

= The Beatles in Hamburg =

The Beatles members John Lennon , Paul McCartney , George Harrison , Stuart Sutcliffe and Pete Best regularly performed at different clubs in Hamburg , Northern Germany , during the period from August 1960 to December 1962 ; a chapter in the group 's history which honed their performance skills , widened their reputation , and led to their first recording , which brought them to the attention of Brian Epstein .

The Beatles ' booking agent , Allan Williams , decided to send the group to Hamburg when another group he managed , Derry and the Seniors , proved successful there . Having no permanent drummer at the time , they recruited Best a few days before their departure . After breaking their contract by playing at another club , Harrison was deported for being under @-@ age , and McCartney and Best were arrested and deported for attempted arson (after McCartney and Best had set fire to a condom in their living quarters) .

The Beatles first met Astrid Kirchherr in Hamburg , who was instrumental in their adoption of the famous Beatle haircut . During their time in Hamburg , Sutcliffe decided to leave the group to continue his studies . In April 1962 , less than a year after leaving the group , he died of a brain hemorrhage .

= = Hamburg in the 1960s = =

Hamburg had once been Germany 's main seaport , the fourth largest in the world , but in 1943 virtually the entire city had been reduced to rubble by World War II bombing raids . By 1960 , when they arrived , the Hamburg that had grown up from the ruins of WWII had established its reputation throughout Europe as a city of vice and criminal activity . In contrast to an economically depressed post @-@ war Liverpool , Hamburg was a wealthy city .

= = = Leaving Liverpool = = =

Williams , a 29 @-@ year @-@ old Liverpool businessman and promoter , had sent his leading group , Derry and the Seniors (later known as Howie Casey and the Seniors) to Hamburg , where they were enjoying success , and wanted to send an additional group . He initially tried to send Rory Storm and the Hurricanes , but Storm and his group were committed to a Butlins holiday camp and turned Williams ' offer down , as did Gerry and the Pacemakers . Williams started promoting concerts for The Beatles in May 1960 , after they had played at his Jacaranda club in Liverpool , and offered The Beatles the Hamburg bookings . He booked them into Bruno Koschmider 's Indra club in Hamburg for a season of bookings starting on 12 August 1960 , but said that he was not impressed with them as a musical group , and hoped to find a better act to follow them .

As they had no permanent drummer , McCartney looked for someone to fill the Hamburg position , which was difficult , as Lennon later said that drummers were " few and far between " , because a set of drums was an expensive item . Harrison had seen Best playing with the Black Jacks in The Casbah Coffee Club (which was run by his mother , Mona Best) . He was regarded as a steady drummer , playing the bass drum on all four beats in the bar , which pushed the rhythm , and was known in Liverpool at the time as being " mean , moody , and magnificent " by female fans , which convinced McCartney he would be good for the group . After the Black Jacks broke up , McCartney asked Best to go to Hamburg , telling him they would earn £ 15 per week each . Best had the chance to go to a teacher @-@ training college , as he had passed his school exams ? unlike Lennon , McCartney and Harrison , who had failed most of theirs ? but decided that playing in Hamburg would be a better career move .

The St. Pauli quarter of Hamburg , where the Indra club was located , was well known as an area where prostitutes were to be found , and was a dangerous place for anyone that looked different from the usual clientele . McCartney 's father , Jim McCartney , was reluctant to let his teenage son go to Hamburg , but relented after a visit from Williams , who told him that he " shouldn 't worry " . Lennon 's aunt , Mimi Smith , was also reluctant to allow Lennon to go to Hamburg , wanting Lennon

to continue his studies , but Lennon placated her by exaggerating the amount he would earn . Best had an audition in Williams ' Jacaranda club on 15 August 1960 , and travelled to Hamburg the next day as a member of the group . Williams later admitted that the audition with Best was not needed , as they had not found any other drummer willing to travel to Hamburg , but did not tell Best in case he asked for more money . The group were to be paid about £ 100 per week , which was much more than promoters in Liverpool paid . Williams drove the group and their equipment in his Austin J4 minibus which was loaded by crane onto a ferry at Harwich on 16 August 1960 , and landed at the Hook of Holland .

All five Beatles , Williams and his wife Beryl , her brother Barry Chang , and " Lord Woodbine " were in the minivan , along with Georg Sterner (Koschmider 's translator and future waiter) , making a total of ten people , which resulted in a journey that was both uncomfortable and dangerous . As Williams had not obtained work permits for West Germany , they were detained at Harwich for five hours . Williams finally convinced the authorities that they were students on holiday , although work permits were later obtained after their arrival in Hamburg . Note : ' Lord Woodbine ' and Williams ran a Strip Club called New Cabaret Artistes club at 174a Upper Parliament Street , Liverpool . Lennon , McCartney , Harrison and Sutcliffe once played backing music for " Janice the Stripper " there , in July 1960 .

= = Hamburg clubs = =

In the early 1960s , the Hamburg scene revolved around the Kaiserkeller , Top Ten , Star @-@ Club , Beer @-@ Shop , Mambo , Holle , Wagabond (pronounced vagabond in German) and the Pacific Hotel , as well as the less popular clubs like Grannies , the Ice Cream Shop , Chugs , and Sacha 's . The Reeperbahn and the Grosse Freiheit were decorated with neon lights , with posters advertising the performers in the clubs . Each club had a doorman whose job was to entice customers inside , as the drinks were expensive (for Babycham and watered @-@ down beer) . Customers who would not , or could not afford to pay were dealt with severely by being beaten and then thrown out .

= = The Indra and Kaiserkeller = = =

The Beatles arrived very early in the morning of 17 August 1960 , but had no trouble finding the St. Pauli area of Hamburg , as it was so infamous . Unfortunately the Indra Club (64 Grosse Freiheit) was closed , so a manager from a neighbouring club found someone to open it up , and the group slept on the red leather seats in the alcoves . The group played at the club on the same night , but were told they could sleep in a small cinema 's storeroom , which was cold and in very poor condition , the Bambi Kino (33 Paul @-@ Roosen Strasse) .

McCartney later said , " We lived backstage in the Bambi Kino , next to the toilets , and you could always smell them . The room had been an old storeroom , and there were just concrete walls and nothing else . No heat , no wallpaper , not a lick of paint ; and two sets of bunk beds , with not very much covers ? Union Jack flags ? we were frozen . " Lennon remembered : " We were put in this pigsty . We were living in a toilet , like right next to the ladies ' toilet . We 'd go to bed late and be woken up next day by the sound of the cinema show and old German frau [women] pissing next door . " After having been awoken in this fashion , the group were then obliged to use cold water from the urinals for washing and shaving . They were paid £ 2 @. @ 50 each a day , seven days a week , playing from 8 : 30 @-@ 9 : 30 , 10 until 11 , 11 : 30 @-@ 12 : 30 , and finishing the evening playing from one until two o 'clock in the morning . German customers found the group 's name comical , as " Beatles " sounded like " Peedles " , which meant a small boy 's penis .

Harrison remembered the Reeperbahn and Grosse Freiheit as the best thing the group had ever seen , as it had so many neon lights , clubs and restaurants , although also saying , " The whole area was full of transvestites and prostitutes and gangsters , but I couldn 't say that they were the audience ... Hamburg was really like our apprenticeship , learning how to play in front of people . " Best remembered the Indra as being a depressing place that was filled with a few tourists , and

having heavy , old , red curtains that made it seem shabby compared to the larger Kaiserkeller , a club also owned by Koschmider and located nearby at 36 Grosse Freiheit . After the closure of the Indra because of complaints about the noise , the Beatles played in the Kaiserkeller , starting on 4 October 1960 .

= = = = Performances = = = =

Their playing schedule at the Kaiserkeller remained the same as it had been in the Indra . Lennon said : " We had to play for hours and hours on end . Every song lasted twenty minutes and had twenty solos in it . That 's what improved the playing . There was nobody to copy from . We played what we liked best and the Germans liked it as long as it was loud . " The Beatles had been used to simply standing still when they had performed in Liverpool , but Koschmider would come to the front of the stage and loudly shout ? Mach schau , mach schau ! ? (" make [a] show " or , more idiomatically , " put on a show " for the customers) . Harrison explained that this prompted Lennon to ? dance around like a gorilla , and we ? d all knock our heads together . ? As Best had been the only one to take O @-@ Level German at school , he could communicate with Koschmider and the clientele better than the rest of the group , and was invited to sing a speciality number called " Peppermint Twist " (while McCartney played the drums) but Best complained that he always felt uncomfortable being at the front of the stage . Willie Limpinski , Koschmider 's business manager , decided that the club would attract more customers if it presented continuous live music .

Williams warned the Beatles about the competition they would face by playing in the same club as the Hurricanes by saying , " You 'd better pull your socks up because Rory Storm and the Hurricanes are coming in , and you know how good they are . They 're going to knock you for six . " In early October 1960 , Storm and the Hurricanes were free to travel to Hamburg , replacing Derry and the Seniors at the Kaiserkeller . They arrived in Hamburg on 1 October 1960 , having negotiated to be paid more than the Seniors or the Beatles . They played five or six 90 @-@ minute sets every day , alternating with the Beatles . They were appalled at the living conditions the Beatles and other groups like Howie Casey and the Seniors (who were sleeping in one room at the back of the Kaiserkeller) had to put up with , so they booked into Hamburg 's Seamens ' Mission .

= = = = Violence and conflict = = = =

The stage of the Kaiserkeller was made of planks of wood balanced on the top of beer crates , so the two groups made a bet to see to who would be the first to break it . After punishing the stage for days , a slight crack appeared , and when Storm jumped off the top of the upright piano it finally broke . Johnny ' Guitar ' Byrne remembered that as Storm hit the stage , it cracked loudly and formed a V @-@ shape around him . He disappeared into it , and all the amplifiers and drummer Ringo Starr 's cymbals slid into the hole . Koschmider was furious , and had to replace the live music with a juke box . Both groups went across the road to Harold 's cafe for breakfast on the Grosse Freiheit , but were followed by Koschmider 's doormen , armed with coshes , who beat them all as punishment .

Horst Fascher (born 1936 , Hamburg) was Koschmider 's nightclub bouncer , who had been the 1959 West German featherweight boxing champion , but his career was cut short after he unintentionally killed a sailor in a street fight . He later became a friend of the Beatles , and protected them from drunken customers . Lennon occasionally urinated out of his apartment ? s window onto the street below , and often started arguments with the audience , so that eventually one member of the audience would jump on stage to hit him , but it was Fascher ? s job to protect Lennon and the group . In some occasions beer bottles were thrown at them . Fascher remembered Lennon often greeting the audience with a " Heil Hitler " , and a Nazi salute : " He 'd pull out a black comb and pretend it was a moustache ... people laughed . "

Lennon was missing for a performance one evening , and Fascher found him in the toilet with a woman . He broke up the tête @-@ à @-@ tête with a bucket of cold water which he threw over them both , and ordered Lennon onto the stage . Lennon was furious , and complained that he could

not go on stage dripping wet . Fascher snapped back : " I don 't give a shit , you 're going onstage and I don 't care if you do it naked . " A short time later the audience was roaring with laughter . Fascher ran to see what the commotion was , and saw Lennon playing guitar , but only wearing underpants with a toilet seat around his neck . (Epstein later asked Liverpool journalist Bill Harry not to publish photos showing Lennon walking along the Reeperbahn in his underpants) . Fascher 's brother , Fred sang lead vocals with the group on " Be Bop A Lula " , while he sang with them on " Hallelujah I Love Her So " , and his alliance with the Beatles continued , as he later went to work at the Star @-@ Club .

= = = Performance skills = = =

According to McCartney , Sutcliffe was a " typical art student " , with bad skin and pimples , but his reputation grew after he began wearing tight trousers and dark Ray @-@ Ban sunglasses . Sutcliffe 's high spot was singing " Love Me Tender " , which drew more applause than when the other Beatles sang , increasing the friction between himself and McCartney . Lennon also started to criticise Sutcliffe ; making jokes about Sutcliffe 's size and playing . While Sutcliffe is often described in Beatles ' biographies as appearing very uncomfortable onstage , and often playing with his back to the audience , Best denies this , recalling Sutcliffe as usually good @-@ natured and " animated " before an audience .

The Beatles steadily improved during their time in Hamburg , and this was noticed by other musicians who were there at the time . McCartney recalled , " We got better and better and other groups started coming to watch us . The accolade of accolades was when Sheridan would come in from the Top Ten (the big club where we aspired to go) or when Rory Storm or Ringo [Starr] would hang around to watch us . ? What 'd I Say ? was always the one that really got them . " The song was often played by the group , once being played for 90 minutes non @-@ stop , with group members walking off stage to wash and drink before returning . Sutcliffe wrote a letter to his mother saying , " We have improved a thousand @-@ fold since our arrival and Allan Williams , who is here at the moment , tells us that there is no group in Liverpool to touch us . "

On Saturday 18 October 1960 , Williams arranged a recording session for Lou Walters (of the Hurricanes) at the Akustik Studio , a small booth on the fifth floor of 57 Kirchenallee (The Klockmann @-@ House) . Williams asked Lennon , McCartney , and Harrison to play and sing harmonies on the recording . Best was in town buying drumsticks , so Starr , the Hurricanes ' drummer , played drums . This was the first time Lennon , McCartney , Harrison and Starr recorded together . They recorded three songs : " Fever " , " September Song " and " Summertime " .

= = = The Top Ten = = =

Formerly the Hippodrome (Reeperbahn 136) , the Top Ten club was opened in 1960 by Peter Eckhorn , and was operated by Iain Hines , who was an organist . In late October 1960 , The Beatles left Koschmider 's club to work at the Top Ten Club , as Eckhorn offered the group more money , a better PA (with reverb and echo) and a slightly better place to sleep (above the club itself) although by doing so the group broke their contract with Koschmider . Koschmider then reported Harrison for working under the legal age limit (even though he had been working at Koschmider 's club) and Harrison was deported on 21 November 1960 . When Best and McCartney went back to the Bambi Kino to get their belongings they found it in almost total darkness . As a snub to Koschmider , McCartney and Best found a condom in their luggage , attached it to a nail on the concrete wall of the room , and set fire to it . There was no real damage done , but Koschmider reported them both for attempted arson . McCartney : " One evening we were just walking down the Reeperbahn , when we heard this ' ta @-@ ti @-@ ti @-@ ta ' , and then ' Komm mit mir ! ' (' Come with me ! ') " . Best and McCartney spent three hours in the Davidwache Police Station , and were deported on 1 December 1960 . Lennon 's work permit was revoked a few days later and he went home by train , but as Sutcliffe had a cold , he stayed in Hamburg . Sutcliffe later borrowed money from Kirchherr (his German girlfriend) for the airfare back to Liverpool in early January 1961 . Back

in Liverpool , no one contacted each other for two weeks , but Best and his mother made numerous phone calls to Hamburg to recover the group 's equipment .

Back in Liverpool , the group played an engagement on 17 December 1960 , at the Casbah Coffee Club , with Chas Newby substituting for Sutcliffe , playing bass with them for four shows . Newby was shocked at the vast improvement of their playing and singing after the residency in Hamburg , and was struck by how powerful Best 's drumming now was , pushing the group to play harder and louder . (It was probably due to McCartney that Best developed a loud drumming style , as he would often tell Best in Hamburg to " Crank it up " = play as loud as possible) .

After Harrison turned 18 and the immigration problems had been solved , the Beatles went back to Hamburg for another residency at the Top Ten Club , playing from 27 March to 2 July 1961 . To secure their return , Eckhorn paid DM 158 to the German authorities , which was the cost of deporting McCartney and Best back to Liverpool the previous winter . Fellow musician , Tony Sheridan , later remembered the living conditions at the club : " John , George , Paul , Stuart and Pete and I were booked to open the smart Top Ten in the Reeperbahn . We moved into a dormitory over the club and slept in bunks . It was terrible really , now I look back . We all washed our own shirts and socks so the place smelt like a Chinese laundry . But we had great times and I ' m afraid we used to tease the life out of the old lady who [took care of] us . "

Sutcliffe decided to leave the Beatles to concentrate on his art studies and to be with Kirchherr , so McCartney (unwillingly) took over as bass player for the group . Sutcliffe later enrolled at the Hamburg College of Art under the tutelage of the pop artist Eduardo Paolozzi . Sutcliffe lent McCartney his Höfner President 500 / 5 model bass guitar but asked McCartney not to change the strings around , so McCartney had to play it with the strings arranged backwards , until he could buy a specially made left - handed Höfner bass of his own . McCartney bought his first Höfner Violin bass guitar (model 500 / 1) from the Steinway Haus Music Store (Colonnaden 29) Lennon bought a Rickenbacker guitar (1958 Model 325) and Harrison bought a Gibson amplifier .

The matching lilac jackets , made by McCartney 's next door neighbour in Liverpool to be worn as stage clothes , were soon threadbare , as were any other items of clothing , so the group bought cowboy boots , jeans and black leather jackets and trousers , from Paul Hundertmark 's (Spielbudenplatz 9) and a tailor 's shop at Thadenstrasse 6 . Lennon said : " We had a bit more money the second time so we bought leather pants ... we looked like four Gene Vincents .

== = The Star Club == =

On 13 April 1962 , the Beatles were booked as the opening act for the launch of a new club . The Star Club , opened by Manfred Weissleder , had a capacity for two thousand people , as well as cinema style seating . When the Beatles were booked to play there , Neil Aspinall left his job to become the Beatles ' permanent road manager , as he was earning more money driving them around than he was earning by being an accountant , and had his van ferried to Hamburg . The Beatles returned to Hamburg by plane to play from 13 April to 31 May 1962 . Upon their arrival , they were informed of Sutcliffe 's death .

By the time of their second Star Club visit from 1 - 14 November 1962 , Starr had become the group 's drummer . The Beatles stayed at the Hotel Germania (Detlev Bremer Strasse 8) , having the luxury of single rooms for the first time , and then stayed at the Hotel Pacific (Neuer Pferdemarkt 30) for another booking from 18 - 31 December 1962 . Harrison said : " We came back to play the Star Club , a big place and fantastic because it had a great sound system . This time we had a hotel . I remember it was quite a long walk from the club , at the top of the Reeperbahn going back towards the city . " Portions of their final performances were taped with a portable recorder by an associate of Ted " King Size " Taylor of the Dominoes , another group playing at the club . The tapes were released on West Germany 's Bellaphon label in 1977 as The Beatles : Live ! at the Star Club in Hamburg , Germany ; 1962 , and subsequently re - released in various formats and titles .

The set list at the Star Club (with the lead singer in parentheses) :

" I Saw Her Standing There " (McCartney) " Roll Over Beethoven " (Harrison) " Hippy Hippy

Shake " (McCartney) " Sweet Little Sixteen " (Lennon) " Lend Me Your Comb " (Lennon) " Your Feet 's Too Big " (McCartney) " Red Sails in the Sunset " (McCartney) " Everybody 's Trying to Be My Baby " (Harrison) " Matchbox " (Lennon) " Talkin ' ' Bout You " (Lennon) " Shimmy Shimmy " (McCartney) " Long Tall Sally " (McCartney) " I Remember You " (McCartney) " I 'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Cry (Over You) " (Lennon) " Where Have You Been All My Life " (Lennon)
 " Twist and Shout " (Lennon) " Mr. Moonlight " (Lennon) " A Taste of Honey " (McCartney) " Besame Mucho " (McCartney) " Reminiscing " (Harrison) " Kansas City " (McCartney) " Nothin ' Shakin ' But the Leaves On a Tree " (Harrison) " To Know Her is to Love Her " (Harrison or Lennon) " Little Queenie " (McCartney) " Falling in Love Again " (McCartney) " Ask Me Why " (Lennon) " Hallelujah I Love Her So " (club manager Horst Fascher) " Be @-@ Bop @-@ A @-@ Lula " (Fred Fascher , Horst 's brother) " Till There Was You " (McCartney) " Sheila " (Harrison)

= = = Sex , drugs and rock and roll = = =

McCartney explained that the Beatles had only experienced sex with girls from Liverpool , but when they got to Hamburg the only women who hung around the clubs late at night were strippers , dancers , or prostitutes . Harrison (who was then only 17) called Hamburg , ? The naughtiest city in the world ? . McCartney said : ? By the time you got to Hamburg , a girlfriend there was likely to be a stripper , so to be suddenly involved with a hard @-@ core striptease artist , who obviously knew a thing or two about sex ... it was quite an eye @-@ opener . ? Gerry Marsden ? frontman for Gerry & the Pacemakers ? remembered visiting a Hamburg brothel in Herbertstrasse with Lennon : " We paid our money , went in and sat down . This guy came out with the biggest lady we had ever seen in our lives . She looked like a bus with a bra on . We ran out that door so quick we didn 't hear it shut . I wanted to go back to get my money back but John said : ' No , we 'd better not . Might cause trouble . ' "

The Beatles 's introduction to " Prellies " (Preludin) was in Hamburg . As the group had to play for hours , Sheridan offered them Preludin , saying : " Here 's something to keep you awake . " Astrid Kirchherr also supplied Sutcliffe and the other Beatles with Preludin , which when taken with beer , made them feel euphoric and helped to keep them awake until the early hours of the morning . Looking back , Harrison said that the whole group would be ? frothing at the mouth , ? and would sometimes stay awake for days . Lennon recalled , ? The waiters always had these pills [Preludin] , so when they saw the musicians falling over with tiredness or drink , they ? d give you the pill . You could work almost endlessly until the pill wore off , and then you ? d have another . ? McCartney said that he would usually take one , but Lennon would often take four or five .

Legitimate use of Preludin required a doctor 's prescription note , but Kirchherr 's mother was able to obtain it from a local chemist which supplied the drug without asking questions . Epstein later asked the Star @-@ Club owner , Weissleder , not to publish photographs showing the group playing with tubes of Preludin . Starr explained that Dexedrine too was in plentiful supply in Hamburg , as it was known to produce increased wakefulness and focus , in association with decreased fatigue , and decreased appetite .

= = Record release = =

The first recording ever released was the single " My Bonnie " , which was recorded in Hamburg during the group 's time at the Top Ten club . The recording came about when the Beatles were recruited by singer Sheridan , who also had a residency at the Top Ten club , to act as his backing group on a series of recordings . The recordings were made for the German Polydor Records label , and were produced by the famed bandleader Bert Kaempfert , who had an instrumental hit called " Wonderland by Night " (" Wunderland bei Nacht ") which reached number one in the U.S. in 1961 , the same year he produced " My Bonnie " . On 22 June 1961 , Sheridan and the Beatles drove to Hamburg @-@ Harburg (about 30 minutes from Hamburg) to record in the Friedrich @-@ Ebert @-@ Halle (auditorium / hall) and were paid 330 Deutschmarks (about \$ 75) for the recording , although there was a second recording session on 23 June and a third session in May 1962 .

Kaempfert signed the group to a one @-@ year Polydor contract at the first session on 22 June 1961 .

On 31 October 1961 , Polydor released " My Bonnie " (Mein Herz ist bei dir nur) which appeared on the West German charts under the name " Tony Sheridan and the Beat Brothers " ? a generic name used for whoever happened to be in Sheridan 's backup group , although McCartney explained : " They didn 't like our name and said , ' Change to the Beat Brothers , this is more understandable for the German audience . ' We went along with it ... it was a record . " The song was later released in the UK , on 5 January 1962 . A few copies were also pressed under the American Decca Records label .

= = = Brian Epstein = = =

" My Bonnie " was to bring the Beatles to the attention of a key figure in their subsequent development and commercial success , Brian Epstein . In September 1961 , Harrison had a German copy of the record , which Sutcliffe had sent to him , as he was still in Hamburg . Harrison loaned it to Bob Wooler (The Cavern Club DJ) who played it at various venues , when the members of the group lent it to him . On 28 October 1961 , the 27 @-@ year @-@ old Epstein , manager of the record department in his father 's NEMS music store in Whitechapel Street , Liverpool , was asked for the record by an 18 @-@ year @-@ old boy , Raymond Jones . Epstein could find nothing on his files about the Beatles or the record , but the following day it was requested again by two girls , this time mentioning that the Beatles had been seen playing at the Cavern , a club in nearby Mathew Street . Alistair Taylor (Epstein 's assistant) later said that the story had been invented and that he had used the name Jones to order copies of the record himself .

Mersey Beat founder Bill Harry later repudiated the story about Epstein not knowing who the Beatles were , as Harry had been talking to Epstein about the band for a long time (being the group he promoted the most in Mersey Beat) and by McCartney saying , ? Brian [Epstein] knew perfectly well who the Beatles were , they were on the front page of the second issue of Mersey Beat . ? Regardless , the interest in the record eventually led Epstein to make his way to the Cavern with Taylor , during lunch hour on 9 November 1961 . He was initially repelled by the dark , damp club , but he congratulated them on their performance .

= = Astrid Kirchherr , Voormann , and Vollmer = =

Kirchherr , Klaus Voormann , and Jürgen Vollmer were early fans of the Beatles after they heard the group play in the Kaiserkeller . Kirchherr , Voormann 's girlfriend , was initially horrified at the idea of spending any time in such a sordid district , but Voormann , after watching the Beatles several times without her , eventually persuaded her to come too . After having previously only listened to Trad jazz , the Platters , and Nat King Cole , the Rock n ' Roll that the Beatles played was totally new to them . The three friends visited the Kaiserkeller almost every night , arriving at 9 o 'clock and sitting by the front of the stage . Kirchherr , then 22 years old , later said : " It was like a merry @-@ go @-@ round in my head , they looked absolutely astonishing ... My whole life changed in a couple of minutes . All I wanted was to be with them and to know them . " Sutcliffe was fascinated by Kirchherr , and Harry later wrote that when Kirchherr walked in , every head would immediately turn her way . Sutcliffe wrote to a friend that he could hardly take his eyes off her when she had first walked into the club , and tried to talk to her during the next break , but she had already left .

Kirchherr asked the Beatles if they would mind letting her take photographs of them in a photo session , which impressed them , as other groups only had snapshots that were taken by friends . The next morning Kirchherr took photographs in a fairground park called " Der Dom " which was close to the Reeperbahn . Kirchherr started dating Sutcliffe , and they were engaged in November 1960 .

Kirchherr is credited with inventing the Beatles ' mop-top haircut , although she personally disagrees . In 1995 , she told BBC Radio Merseyside : " All my friends in art school used to run around with

this sort of what you call Beatles ' haircut , and my boyfriend then , Klaus Voormann , had this hairstyle , and Stuart [Sutcliffe] liked it very very much . He was the first one who really got the nerve to get the Brylcreem out of his hair and asking me to cut his hair for him . Pete [Best] has really curly hair and it wouldn 't work . " After suffering blackouts and intense headaches , Sutcliffe was taken to a hospital on 10 April 1962 ? Kirchherr rode with him in the ambulance ? but died before the ambulance reached the hospital . Three days later Kirchherr met the Beatles at the Hamburg airport and told them Sutcliffe had died of a brain haemorrhage .

In 1966 , Voormann was asked by Lennon to design the sleeve for the Beatles ' album Revolver , and also played bass on solo recordings by Lennon , McCartney , Harrison , and Starr . In 1995 , Voormann designed the artwork for the three @-@ volume CD sets in The Beatles Anthology series . In 1999 , Kirchherr published a book called Hamburg Days (a two @-@ volume limited edition) containing a set of photographs by Kirchherr and " memory drawings " by Voormann of the Beatles time in Hamburg .

= = Later years = =

The Beatles returned to Hamburg in June 1966 , staying at the Tremsbüttel castle (Schlosstrasse 10) , and played two concerts in the Ernst @-@ Merck @-@ Halle on 26 and 27 June . Lennon later said , " I might have been born in Liverpool - but I grew up in Hamburg " . Lennon made the door of Jäger @-@ Passage at Wohlwillstrasse 22 famous when he posed in front of it for a photo which was later used on the covers of the Rock ' n ' Roll and Rock ' n ' Roll Sessions albums . The photo was taken by Jürgen Vollmer , during the time The Beatles were playing at the Top Ten club .

Individual Beatles later commented about their memories of Hamburg , with Lennon reflecting , " We 'd outlived the Hamburg stage and wanted to pack that up . We hated going back to Hamburg those last two times . We 'd had that scene . Brian [Epstein] made us go back to fulfill the contract ... " . Harrison had positive memories of the period : " I 'd have to say with hindsight that Hamburg bordered on the best of Beatles times . We didn 't have any luxury , we didn 't have any bathrooms or any clothes , we were pretty grubby , we couldn 't afford anything , but on the other hand we weren 't yet famous , so we didn 't have to contend with the bullshit that comes with fame . " McCartney was philosophical : " Hamburg was certainly a great childhood memory . But I think all things are enhanced by time . It was very exciting , though I think it felt better to me a little later in our career , once we 'd started to get a bit of success with the records . "

A memorial square , Beatles @-@ Platz , was constructed in Hamburg in 2008 at the meeting of Reeperbahn and Große Freiheit streets , containing five stainless steel sculptures of the Beatles . Construction costs amounted to ? 550 @,@ 000 (\$ 776 @,@ 000) , of which ? 200 @,@ 000 was provided by sponsors and donors . The idea of creating a memorial to the Beatles had been initiated in 2001 by Hamburg radio station Oldie 95 . Hamburg 's Mayor , Ole von Beust , said at the opening , " It is about time that Hamburg commemorated this great group . " The square when illuminated resembles a spinning turntable . Because the band members are shown only in outline form , the figure of the drummer can be either Best or Starr .