

= Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band (song) =

" Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " is a song written by Paul McCartney (credited to Lennon ? McCartney) , and first recorded and released in 1967 , on the album of the same name by the Beatles . The song appears twice on the album : as the opening track (segueing into " With a Little Help from My Friends ") , and as " Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band (Reprise) " , the penultimate track (segueing into " A Day in the Life ") . As the title song , the lyrics introduce the fictional band that performs on the album .

Since its original album release , " Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " has also been released on various Beatles singles and compilation albums . The song has also been performed by several other artists , including Jimi Hendrix , U2 , and a comic interpretation by Bill Cosby , using the opening to John Philip Sousa 's Washington Post March as the instrumental bridge .

= = Authorship and recording = =

In November 1966 , on the flight back to England after a holiday , McCartney conceived an idea in which an entire album would be role @-@ played , with each of the Beatles assuming an alter @-@ ego in the " Lonely Hearts Club Band " , which would then perform a concert in front of an audience . The inspiration is said to have come when roadie Mal Evans innocently asked McCartney what the letters " S " and " P " stood for on the pots on their in @-@ flight meal trays , and McCartney explained it was for salt and pepper . This then led to the Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band concept , as well as the song .

The group 's road manager , Neil Aspinall , suggested the idea of Sgt. Pepper being the compère , as well as the reprise at the end of the album . According to his diaries , Evans may have also contributed to the song . John Lennon attributed the idea for Sgt. Pepper to McCartney , although the song is officially credited to Lennon ? McCartney . The Beatles recorded the track in Abbey Road 's studio 2 , with George Martin producing , and Geoff Emerick engineering . Work on the song started on 1 February 1967 , and after three further sessions the recording was completed on 6 March 1967 .

= = Song structure = =

On the Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band album , the song opens to the sound of a chattering audience , and an orchestra tuning up , which was taken from the 10 February orchestra session for " A Day in the Life " . The crowd sounds edited into the song were recorded in the early 1960s by Martin , during a live recording of the stage show Beyond the Fringe . The song 's structure is :

Introduction (instrumental)

Verse

Bridge (instrumental)

Refrain

Bridge

Verse

Instrumental bridge and transition into " With a Little Help from My Friends " .

The song is in G major , with a 4 / 4 meter . A horn quartet was used to fill out the instrumental sections .

= = = Reprise = = =

" Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band (Reprise) " is a modified repeat of the opening song at a faster tempo with heavier instrumentation . The track opens with McCartney 's count @-@ in (retained in the manner of " I Saw Her Standing There " , the opening song on the Beatles ' first album) ; between 2 and 3 , Lennon jokingly interjects " Bye ! " Ringo Starr starts the song proper by playing the drum part unaccompanied for four bars , at the end of which a brief bass glissando from

McCartney cues the full ensemble of two distorted electric guitars (played by George Harrison and Lennon) , bass , drums and overdubbed percussion . In addition , McCartney overdubbed a Hammond organ part onto the track .

While the first version of the song had stayed largely in the key of G major (except for transient modulation to F and perhaps C in the bridges) , the reprise starts in F and features a modulation , to G. The mono and stereo mixes of the song differ slightly : the former has a fractionally different transition from the previous song , and includes crowd noise and laughter in the opening bars that are absent from the stereo mix .

The idea for a reprise was Aspinall 's , who thought that as there was a " welcome song " , there should also be a " goodbye song " . The song contains broadly the same melody as the opening version , but with different lyrics and omitting the " It 's wonderful to be here " section . At 1 : 18 , it is one of the Beatles ' shorter songs (the shortest is " Her Majesty " at 0 : 23) . The reprise was recorded on 1 April 1967 , two months after the version that opens the album . At the end of the track , Martin 's pre @-@ recorded applause sample segues into the final track of the album , " A Day in the Life " .

= = Releases = =

It was originally released in the UK on 1 June 1967 , and in the US on 2 June 1967 on the Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band LP .

When the Beatles ' recording contract with EMI expired in 1976 , EMI were free to re @-@ release music from the Beatles ' catalogue , and in 1978 issued " Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " / " With a Little Help from My Friends " as the A @-@ side of a single , with " A Day in the Life " as the B @-@ side . The single was released on Capitol in the US on 14 August (closely following the release there of the Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band film) , reaching number 71 on 30 September 1978 where it stayed for two weeks . The single was issued on Parlophone in the UK in September .

The original recording of the song is included on the Beatles compilation albums 1967 @-@ 1970 (1973) and Yellow Submarine Songtrack (1999) . A run @-@ through of the reprise is included on the outtakes album Anthology 2 (1996) .

In 2006 , the reprise was re @-@ released on the album Love , which was a theatrical production by Cirque du Soleil . The updated version is a remix featuring samples of other Beatles ' songs and fades out before the cross @-@ fade into " A Day in the Life " .

The notebook used by McCartney containing the lyrics for " Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " and other songs was put up for sale in 1998 .

= = Personnel = =

Full version :

Paul McCartney ? lead vocal , bass guitar , lead guitar , rhythm guitar

John Lennon ? backing vocal

George Harrison ? backing vocal , rhythm guitar

Ringo Starr ? drums

George Martin ? organ , producer

Neill Sanders ? French horn

James W. Buck ? French horn

Tony Randell ? French horn

John Burden ? French horn

Reprise :

Paul McCartney ? lead vocal , bass , Hammond organ

John Lennon ? lead vocal , rhythm guitar

George Harrison ? lead vocal , lead guitar

Ringo Starr ? lead vocal , drums , tambourine , maracas

Personnel per Ian MacDonald , Mark Lewisohn and Olivier Julien .

= = Live performances = =

In 1967 , Jimi Hendrix played the song live at the Saville Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue , which was leased by Brian Epstein , only three days after it had been released on record , with McCartney and Harrison in the audience . Another live version by Hendrix recorded at the Isle of Wight Festival was included on a posthumous live album , *Blue Wild Angel : Live at the Isle of Wight* .

" Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " was never performed live by the Beatles . It was performed by three of the former band members (McCartney , Harrison and Starr) plus Eric Clapton on 19 May 1979 , at Clapton 's wedding party .

Paul McCartney played it live on the 1989 ? 90 Paul McCartney World Tour . On subsequent tours he would play the reprise version and use that as a segue into " The End " . When the performance is released , it usually is listed as " Sgt. Pepper 's / The End " , shortening the name of the song . When McCartney performs it , he usually adds the count @-@ in after the drum part begins , as opposed to McCartney 's count @-@ in preceding the drum opening .

In 1998 hair metal band Zinatra played the song at an arena tour in Europe where they opened for then @-@ former Van Halen frontman David Lee Roth . Zinatra also covered part of the song under the title " Peppermania " on the band 's 2004 version of their self @-@ titled debut album .

McCartney and U2 played the song at the start of the Live 8 concert in Hyde Park , London on 2 July 2005 . The song , starting with " It was twenty years ago , today " , was chosen amongst others to commemorate that Live 8 took place approximately twenty years after Live Aid . The single was released for charity on iTunes , and set a world record for the fastest @-@ selling online song of all time .

In 2007 , Bryan Adams and Stereophonics recorded the album 's two versions of the song for *It Was 40 Years Ago Today* , a television film with contemporary acts recording the album 's songs using the same studio , technicians and recording techniques as the original .

On 4 April 2009 , McCartney performed the song during a benefit concert at New York 's Radio City Music Hall and segued it into " With a Little Help From My Friends " , sung by Starr .

In 2009 , Cheap Trick released a live album and DVD called *Sgt. Pepper Live* , which is a live performance of the entire original album , including the title song and reprise .

In 2011 , Robbie Williams performed the song on Take That 's Progress tour , replacing " Sgt Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " with " Robbie Williams and the Take That Band " , and " Mr Martin told the Band to play " ? a reference to Take That 's manager in the 1990s , Nigel Martin @-@ Smith .

In 2013 , the song was performed by Ryder Lynn (Blake Jenner) , Marley Rose (Melissa Benoist) , Jake Puckerman (Jacob Artist) , and Wade " Unique " Adams (Alex Newell) in the Glee episode " Tina in the Sky with Diamonds " .

On 9 February 2014 , during a tribute show commemorating the Beatles ' first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show , 50 years earlier , McCartney again sang " Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band " and Starr sang " With a Little Help From My Friends " .