

= Rock ' n ' Roll (John Lennon album) =

Rock ' n ' Roll is the sixth studio album by John Lennon . Released in 1975 , it is an album of late 1950s and early 1960s songs as covered by Lennon . Recording the album was problematic and spanned an entire year : Phil Spector produced sessions in October 1973 at A & M Studios , and Lennon produced sessions in October 1974 at Record Plant Studios (East) . Lennon was being sued by Morris Levy over copyright infringement of one line in his song " Come Together " . As part of an agreement , Lennon had to include three Levy @-@ owned songs on Rock ' n ' Roll . Spector ran away with the session recordings , later being involved in a motor accident , which left the album 's tracks unrecoverable until the beginning of the Walls and Bridges sessions . With Walls and Bridges coming out first , featuring one Levy @-@ owned song , Levy sued Lennon expecting to see Lennon 's Rock ' n ' Roll album .

The album was released in February 1975 , reaching number 6 in both the United Kingdom and the United States , later being certified gold in both countries . It was supported by the single " Stand by Me " , which peaked at number 20 in the US , and 30 in the UK . The cover was taken by Jürgen Vollmer during the Beatles ' stay in Hamburg . It was Lennon 's last album until 1980 : With no recording contract obligation , he took a hiatus from recording to raise his son Sean .

= = Background = =

In 1969 , Lennon composed the song " Come Together " for the Beatles ' album Abbey Road . Inspired by the Chuck Berry tune " You Can 't Catch Me " , it bore too much of a melodic resemblance to the original ? and Lennon took the third line of the second verse (" Here come old flat @-@ top ") for the new lyric . Publisher Morris Levy brought a lawsuit for infringement , and the case was due to be heard in a New York court in December 1973 . It was later settled out of court , with the agreement that , according to an announcement by Levy , Lennon had to " record three songs by Big Seven publishers on his next album . The songs [he] intends to record at this time are " You Can 't Catch Me " , " Angel Baby " and " Ya Ya " . " Lennon had the right to change the last two songs to any other songs that were published by Big Seven . In the meanwhile , Lennon had split with Yoko Ono and was living in Los Angeles with his personal assistant , May Pang . Nostalgia was a popular trend on film with American Graffiti , and television was readying the series Happy Days (Lennon and Pang had even visited the set) . Lennon , rather than writing his own songs , and partly inspired by his arrangement to include at least three songs from Levy 's publishing company catalogue , Big Seven Music , decided to record an album of oldies as his next release , following on from Mind Games .

= = Recording = =

Lennon initially teamed up with producer Phil Spector to record the album , letting Spector have full control . Spector chose some of the songs , booked the studio , and the musicians . When news got around that Lennon was in Hollywood making a record , every musician there wanted to be part of the sessions . In mid @-@ October 1973 , sessions were booked at A & M Studios , with many of them having over 30 musicians , but the sessions quickly fell into disarray ? fuelled by alcohol . Spector once showed up dressed in a surgeon 's outfit and shot a gun in the ceiling of the studio , hurting Lennon 's ears . On another occasion , a bottle of whiskey had spilled on the A & M Studio 's mixing console causing future sessions to be banned from the facility . Unknown to Lennon , each night Spector would remove the master tapes from the studio , and move them to his house . Spector then disappeared with the session tapes and would not be heard from for several months . Spector made one cryptic call to Lennon , claiming to have the " John Dean tapes " from the recent Watergate scandal ; Lennon deduced that Spector meant he had the album 's master tapes . When a car accident on 31 March 1974 left Spector in a coma , the project was put on indefinite hold . In mid @-@ 1974 , Lennon returned to New York with Pang and began writing and recording a new album of original material , Walls and Bridges . Shortly before these sessions began , Al Coury ,

then @-@ head of A & R / promotion for Capitol Records retrieved the Spector tapes . Not wanting to break stride , Lennon shelved the tapes and completed work on Walls and Bridges .

With Walls and Bridges coming out first , Lennon had reneged on his deal with Levy and he threatened to refile his lawsuit , but Lennon explained to Levy what had happened , and assured him that the covers album was indeed in the works . Levy gave Lennon use of his farm in upstate New York to rehearse material . Lennon then recalled the session musicians from Walls and Bridges to complete the oldies tracks . Several tracks never made it past the rehearsal stage : " C 'mon Everybody " , " Thirty Days " , " That 'll Be the Day " ? the band also played a few impromptu jams . On 21 October , Lennon went into Record Plant East , completing the oldies tracks in a few days . Lennon wanted the musicians to stay close to the original arrangements of the songs , apart from " Do You Wanna Dance ? " . Mixing and editing lasted until mid @-@ November . To assure him progress was being made , Lennon gave Levy a rough tape of the sessions to review . Levy took the tapes and pressed his own version of the album called Roots : John Lennon Sings the Great Rock & Roll Hits on his record label , Adam VIII , then proceeded to sue Lennon , EMI and Capitol for \$ 42 million for breach of contract . Capitol / EMI quickly sought an injunction . After two trials , in which Lennon had to convince the court of the difference between a rough version and a final take , Levy won \$ 6 @, @ 795 in damages , and Lennon won \$ 144 @, @ 700 , in February 1976 . The album was originally scheduled for release in April 1975 , however , in February 1975 , Capitol Records rush @-@ released the official Rock ' n ' Roll as a Capitol " budget " album (prefix code SK ? one dollar cheaper than the usual releases) to counteract sales of the Levy album .

= = Reception and aftermath = =

Although some critics derided the album as " a step backward " , The Rolling Stone Album Guide wrote that " John lends dignity to these classics ; his singing is tender , convincing , and fond . " AllMusic described the album " as a peak in [Lennon 's] post @-@ Imagine catalog : an album that catches him with nothing to prove and no need to try " .

The album was released on 17 February 1975 in the US , and a few days later in the UK , on 21 February 1975 . It reached number 6 in both the United Kingdom and the United States . On 10 March and 18 April 1975 , in the US and UK respectively , " Stand by Me " was released as a single , backed with " Move Over Ms. L " , a song that was meant to appear on Walls and Bridges but cut from the final line @-@ up . Peaking at 20 number in the US and number 30 in the UK . Lennon promoted the song by appearing on the BBC TV show Old Grey Whistle Test , which also featured an interview by Bob Harris . The show had Lennon singing live over the backing tracks of " Stand by Me " and " Slippin ' and Slidin ' " . Lennon also appeared on Salute to Sir Lew ? The Master Showman singing live again over backing tracks , this time for three songs : " Stand by Me " , " Slippin ' and Slidin ' " and " Imagine " . A second single , " Slippin N Slidin " / " Ain 't That a Shame " (Apple 1883) , was announced , promotional copies were pressed , but was never released . " Ya Ya " , backed with " Be @-@ Bop @-@ A @-@ Lula " , was released as a single only in Germany , peaking at number 47 on the Media Control Charts . Lennon said the following about Rock ' n ' Roll : " It started in ' 73 with Phil and fell apart . I ended up as part of mad , drunk scenes in Los Angeles and I finally finished it off on me own . And there was still problems with it up to the minute it came out . I can 't begin to say , it 's just barmy , there 's a jinx on that album . "

Not long after the album appeared , Lennon reconciled with Ono , and she soon became pregnant . Determined not to lose another baby after three consecutive miscarriages , Lennon decided to halt his musical career for his family . Sean Lennon was born that October (on his father 's 35th birthday) ; following the release of the compilation Shaved Fish , Lennon would not return with a new release until 1980 . " Stand by Me " was reissued in the US , with " Woman Is the Nigger of the World " , on 4 April 1977 . The album re @-@ charted in the UK on 17 January 1981 , at number 64 . In the US , it was reissued in October 1980 , also at budget price , and it was briefly reissued in the UK by the budget label Music for Pleasure with an alternative cover on 25 November 1981 . After Lennon 's death , the album , along with seven other Lennon albums , was reissued by EMI as part of a box set , which was released in the UK on 15 June 1981 . In 1981 , Belgium and France issued

the album , along with the Beatles ' Rock ' n ' Roll Music , as part of a box set . The album was first issued on CD on 26 May 1987 . In 2004 , Yoko Ono supervised the remixing of Rock ' n ' Roll for its reissue , including four bonus tracks from the ill @-@ fated Spector sessions . These leftovers from the sessions had already appeared , as part of 1986 's Menlove Ave . (a collection of outtakes) or the John Lennon Anthology box set . (The Lennon / Spector co @-@ composition " Here We Go Again " was not included on the remastered Rock ' n ' Roll , and can be found on Menlove Ave. as well as the soundtrack album for " The U.S. Vs John Lennon " and the 2010 " Gimme Some Truth " 4 @-@ CD set under the 4th CD entitled " Roots " featuring the " Rock ' N ' Roll " tracks) . In 2010 , the original album mixes were remastered , the album was available separately or as part of the John Lennon Signature Box .

= = Cover art = =

Lennon planned to use some of his childhood drawings for the cover of his oldies album , and production had already begun when Lennon switched gears , so the artwork was used instead for Walls and Bridges . In September 1974 , May Pang attended the first Beatlefest convention at Lennon 's behest , and met Jürgen Vollmer , an old friend of the Beatles from Hamburg , Germany , who had photographed the band from their Hamburg days . He was selling some striking portraits , and Pang immediately phoned Lennon to tell him of her find . Reuniting with Vollmer in New York , Lennon chose one of his photos for the album 's cover .

The photo depicts Lennon in a doorway with three blurry figures walking past him in the foreground . The album 's working title had been Oldies But Mouldies ; no official title had been chosen until Lennon saw the neon sign prepared as cover art by John Uomoto , with Lennon 's name and the words " ROCK ' N ' ROLL " beneath . This struck Lennon in a positive way , and it became the album title .

= = Track listing = =

All tracks produced and arranged by John Lennon , except * produced by Phil Spector , and arranged by Spector and Lennon .

Side One

" Be @-@ Bop @-@ A @-@ Lula " (Tex Davis , Gene Vincent) ? 2 : 39

" Stand by Me " (Jerry Leiber , Mike Stoller , Ben E. King) ? 3 : 26

" Medley : Rip It Up / Ready Teddy " (Robert ' Bumps ' Blackwell , John Marascalco) ? 1 : 33

" You Can 't Catch Me " * (Chuck Berry) ? 4 : 51

" Ain 't That a Shame " (Fats Domino , Dave Bartholomew) ? 2 : 38

" Do You Wanna Dance ? " (Bobby Freeman) ? 3 : 15

" Sweet Little Sixteen " * (Chuck Berry) ? 3 : 01

Side Two

" Slippin ' and Slidin ' " (Eddie Bocage , Al Collins , Richard Wayne Penniman , James H. Smith) ? 2 : 16

" Peggy Sue " (Jerry Allison , Norman Petty , Buddy Holly) ? 2 : 06

" Medley : Bring It On Home to Me / Send Me Some Lovin ' " (Sam Cooke , John Marascalco , Leo Price) ? 3 : 41

" Bony Moronie " * (Larry Williams) ? 3 : 47

" Ya Ya " (Lee Dorsey , Clarence Lewis , Morgan Robinson , Morris Levy) ? 2 : 17

" Just Because " * (Lloyd Price) ? 4 : 25

2004 reissue bonus tracks

" Angel Baby " * (Rosie Hamlin) ? 3 : 44

" To Know Her Is to Love Her " * (Phil Spector) ? 4 : 31

" Since My Baby Left Me " * (Arthur Crudup) ? 4 : 40

" Just Because (Reprise) " * ? 1 : 25

= = Personnel = =

John Lennon : Guitars , vocals

Jesse Ed Davis : Guitar

Jim Calvert : Guitar

Eddie Mottau : Acoustic guitar

José Feliciano : Acoustic guitar

Michael Hazelwood : Acoustic Guitar

Steve Cropper : Guitar

Klaus Voormann : Bass guitar , answer vocal on " Bring It On Home to Me "

Leon Russell : Keyboards

Ken Ascher : Keyboards

Jim Keltner : Drums

Hal Blaine : Drums

Gary Mallaber : Drums

Arthur Jenkins : Percussion

Nino Tempo : Saxophone

Jeff Barry : Horn

Barry Mann : Horn

Bobby Keys : Horn

Peter Jameson : Horn

Joseph Temperley : Horn

Dennis Morouse : Horn

Frank Vicari : Horn

= = Charts = =