

= The Piper at the Gates of Dawn =

The Piper at the Gates of Dawn is the debut studio album by the English rock band Pink Floyd , and the only one made under founder member Syd Barrett 's leadership . The album , named after the title of chapter seven of Kenneth Grahame 's The Wind in the Willows and featuring a kaleidoscopic cover photo of the band taken by Vic Singh , was recorded from February to May 1967 and released on 5 August 1967 . It was produced by Beatles engineer Norman Smith and released in 1967 by EMI Columbia in the United Kingdom and Tower in the United States , in August and October respectively .

The release of the album in the US was timed with the band 's tour of the US . In the UK , no singles were released from the album , but in the US " Flaming " was offered as a single . The US version of the album has a rearranged track list , and contains the UK non @-@ album single , " See Emily Play " . Two of the album 's songs , " Astronomy Domine " and " Interstellar Overdrive " , became long @-@ term mainstays of the band 's live setlist , while other songs were performed live only a handful of times .

Since its release , the album has been hailed as one of the best ever psychedelic rock albums . In 1973 , it was packaged with the band 's second album , A Saucerful of Secrets , and released as A Nice Pair to introduce new fans to the band 's early work after the success of The Dark Side of the Moon . Special limited editions of The Piper at the Gates of Dawn were issued to mark its thirtieth and fortieth anniversaries in 1997 and 2007 , respectively , with the latter release containing bonus tracks . In 2012 , The Piper at the Gates of Dawn was voted 347th on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the " 500 Greatest Albums of All Time " .

= = Background = =

Architecture students Roger Waters , Nick Mason and Richard Wright and art student Syd Barrett had performed under various group names since 1962 , and began touring as " The Pink Floyd Sound " in 1965 . They turned professional on 1 February 1967 when they signed with EMI , with an advance fee of £ 5 @,@ 000 . Their first single , a song about a kleptomaniac transvestite titled " Arnold Layne " , was released on 11 March to mild controversy , as Radio London refused to air it . About three weeks later the band were introduced to the mainstream media . EMI 's press release claimed that the band were " musical spokesmen for a new movement which involves experimentation in all the arts " , but EMI attempted to put some distance between them and the underground scene from which the band originated by stating that " the Pink Floyd does not know what people mean by psychedelic pop and are not trying to create hallucinatory effects on their audiences . " The band returned to Sound Techniques studio to record their next single , " See Emily Play " , on 18 May . The single was released almost a month later , on 16 June , and reached number six in the charts . Pink Floyd picked up a tabloid reputation for making music for LSD users . The popular broadsheet News of the World printed a story nine days before the album 's recording sessions began , saying that " The Pink Floyd group specialise in ' psychedelic music ' , which is designed to illustrate LSD experiences . " Contrary to this image , only Barrett was known to be taking LSD ; authors Ray B. Browne and Pat Browne contend that he was the " only real drug user in the band " .

= = Recording = =

The band 's record deal was relatively poor for the time : a £ 5 @,@ 000 advance over five years , low royalties and no free studio time . However , it did include album development and EMI , unsure of exactly what kind of band they had signed , gave them free rein to record whatever they wanted . They were obliged to record their first album at EMI 's Abbey Road Studios in London , overseen by producer Norman Smith , a central figure in Pink Floyd 's negotiations with EMI . Balance engineer Pete Bown , who had mentored Smith , helped ensure that the album had a unique sound , through his experimentation with equipment and recording techniques . Bown , assisted by studio manager

David Harris , set up microphones an hour before the sessions began . Bown 's microphone choices were mostly different from those used by Smith to record the Beatles ' EMI sessions . Because of Barrett 's quiet voice , he was placed in a vocal isolation booth to sing his parts . Automatic double tracking ( ADT ) was used to add layers of echo to the vocals and to some instruments . The album featured an unusually heavy use of echo and reverberation to give it its own unique sound . Much of the reverberation effect came from a set of Elektro @-@ Mess @-@ Technik plate reverberators ? customised EMT 140s containing thin metal plates under tension ? and the studio 's tiled echo chamber built in 1931 .

The album is made up of two different classes of songs : lengthy improvisations from the band 's live performances and shorter songs that Barrett had written . Barrett 's LSD intake escalated part @-@ way through the album 's recording sessions . Although in his 2005 autobiography Mason recalled the sessions as relatively trouble @-@ free , Smith disagreed and claimed that Barrett was unresponsive to his suggestions and constructive criticism . In an attempt to build a relationship with the band , Smith played jazz on the piano while the band joined in . These jam sessions worked well with Waters , who was apparently helpful , and Wright , who was " laid @-@ back " . Smith 's attempts to connect with Barrett were less productive : " With Syd , I eventually realised I was wasting my time . " Smith later admitted that his traditional ideas of music were somewhat at odds with the psychedelic background from which Pink Floyd had come . Nevertheless , he managed to " discourage the live ramble " , as band manager Peter Jenner called it , guiding the band toward producing songs with a more manageable length . Barrett would end up writing eight of the album 's songs and contributing to two instrumentals credited to the whole band , with Waters creating the sole remaining composition " Take Up Thy Stethoscope and Walk " . Mason recalled how the album " was recorded in what one might call the old @-@ fashioned way : rather quickly . As time went by we started spending longer and longer . "

Recording started on 21 February with six takes of " Matilda Mother " , then called " Matilda 's Mother " . The following week , on the 27th , the band recorded five takes of " Interstellar Overdrive " , and " Chapter 24 " . On 16 March , the band had another go at recording " Interstellar Overdrive " , in an attempt to create a shorter version , and " Flaming " ( originally titled " Snowing " ) , which was recorded in a single take with one vocal overdub . On 19 March , six takes of " The Gnome " were recorded . The following day , the band recorded Waters ' " Take Up Thy Stethoscope and Walk " . On 21 March , the band were invited to watch the Beatles record " Lovely Rita " . The following day , they recorded " The Scarecrow " in one take . The next three tracks - " Astronomy Domine " , " Interstellar Overdrive " and " Pow R. Toc H. " ? were worked on extensively between 21 March and 12 April , having originally been lengthy instrumentals . Between 12 and 18 April , the band recorded " Percy the Rat Catcher " and a currently unreleased track called " She Was a Millionaire " .

" Percy the Rat Catcher " received overdubs across five studio sessions and then was mixed in late June , eventually being given the name " Lucifer Sam " . Songwriting for the majority of the album is credited solely to Barrett , with tracks such as " Bike " having been written in late 1966 before the album was started . " Bike " was recorded on 21 May 1967 and originally entitled " The Bike Song " . By June , Barrett 's increasing LSD use during the recording project left him looking visibly debilitated .

= = Release = =

In June 1967 before the album was released , the single " See Emily Play " was sold as a 7 @-@ inch 45 rpm record , with " The Scarecrow " on the B @-@ side , listed as " Scarecrow " . The full album was released on 5 August 1967 , including " The Scarecrow " . The album contains whimsical lyrics about space , scarecrows , gnomes , bicycles and fairy tales , along with psychedelic instrumental music . Pink Floyd continued to perform at the UFO Club , drawing huge crowds , but Barrett 's deterioration caused them serious concern . The band initially hoped that his erratic behaviour was a phase that would pass , but others , including manager Peter Jenner and his secretary June Child , were more realistic :

... I found him in the dressing room and he was so ... gone . Roger Waters and I got him on his feet

, we got him out to the stage ... and of course the audience went spare because they loved him . The band started to play and Syd just stood there . He had his guitar around his neck and his arms just hanging down .

To the band 's consternation , they were forced to cancel their appearance at the prestigious National Jazz and Blues Festival , informing the music press that Barrett was suffering from nervous exhaustion . Jenner and Waters arranged for Barrett to see a psychiatrist ? a meeting he did not attend . He was sent to relax in the sun on the Spanish island of Formentera with Waters and Sam Hutt ( a doctor well @-@ established in the underground music scene ) , but this led to no visible improvement .

The original UK LP ( with a monaural mix ) was released on 5 August 1967 , and one month later it was released in stereophonic mix . It reached number six on the UK charts . The Canadian LP had the same title and track listing as the UK version . The original US album appeared on the Tower division of Capitol on 26 October 1967 . This version was officially titled simply Pink Floyd , though the original album title did appear on the back cover as on the UK issue . The US album featured an abbreviated track listing , and reached number 131 on the Billboard charts . The UK single , " See Emily Play " , was substituted for " Astronomy Domine " , " Flaming " and " Bike " . Released in time for the band 's US tour , " Flaming " was released as a single , backed with " The Gnome " . The Tower issue of the album also faded out " Interstellar Overdrive " and broke up the segue into " The Gnome " to fit the re @-@ sequencing of the songs . Later US issues on compact disc had the same title and track list as the UK version . The album was certified Gold in the US on 11 March 1994 .

About being handled on Tower Records , Jenner commented that : " In terms of the U.K. and Europe it was always fine . America was always difficult . Capitol couldn 't see it . You know , ' What is this latest bit of rubbish from England ? Oh Christ , it 'll give us more grief , so we 'll put it out on Tower Records ' , which was a subsidiary of Capitol Records [ ... ] It was a very cheapskate operation and it was the beginning of endless problems The Floyd had with Capitol . It started off bad and went on being bad . "

= = = Packaging = = =

Up @-@ and @-@ coming society photographer Vic Singh was hired to photograph the band for the album cover . Singh shared a studio with photographer David Bailey , and he was friends with Beatles guitarist George Harrison . Singh asked Jenner and King to dress the band in the brightest clothes they could find . Vic Singh then shot them with a prism lens that Harrison had given him . The cover was meant to resemble an LSD trip , a style that was favoured at the time .

Barrett came up with the album title The Piper at the Gates of Dawn ; the album was originally titled Projection up to as late as July 1967 . The title was taken from that of chapter seven of Kenneth Grahame 's The Wind in the Willows which contains a visionary encounter with the god Pan , who plays his pan pipe at dawn . It was one of Barrett 's favourite books , and he often gave friends the impression that he was the embodiment of Pan . The moniker was later used in the song " Shine On You Crazy Diamond " , in which Barrett is called " you Piper " . The cover for the album was one of several Pink Floyd album covers used on a series of Royal Mail stamps issued in May 2016 to commemorate 50 years of Pink Floyd .

= = = Reception = = =

At the time of release , the album was received positively , and the record is now recognised as one of the seminal psychedelic rock albums of the 1960s . In 1967 , both Record Mirror and NME gave the album four stars out of five . Record Mirror commented that " the psychedelic image of the group really comes to life on this LP , which is a fine showcase for both their talent and the recording technique . Plenty of mindblowing sound . " Cash Box called it " a particularly striking collection of driving , up @-@ to @-@ date rock ventures " . Paul McCartney and Pink Floyd 's past producer Joe Boyd both rated the album highly . Some voiced the opinion of the underground fans , by suggesting that the album did not reflect the band 's live performances .

In recent years , The Piper at the Gates of Dawn has gained even more recognition . The album is hailed not only as a psychedelic masterpiece but LSD is named as a direct influence . In 1999 Rolling Stone magazine gave the album 4 @.@ 5 stars out of 5 , calling it " the golden achievement of Syd Barrett " . Q magazine described the album as " indispensable " and included it in their list of the best psychedelic albums ever . It was also ranked 40th in Mojo magazine 's " The 50 Most Out There Albums of All Time " list . In 2000 Q magazine placed The Piper at the Gates of Dawn at number 55 in its list of the 100 greatest British albums ever . In 2012 , The Piper at the Gates of Dawn was voted 347th on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the 500 greatest albums ever . James E. Perone says that Piper became known as a concept album in later years , because listeners wanted to play it all the way through rather than pick out a favourite song . While Beatles biographer Philip Norman agrees that Piper is a concept album , other authors contend that Pink Floyd did not start making concept albums until 1973 's The Dark Side of the Moon . Author George Reisch called Pink Floyd the " undisputed " kings of the concept album , but only starting from Dark Side . In July 2006 , Billboard described The Piper at the Gates of Dawn as " one of the best psychedelic rock albums ever , driven by Barrett 's oddball narratives and the band 's skill with both long jams and perfect pop nuggets " .

= = = Reissues = = =

The Piper at the Gates of Dawn was reissued in the UK in 1979 as a stereo vinyl album , and on CD in the UK and US in 1985 . A digitally remastered stereo CD , with new artwork , was released in the US in 1994 , and in 1997 limited edition 30th anniversary mono editions were released in the UK , on CD and vinyl . These limited editions were in a hefty digipak with 3 @.@ D box art for continental Europe and the world outside the United States . This mono CD included a slightly edited version of " Flaming " . A six @.@ track bonus CD , 1967 : The First Three Singles , was given away alongside the 1997 30th @.@ anniversary edition of the album .

In 1973 , the album , along with A Saucerful of Secrets , was released as a two @.@ disc set on Capitol / EMI 's Harvest Records label , titled A Nice Pair to introduce fans to the band 's early work after the success of The Dark Side of the Moon . ( On the American version of that compilation , the original four @.@ minute studio version of " Astronomy Domine " was replaced with the eight @.@ minute live version found on Ummagumma . ) The American edition of A Nice Pair also failed to properly restore the segue between " Interstellar Overdrive " and " The Gnome " .

For the 40th anniversary , a two @.@ disc edition was released on 4 September 2007 , and a three @.@ disc set was released on 11 September 2007 . The packaging ? designed by Storm Thorgerson ? resembles a cloth @.@ covered book , along with a twelve @.@ page reproduction of a Syd Barrett notebook . Discs one and two contain the full album in its original mono mix ( disc one ) , as well as the alternative stereo version ( disc two ) . Both have been newly remastered by James Guthrie . The third disc includes several Piper @.@ era outtakes from the Abbey Road vaults , along with the band 's first three mono singles . Unreleased material includes an alternative , shorter take of " Interstellar Overdrive " that was previously thought lost , the pre @.@ overdubbed abridged mix of " Interstellar Overdrive " previously only available on an EP in France , an alternative mix of " Matilda Mother " as it appeared early in the sessions and also the 1967 stereo mix of " Apples and Oranges " , which features extra untrimmed material at the beginning and end .

Piper was remastered and re @.@ released on 26 September 2011 as part of the Why Pink Floyd ... ? reissue campaign . It is available in this format as either a stand @.@ alone album , or as part of the Why Pink Floyd ... ? Discovery box set , along with the 13 other studio albums and a new colour booklet . Then the album was re @.@ released on the band 's own Pink Floyd Records label in 3 June 2016 for the world outside Europe .

= = Live performances = =

Although there was never an official tour of the album , the band gigged in the UK to promote the album . They played dates in Ireland and Scandinavia , and in late October the band was to embark

on their first tour of the United States . It was unsuccessful , mainly because of the mental breakdown of Barrett . In his capacity as tour manager Andrew King travelled to New York to begin preparations , but he ran into serious problems . Visas had not arrived , prompting the cancellation of the first six dates . The band finally flew across the Atlantic on 1 November , but work permits were not yet obtained , so they settled into a hotel in Sausalito , California , just north of San Francisco . After a number of cancellations , the first US performance was given 4 November at Winterland Ballroom , following Janis Joplin fronting Big Brother and the Holding Company .

For the American tour , many numbers such as " Flaming " and " The Gnome " were dropped , while others such as " Astronomy Domine " and " Interstellar Overdrive " remained , and were central to the band 's setlist during this period , often performed as encores until around 1971 . " Astronomy Domine " was later included on the live disc of Ummagumma , and adopted by the post @-@ Waters Pink Floyd during the 1994 Division Bell tour , with a version included on the 1995 live album Pulse . David Gilmour , though not a member of Pink Floyd at the time the song was originally recorded , resurrected " Astronomy Domine " for his On an Island and Rattle That Lock tours .

Communication between company and band was almost non @-@ existent , and Pink Floyd 's relationship with Tower and Capitol was therefore poor . Barrett 's mental condition mirrored the problems that King encountered ; when the band performed at Winterland , he detuned his guitar during " Interstellar Overdrive " until the strings fell off . His odd behaviour grew worse in subsequent performances , and during a television recording for The Pat Boone Show he confounded the director by lip @-@ syncing " Apples and Oranges " perfectly during the rehearsal , and then standing motionless during the take . King quickly curtailed the band 's US visit , sending them home on the next flight .

Shortly after their return from the US , beginning 14 November , the band supported Jimi Hendrix on a tour of England , but on one occasion Barrett failed to turn up and they were forced to replace him with singer / guitarist David O 'List borrowed from the opening band the Nice . Barrett 's depression worsened the longer the tour continued . Longtime Pink Floyd psychedelic lighting designer Peter Wynne @-@ Willson left at the end of the Hendrix tour , though he sympathised with Barrett , whose position as frontman was increasingly insecure . Wynne @-@ Willson , who had worked for a percentage , was replaced by his assistant John Marsh who collected a lesser wage . Pink Floyd released " Apples and Oranges " ( recorded prior to the US tour on 26 and 27 October ) , but for the rest of the band Barrett 's condition had reached a crisis point , and they responded by adding David Gilmour to their line @-@ up , initially to cover for Syd 's lapses during live performances .

Tracks 8 ? 11 on the UK album edition were played the least during live performances . The success of " See Emily Play " and " Arnold Layne " meant that the band were forced to perform some of their singles for a limited period in 1967 , but they were eventually dropped after Barrett left the band . " Flaming " and " Pow R. Toc H. " were also played regularly by the post @-@ Barrett Pink Floyd in 1968 , even though these songs were in complete contrast to the band 's other works at this time . Some of the songs from Piper would be reworked and rearranged for The Man and The Journey live show in 1969 ( " The Pink Jungle " was taken from " Pow R. Toc H. " , and part of " Interstellar Overdrive " was used for " The Labyrinths of Auximines " ) .

Beginning in September 1967 , the band played several new compositions . These included " One in a Million " , " Scream Thy Last Scream " , " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " and " Reaction in G " , the last of which was a song created by the band in response to crowds asking for their hit singles " See Emily Play " and " Arnold Layne " .

Barrett resurrected the track Lucifer Sam with his short @-@ lived 1972 band Stars

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Syd Barrett , except where noted .

UK release

US release

40th anniversary edition

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts and certifications = =