

= A Saucerful of Secrets =

A Saucerful of Secrets is the second studio album by the English rock band Pink Floyd , released on 29 June 1968 by EMI Columbia in the United Kingdom and released on 27 July 1968 in the United States by Tower Records . The album was recorded before and after Syd Barrett 's departure from the group . Owing to Barrett 's behaviour becoming increasingly unpredictable , Barrett was forced to leave the band and David Gilmour was recruited in January 1968 .

As a result , A Saucerful of Secrets became the only non @-@ compilation Pink Floyd album on which all five band members appeared , the first for Gilmour , with him appearing on five songs (" Let There Be More Light " , " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " , " Corporal Clegg " , " A Saucerful of Secrets " and " See @-@ Saw ") , and the last for Barrett , with him on three (" Remember a Day " , " Jugband Blues " and " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun ") . " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " was the only song all five members appeared on together . The band 's drummer Nick Mason has declared A Saucerful of Secrets to be his favourite Pink Floyd album .

= = Background = =

From mid to late 1967 , Syd Barrett 's erratic behaviour became more apparent , and at one performance of the band 's first US tour , he slowly detuned his guitar while on stage . The audience , used to the band 's experimental performances , seemed to enjoy such antics , and were unaware of the rest of the band 's increasing consternation . Interviewed on Pat Boone 's show during this tour , Barrett 's reply to Boone 's questions was a " blank and totally mute stare " , and kept his lips closed during the mimed performance . Barrett exhibited behaviour in a similar style during the band 's first appearance on Dick Clark 's popular TV show American Bandstand . Barrett mimed fairly well for the performance of " Apples and Oranges " , but responded to Clark 's questions with no interest or enthusiasm .

= = Recording = =

= = = Recording with Syd Barrett = = =

The album was recorded at EMI Studios in London . The first songs recorded for the album were Roger Waters ' " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " and an unreleased Barrett track , " Scream Thy Last Scream " ; both recorded on 7 ? 8 August 1967 . The two tracks were arranged to be released as a single on 8 September , before it was vetoed by the band 's record company , EMI . The band recorded " Vegetable Man " at De Lane Lea Studios on 9 ? 11 October , and returned later in the month , on 19 October , to record " Jugband Blues " , with producer Norman Smith booking a Salvation Army band , at Barrett 's request . Overdubbing " Remember a Day " at the sessions ; the song , which was an outtake from The Piper at the Gates of Dawn sessions , features Barrett on slide guitar , the band took a break from the album sessions to record what became their third single , " Apples and Oranges " , on 26 and 27 October . A few days later , the band recorded the B @-@ side , " Paint Box " , before leaving for a US tour .

In November , " Apples and Oranges " was released as a single but failed to chart at all . The band eventually went back to De Lane Lea and recorded the unreleased track " Vegetable Man " . Sometime around Christmas , David Gilmour (Barrett 's old school friend) was asked to join the band as a second lead guitarist to cover for Barrett when his erratic behaviour prevented him from performing . As Barrett had , up until then , written (or co @-@ written) most of the songs on the band 's debut album , The Piper at the Gates of Dawn , as well as the band 's three singles up to this point , the initial plan was to keep him in the group as a non @-@ touring member ? in similar style to Brian Wilson 's recent status in The Beach Boys ? but this meant that Barrett and the group were essentially separated . For two days from 10 January 1968 , Pink Floyd reconvened at EMI

Studios , attempting to work on older tracks : Waters ' vocals and Wright 's organ were overdubbed onto " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " , while Mason added vocals to " Scream Thy Last Scream " . Upon leaving Pink Floyd , Barrett said to Melody Maker : " I suppose it was really just a matter of being a little offhand about things " .

= = = Recording with David Gilmour = = =

When Gilmour joined the band , Pink Floyd performed briefly as a five @-@ man piece , from 12 January till the 20th . For a handful of shows Gilmour played and sang while Barrett wandered around on stage , occasionally joining in with the playing . In between these five @-@ piece gigs , the group rehearsed a few Waters @-@ penned songs on 15 and 16 January . During the next session on 18 January , the band , joined by Smith , jammed on rhythm tracks ; Barrett didn 't attend this session . On 24 and 25 January , the band recorded a song , logged as " The Most Boring Song I 've Ever Heard Bar 2 " at Abbey Road . The band recorded " Let There Be More Light " , " Corporal Clegg " (which features lead vocals by Nick Mason) and " See @-@ Saw " all without Barrett , despite manager Andrew King claiming Barrett performed the slide solo at the end of " Let There Be More Light " . The other band members soon grew tired of Barrett 's antics and , on 26 January 1968 , when Waters was driving on the way to a show at Southampton University , picking the members up on the way , one person in the car said , " Shall we pick Syd up ? " and another said , " Let 's not bother . " Barrett was finally ousted from the band in late January 1968 , leaving the new incarnation of Pink Floyd to finish the album ; " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " is the only song on which all five band members appeared .

The four @-@ piece band struggled to come up with new material for an album , but in February 1968 recorded Wright 's " It Would Be So Nice " and Waters ' " Julia Dream " . In early February it was announced that the Waters @-@ penned track , " Corporal Clegg " would be the band 's next single , however , due to pressure from the label , the song was earmarked for the album , and " It Would Be So Nice " was released in April as a single , with " Julia Dream " on the B @-@ side . Throughout April , the band was taking stock of the songs recorded up to that point . Waters blocked the release of the two tracks , " Vegetable Man " and " Scream Thy Last Scream " , on the album , though the band retained " Jugband Blues " , and the Waters @-@ written " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " on which Barrett played . With not enough material to fill the album 's last 12 minutes , the band started piecing together several pieces of material that was to become the title track of the album , " A Saucerful of Secrets " . Mason and Waters planned the track out as if it were an architectural design , including peaks and troughs . Producer Smith didn 't like the song , stating to them that they " just can 't do this , it 's too long . You have to write three @-@ minute songs . " On 25 June , the band recorded another session for BBC Radio 's Top Gear ; the session featured two tracks from Saucerful : " Let There Be More Light " and a shortened retitled version of the title track , titled here as " The Massed Gadgets of Hercules " .

= = Songs = =

Like The Piper at the Gates of Dawn before it , the album contains space rock and psychedelic rock songs . However , unlike Piper , which was dominated by Barrett 's compositions , A Saucerful of Secrets contains only one Barrett original : " Jugband Blues " . AllMusic described that with A Saucerful of Secrets , " the band begin to map out the dark and repetitive pulses that would characterize their next few records . " Wright sings or shares lead vocals on four of the album 's seven songs , and contributes vocals on the eleven @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ minute instrumental opus " A Saucerful of Secrets " , making this the only Pink Floyd album where his vocal contributions outnumber those of the rest of the band .

With Barrett seemingly detached from proceedings , it came down to Waters and Wright to provide adequate material . The opening , " Let There Be More Light " , penned by Waters , continues the space rock approach established by Barrett . " Let There Be More Light " evolved from a bass riff that was part of " Interstellar Overdrive " . Both " Remember a Day " and " See @-@ Saw " use the

childlike approach that was established on their debut . Wright remained critical of his early contributions to the band . " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " was first performed with Barrett in 1967 . The success of the track was such that it remained in their live setlist until 1973 where it appeared in a greatly extended form . Waters later performed the track during solo concerts from 1984 and later . Waters borrowed the lyrics from a book of Chinese poetry from the Tang Dynasty , like Barrett had used in " Chapter 24 " . " Corporal Clegg " , is the first Pink Floyd song to address issues of war , a theme which would endure throughout the career of Waters as a songwriter for the band , culminating on the 1983 album The Final Cut . " A Saucerful of Secrets " was originally written as a new version of " Nick 's Boogie " . The track is titled as four parts , on Ummagumma . A staple in the band 's live set until summer 1972 , a live version of the song was recorded on 27 April 1969 at the Mothers Club in Birmingham for inclusion on Ummagumma . " Jugband Blues " refers to Barrett 's departure from the group (" It 's awfully considerate of you to think of me here / And I 'm most obliged to you for making it clear that I 'm not here ") . A promotional video was recorded for the track . The band 's management wanted to release the song as a single , before being vetoed by both the band and producer Norman Smith .

= = = Unreleased songs = = =

As well as " Jugband Blues " , the album was to include " Vegetable Man " , another Barrett composition . The song was to appear on a single as the B @-@ side to " Scream Thy Last Scream " . The band performed " Jugband Blues " , " Vegetable Man " and " Scream Thy Last Scream " for a Top Gear session , recorded on 20 December , and broadcast on 31st . Two additional Barrett songs , " In the Beechwoods " , and " No Title " (frequently referred to on bootlegs as " Sunshine ") , were recorded early in the album sessions . At least one other song , " John Latham " , was recorded during these sessions , and remains unreleased .

= = Release and reception = =

This is the first of several Pink Floyd album covers that were designed by Hipgnosis , and was only the second time that an EMI group (The Beatles were the first) was permitted to hire outside designers for an album jacket . The album was released in the UK on 29 June 1968 on EMI 's Columbia label as both mono and stereo LPs , reaching number 9 in the UK charts . It was released in the US by the Tower Records division of Capitol , where it remains the only Pink Floyd album not to chart . However , when reissued as A Nice Pair with the original version of The Piper at the Gates of Dawn after the success of The Dark Side of the Moon , the album did chart at number 36 on the Billboard 200 . " Let There Be More Light " was released as a single , backed with " Remember a Day " , in the US on 19 August 1969 .

The CD stereo mix of the album was first released in 1988 , and in 1992 was digitally remastered and reissued as part of the Shine On box set . The remastered stereo CD was released on its own in 1994 in the UK and the US . The mono mix version of the album has never been officially released on CD . This album will be re @-@ issued on the Pink Floyd Records label on 3 June 2016 .

Upon its release , Rolling Stone magazine 's review was unfavourable , writing that it is " not as interesting as their first " and " rather mediocre " , highlighting the near @-@ departure of Syd Barrett as one of its detractions .

In a retrospective review for AllMusic , Richie Unterberger draws attention to the album 's " gentle , fairy @-@ tale ambience " , with songs that move from " concise and vivid " to " spacy , ethereal material with lengthy instrumental passages " . In a review for BBC Music , Daryl Easlea said Saucerful was " not without filler " , adding that " Jugband Blues " was " the most chilling " song on the album .

While promoting 2014 's The Endless River , Nick Mason named A Saucerful of Secrets as his favourite of Pink Floyd 's studio albums . ? I think there are ideas contained there that we have continued to use all the way through our career , ? he says . ? I think [it] was a quite good way of

marking Syd [Barrett] ? s departure and Dave [Gilmour] ? s arrival . It ? s rather nice to have it on one record , where you get both things . It ? s a cross @-@ fade rather than a cut . ?

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Pink Floyd

(all personnel uncredited)

Roger Waters ? bass guitar , percussion , vocals

Richard Wright ? piano , organ , mellotron , vibraphone , xylophone , vocals , tin whistle on " Jugband Blues "

David Gilmour ? guitars (except " Remember a Day " and " Jugband Blues ") , kazoo , vocals

Nick Mason ? drums , percussion , vocals on " Corporal Clegg " , kazoo on " Jugband Blues "

Syd Barrett ? acoustic and slide guitar on " Remember a Day " , guitar on " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " , vocals and guitar on " Jugband Blues "

Additional personnel

Norman Smith ? producer , drums and backing vocals on " Remember a Day " , voice on " Corporal Clegg "

The Salvation Army (The International Staff Band) on " Jugband Blues "

= = Charts and certifications = =