

= The Yes Album =

The Yes Album is the third studio album by the English progressive rock band Yes , released on 19 February 1971 by Atlantic Records . It is their first album with guitarist Steve Howe who replaced Peter Banks in 1970 , and their last in the 1970s to feature keyboardist Tony Kaye .

The album was the first by the group not to feature any cover versions , which had been a staple of their material until that point . The band spent mid @-@ 1970 writing and rehearsing new material at a farmhouse in South Molton , Devon , and the new songs were recorded at Advision Studios in the autumn . While the album retained close harmony singing , Kaye 's Hammond organ and Chris Squire 's melodic bass , as heard on earlier releases , the new material also covered further styles including jazz piano , funk and acoustic music , with all band members contributing ideas , and tracks were extended in length to allow music to develop . Howe contributed a variety of guitar styles , including a Portuguese guitar , and recorded a solo acoustic guitar piece , " Clap " , live at the Lyceum Theatre , London .

The album was a critical success and a major commercial breakthrough for Yes , who had been at risk of being dropped by Atlantic Records due to the commercial failures of their first two albums . It reached # 4 in the UK and # 40 in the US , and was later certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for selling over one million copies . The album has been reissued on CD several times , and in 2014 was given a Blu @-@ ray release , remixed by Steven Wilson .

= = Background = =

Yes had already recorded two albums for Atlantic by mid @-@ 1970 , but neither had been commercially successful and the label was considering dropping them . They had replaced founding member Banks with Howe , who enjoyed playing a wider variety of styles , including folk and country music , and played a mix of electric and acoustic guitars . Singer Jon Anderson later said that Howe could " jump from one thing to the other , very fast , very talented . " After some warm @-@ up gigs with Howe , the band moved to a farm in South Molton , Devon , to write and rehearse new material . Howe in particular enjoyed working on the farm , and eventually bought it . Following rehearsals , the band booked Advision Studios in London with producer Eddie Offord and spent the autumn recording . The band enjoyed the sessions , and soon had enough material ready for an album .

In November 1970 , the group were involved in a car accident returning from a gig in Basingstoke . The band all suffered shock , and Kaye broke a foot . He had to do the next few gigs , and the album cover 's photo shoot , with it in plaster .

Howe mostly used a Gibson ES @-@ 175 semi @-@ acoustic guitar and a Martin OO @-@ 18 acoustic for recording , though he did attempt to play a variety of styles with the two instruments . Kaye 's main instruments were the Hammond organ and piano , including a solo on " A Venture " . Kaye had previously played the Hammond M @-@ 100 , but for this album used the B @-@ 3 , a move which he saw as " a turning point " . He was not interested in playing electronic keyboards , which had started to appear on the market . This proved to be a problem with the other members of the band , and Kaye thought his style conflicted too much with Howe 's . He left the group during rehearsals for the follow @-@ up album in mid @-@ 1971 , to be replaced by Rick Wakeman .

= = Songs = =

Yes had started their career being a covers band , performing radical re @-@ arrangements of hit songs , and their first two albums included covers in this vein . However , The Yes Album was the first to feature group @-@ written material in its entirety . Some familiar elements remained ; Anderson , Howe and Squire sang three @-@ part vocal harmony throughout the record , while Squire 's melodic bass and Bill Bruford 's spacious drumming made up their unique rhythm section .

" Yours Is No Disgrace " originated from some lyrics written by Anderson with his friend David Foster . This was combined with other short segments of music written by the band in rehearsals . Howe worked out the opening guitar riff on his own while the rest of the band took a day 's holiday .

The backing track was recorded by the group in sections , then edited together to make up the final piece .

Howe 's solo acoustic tune , " Clap " (wrongly written as " The Clap " in original album pressings) , was influenced by Chet Atkins and Mason Williams ' " Classical Gas " . The piece was written to celebrate the birth of Howe 's son Dylan on 4 August 1969 . The version that appears on the album was recorded live at the Lyceum Theatre in London on 17 July 1970 .

The spacey , electronic @-@ sounding effect in " Starship Trooper " was achieved by running the guitar backing track through a flanger . Anderson wrote the bulk of the song , while Squire wrote the " Disillusion " section in the middle . The closing section , " Würm " is a continuous cadenza of chords (G @-@ E ? -C) played ad lib . It evolved from a song called " Nether Street " by Howe 's earlier group , Bodast .

" I 've Seen All Good People " is a suite of two tunes . Anderson wanted the piece to start quietly and develop , leading into a large church organ sound , before moving into the funky second movement . The band had difficulty recording the initial " Your Move " section , which was resolved by making a tape loop of bass and drums , over which Howe overdubbed a Portuguese 12 @-@ string guitar , miscrediting it as a " vachalia " on the album 's credits . Gnidrolog 's Colin Goldring played recorder on the track .

Anderson wrote " A Venture " in the studio , which was arranged by the rest of the band . Kaye played piano on the track , contributing a jazzy solo towards the end . Howe played a guitar solo on the original recording , but it was left off the final mix , which faded out just as it started . The song was never played live by the original group , but an arrangement was worked out when Yes decided to play the whole album live in 2013 .

The lyrics for " Perpetual Change " were inspired by the view of the countryside from the farm in South Molton . The middle of the track features a polyrhythmic structure , where two pieces of music in different time signatures are playing simultaneously .

= = Cover = =

The front cover was shot by Phil Franks the day after the Basingstoke gig accident . Franks had already taken some photos from the Lyceum gig , but felt he needed something more for the front cover . The band showed up late having been in hospital earlier that day , and only 30 minutes were available for a shoot . Unable to get a satisfactory photo in the studio , Franks took the band round to his flat , grabbed a polystyrene mannequin head from a bin , put a 1000 watt bulb in the kitchen light fitting , and improvised the shot . Franks credited the sleeve designer , Rolling Stone art director Jon Goodchild , for making the cover a success . When Yes performed a live version of " Yours is No Disgrace " for the German television series Beat @-@ Club in April 1971 , footage of the band was combined with that of another mannequin head spinning over a chair , mimicking the cover 's concept .

The inside of the album 's gatefold sleeve shows Kaye playing a Hammond organ , while the front cover showed his leg in plaster , following the accident . Anderson is credited as " John Anderson " on the album but he had dropped the " h " from his first name by the next album , Fragile .

= = Release = =

The Yes Album was released in the UK in February 1971 . It was a commercial success and was the band 's breakthrough album , reaching No. 4 in the UK. and number 40 in the US . It has been certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for selling over one million copies .

Squire later said a key reason for the success was that there was a postal strike which prevented chart returns being sent , and reducing the available ones to a few retailers in London . Yes had the largest fanbase in these stores , and that allowed a good chart position . By the time the strike had ended , the album had started to sell well due to its initial apparent success .

The 1971 Italian issue of the album differs from the original UK issue in two respects . The title on

the front cover is " The Yes " instead of " The Yes Album " , although the spine bears the correct title ; and the track " The Clap " appears as the third track on the second side .

= = = Reception = = =

The album had a positive reception from critics . John Koegel , writing for Rolling Stone , praised the instrumental unity between Squire , Howe and Kaye , but missed the cover versions present in earlier releases . The album is one of three by Yes to appear in the book 1 000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die . Author Tom Moon preferred the group unity that he felt was missing on later releases and gave a positive impression of Anderson 's vocals , saying the melodies in " I 've Seen All Good People " were " instantly singable and still somehow deep . "

Anderson was worried about the initial response to the album , but after about a month noticed that fans started singing along at concerts , and concluded that this musical style could be developed and still remain popular . Kaye concluded that overall it was " quite a simple album , considering where Yes went onto from there . " Rush singer and bassist Geddy Lee included The Yes Album among his favourite albums . Genesis keyboardist Tony Banks has said it his favourite Yes album and preferred the band when Kaye was a member . " It was the addition of Steve Howe 's guitar pyrotechnics that finally allowed Yes to find their true identity . The Yes Album is a giant leap forward , " wrote J.D. Considine in The New Rolling Stone Album Guide

= = = Reissues = = =

The Yes Album was remastered and reissued in 2003 by Rhino Records with several bonus tracks , including a studio version of " Clap " , entitled as Howe intended . In 2014 , Steven Wilson of Porcupine Tree created a new stereo mix and a 5.1 surround sound mix , available as either a DVD or Blu-ray Disc . It was released on 21 April with bonus tracks including the studio version of " Clap " , an extended version of " A Venture " , and an alternate version of the album with live tracks , single edits , and an extended mix . The Blu-ray version also features an instrumental version of the album , a needle drop sample of the original vinyl release , and additional live tracks .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Yes

John Anderson ? lead vocals , percussion

Chris Squire ? bass guitar , vocals

Steve Howe ? electric and acoustic guitars , vachalia , vocals

Tony Kaye ? piano , organ , Moog

Bill Bruford ? drums , percussion

Additional musicians

Colin Goldring ? recorders on " Your Move "

Production

Yes and Eddie Offord ? production

Eddie Offord ? engineering

Brian Lane ? co -ordination

Phil Franks ? photography

Barry Wentzell ? photography

Jon Goodchild ? design