

= You (George Harrison song) =

" You " is a song by English musician George Harrison , released as the opening track of his 1975 album Extra Texture (Read All About It) . It was also the album 's lead single , becoming a top 20 hit in America and reaching number 9 in Canada . A 45 @-@ second instrumental portion of the song , titled " A Bit More of You " , appears on Extra Texture also , opening side two of the original LP format . Harrison wrote " You " in 1970 as a song for Ronnie Spector , formerly of the Ronettes , and wife of Harrison 's All Things Must Pass co @-@ producer Phil Spector . The composition reflects Harrison 's admiration for 1960s American soul / R & B , particularly Motown .

In February 1971 , Ronnie Spector recorded " You " in London for a proposed solo album on the Beatles ' Apple record label , but the recording remained unissued . Four years later , Harrison returned to this backing track while making his final album for Apple Records , in Los Angeles . The released recording features the 1971 contributions from Leon Russell , Jim Gordon and others , with further instrumentation and vocals overdubbed in 1975 , notably a series of saxophone solos by Jim Horn . On release , the song was well received by the majority of music critics , who viewed it as a return to form for Harrison after his disappointing 1974 North American tour and the accompanying Dark Horse album . Dave Marsh of Rolling Stone hailed it as Harrison 's best work since his 1970 ? 71 hit song " My Sweet Lord " ; author Ian Inglis describes " You " as " a near @-@ perfect pop song " .

Capitol Records included " You " as one of just six Harrison solo hits , alongside compositions of his performed with the Beatles , on the 1976 compilation The Best of George Harrison . For the first time since the debut CD release of Extra Texture in the early 1990s , " You " was remastered , along with its parent album , as part of Harrison 's 2014 Apple Years reissues . Lisa Mychols and Les Fradkin are among the artists who have covered the song .

= = Background and composition = =

George Harrison 's admiration for American soul / R & B acts dated back to the early 1960s , to singles by Doris Troy , Marvin Gaye , Mary Wells and others . A similar influence on him and his fellow Beatles was that era 's girl group sound , as reflected in the band 's choice of cover versions during 1962 ? 63 . In 1969 , while producing Billy Preston 's debut album on Apple Records , Harrison worked with Doris Troy in London and signed her to the label as a recording artist , songwriter and producer . Another of his favourite female vocalists was Ronnie Spector ? formerly known as Veronica Bennett , lead singer of girl group the Ronettes until 1967 , and latterly married to American producer Phil Spector . After co @-@ producing Harrison 's acclaimed All Things Must Pass triple album in 1970 , following the break @-@ up of the Beatles , Spector was granted an unofficial role as head of A & R for Apple Records , and had previously insisted that his wife record for the label . That year , Harrison wrote the soul @-@ inspired " You " as what he later termed " a Ronettes sort of song " , specifically for Ronnie Spector .

The main lyrics ? " I ... love ... you " and " You ... love ... me " , in verses one and two , respectively ? make it one of Harrison 's simplest compositions . Author Ian Inglis observes that Harrison 's lyrics here recall the Beatles ' use of personal pronouns in songs such as " Love Me Do " , " From Me to You " and " She Loves You " to effectively " include the listener in the song 's narrative " .

A deviation from these lines occurs only with the repeated bridges :

And when I 'm holding you , what a feeling

Seems so good to be true

That I 'm telling you all that I must be dreaming .

Harrison musical biographer Simon Leng notes the importance of soul music in Harrison 's solo career during the 1970s and views " You " as a song that most obviously demonstrates the influence of Motown on its composer . Inglis suggests that Harrison 's former Beatles bandmate Paul McCartney adopted part of the melody of " You " for his 1976 hit single with Wings , " Silly Love Songs " .

= = Recording = =

= = = 1971 basic track = = =

According to Leng , Harrison taped demos of " You " during the lengthy recording sessions for All Things Must Pass . The sessions for a proposed Ronnie Spector solo album began at London 's Abbey Road Studios on 2 February 1971 , with Harrison and Phil Spector again co @-@ producing and Phil McDonald as recording engineer .

Since the Ronettes ' break @-@ up in early 1967 , Ronnie Spector had worked only sporadically , and she later claimed to have been a virtual prisoner in her husband 's 23 @-@ room Los Angeles mansion during this period . She flew in from California for the sessions , which featured three musicians who had been part of the so @-@ called " blue @-@ eyed soul school " of the late 1960s , via their association with Delaney & Bonnie : multi @-@ instrumentalist Leon Russell on piano , Jim Gordon on drums , and Carl Radle on bass . In addition to Harrison , who supplied guitar , another participant was Gary Wright , on keyboards , reprising his role on All Things Must Pass . For two days , this group of musicians taped the basic tracks for " You " and five other songs written or co @-@ written by Harrison , with Ronnie Spector recording guide vocals only . The sessions then " broke down " , according to authors Chip Madinger and Mark Easter , due to " Phil 's health issues " , which had similarly interrupted the recording of All Things Must Pass in 1970 .

Despite the fact that " You " was tailor @-@ made for his wife , Phil Spector opted not to issue the song as her comeback single ; he had likewise held back recordings by the Ronettes and the Crystals , another act signed to his label , Philles Records , in the 1960s . With the solo @-@ album plan abruptly abandoned , another Harrison original from the sessions , " Try Some , Buy Some " , was completed and selected for release as a Ronnie Spector single on Apple . A minor hit in America only , that song 's disappointing commercial reception led to the cancellation of a second single , which was to be " You " .

= = = 1975 overdubs = = =

Four years after the Abbey Road sessions , Harrison revisited " You " while completing his final album for Apple Records , the soul @-@ influenced Extra Texture (Read All About It) , at A & M Studios in Los Angeles . His standing with music critics had recently plummeted following a North American tour with Ravi Shankar in November ? December 1974 and his accompanying album , Dark Horse . These two projects had been marred by Harrison 's laryngitis @-@ ravaged singing voice ; in addition , a number of concert reviewers had condemned Harrison for refusing to indulge the public 's nostalgia for the Beatles , and for his on @-@ stage spiritual pronouncements . Looking to rehabilitate himself with critics and his audience in early 1975 , Harrison had what author Robert Rodriguez describes as " at least one ace in the commercial hole ... the Motown @-@ esque ' You ' " .

Harrison recorded his own lead vocal onto the 1971 basic track , as he had done earlier with " Try Some , Buy Some " , for Living in the Material World (1973) . On 31 May 1975 , further overdubs were carried out on " You " , comprising a second drum part , by Jim Keltner ; tenor sax solos from Jim Horn ; and ambient keyboards , played by David Foster . The overdubs added to the song 's radio @-@ friendly qualities , particularly through the use of ARP String Synthesizer , but Madinger and Easter note that Keltner 's drum part , which is higher in the mix than Gordon 's and was played in half @-@ time , produces an effect whereby the song 's tempo appears to be slower than on the 1971 recording . With a significant amount of post @-@ production work having been carried out in Los Angeles , Spector did not receive a co @-@ producer 's credit for " You " as he had for Harrison 's version of " Try Some , Buy Some " .

In September 1975 Harrison told BBC Radio 1 's Paul Gambaccini that it was " such a good backing track " originally , yet he had forgotten about its existence until coming across the tape years later . In a 1987 interview , Harrison acknowledged the difficulty he had in singing the song in

so high a key ; " it was recorded in Ronnie 's register , " he explains in his 1980 autobiography , " a bit high for me . " Although Ronnie Spector 's name did not appear in the album credits , snippets of her 1971 guide vocal remain on Harrison 's released recording . Spector 's voice can be heard intermittently from the two @-@ minute mark onwards , with her signature " woh oh @-@ oh oh @-@ oh " s audible during the song 's playout .

= = Release = =

An upbeat pop song in a similar vein to Harrison 's 1971 hit " What Is Life " , " You " was the most obvious choice for a single off Extra Texture . It was released in advance of the album , backed by " World of Stone " , on 12 September 1975 in Britain (as Apple R 6007) and three days later in the United States (as Apple 1884) . The picture sleeve in Britain featured a photo of a smiling Harrison taken on stage by 1974 tour photographer Henry Grossman ; the US picture sleeve incorporated Roy Kohara 's humorous design for the album , showing blue lettering on a vivid orange background . In another example of the upbeat mood that was otherwise lacking in the musical content of Extra Texture , the single 's face labels showed the familiar Apple Records logo as an apple core , a pun on the demise of the company .

In the UK , where Harrison had undertaken promotional activities for the first time for Extra Texture , " You " was Radio 1 's Record of the Week , guaranteeing it substantial airplay . The song peaked no higher than Harrison 's previous hit there , " Ding Dong , Ding Dong " , at number 38 , however . As with his Dark Horse singles , " You " performed better in America , where it held the number 20 position for two weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 , during a ten @-@ week chart stay .

The song served as both the opener for Extra Texture as well as , in the form of a 45 @-@ second instrumental portion titled " A Bit More of You " , the first track on side two of the original LP . Harrison biographer Dale Allison dismisses this reprise with the words " It 's filler " , while Leng suggests its purpose was to " fashion a soul mood " for the song that follows , the pop @-@ soul ballad " Can 't Stop Thinking About You " . The full version of " You " appears on the 1976 compilation The Best of George Harrison as one of only six selections from Harrison 's solo career up to the end of 1975 . Having last been remastered for the 1991 ? 92 CD release of Extra Texture , the song was remastered for inclusion on Harrison 's Apple Years 1968 ? 75 reissues , released in September 2014 .

= = Reception = =

= = Contemporary reviews = = =

After the so @-@ called " Dark Hoarse " debacle in 1974 , and with his singing voice now healed , music critics viewed " You " as a return to form for Harrison . The tone of the song suggested that , in the words of Robert Rodriguez , " the irritable , gravel @-@ voiced mystic on tour the previous year had been but an illusion " ? an impression that was supported by the lightheartedness evident in the parent album 's artwork and Harrison 's self @-@ deprecating " Ohnothimagen " producer 's moniker .

Dave Marsh of Rolling Stone wrote of the song : " ' You , ' the single which preceded Extra Texture ... is not only the best thing he has done since 1971 's ' My Sweet Lord , ' but also promised some of the prestige and credibility he lost with last year 's sourvoiced album (Dark Horse) and fizzled tour . " In the NME , Neil Spencer opined : " ' You ' seems at least to proclaim a return to energy . It has the kind of semi @-@ Spector production that was spread all over All Things Must Pass . It bounds along OK , Harrison 's double @-@ tracked vocals gasp convincingly , and it deserves to be the hit that it will be . " Writing later in the 1970s , however , in their book The Beatles : An Illustrated Record , Roy Carr and Tony Tyler dismissed it with the words : " Doleful , lacklustre , [with] would @-@ be singalongs which quite fail to arouse . "

== Retrospective assessment and legacy ==

Modern @-@ day critical opinion of the song is almost unanimously favourable . In his review of Harrison 's 1987 album Cloud Nine , for Creem magazine , Bill Holdship included the track among the " scattered brilliant moments " of Harrison 's career post @-@ All Things Must Pass , saying : " ' You ' from the Extra Texture LP sounds like punk (depends on your definition) pop as Phil Spector might 've done it , and remains a killer to this day . And when I saw Harrison perform in 1974 , he put on a far better show than the one I would later see Wings do . "

Writing in the posthumous Rolling Stone Press tribute , Harrison , in 2002 , Mikal Gilmore similarly identified " You " as a highlight of the artist 's work in the mid to late 1970s . In the same publication , Greg Kot deemed it to be " a terrific single " , adding : " Its roaring Wall of Sound arrangement suits Harrison well , right down to its closing quote of the Ronettes ' ' Be My Baby ' . " In a January 2002 review of Harrison 's solo releases , for Goldmine magazine , Dave Thompson described the song as " magnificent " .

AllMusic 's Lindsay Planer admires it as a " propulsive and rocking love song ... backed by one of Harrison 's most liberated and driving melodies " ; Planer also notes the " nonstop powerhouse instrumental track " , driven by Gordon and Keltner 's " double @-@ barreled percussive assault " . Richard Ginell , also writing for AllMusic , calls the song an " instantly winning " single and album @-@ opener , and rates it among the best tracks of Harrison 's solo career .

Reviewing Harrison 's 2014 Apple Years reissues , New Zealand Herald critic Graham Reid describes " You " as a " remarkably upbeat rocker " , while Walter Tunis of the Lexington Herald @-@ Leader considers Extra Texture to be " a delight " , from the opening , " brightly orchestrated pop of You " through to the closing track , " His Name Is Legs " . Conversely , Paul Trynka of Classic Rock opines that the song " sounds dull today , with its dated sessioneer funk " , whereas " it 's the confessional songs [on Extra Texture] that have worn well . "

Among Harrison 's biographers , Simon Leng views it as " a great pop record " , noting : " ' You ' has the same surging spirit as [Motown classics] " Dancing in the Street " and " Heat Wave " and , as the lyrics are full of boy @-@ meets @-@ girl triteness , the groove is what carries it . " Ian Inglis identifies the song 's strengths as its lyrical simplicity , a " soaring , galloping melody ... [that] encapsulates the joy of reciprocated love and the liberation of rock ' n ' roll at its most exuberant " , and the quality of the musicianship on the recording , particularly Jim Horn 's contribution . Inglis concludes of " You " : " Even the slight unease [Harrison] has in striving to maintain some of the higher notes cannot detract from what is , quite simply , a near @-@ perfect pop song . "

== Cover versions ==

Two years after Harrison 's death from cancer in November 2001 , American singer @-@ songwriter Lisa Mychols covered " You " for the multi @-@ artist compilation He Was Fab : A Loving Tribute to George Harrison (2003) ? a reading that Lindsay Planer describes as " affective " and a highlight of the album . Original Beatlemania cast member Les Fradkin released a version of the song on his 2005 tribute CD Something for George . At the New York Celebrates George Harrison Concert on 26 February 2011 , in honour of what would have been Harrison 's 68th birthday , New York band the 253 Boys performed " You " in a medley with his 1987 song " This Is Love " .

== Personnel ==

George Harrison ? vocals * , electric guitar , acoustic guitar * , backing vocals *

Ronnie Spector ? vocals

Jim Horn ? saxophone *

Leon Russell ? piano

Gary Wright ? electric piano

David Foster ? organ * , string synthesizer *

Carl Radle ? bass

Jim Gordon ? drums , tambourine

Jim Keltner ? drums *

* denotes May ? June 1975 overdubs

= = Chart positions = =