

= Eat a Peach =

Eat a Peach is the third studio album by American rock band the Allman Brothers Band . Produced by Tom Dowd , the album was released on February 12 , 1972 , in the United States by Capricorn Records . Following their artistic and commercial breakthrough with the release of the live album At Fillmore East ( 1971 ) , the Allman Brothers Band got to work on their third studio album . Many in the band were struggling , however , with heroin addictions , and checked into rehab to confront these problems . Shortly after leaving rehab , group leader and founder Duane Allman was killed in a motorcycle accident in the band 's home of Macon , Georgia thus making it the final album to feature the guitarist .

Eat a Peach was a mix of studio recordings ? both with and without Duane Allman ? and recordings from the band 's famed 1971 Fillmore East performances . The album contains the extended , half @-@ hour @-@ long " Mountain Jam , " as well as vocalist Gregg Allman 's performance of his brother 's favorite song , " Melissa , " plus Dickey Betts ' " Blue Sky " , which became a radio staple . Album artwork was created by W. David Powell and J. F. Holmes at Wonder Graphics , and depicts the band 's name on a peach truck , in addition to a large gatefold mural of mushrooms and fairies . The album 's title came from a quote by Duane Allman : " You can 't help the revolution , because there 's just evolution ... Every time I 'm in Georgia , I eat a peach for peace ... the two @-@ legged Georgia variety . "

Issued as a double album in February 1972 , Eat a Peach was an immediate success and peaked at number four on Billboard 's Top 200 Pop Albums chart . The album was later certified platinum and remains a top seller in the band 's discography .

= = Background = =

The Allman Brothers Band had struggled to achieve commercial success in their two and a half years on the touring circuit ; their first two studio albums , The Allman Brothers Band ( 1969 ) and Idlewild South ( 1970 ) , had debuted to only modest sales . Despite this , they had achieved significant acclaim due to their live performances , which included extended jam renditions of songs . The band 's third release was a live album , titled At Fillmore East , and represented their artistic and commercial breakthrough : it immediately received solid sales upon its July 1971 release and went gold some months later . In about a " three @-@ or @-@ four @-@ week period , " the band quite literally went from " rags to riches , " and were able to pay their debts to manager Phil Walden and record label Capricorn Records .

Although suddenly very wealthy and successful , much of the band and its entourage now struggled with heroin addiction . Four individuals ? group leader Duane Allman , bassist Berry Oakley , and roadies Robert Payne and Joseph " Red Dog " Campbell ? checked into the Linwood @-@ Bryant Hospital for rehabilitation in October 1971 . Their addictions had begun to affect their performances and matters seemed to only be getting worse , according to many involved . The clinic was deemed a " joke " and a " nuthouse " by Payne and Red Dog , and was later described as more of a psychiatric ward , as true rehabilitation clinics were several years away . All involved ( including Duane ) struggled to keep off the substance in the ensuing days . Despite this , Duane fueled the band 's passion to get better and end their addictions : " Duane was so happy and full of positive energy . He was always like that unless he was just totally wasted . He was the leader , the great soul , and he kept saying , ' We are on a mission and it 's time for this thing to happen , ' " said Linda Oakley . " He was moving forward , and that energized everyone else . Everyone fed off of that . "

On October 29 , 1971 , Duane Allman , aged 24 , was killed in a motorcycle accident a day after returning to the band 's home of Macon , Georgia . Allman was riding at a high speed in his motorcycle at the intersection of Hillcrest Avenue and Bartlett Street as a flatbed truck carrying a lumber crane approached . The flatbed truck stopped suddenly in the intersection , forcing Allman to swerve his Harley @-@ Davidson Sportster motorcycle sharply to the left to avoid a collision . As he was doing so , he struck either the back of the truck or the ball on the lumber crane and was immediately thrown from the motorcycle . The motorcycle bounced into the air , landed on Allman

and skidded another 90 feet with Allman pinned underneath , crushing several internal organs . Though he was alive when he arrived at the hospital , despite immediate emergency surgery , he died several hours later from massive internal injuries . The loss devastated all who knew Allman , just as At Fillmore East climbed into the top 15 of the national album charts .

= = Recording and production = =

Several weeks before the gold certification and their rehabilitation , the band headed to Miami 's Criteria Studios with producer Tom Dowd to work on their third studio album . The band first began recording the album one month prior , when they laid down the initial tracks for " Blue Sky " . The band saved money on studio time by writing and debuting songs on the road . The band worked on three songs : " Blue Sky " , an instrumental titled " The Road to Calico " ( which would eventually develop into " Stand Back " , with added vocals ) and " Little Martha " , the only song solely credited to Duane Allman . The band laid down these three songs and went back on the road for a short run of shows , and at this point several checked into rehab . After Duane 's death , the band held a meeting on their future ; it was clear all wanted to continue , and after a short period , the band returned to the road . Drummer Butch Trucks later said , " We all had this thing in us and Duane put it there . He was the teacher and he gave something to us ? his disciples ? that we had to play out "

Following these tragic events , lead guitarist Dickey Betts gradually took over the role as group leader . The band returned to Miami in December to complete work on the album . Twiggs Lyndon , a friend of the band , joined them ; he had just completed a stay in a psychiatric hospital stemming from his 1970 arrest for the murder of a concert promoter . Lyndon became the band 's production manager . The band recorded four more tracks with Dowd , including " Melissa , " " Les Brers in A Minor , " and " Ain 't Wastin ' Time No More . " Allman 's death provided the band with motivation ; " We were all putting more into it , trying so hard to make it as good as it would have been with Duane . We knew our driving force , our soul , the guy that set us all on fire , wasn 't there and we had to do something for him , " said Trucks . The heroin addictions had taken their toll on the band members ; Gregg Allman later said , " We were taking vitamins , we had doctors coming over and sticking us in the ass with B12 shots every day . Little by little by little , we crawled back up to the point where we were standing erect " .

The other material on Eat a Peach comes from live recordings . Dowd later said , " When we recorded At Fillmore East , we ended up with almost a whole other album 's worth of good material , and we used [ two ] tracks on Eat a Peach . Again , there was no overdubbing " . Dowd started the mixing process for Eat a Peach but had run overtime and was called to commitments with Crosby , Stills and Nash ; longtime Allman friend and colleague Johnny Sandlin took over for the remaining mixes . Sandlin later said of the mixing process , " As I mixed songs like " Blue Sky , " I knew , of course , that I was listening to the last things that Duane ever played and there was just such a mix of beauty and sadness , knowing there 's not going to be any more from him " . He was particularly proud of his mixing work on the album , but was angry because he did not receive credit , only a " special thanks . "

Completing the recording of Eat a Peach raised each members ' spirits ; Allman said , " The music brought life back to us all , and it was simultaneously realized by every one of us . We found strength , vitality , newness , reason , and belonging as we worked on finishing Eat a Peach " . " Those last three songs ... just kinda floated right on out of us ... The music was still good , it was still rich , and it still had that energy ? it was still the Allman Brothers Band . "

= = Composition = =

Much of the music on Eat a Peach that was recorded after Duane 's death directly dealt with the tragedy . " Ain 't Wastin ' Time No More " was written by Gregg Allman for his brother , Duane , immediately following his death . The song was composed on an 110 @-@ year @-@ old Steinway piano in Studio D of Criteria . " Ain 't Wastin ' " was composed when Duane was still alive , but the

lyrics deal with his passing , as well as veterans coming home from the Vietnam War . The song relates to the theme that " death is an inescapable inevitability ? that every day is precious . " " Les Brers in A Minor " is an instrumental penned by Dickey Betts , and its title is " bad French " for " less brothers . " When writing the song , all in the band felt something was familiar about the song ; it turned out to be a solo of Betts 's from live renditions of " Whipping Post . " It resurfaced many years later on a bootleg recording . " Les Brers " began recording in the newly constructed Studio C of the recording complex at Criteria , but the band disliked the sound captured in the room and moved to Studio A. As a result , the recording contains a slight pitch variation due to the difficulty of matching the original speed of the instruments when the intro was spliced onto the master tape .

Gregg Allman recorded " Melissa " primarily as a tribute to his brother , who adored the song ; the song was written in 1967 while staying in a hotel in Pensacola , Florida and was one of the first he saved after dozens of writing attempts . Allman had previously not shown it to other members of the band ( " I thought it was too soft for the Allman Brothers , " he said ) , and was saving it for a possible solo album he assumed he would one day record . " One Way Out " was recorded on June 27 , 1971 at the band 's final concert at the Fillmore East , which was shut down after that date , and " Trouble No More " and " Mountain Jam " were culled from the band 's March performances . " Mountain Jam " was always intended for inclusion on the band 's next album ; the band teased its appearance by including the opening seconds on the fade @-@ out of the final song on At Fillmore East . The band considered it a signature song of the group , but they deemed the performance that was recorded relatively mediocre .

= = Artwork and title = =

The album 's artwork was created by W. David Powell at Wonder Graphics . He had seen old postcards at a drugstore in Athens , Georgia , one depicting a peach on a truck and a watermelon on a rail car . Believing them perfect for an Allman Brothers album , he purchased them and " bought cans of pink and baby @-@ blue Krylon spray paint and created a matted area to make the cards on a twelve @-@ by @-@ twenty @-@ four LP cover . " He envisioned the album having " an early @-@ morning @-@ sky feel . " He hand @-@ lettered the band name and photographed it with a small Kodak camera , developing the photos at the drugstore . He then cut and pasted the letters on the side of the truck , underneath the peach .

The album includes an elaborate gatefold mural featuring a fantasy landscape of mushrooms ( referencing the psychedelic drug ) and fairies , drawn by Powell and J. F. Holmes . " It told a story of happy , mystical brotherhood that was receding ever further into fantasy as the band grappled with the tragedy of Duane 's death , " according to biographer Alan Paul . There was very little planning involved in the piece , which was created when the duo were in Vero Beach , Florida . When one would be drawing or painting the image , another would be swimming in the ocean . " We swapped off this way with virtually no conversation about the drawing , just fluid trade @-@ offs , " said Powell . The art was created on a large illustration board , " on a one @-@ to @-@ one scale ? it was the size of the actual spread , " according to Powell . Holmes ' work is featured largely on the left , with Powell 's on the right . Both were " profoundly influenced " by Early Netherlandish painter Hieronymous Bosch on the piece .

At the time the artwork was finalized , Duane Allman was still alive and the title had not been finalized . As a result , the album lacks a title on the cover , which was an unusual approach for bands at the time . Powell later said , " When we showed it to someone at the label , he said , ' They are so hot right now , we could sell it in a brown paper bag ' " . Atlantic initially intended to title the album *The Kind We Grow in Dixie* , but the band refused . The title was the label of the postcard series Powell had seen in Athens . Trucks suggested they name the album *Eat a Peach for Peace* , after a quote from Duane Allman . When the writer Ellen Mandel asked Allman what he was doing to help the revolution , he replied :

I 'm hitting a lick for peace ? and every time I 'm in Georgia , I eat a peach for peace . But you can 't help the revolution , because there 's just evolution . I understand the need for a lot of changes in the country , but I believe that as soon as everybody can just see a little bit better , and get a little

hipper to what 's going on , they 're going to change it . Everybody will ? not just the young people . Everybody is going to say , ' Man , this stinks . I cannot tolerate the smell of this thing anymore . Let 's eliminate it and get straight with ourselves . ' I believe if everybody does it for themselves , it 'll take care of itself .

According to some sources , the peach being " eaten " was " the two @-@ legged Georgia variety " . Drummer Butch Trucks also considered Allman 's comment a sly reference to the poem " The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock " by T. S. Eliot , one of Allman 's favorite poets . An untrue story persisted for many years after the album 's release that it was named after the truck Allman crashed into , purported to be a peach truck . The album art was later selected by Rolling Stone magazine in 1991 as one of the 100 greatest album covers of all time .

= = Release = =

Before the release of Eat a Peach , industry talk suggested the demise of the group after the death of Duane Allman . The record 's promotional campaign was coordinated by Dick Wooley , the former head of promotion for Atlantic Records . He had recently quit his position there and was contacted by Walden to help Capricorn in its efforts . ( Capricorn Records had recently separated from Atlantic Records as well ; Eat a Peach would be among the first Capricorn albums released under a new distribution deal with Warner Bros. Records . ) " They needed help because the buzz in the record business and on the street was that the ABB was finished as a band and would never survive without Duane , " said Wooley . After being played some songs from Eat a Peach by Sandlin , Wooley was " blown away " and accepted the offer at half his usual salary . He arranged to have the band 's New Year 's Eve performance at New Orleans ' Warehouse live simulcast on radio . " I took a gamble and cobbled together a network of radio stations in the Southeast via Ma Bell phone lines , " said Wooley . The stunt helped launch Eat a Peach , which was issued by Capricorn in February 1972 and became an instant success . The album shipped enough copies to be certified by the RIAA as gold and peaked at number four on Billboard 's Top 200 Pop Albums chart . " We 'd been through hell , but somehow we were rolling bigger than ever , " said Gregg Allman .

Rolling Stone 's Tony Glover wrote that , even without their leader , " the Allman Brothers are still the best goddamned band in the land ... I hope the band keeps playing forever ? how many groups can you think of who really make you believe they 're playing for the joy of it ? " Robert Christgau gave the album a B but criticized " Mountain Jam " ' s length : " I know the pace of living is slow down there , but this verges on the comatose . And all the tape in the world isn 't going to bring Duane back . " In a retrospective review , Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic gave the record a solid five stars , calling the record a showcase of " the Allmans at their peak . " David Quantick of BBC Music also considered it their " creative peak , " praising the album 's " well @-@ played , surprisingly lean bluesy rock . " The album is mentioned as the band 's top studio recording in the 2008 book 1 @, @ 000 Recordings To Hear Before You Die ( 2008 ) , with author Tom Moon praising the record 's " sedate , beautifully contemplative studio material . "

" Melissa " was the album 's most successful single , peaking at number 65 on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Ain 't Wastin ' Time No More " and " One Way Out " were also singles , charting at numbers 77 and 86 , respectively .

= = Touring = =

Biographer Alan Paul notes that the band ? s members " all profoundly felt the absence of their guiding light " during the touring cycle for Eat a Peach . Dickey Betts had to convince the band members to tour , since all other members were reluctant . Despite rumors , the band did not replace Duane Allman , and simply toured as a five @-@ piece . The Allman Brothers Band played 90 shows in 1972 in support of the record . " We were playing for him and that was the way to be closest to him , " said Trucks . Allman and Oakley took turns introducing songs , which was traditionally Duane ? s role . Betts learned Duane 's slide guitar parts , but put his own spin on it . Oakley had a downward spiral following Duane 's death and was significantly inebriated for many

shows on the tour . " He wasn't playing like he used to ? instead , he 'd hit maybe every fifth note , " recalled Allman . Occasionally , the band would have bassist Joe Dan Petty , later of Grinderswitch , cover for Oakley for the show . After nearly a year of severe depression , Oakley was killed in a motorcycle accident not dissimilar from his friend 's in November 1972 .

The band were headliners for the first time on the Eat a Peach tour , and many label mates on Capricorn opened for the band , including Wet Willie , Cowboy , and Dr. John .

= = Track listing = =

All songs arranged by the Allman Brothers Band , except where noted .

Side one

" Ain 't Wastin ' Time No More " ( Gregg Allman ) ? 3 : 40

" Les Brers in A Minor " ( Dickey Betts ) ? 9 : 03

" Melissa " ( Gregg Allman , Steve Alaimo ) ? 3 : 54

Side two

" Mountain Jam " ( Donovan Leitch , Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johanny Johanson ) ? 19 : 37 \*

Side three

" One Way Out " ( Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson II ) ? 4 : 58

" Trouble No More " ( Muddy Waters ) ? 3 : 43

" Stand Back " ( Gregg Allman , Berry Oakley ) ? 3 : 24

" Blue Sky " ( Dickey Betts ) ? 5 : 09

" Little Martha " ( Duane Allman ) ? 2 : 07

Side four

" Mountain Jam " ( Continued ) ? 15 : 06 \*

Later compact disc editions of the album include the entirety of " Mountain Jam " ( which , in all , runs 33 : 38 ) as track four .

= = = 2006 Deluxe Edition = = =

= = = = Disc 1 = = = =

" Ain 't Wastin ' Time No More " ( Gregg Allman ) - 3 : 40

" Les Brers In A Minor " ( Dickey Betts ) - 9 : 05

" Melissa " ( Gregg Allman ) - 3 : 56

" Mountain Jam " ( Live ) ( Donovan Leitch , Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai Johanny Johanson ) - 33 : 41

" One Way Out " ( Live ) ( Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson II ) - 4 : 58

" Trouble No More " ( Live ) ( McKinley Morganfield aka Muddy Waters ) - 3 : 44

" Stand Back " ( Gregg Allman , Berry Oakley ) - 3 : 26

" Blue Sky " ( Dickey Betts ) - 5 : 10

" Little Martha " ( Duane Allman ) - 2 : 10

= = = = Live Songs = = = =

Tracks 4 and 6 recorded March 12 & 13 , 1971 at the Fillmore East in New York , NY

Track 5 recorded June 27 , 1971 at the Fillmore East in New York , NY

= = = = Disc 2 = = = =

Recorded live from the final Fillmore East show in New York , NY on June 27 , 1971

" Statesboro Blues " ( Blind Willie McTell ) - 4 : 25

" Don 't Keep Me Wonderin ' " ( Gregg Allman ) - 3 : 46  
" Done Somebody Wrong " ( Elmore James , Clarence Lewis , Bobby Robinson ) - 3 : 38  
" One Way Out " ( Elmore James , Marshall Sehorn , Sonny Boy Williamson II ) - 5 : 08  
" In Memory of Elizabeth Reed " ( Dickey Betts ) - 12 : 50  
" Midnight Rider " ( Gregg Allman , Robert Payne ) - 3 : 08  
" Hot ' Lanta " ( Duane Allman , Gregg Allman , Dickey Betts , Berry Oakley , Butch Trucks , Jai  
Johanny Johanson ) - 5 : 51  
" Whipping Post " ( Gregg Allman ) - 20 : 06  
" You Don 't Love Me " ( Willie Cobbs ) - 17 : 24

= = Personnel = =

All credits adapted from liner notes .

= = Charts = =