

= Live Peace in Toronto 1969 =

Live Peace in Toronto 1969 is a live album by the Plastic Ono Band , released on Apple in the United Kingdom and the United States , in December 1969 . Recorded at the Toronto Rock and Roll Revival festival , it was the first live album released by any member of the Beatles separately or together . John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono received a phone call from the festival 's promoters John Brower and Kenny Walker , and then quickly assembled a band in a very short space of time to play at the festival , which was due to start the following day . The group had brief rehearsals before appearing on the stage to perform several songs ; one of which , " Cold Turkey " , was first performed live at said festival . Eventually returning home , Lennon mixed the album in a day .

The album peaked at number 10 on the Billboard 200 and has been certified a gold album by the RIAA , and failed to chart in the UK . The original LP came with a thirteen @-@ month 1970 calendar . A video of several performances , not just the Plastic Ono Band 's set , was released on video . Since its first release , the album has been reissued a number of times .

= = Background = =

Toronto rock promoters John Brower and Kenny Walker organised a festival held at Varsity Stadium on 13 September 1969 , around the notion of a revival of rock and roll stars from the 1950s , booking Chuck Berry , Little Richard , Jerry Lee Lewis , Fats Domino , Bo Diddley , and Gene Vincent . They also booked more modern acts such as Alice Cooper , Chicago , and The Doors , and contacted Lennon to see if he would be willing to be the master of ceremonies . Lennon responded that if he came over at all , it would be to play " only if you let me bring my new band so we can play . " Lennon hastily assembled a band under the Plastic Ono Band moniker , consisting of Eric Clapton , Klaus Voormann , and drummer Alan White , as well as their assistants , Anthony Fawcett , Terry Doran , and Jill and Dan Richter , to accompany himself and Ono . White got a phone call from Lennon , and assumed it was a friend prank calling him , only realising it was actually Lennon after a second call . White would later call the band line @-@ up " very unique " : " This voice on the phone said , ' Do you want to do a gig with me ? it 's John Lennon ' . The Plastic Ono Band was John and Yoko , Klaus Voormann , Eric Clapton and myself . It was a unique band . " Lennon also asked George Harrison , but Harrison turned down the offer .

On the morning of the scheduled flight , a day before the concert , on 12 September , Lennon , Ono , and Clapton were not at the airport . At this point , Clapton had not been aware of the concert , nor of Lennon contacting him . Brower had managed to get through to Clapton and told him to contact Lennon and Ono , who were still in bed . Clapton said he got " a phone call on the day we were to leave and he said that someone had asked him to do that concert and it was that night ! So I had to make the airport in an hour . " The group had two rehearsals : one was during the transatlantic flight from London to Toronto , and the other shortly before appearing on stage at the actual festival . Lennon said the group " didn 't know what to play " , as they had not previously performed together . Also on the flight , Lennon gained the confidence , that when he got back to England , to leave the Beatles . Lennon told this to Clapton , and shortly afterwards , to the Beatles ' then @-@ manager , Allen Klein .

= = Recording = =

The group played eight songs to a crowd of 25 @, @ 000 people . Before the start of the Plastic Ono Band 's performance , they were introduced by Kim Fowley , and Lennon said to the crowd that the group were going to play only songs that they actually knew . They performed the Beatles 's " Yer Blues " , because Clapton had performed it with Lennon for the Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus , and his two solo songs , " Give Peace a Chance " and " Cold Turkey " , the latter of which had its premiere at the festival . " Cold Turkey " , presented as " the newest song that John wrote " by Ono , had Lennon reading the lyrics off a clip @-@ board . Ono selected a song which had been the B @-@ side of " Cold Turkey , " " Don 't Worry Kyoko (Mummy 's Only Looking for Her Hand in

the Snow) " , which also had its premiere at the festival . Shortly before the band went into " Don 't Worry Kyoko " , Lennon announced that Ono was " gonna do her thing all over you " . The band closed with an electric version of the Wedding Album track " John John (Let 's Hope for Peace) " , an extended experimental number consisting of her screaming the title repeatedly to the feedback of the electric guitars . The number , and the Plastic Ono Band 's participation in the concert , ended with the guitars and the bass being put in front of the amplifiers to continue the feedback , after the band was gone , until Mal Evans turned off the amplifiers . With their stage remarks , Lennon and Ono linked the appearance here to their ongoing campaign for peace .

Lennon personally went to Abbey Road Studios on 25 September 1969 to mix the album from their eight @-@ track recordings . While at the session , Lennon finished the stereo master for the album , although he did go back on 20 October to re @-@ do the " Don 't Worry Kyoko " stereo master , removing the majority of Ono 's vocals from his songs and Clapton 's backing vocals . The album is technically a soundtrack recording , being part of the audio portion of the documentary film being made of the festival by D.A. Pennebaker , later released as Sweet Toronto . Lennon and Ono made a deal with Pennebaker to license their portion of the show for record , in exchange for rights to include their appearance . According to the Beatles Monthly , due to the adverse reaction to Ono 's performance , Pennebaker removed the segments with Lennon and Ono after limited screenings of the film , later re @-@ edited as Keep on Rockin ' . Showtime ultimately presented the performance in 1989 , and the full movie appeared later on home video and DVD .

= = Release and aftermath = =

The album , which was released on the same day in both the UK and US , failed to chart in the UK , but peaked at number 10 in the US . It was released to quash any bootleg versions that Lennon was sure would leak onto the market . US editions of the album wrongly stated that the album was recorded in England . The album came with a 13 @-@ month calendar , which had photos , poems and songs in it , from Lennon 's In His Own Write and A Spaniard in the Works , and Ono 's Grapefruit books . In the US , Capitol were reluctant at first to issue the album , after the commercial failures of their three experimental albums . Lennon recalled in an interview in December 1980 that he had to persuade Capitol to distribute the album : " They said ' This is garbage , we 're not going to put it out with her screaming on one side and you doing this sort of live stuff . ' And they refused to put it out . But we finally persuaded them that ... people might buy this . " In an interview with Rolling Stone , Lennon said that Capitol " were on the [Paul] McCartney bandwagon , which they were on , and they thought that I was just an idiot pissing about with a Japanese broad and the music we were making , like Toronto , they didn 't want to put out , because they didn 't like that . "

Criticism was directed at side two of the LP , the side consisting entirely of two Yoko Ono songs . Richard Ginell of AllMusic remarks :

Side two , alas , was devoted entirely to Ono 's wailing , pitchless , brainless , banshee vocalizing on " Don 't Worry Kyoko " and " John John (Let 's Hope for Peace) " ? the former backed with plodding rock rhythms and the latter with feedback . No wonder you see many used copies of the LP with worn A @-@ sides and clean , unplayed B @-@ sides ? and Yoko 's " art " is just as irritating today as it was in 1969 . But in those days , if you wanted John you had to take the whole package .

Lennon later said he " couldn 't remember any of the words but it didn 't matter ? I just made them all up and we made a great wonderful noise . " Carl Perkins said to Lennon after the show that he was " so beautiful you made me cry . " A bootleg album of the concert appeared , under the title JL @-@ YO @-@ EC , thanks to an audience recording , which was released a few months after the official album . After Lennon 's death , the album , along with seven other Lennon albums , was reissued by EMI as part of a box set , which was released in the UK on 15 June 1981 . The album was reissued in the US in 1982 , on Capitol , and again in the same country on the same label , in 1986 . The album was originally scheduled to appear on CD for the first time in June 1989 , but the plan was scrapped . Ono , with the help of Rob Stevens from Quad Recording , supervised a remixing of Live Peace in Toronto 1969 for its compact disc issue , released on 1 May 1995 . Two of

the remixed tracks feature a variation in Ono 's vocals : while " Dizzy Miss Lizzy " has additional backing vocals from Ono , " Money " has fewer backing vocals from Ono . The CD booklet included a 1995 calendar , mimicking the original release . The album is also available from the audiophile label Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab . , utilizing the same remix . The booklet for the 2006 Mobile Fidelity release also included a current calendar .

= = Track listing = =

Side one

" Blue Suede Shoes " (Carl Perkins) ? 3 : 50

" Money (That 's What I Want) " (Janie Bradford , Berry Gordy) ? 3 : 25

" Dizzy , Miss Lizzy " (Larry Williams) ? 3 : 24

" Yer Blues " (John Lennon , Paul McCartney) ? 4 : 12

" Cold Turkey " (Lennon) ? 3 : 34

" Give Peace a Chance " (Lennon , McCartney) ? 3 : 41

Side two

" Don 't Worry Kyoko (Mummy 's Only Looking for Her Hand in the Snow) " (Yoko Ono) ? 4 : 48

" John John (Let 's Hope for Peace) " (Ono) ? 12 : 38

= = Personnel = =

John Lennon ? lead vocals , rhythm guitar

Yoko Ono ? vocals

Eric Clapton ? lead guitar , backing vocals

Klaus Voormann ? bass

Alan White ? drums

Kim Fowley ? spoken introduction

George Marino - mastering