

= Savoy Truffle =

" Savoy Truffle " is a song by the English rock group the Beatles from their 1968 album The Beatles (also known as " the White Album ") . The song was written by George Harrison and inspired by his friend Eric Clapton 's fondness for chocolate . The lyrics list the various flavours offered in Mackintosh 's Good News chocolates and serve as a warning to Clapton about the detrimental effect that his gorging would have on his teeth . Along with Clapton 's guest appearance on the White Album track " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " and Harrison reciprocating on Cream 's " Badge " , it is one of several songs that mark the start of a long @-@ lasting friendship between the two musicians .

The Beatles recorded " Savoy Truffle " in October 1968 , towards the end of the five @-@ month sessions for the album . An upbeat rock track in the soul genre , the song reflects Harrison 's return to the guitar as his main musical instrument after two years of studying the Indian sitar . The recording includes a Chris Thomas @-@ arranged horn section , and introduced the horn @-@ heavy sound that became a feature of Harrison 's music as a solo artist . Through the lyrics ' reference to " Ob @-@ La @-@ Di , Ob @-@ La @-@ Da " , the song is also an example of the Beatles ' use of self @-@ quotation in their later work .

On release , " Savoy Truffle " was viewed by many commentators as a sign of Harrison 's growing maturity as a songwriter . Among more recent assessments , Ian MacDonald cited it as an example of the lesser material found on The Beatles , while Daryl Easlea of BBC Music describes it as one of the " doodles that delight " and " a fine counterweight " to " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " . Ella Fitzgerald , Terry Manning and They Might Be Giants have also recorded the song .

= = Background and inspiration = =

George Harrison wrote " Savoy Truffle " in September 1968 , by which point the Beatles had been working on their self @-@ titled double album (often known as " the White Album ") for over three months . While this period was one of disharmony within the group , he was increasingly spending time with Eric Clapton , leading to occasional musical collaborations between the two guitarists and a lifelong friendship . Having contributed to Harrison 's solo album Wonderwall Music , Clapton was invited to play on his White Album track " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " , marking a rare appearance by another rock musician on a Beatles recording as Harrison sought to diffuse tensions within the band .

Harrison wrote " Savoy Truffle " as a tribute to Clapton 's chocolate addiction . He derived the title and much of the lyrics from a box of Mackintosh 's Good News chocolates , which Clapton began eating during one of his visits to Harrison 's home . Many of the confectionery names used in the song are authentic ; others , such as cherry cream , coconut fudge and pineapple heart , were Harrison 's invention , based on the flavours listed inside the lid of the box . For the lyrics to the second of the song 's middle eight sections , Harrison received assistance from Derek Taylor , the press officer for the Beatles ' new record label , Apple Records . In keeping with the theme of Harrison 's composition , Taylor drew inspiration from the title of the American counterculture film You Are What You Eat , which was itself titled after a fashionable macrobiotic slogan .

Musicologist Walter Everett suggests that " Savoy Truffle " might have been an attempt to rewrite the Byrds ' " less innocent " 1968 track " Artificial Energy " , which warns of the dangers of amphetamines . The song also reflects Harrison 's rediscovery of his passion for rhythm and blues . Coinciding with this , he had returned to the guitar as his main instrument in 1968 , after two years of studying the sitar under the guidance of Indian classical musician Ravi Shankar .

= = Composition = =

" Savoy Truffle " is primarily in the key of E minor , although the melody continually shifts to the parallel , major equivalent , in addition to anchoring briefly in G major . Musicologist Alan Pollack identifies the composition 's harmonic style as one that " makes you feel constantly on the move , on

the threshold of some new breakthrough " , and he adds : " There are other Beatles ' songs that exploit this triumvirate of keys (i.e. a parallel Major / minor pair and the relative Major) , but never quite with such audacity . " Throughout , the metre is 4 / 4 , delivered in an assertive , driving tempo . The song 's main musical style is soul music , while its melody and mood partly recall " Sour Milk Sea " , which Harrison wrote earlier in 1968 .

In the opening verse , Harrison lists a variety of chocolate flavours and employs wordplay to incorporate the Mackintosh brand name in his closing phrase , " yes , you know it 's ' good news ' " . The refrain throughout the song , " But you 'll have to have them all pulled out after the savoy truffle " , refers to the deterioration of one 's teeth after eating too many sweets , echoing the warning that Clapton had recently received from his dentist .

Over the second middle eight , Harrison adapted Taylor 's suggestion to read " You know that what you eat you are " . In the same section , a subsequent line names the track " Ob @-@ La @-@ Di , Ob @-@ La @-@ Da " , a Paul McCartney composition that would also appear on The Beatles . In this way , " Savoy Truffle " continued a tradition initiated by John Lennon in 1967 , particularly in his lyrics to " I Am the Walrus " , whereby the Beatles deliberately quoted from their previous songs .

Since " Ob @-@ La @-@ Di , Ob @-@ La @-@ Da " was not a song that McCartney 's bandmates enjoyed recording , the motive behind Harrison 's appropriation of the title has invited speculation . Author Jeffrey Roessner considers it significant that Harrison mispronounces the title ; in addition , he contends that the full statement ? " We all know Ob @-@ la @-@ di @-@ bla @-@ da / But can you show me where you are ? " ? serves as an example of Harrison , like Lennon , mocking those listeners who obsessively scanned the Beatles ' lyrics for " clues " . Music journalist Robert Fontenot interprets the lines as an expression of distaste for " Ob @-@ La @-@ Di , Ob @-@ La @-@ Da " , since Harrison and Lennon were openly critical of McCartney 's composition .

= = Recording = =

The Beatles taped the basic track for " Savoy Truffle " at Trident Studios in London on 3 October 1968 , the day after Harrison had recorded his and Clapton 's song " Badge " for Cream 's forthcoming album . With Lennon absent , the line @-@ up on this rhythm track was Harrison on electric guitar , McCartney on bass , and Ringo Starr on drums . Overdubs took place on 5 October , again at Trident , and then on 11 and 14 October , at EMI 's Abbey Road Studios . Chris Thomas , as assistant to the Beatles ' producer , George Martin , played electric piano on the song .

During the 11 October session , six saxophonists (three baritone and three tenor) performed brass overdubs , arranged by Thomas . These horn players were all veterans of the British jazz scene and included Art Ellefson and Ronnie Ross . Ken Scott , the Beatles ' recording engineer , recalls that Harrison thought the saxophones sounded " too clean ... too nice " and so asked that they be treated with heavy distortion . Scott also cites Harrison 's curt dismissal of Martin 's objections , that the song sounded too " topky " , as evidence of the Beatles ' growing independence during the making of the White Album ? a project in which Martin played a mainly peripheral role . In author Nicholas Schaffner 's description , the song 's " beefy horns " became " a trademark " of Harrison 's work following the Beatles ' break @-@ up in 1970 .

The 14 October date marked the final recording session for The Beatles . With Starr away in Sardinia , the overdubs consisted of another lead guitar part by Harrison , and organ , tambourine and bongos . While author Ian MacDonald lists Thomas as the organ player on the track , other writers credit Harrison . In his description of the finished recording , Jonathan Gould notes the aptness of Harrison 's vocal delivery , where the list of chocolate flavours " roll off George 's tongue like a catalog of life 's little pleasures " , and the effectiveness of his guitar solo , which , further to the lyric 's warnings regarding tooth decay , is " pitched to the register of a dentist 's drill " .

Mixing on " Savoy Truffle " was also completed on 14 October , after which Harrison left for Los Angeles to produce Jackie Lomax 's album Is This What You Want ? The stereo and mono mixes of the song differ in their editing of the lead guitar parts ; in addition , the mono version omits the organ over the third verse .

= = Release and reception = =

Apple Records released *The Beatles* on 22 November 1968 . " Savoy Truffle " was sequenced as the third track on side four of the double LP , between " Honey Pie " and " Cry Baby Cry " . As with Harrison 's other three contributions to the album , including " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " , the song was viewed by many commentators as a sign of his growing maturity as a songwriter beside Lennon and McCartney .

Due to the Beatles ' use of pastiche , parody , irony and , in the case of " Savoy Truffle " and Lennon 's " Glass Onion " , self @-@ quotation , the album 's lyrics were intensely analysed by contemporary reviewers . Alan Walsh of *Melody Maker* described " Savoy Truffle " as " a rocker that 's the most obscure track lyrically " . *Record Mirror* 's reviewer speculated that the song " could either be a delicate and expensive sweet or a new dance . It could be a delivery on the pomposities of intricate desserts or a depiction of the ' upper ' class . " The writer then concluded : " Whatever it is , it swings . "

In his review for *International Times* , Barry Miles wrote : " George 's ' Savoy Truffle ' is the best track on this [LP] side . Beautiful , impressionistic music . Don 't miss this one . " Jann Wenner of *Rolling Stone* praised Harrison 's lead guitar playing throughout the album and highlighted the song as an example of the Beatles ' success in progressing on their past work , in this case by creating " a more sophisticated look at ' Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds ' " .

= = Retrospective assessment = =

Given the lack of stylistic unity across its 30 tracks , many authors have since scrutinised the content of *The Beatles* with regard to Martin 's assertion that the album would have benefited from being scaled down to a single disc . In his book *Revolution in the Head* , Ian MacDonald dismisses " Savoy Truffle " as " space @-@ filling " and " as pointless as [' Honey Pie '] " . In a 2003 review for *Mojo* magazine , however , he described it more favourably as " an efficient jeu d'esprit " . Author Alan Clayson has questioned its inclusion in light of Harrison having more substantial compositions that went unrecorded by the band , and , in the case of " Not Guilty " , a song that the Beatles recorded but then rejected for the *White Album* . In his attempt to reduce the 1968 release to a single LP , Mark Caro of the *Chicago Tribune* listed all of Harrison 's contributions except for " Savoy Truffle " , which he included in his " toughest deletions " category , along with three Lennon @-@ written songs . Writing in *The Rolling Stone Album Guide* (2004) , Rob Sheffield acknowledged that such scrutiny had long been part of the double album 's legacy , and he described the track as being " among the Beatles ' finest songs " .

Beatles biographer Philip Norman considers " Savoy Truffle " to be " the album 's best piece of rock and roll " after McCartney 's " Back in the U.S.S.R. " While admiring the interplay between the saxophones and lead guitar as " rousing rock- ' n ' -roll confectionery " , Tim Riley views the song as one of the " essentials " on *The Beatles* and , with regard to the " sheer feel " of the performance , Harrison 's most successful contribution to the band 's discography since " I Want to Tell You " in 1966 . Former *Creem* critic Richard Riegel included " Savoy Truffle " on his 1996 list of the ten most underrated Beatles tracks , saying : " this is a great song by any standard , certainly the most fun George would have in the sensual world for many years to come . ' Savoy Truffle ' is wonderfully British psychedelic throwaway pop , much like Cream on their pop @-@ tarty *Disraeli Gears* , recorded back when Eric Clapton was a mortal , too . "

Among more recent reviews , Daryl Easlea of BBC Music cites " Savoy Truffle " as an example of " the doodles that delight " on the *White Album* , and he describes it as " a fine counterweight " to " While My Guitar Gently Weeps " . Mark Kemp , writing for *Paste* , highlights the same pair of tracks as " two of Harrison 's finest moments (' While My Guitar Gently Weeps , ' with Eric Clapton wailing on lead guitar , and the surrealistic soul of ' Savoy Truffle ') " .

In 2015 , " Savoy Truffle " was ranked 66th in the NME 's list " 100 Greatest Beatles Songs As Chosen By Music 's A @-@ Listers " . Staff writer Leonie Cooper admired its subject matter and described the track as a " typically off @-@ kilter " Harrison composition . In *Consequence of Sound*

's feature article celebrating the 45th anniversary of The Beatles , Deap Vally provided commentary on the track , describing it as " on fire " and adding : " The guitar solo is instantly classic ... This song is so ahead of its time , music STILL hasn 't caught up to it . "

= = Cover versions and remixes = =

Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald covered " Savoy Truffle " on her 1969 album Ella , produced by Richard Perry . The following year , Terry Manning included the song on his album Home Sweet Home . The recording features Robert Moog on synthesizer and has been described by PopMatters as " long , freaked out " and " sublimely excessive " .

Phish included " Savoy Truffle " in their performance of The Beatles on Halloween 1994 , which was released in 2002 as Live Phish Volume 13 . The song was They Might Be Giants ' contribution to the 2003 compilation Songs from the Material World : A Tribute to George Harrison .

Along with a sample of the Beatles ' " Glass Onion " , the song was mashed with Jay @-@ Z 's " Encore " for a track on Danger Mouse 's The Grey Album in 2004 . For the Beatles ' 2006 remix album Love , the track 's horn parts were mixed into " Drive My Car " . Dhani Harrison performed " Savoy Truffle " at the George Fest tribute concert , held at the Fonda Theatre in Los Angeles on 28 September 2014 .

= = Personnel = =

According to Ian MacDonald :

The Beatles

George Harrison ? double @-@ tracked vocal , rhythm guitar , lead guitars

Paul McCartney ? harmony vocal , bass guitar

Ringo Starr ? drums , tambourine

Additional musicians

Chris Thomas ? electric piano , organ , horn arrangement

Art Ellefson ? tenor saxophone

Danny Moss ? tenor saxophone

Derek Collins ? tenor saxophone

Ronnie Ross ? baritone saxophone

Harry Klein ? baritone saxophone

Bernard George ? baritone saxophone