

= Barrett (album) =

Barrett is the second and final studio album of new material released by former Pink Floyd frontman Syd Barrett . Recording began at Abbey Road Studios on 26 February 1970 , and lasted for 15 sessions until 21 July . The album was produced by Pink Floyd 's guitarist David Gilmour and keyboardist Richard Wright , who also contributed on bass guitar and keyboards respectively , along with previous Madcap contributor Jerry Shirley on drums .

Barrett was released in November 1970 on Harvest in the United Kingdom and Capitol in the United States , but failed to chart in both markets ; it was re @-@ released in 1974 as part of Syd Barrett . No singles were issued from the album . It was remastered and reissued in 1993 , along with Barrett 's other albums ? The Madcap Laughs (1970) and Opel (1988) ? independently and as part of the Crazy Diamond box set . A newly remastered version was released in 2010 .

= = Background = =

Initial sales and reaction of Barrett 's first solo album , The Madcap Laughs , were deemed sufficient by EMI to sanction a second solo album . On 24 February 1970 , a month after releasing Madcap , Barrett appeared on John Peel 's Top Gear radio show , where he performed only one song from the newly released album (" Terrapin ") , three that would later be recorded for Barrett (" Gigolo Aunt " , " Baby Lemonade " and " Effervescing Elephant ") and a one @-@ off (" Two of a Kind " , possibly written by Richard Wright) . The session producers had no verbal contact with Barrett , having only communication to him via Gilmour . For the radio session , Gilmour and Humble Pie drummer Jerry Shirley accompanied Barrett on bass and bongos , respectively . The version of " Gigolo Aunt " recorded for the radio session (and later released on 1988 's The Peel Session) was unfinished , as Barrett had sung the opening verse three times . Barrett played slide guitar on the radio version of " Baby Lemonade " , with Gilmour on organ .

Two days later , he began working on his second album in Abbey Road Studios , with Gilmour as producer , and a trio of musicians : Richard Wright , Shirley and Gilmour himself . The main aim for the Barrett sessions was to give Barrett the structure and focus many felt was missing during the long and unwieldy sessions for The Madcap Laughs . Thus , the sessions were more efficiently run and the album was finished in considerably less time than The Madcap Laughs (six months , compared to Madcap 's one year) . On 6 June 1970 , Barrett gave his one and only official solo performance , at the Olympia in Kensington , backed once more by Gilmour and Shirley . At the end of " Octopus " , the fourth number of the set , Barrett baffled the audience and his backing musicians by abruptly taking off his guitar and walking off stage .

= = Recording = =

The first session was on 26 February , three of the first songs ? fully recorded ? attempted during the session were " Baby Lemonade " , " Maisie " and " Gigolo Aunt " . However , Gilmour thought they were losing the " Barrett @-@ ness " . After " Baby Lemonade " was attempted , 2 takes of " Maisie " were recorded before Barrett went into 15 takes of " Gigolo Aunt " . The next day , two @-@ track demos of " Wolfpack " , " Waving My Arms in the Air " , " Living Alone " and " Bob Dylan Blues " , were recorded . The former two made it to the album ; the latter two didn 't . On the recording sheet , it lists Gilmour as having taken home a copy of the latter two , Gilmour later returned and took the master tapes too . Gilmour has since said " Those sessions were done so quickly . We were rushing to gigs every day and had to fit recording sessions in between . I probably took it away to have a listen and simply forgot to take it back . It wasn 't intended to be a final mix . Syd knocked it off , I took a tape home . " Despite some minor work made to " Gigolo Aunt " , Barrett wouldn 't return to Abbey Road Studios until 1 April , due to Pink Floyd working on their 1970 album , Atom Heart Mother . On various occasions , Barrett would " spy " on the band as they recorded the album . Again , Barrett recorded some work to a song , " Wolfpack " , on the 3rd , before the sessions were postponed until 5 June , this time due to Gilmour and Wright going on tour in the US

with Pink Floyd .

On the session of 5 June , Barrett managed to record an unknown number of two @-@ track demos for three songs : " Rats " , " Wined and Dined " , and " Birdie Hop " . The " Rats " demo recorded here , became the basis for the album master , and would later be overdubbed by musicians , despite the changing tempos . Two days later , on the 7th , Barrett recorded " Milky Way " , " Millionaire " , before being rounded off with overdubs for " Rats " . " Millionaire " was originally titled " She Was a Millionaire " , and was originally recorded by Pink Floyd . Barrett recorded two attempts at a backing track before abandoning it , and adding vocals . Yet another break in recording occurred , until 14 July , where Barrett recorded several takes of " Effervescing Elephant " , while numerous overdubs were added to Barrett 's " Wined and Dined " demo by Gilmour . Three takes of " Dominoes " ensued , with an unknown number of takes of " Love Song " , " Dolly Rocker " and " Let 's Split " were recorded . " Love Song " and " Dolly Rocker " were both overdubbed , the former being overdubbed from 17 to 21 July , but overdubs for the latter were wiped . On 21 July , Barrett worked on another Untitled track (later to be titled as " Word Song ") , recording only one take , before recording 5 takes of the last new song to be recorded for Barrett : " It Is Obvious " . Barrett worked on remakes of two tracks : " Maisie " , and " Waving My Arms in the Air " (the latter now seguing into a new track , " I Never Lied to You ") .

We really had basically three alternatives at that point , working with Syd . One , we could actually work with him in the studio , playing along as he put down his tracks ? which was almost impossible , though we succeeded on ' Gigolo Aunt ' . The second was laying down some kind of track before and then having him play over it . The third was him putting his basic ideas down with just guitar and vocals and then we 'd try and make something out of it .

Shirley said of Barrett 's playing : " He would never play the same tune twice . Sometimes Syd couldn 't play anything that made sense ; other times what he 'd play was absolute magic . " Barrett 's direction to the other musicians were limited to pronouncements like " Perhaps we could make the middle darker and maybe the end a bit middle afternoonish . At the moment it 's too windy and icy " .

= = Songs = =

= = = Side one = = =

" Baby Lemonade " is a blues folk tune , reminiscent of the Byrds . The intro was actually Barrett simply warming @-@ up on guitar , that Gilmour had managed to record and placed it at the start of the album , making it seem like an intro to the song . The lyrics that describe the way for a person to kill time (such as the line " In the clock they sent / Through a washing machine ") . The solo was performed by Barrett , not Gilmour as is often noted . A recurring theme in the album , starting with " Baby Lemonade " , is the weather . Barrett performed the song twice , both times for the BBC (previously recorded on 24 February 1970 , for John Peel 's Top Gear , and later for Bob Harris ' show on 16 February 1971) .

" Love Song " tells the story of an ex @-@ girlfriend fondly remembered (" I knew a girl and I like her still ") . It is the first of two songs which feature dreamlike @-@ senses in the lyrics (" I 'll lay my head down and see what I see ") . Barrett performed the song for Bob Harris ' show in 1971 .

" Dominoes " features imagery of regret and recollection in the lyrics . The song features a backwards guitar solo by Barrett , and organ and Rhodes by Wright . The song 's " You and I " lyric hints to the Turtles ' " Happy Together " , which refers to the tail end relationship Barrett had with Lindsay . The first of three songs on the album which lyrics point to anguish (" In my tears , my dreams ") . Animals are also a recurring item in not only the album , but Barrett 's entire solo output , in " Dominoes " though , larks are mentioned (" Overhead a lark today ") . Barrett performed the song for Bob Harris ' show in 1971 .

" It Is Obvious " is the second of two songs which feature dreamlike @-@ senses in the lyrics (" Creep into bed when your head 's on the ground ") . It is also the second of three songs on the

album which lyrics point to anguish (" Remember those times I could call / Through the clear day time / And you would be there ") . The theme of weather is referenced again (" The softness , the warmth and the weather in suspense ") . The song also references the Cambridge quarry pits , and the landscape . Animals are also a recurring item throughout the album , in " It Is Obvious " though , sparrows are mentioned .

" Rats " started off as a jam , but eventually evolved into a structured song . It contains taunting and maniacal lyrics (" Rats rats lay down flat / We don 't need you we act like that ") . Animals are also a recurring item throughout the album , in " Rats " though , rats and spiders are mentioned .

" Maisie " is a blues jam , with Barrett muttering the lyrics . The song was influenced by Howlin ' Wolf 's " Spoonful " . Animals are also a recurring item throughout the album ; in " Maisie " , bulls are mentioned (" Bad luck , bride of a bull ") .

= = = Side two = = =

" Gigolo Aunt " is based on Jeff Beck 's " Hi Ho Silver Lining " . Barrett performed the song for Top Gear in 1970 . For Barrett 's only solo performance , at the Kensington Olympia in 1970 , he played four songs , one of them being " Gigolo Aunt " .

" Waving My Arms in the Air " hints to the then @-@ recently released Rolling Stones song , " Midnight Rambler " . The song contains an echo of " Octopus " (" Waving my arms in the air / Pressing my feet to the ground ") . The lyrics refer to a hard @-@ learned experience . The song features a childlike section (" No care / No no ") . Animals are also a recurring item throughout the album , in " Waving My Arms in the Air " though , cats and dogs are mentioned . The song segues into " I Never Lied to You " with the aid of Wright 's organ .

" I Never Lied to You " is the final of three songs on the album which lyrics point to anguish (" It 's been so hard to bear with you not there ") .

" Wined and Dined " dated from Barrett 's Cambridge days , and is about the relationship between Barrett and his then @-@ girlfriend , Gayla Pinion , a model from Cambridge . The song reflects on about Mediterranean evenings (" Musk winds blow ") , and haunting 's of Barrett 's childhood (" Chalk underfoot / Light ash of blue ") .

" Wolfpack " had been mentioned by Barrett in an interview , he said the song was one of favourites , out of all his material . Animals are also a recurring item throughout the album , in " Wolfpack " though , wolves are mentioned .

" Effervescing Elephant " was pastiche of the verse form of Hilaire Belloc 's Cautionary Tales for Children . In contrast to " Dominoes " , " It Is Obvious " , " Rats " , " Waving My Arms in the Air " , and " Wolfpack " previously mentioning one or two animals , " Effervescing Elephant " contains references to a whole jungle full of animals . Barrett performed the song for Top Gear in 1970 . For Barrett 's only solo performance , at the Kensington Olympia in 1970 , he played four songs , one of them being " Effervescing Elephant " .

= = Release and aftermath = =

The cover of the album was designed by Barrett ; it was originally one of many drawings Barrett had done in Cambridge , years earlier . Barrett was released in November 1970 to less interest than had greeted The Madcap Laughs earlier in the year , and as a result , failed to reach the chart . Talks of more singles and a third album were rumoured over the following months . Barrett dismissed the album and Madcap , saying : " They 've got to reach a certain standard and that 's probably reached in Madcap once or twice and on the other one only a little ? just an echo of that . Neither of them are much more than that . " Allmusic reviewer Ritchie Unterberger called the album " a bit fuller and smoother than the first album " , referring to " Baby Lemonade " , " Gigolo Aunt " , and " Effervescing Elephant " as " among his peppiest and best @-@ loved tunes " ; however , " the tone is darker and more meandering " in the rest of the album . In an overview of Barrett 's career , Rolling Stone referred to both Barrett 's solo albums as " entrancing " .

On 16 February 1971 , Barrett recorded a short set for BBC Radio 1 's Sound of the Seventies radio

show ; in contrast to 1970s radio appearance where Barrett performed new material , this time he played songs from Barrett : " Baby Lemonade " , " Dominoes " and " Love Song " . Bored and directionless , Barrett headed back to his hometown of Cambridge and ? but for a brief dalliance with a band called Stars in 1972 , and some abortive recording sessions in 1974 ? left his music career behind for good .

Doing Syd 's record was interesting , but extremely difficult . Dave [Gilmour] and Roger [Waters] did the first one (The Madcap Laughs) and Dave and myself did the second one . But by then it was just trying to help Syd any way we could , rather than worrying about getting the best guitar sound . You could forget about that ! It was just going into the studio and trying to get him to sing .

The album was reissued in late 1974 with his first solo album The Madcap Laughs as record two of the two @-@ record set Syd Barrett in Harvest 's series of Harvest Heritage reissues . In 1993 , Barrett (along with The Madcap Laughs and Opel) was reissued both independently and as part of the Crazy Diamond Barrett box set , on 26 April 1993 . " Bob Dylan Blues " would later turn up on 2001 's The Best of Syd Barrett : Wouldn 't You Miss Me ? . A newly remastered version was released in 2010 . For release on An Introduction to Syd Barrett in 2010 , Gilmour laid down a new bass track to four songs , only one from Barrett : " Dominoes " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written by Syd Barrett . All track info taken from album booklet .

= = = Original release = = =

= = = 1993 reissue = = =

This reissue splits " Waving My Arms in the Air " and " I Never Lied to You " into tracks 8 and 9 respectively .

= = Personnel = =

Syd Barrett ? guitars , lead and backing vocals

David Gilmour ? production , bass guitar , organ (second organ on " It Is Obvious " and " Gigolo Aunt " , " Wined and Dined ") , drums (" Dominoes ") , 12 @-@ string guitar

Richard Wright ? piano , harmonium , Hammond organ

Vic Saywell ? tuba

Jerry Shirley ? drums and percussion

John " Willie " Wilson ? drums , percussion

Peter Bown ? engineering

Gareth Cousins ? mixed Crazy Diamond bonus tracks