chose to play , when he introduced it into the setlist for his third season at the International Hotel in Las Vegas , in August 1970 . He also performed it on his 1973 Aloha from Hawaii TV special , the recording from which appeared on the accompanying bestselling album . A live version from the 1970 Las Vegas concerts subsequently appeared on the Presley box sets Walk a Mile in My Shoes : The Essential ' 70s Masters (1995) and Live in Las Vegas (2001) .

Other versions of " Something " include recordings by James Brown , Peggy Lee , Willie Nelson , Smokey Robinson , Julio Iglesias and Musiq Soulchild . Harrison referred to James Brown 's recording as his favourite cover of the song , saying : " It was one of his B sides . I have it on my jukebox at home . It 's absolutely brilliant . "

Ray Stevens covered the song in 1970 in addition to covering another Beatles composition , She Came In Through the Bathroom Window , both on the same LP , Everything Is Beautiful . A version by country singer Johnny Rodriguez reached the top ten of the Billboard Hot Country Singles chart in the spring of 1974 . Barbara Mandrell covered the song on her 1974 album This Time I Almost Made It . Norwegian country music singer Teddy Nelson covered it for his 1989 top @-@ selling album American Dreamer , one of his few ventures into rock music . In 1999 , Power Metal band Helloween released a single of covers titled Lay All Your Love on Me in which they remade " Something " in the heavy metal style . English actor @-@ singer Jimmy Nail performed " Something " on ukulele , an instrument that Harrison championed from the 1980s onwards , as honorary president of the George Formby Appreciation Society . Nail 's recording on his 2001 album 10 Great Songs and an OK Voice eschewed the ukulele backing for a brass band arrangement , however . In 2013 Nancy Sinatra covered " Something " on her album Shifting Gears .

= = = Harrison tributes = = =

Bruce Springsteen opened his first show after Harrison 's death on 29 November 2001 by playing an acoustic version of " Something " with violinist Soozie Tyrell , followed by a rendition of Harrison 's solo hit " My Sweet Lord " . Elton John gave a solo performance of the song at New York 's Carnegie Hall in April 2002 , as part of a one @-@ hour Harrison tribute during the eleventh annual Rainforest Foundation concert .

In honour of Harrison 's fondness for the instrument , Paul McCartney played a ukulele rendition of " Something " throughout his 2002 ? 03 world tour and included the track on his Back in the U.S. live album . At the Concert for George , held at London 's Royal Albert Hall on 29 November 2002 , he and Eric Clapton performed a version that begins with McCartney alone , on ukulele , and then reverts to the familiar , rock arrangement , with Clapton taking over as lead singer and backing from Starr , Preston and others . Following its appearance in David Leland 's film Concert for George (2003) and on the accompanying live album , this performance of " Something " was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals . Bob Dylan also played the song live during his November 2002 concerts , as a tribute to Harrison . McCartney has continued to perform " Something " , adopting the Concert for George mix of ukulele and rock backing ; a version with this musical arrangement was included on his 2009 album Good Evening New York City .

= = Live performances by Harrison = =

Harrison played " Something " at the two Concert for Bangladesh shows , held at Madison Square Garden in New York on 1 August 1971 . His first live performance as a solo artist , he was backed by a large band that included Starr , Preston , Clapton and Leon Russell . The version used on the live album and in the 1972 concert film was taken from the evening show that day , when Harrison played it as the final song before returning to perform " Bangla Desh " as an encore .

Harrison included " Something " in all of his subsequent , and rare , full @-@ length concert appearances . For his 1974 North American tour with Ravi Shankar , he had been reluctant to feature any material from the Beatles ' catalogue , but at the urging of Shankar and Preston during rehearsals , he added " Something " to the setlist . To the disappointment of many fans , however , he chose to alter some of the song 's lyrics (such as changing the first line to " If there 's something in the way , remove it ") . Further distancing himself from the Beatles ' legacy , Harrison told journalists at the start of the tour that he would join a group with Lennon " any day " but rejected the idea of working again with McCartney , since he preferred Willie Weeks as a bassist . MacDonald comments that this statement was likely in reference to McCartney 's " too fussily extemporised " bass part on the Beatles ' 1969 recording . With Boyd having left Harrison for Clapton earlier in 1974

, Larry Sloman of Rolling Stone described the reworked " Something " as " a moving diary of his love life " .

A version from Harrison 's December 1991 tour of Japan with Clapton ? Harrison 's only other tour as a solo artist ? appears on the Live in Japan double album (1992) . Inglis writes of the track having " extra poignancy " by this time , " in that the woman for whom it was written had been married to , and divorced from , Harrison and Clapton in turn " . Inglis adds : " It is not a new interpretation of the song , but it does suggest a new perspective , in which words and music are used by two close friends to reflect on the lives they have led . "

= = Personnel = =

The Beatles

George Harrison ? lead vocal , lead guitar , rhythm guitar

Paul McCartney ? bass guitar , backing vocal

John Lennon ? piano

Ringo Starr ? drums

Additional personnel

Billy Preston ? Hammond organ

George Martin ? string arrangement

Personnel per Walter Everett .

= = Charts and certifications = =