

= Jugband Blues =

" Jugband Blues " is a song by the English psychedelic rock band Pink Floyd , and is featured on their second album , A Saucerful of Secrets , released in 1968 . Written by Syd Barrett , it was his sole compositional contribution to the album , as well as his last published for the band . Barrett and Pink Floyd 's management wanted the song to be released as a single , but were vetoed by the rest of the band and producer Norman Smith . " Jugband Blues " is directed towards anyone within Barrett 's proximity . A video was filmed for the song for the Central Office of Information .

= = Background and recording = =

" Jugband Blues " was written around the same time as " Vegetable Man " . Both songs contain the same cynical humour , but while on " Vegetable Man " Barrett focuses his humour on himself , on " Jugband Blues " it is directed towards those around him . " Jugband Blues " was recorded on 19 October 1967 at De Lane Lea Studios . Barrett wanted a Salvation Army band to play on the track . He told them he wanted them to simply " play whatever they want " regardless of the rest of the group , while Norman Smith insisted on recorded parts . Eventually both versions were recorded and used . About The Salvation Army , band manager Andrew King said that Barrett " wanted a massive Salvation Army freak @-@ out , but that 's the only time I can remember Norman [Smith] putting his foot down . " The song features a distinctive three @-@ tiered structure : starting off in 3 / 4 meter , then into 2 / 4 and finishing off in 4 / 4 .

= = Video = =

The promotional video for the song was filmed in December 1967 , for the Central Office of Information in London . The video was supposed to be about Britain , and was meant to be distributed in the US and Canada . The video features Barrett (shown with an acoustic guitar for the first time) and the group miming to the song in a more conventional stage setting , with psychedelic projections in the background . The original audio to the promo is lost , and most versions use the BBC recording from late 1967 , consequently causing sync issues most evident as Barrett sings the opening verse . Barrett and Waters first watched the promo video during the second week of December 1967 .

= = Legacy = =

Barrett , along with Pink Floyd 's managers , Peter Jenner and King , wanted to release the song as a single in the new year , before being vetoed by both the band and Norman Smith . Jenner said that " Jugband Blues " , along with two others that he wrote around this time , (" Scream Thy Last Scream " and " Vegetable Man ") were " amazing songs . " When compared to " Bike " and " The Scarecrow " , Jenner said " You think , ' Well , OK , those are all right , but these are powerful disturbing art . ' I wouldn 't want anyone to have to go as mad and disturbed as Syd did to get that , but if you are going to go that disturbed give me something like that . That 's great art . " Jenner had also called " Jugband Blues " " an extraordinary song , the ultimate self @-@ diagnosis on a state of schizophrenia , [and] the portrait of a nervous breakdown . "

Barrett , by the beginning of the recording sessions for A Saucerful of Secrets , was already shrinking into a delirious state of mind , exacerbated by his feelings of alienation from the rest of the band . The common interpretation of the lyrics is that they reflect his schizophrenia and it has been argued that they could also be read as a criticism of the other band members for forcing him out . King said of the song : " The most alienated , extraordinary lyrics . It 's not addressed to the band , it 's addressed to the whole world . He was completely cut off . " Jenner said " I think every psychiatrist should be made to listen to those songs [" Jugband Blues " , " Scream Thy Last Scream " and " Vegetable Man "] . I think they should be part of the curriculum of every medical college along with those Van Gogh paintings like The Crows . "

" Jugband Blues " is one of two songs (the other being " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun ") from A Saucerful of Secrets that were later included on the compilation album Echoes : The Best of Pink Floyd . The song was preceded on the compilation by " Wish You Were Here " , with lyrics by Roger Waters written in tribute to Barrett . The band Opal released a cover of the song on the Barrett tribute album Beyond the Wildwood in 1987 .

= = Personnel = =

Syd Barrett ? acoustic guitar , electric guitar , lead vocals

Richard Wright ? keyboards , tin whistle

Roger Waters ? bass guitar

Nick Mason ? drums , percussion , kazoo

with :

The Salvation Army band