

= Rain ( Beatles song ) =

" Rain " is a song by the English rock band the Beatles first released in June 1966 as the B @-@ side of the " Paperback Writer " single . Both songs were recorded during the sessions for the album Revolver though neither appears on that album .

Written by John Lennon although credited to Lennon ? McCartney , " Rain " has been called the Beatles ' finest B @-@ side , noted for its slowed @-@ down rhythm track and backwards vocals , both of which were a hint of things to come on Revolver , released two months later .

Three promotional films were made for the song " Rain " . These videos , along with other Beatles videos at the time , sparked George Harrison to say during the Beatles Anthology , " So I suppose , in a way , we invented MTV . "

= = Music and lyrics = =

The inspiration for " Rain " is agreed on by Neil Aspinall , the Beatles ' roadie , and John Lennon . They both described the band 's arrival in Melbourne , Australia , marked by rain and poor weather . Lennon said , " I 've never seen rain as hard as that , except in Tahiti " , and later explained that " Rain " was " about people moaning about the weather all the time " . Another interpretation is that the song 's " rain " and " sun " are phenomena experienced during a benign LSD trip .

While technologically elaborate , " Rain " has a simple musical structure . Set in the key of G major ( the final mix pitches it about a quarter of a semitone below this , while the backing track was taped in G sharp ) , it begins with what Alan W. Pollack calls , " a ra @-@ ta @-@ tat half @-@ measure 's fanfare of solo snare drums " , followed by a guitar intro of the first chord . The verses are nine measures long , and the song is in 4 / 4 time . Each verse is based on the G , C , and D chords ( I , IV , and V ) . The refrain contains only I and IV chords , and is twelve measures long ( the repetition of a six @-@ measure pattern ) . The first two measures are the G chord . The third and fourth measures are the C chord . The third measure has the C chord in the so @-@ called 6 / 4 ( second ) inversion . The fifth and sixth measures return to the G chord . Pollack says the refrain seems slower than the verse , though it is at the same tempo , an illusion achieved by " the change of beat for the first four measures from its erstwhile bounce to something more plodding and regular " . After four verses and two refrains , a short solo for guitar and drums is played , with complete silence for one beat . What is heard next is what Pollack calls " historically significant " reverse lyrics . The Beatles pioneered the fade @-@ out fade @-@ in coda that was later used on " Strawberry Fields Forever " which can also be heard on Led Zeppelin 's " Thank You " .

= = Recording = =

Recording began on 14 April 1966 , in the same session as " Paperback Writer " , and concluded on 16 April , with a series of overdubs before mixing on the same day . At that time , The Beatles were enthusiastic about experimenting in the studio to achieve new sounds and effects . These experiments were showcased in their seventh album , Revolver . Geoff Emerick , who was the engineer for both sessions , described one technique he used to alter the sonic texture of the track by recording the backing track " faster than normal . " When played back , slightly slower than the usual speed , " the music had a radically different tonal quality . The opposite technique was used to alter the tone of Lennon 's lead vocal : it was recorded with the tape machine slowed down , making Lennon 's voice sound higher when played back .

The last verse of " Rain " includes backwards vocals , one of the first uses of this technique on a record . The backwards vocals are Lennon singing the lyrics of the song : " When the sun shines , " " Rain , " and " If the rain comes , they run and hide their heads . " Both Lennon and producer George Martin have claimed credit for the idea ; Lennon said :

Emerick confirms Lennon 's creative accident , but Martin remembers it differently :

Later , in 1980 , John claimed :

Regardless of who is credited for the technique , " from that point on , " Emerick wrote , " almost

every overdub we did on Revolver had to be tried backwards as well as forwards . "

The " Paperback Writer " / " Rain " single was the first release to use a new device invented by the maintenance department at Abbey Road called " ATOC " for " Automatic Transient Overload Control " . The new device allowed the record to be cut at a louder volume , louder than any other single up to that time . On the final mix of the single , Lennon played a 1965 Gretsch Nashville , Paul McCartney a 1964 Rickenbacker 4001S bass , Harrison a 1964 Gibson SG , and Ringo Starr used Ludwig drums . Both McCartney and Starr have been praised for their performances on their instruments in this song . Starr particularly liked his drumming effort .

= = Personnel = =

John Lennon ? lead and backing vocals , rhythm guitar

Paul McCartney ? backing vocals , bass

George Harrison ? backing vocals , lead guitar

Ringo Starr ? drums , tambourine

Personnel per Ian MacDonald

= = Release = =

First released as a B @-@ side to " Paperback Writer " in the United States ( Capitol 5651 ) on 30 May 1966 and in the UK on 10 June 1966 ( Parlophone R5452 ) , the single was later released part of a Record Store Day reissue in 2010 . It later appeared on the compilations Hey Jude in the US and Rarities in the UK . It also appeared on the Past Masters CD ( Parlophone CDP 7 90044 2 ) .

= = Promotional films = =

The Beatles created three promotional films for " Rain " which are considered among the early precursors of music videos . The films were directed by Michael Lindsay @-@ Hogg who worked with them earlier on the pop 1960 television programme Ready Steady Go ! One features the Beatles walking and singing in a garden and a greenhouse ( filmed 20 May 1966 at Chiswick House in London ) . The other two feature the band performing on a sound stage ( filmed 19 May 1966 , one in colour for Ed Sullivan and the other in black and white for the UK ) . McCartney was injured in a moped accident on 26 December 1965 , six months prior to the filming of " Rain " and closeups in the film reveal a scarred lip and a chipped tooth . McCartney 's appearance in the film played a role in the " Paul is dead " rumours from 1969 .

The Beatles ' Anthology documentary video includes a re @-@ edit of two of these three clips , full of rhythmic fast cuts and several shots that went unused in the original videos . This creates an impression that the videos were more technically complex , fast @-@ paced , and innovative than was the case . For example , the backwards film effects shown here are 1990s creations . Such effects were actually first deployed in the " Strawberry Fields Forever " promotional film of January 1967 .

= = Reception = =

The song 's highest chart position in the US was number 23 ( 11 June 1966 ) . The " Paperback Writer " single reached number one in the UK ( for two weeks starting on 23 June 1966 ) . " Rain " is one of the Beatles ' most critically acclaimed songs , appearing on best @-@ of lists , including Rolling Stone magazine 's The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time ( # 463 ) . AcclaimedMusic.net , ranks " Rain " at # 1066 on the Top 3000 Songs , the 31st highest @-@ rated Beatle song on the site . The song was ranked as the 382nd best song of all time by Q104.3

Notable in " Rain " is Ringo Starr 's drumming , which Starr rates as his best recorded performance . Critics agreed : both Ian MacDonald and Rolling Stone said his drumming was " superb " and Richie Unterberger of AllMusic praised his " creative drum breaks " . In 1984 , Starr assessed his

performance stating , " I think it 's the best out of all the records I 've ever made . ' Rain ' blows me away ... I know me and I know my playing ... and then there 's ' Rain ' " .

= = Covers , samples , and media references = =

" Rain " cover versions include Petula Clark , Ibex , Bongwater , Humble Pie , The Jam , The Clash , Shonen Knife , The Punkles , Galaxie 500 , Hard Meat , Polyrock , Gregg Allman , Antietam and Wang Chung . The Grateful Dead performed the song throughout the 1990s , often as an encore . U2 has played the song in whole or in part throughout many of their tours , usually during outdoor concerts when it has started to rain . Pearl Jam improvised the song into their song " Jeremy " during their 1992 Pinkpop Festival show and played it in full at the Isle of Wight Festival in 2012 . Kula Shaker covered the song live at Reading Festival in 1996 as did Fairport Convention , featuring Dan Ar Braz , at the Cropredy Festival in 1997 . Todd Rundgren has also covered the song , as has the late Dan Fogelberg , who reprised it as part of his own cover of " Rhythm of the Rain " .

The Beatles tribute act Rain derives its name from the song .