

## = Having a Rave Up with The Yardbirds =

Having a Rave Up with the Yardbirds , or simply Having a Rave Up , is the second American album by English rock group the Yardbirds . It was released in November 1965 , eight months after Jeff Beck replaced Eric Clapton on guitar . It includes songs with both guitarists and reflects the group 's blues rock roots and their early experimentations with psychedelic and hard rock . The title refers to the driving " rave up " arrangement the band used in several of their songs .

The album contains some of the earliest live recordings with Clapton . Recorded in March 1964 , they appeared on the band 's British debut album , Five Live Yardbirds , which was not issued in the United States . The songs with Beck were recorded in the studio in the months after he joined the group in March 1965 . These include several charting singles and introduced " The Train Kept A @-@ Rollin ' " , one of the Yardbirds ' most copied arrangements . Although most were not written by the group , the songs became a fixture of the group 's concert repertoire and continued to be performed after Jimmy Page replaced Beck .

Next to their 1967 Greatest Hits collection , Having a Rave Up is the Yardbirds ' highest @-@ charting album in the US and remains their longest @-@ lasting release . The album continues to be reissued , often with bonus material , such as the next single " Shapes of Things " , demo recordings for their follow @-@ up album , and " Stroll On " , featuring dual lead guitar by Beck and Page , from the Blow @-@ Up soundtrack . Several music critics have cited the album 's influence , particularly on hard rock guitar . Rolling Stone magazine called it " the bridge between beat groups and psychedelia " .

## = = Background = =

Singer and harmonica player Keith Relf , rhythm guitarist Chris Dreja , bassist Paul Samwell @-@ Smith , drummer Jim McCarty , and lead guitarist Top Topham formed the Yardbirds near London in mid @-@ 1963 . The group were a part of the early British rhythm and blues scene that produced bands such as the Rolling Stones , whom they replaced as the resident act at the Crawdaddy Club . Songs by American blues and rhythm and blues artists such as Muddy Waters , Howlin ' Wolf , and Bo Diddley made up the repertoire of the early British R & B groups . The Yardbirds ' set lists included " I Wish You Would " , " Smokestack Lightning " , " Who Do You Love ? " , " You Can 't Judge a Book by the Cover " , and " Too Much Monkey Business " .

Eric Clapton replaced Topham in October 1963 and by early 1964 , the Yardbirds had expanded their following on the home counties club circuit . The group made several attempts at recording in the studio , but were unable to reproduce their live sound to their satisfaction . Manager Giorgio Gomelsky then arranged to have a March performance at London 's Marquee Club recorded . A key element of the Yardbirds ' live shows was an extended instrumental section during some songs . Clapton recalled , " While most other bands were playing three @-@ minute songs , we were taking three @-@ minute numbers and stretching them out to five or six minutes , during which time the audience would go crazy " . Dubbed a " rave up " , this musical arrangement usually came during the middle instrumental section , in which the band shifted the beat into double @-@ time and built the instrumental improvisation to a climax . The rave up has roots in jazz and became a signature part of the Yardbirds ' sound . Musicologist Michael Hicks describes it :

Wherever it occurred , the rave @-@ up made a small narrative curve that introduced a basic conflict ( backbeat vs. off @-@ beats ) , drove that conflict to a climax ( by getting more and more raucous ) , then resolved it ( by returning it to a ' normal ' beat ) . Through this technique the Yardbirds created a rock mannerism ; sometimes the rave @-@ up seemed the whole point of the song .

Several songs recorded at the Marquee show use this arrangement and are included on the debut album , Five Live Yardbirds , which was released in the UK in December 1964 . Although AllMusic critic Bruce Eder calls it " the best such [ British rock ] live record of the entire middle of the decade " , it did not reach the charts and was not issued in the US . Four songs from the album made their first American appearance on Having a Rave Up .

After their first two singles , " I Wish You Would " and " Good Morning Little Schoolgirl " , had limited success , the Yardbirds were under pressure to deliver a hit record by their label , Columbia Records . Samwell @-@ Smith interested the group in recording " For Your Love " , a new pop rock @-@ oriented song written by Graham Gouldman . Clapton expressed displeasure over departing from the group 's blues roots , and he left the Yardbirds two days before the song was released on 5 March 1965 . " For Your Love " became their first Top 10 hit in both the UK and the US . To replace Clapton , the group needed a lead guitarist who was experienced with blues and R & B , but also willing to explore more progressive and experimental material . They approached Jimmy Page , but he was unwilling to give up his steady employment as one of London 's most popular studio guitarists . Page recommended Jeff Beck , who was invited to an informal audition . Drummer McCarty recalled the tryout : " Not only could he play all the Eric stuff , but also a lot more ... There was the Les Paul thing , the rockabilly thing , the whole lot . His style was also kind of futuristic . We were impressed . " Beck was asked to join and played his first gig with the Yardbirds the same day " For Your Love " was released .

Shortly thereafter , the Yardbirds began recording a successful string of forward @-@ looking singles with Beck 's pioneering hard rock and psychedelic guitar work . Their first American album , For Your Love , which included Beck 's earliest recordings with the group and earlier singles and demos with Clapton , was rush @-@ released in June 1965 as they were preparing for their first American tour . In November 1965 , Having a Rave Up was released less than a month before the beginning of the Yardbirds ' second tour of the US and also combined songs recorded with both Clapton and Beck .

= = Composition and musical style = =

With the exception of " Still I 'm Sad " , the songs on Having a Rave Up were not composed by the Yardbirds . Two of the album 's hits , " Heart Full of Soul " and " Evil Hearted You " , were written for the group by Gouldman , who had composed " For Your Love " . Both songs saw the group continuing to move beyond their blues @-@ rock beginnings with Beck 's experimental guitar work . " Heart Full of Soul " is one of the earliest rock songs to incorporate Indian musical influences . Several months before the Beatles popularised the sound with " Norwegian Wood " , demos for " Heart Full of Soul " were attempted with sitar accompaniment . However , the Indian sitar player had difficulty with the 44 metre and the instrument lacked the power the group desired . Instead , Beck produced a sitar @-@ like effect by bending the higher notes on his guitar in an Eastern @-@ sounding scale and using a Tone Bender distortion device to get a more distinctive tone . The minor key , pop @-@ oriented " Evil Hearted You " also incorporates exotic @-@ sounding elements . Rock critic Richie Unterberger notes the " haunting Middle Eastern @-@ influenced melody ... typically eerie backup harmonies , [ and ] Keith Relf 's menacing , hurt lead vocal " . Beck provides a steel guitar @-@ like slide solo , which biographer Martin Power describes as a " shimmering two @-@ octave slide solo sounding almost ghostly " . " You 're a Better Man Than I " was written by Mike Hugg and his brother Brian . The song reflects the folk @-@ rock style of the time with socially conscious lyrics . Relf 's folk @-@ ballad vocal is complemented by Beck 's vibrato- and sustain @-@ heavy guitar solo . " Still I 'm Sad " is the album 's sole original tune by the band , written by Samwell @-@ Smith and McCarty . It is a slow , brooding piece with psychedelic pop elements . Built on a mock @-@ Gregorian chant , the song has seven vocal parts with producer Gomelsky adding a droning bass vocal under Relf 's melody .

The balance of the songs are blues and R & B numbers . Two versions of the Bo Diddley tune " I 'm a Man " are on the album ? a live rendering with Clapton and a re @-@ worked studio version with Beck . These two recordings illustrate differences between Clapton 's and Beck 's styles during their tenures with the Yardbirds . Clapton employs a more traditional sound with chording , whereas Beck takes a more novel approach , which Power describes : " [ T ] hings changed radically at one minute , 28 seconds into the song when Beck 's foot smashed into his Tone Bender [ and he ] and Relf chased after each other in a manic harmonica / guitar interface , notes swooping in and out of the mix " . Although just over two and a half minutes , critic Cub Koda calls the Beck version " perhaps

the most famous Yardbirds rave @-@ up of all " and Power asserts " it was the closest the group had yet come to capturing the sound of the ' rave @-@ up ' on tape " .

The remaining three live songs with Clapton feature extended instrumental improvisation . Bo Diddley 's " Here ' Tis " and the Isley Brothers ' " Respectable " are fast @-@ tempo , rhythmic @-@ based songs that are essentially rave ups . On " Here ' Tis " , Clapton adds an uncharacteristically energetic rhythm guitar over Samwell @-@ Smith 's driving bass lines . In his autobiography , Clapton identifies Howlin ' Wolf 's " Smokestack Lightning " as the Yardbirds ' most popular live number . They usually played it every night and performances of the song could last up to 30 minutes . On the 5 : 35 album version , Clapton trades guitar licks with Relf 's harmonica lines . Howlin ' Wolf reportedly referred to the group 's " Smokestack Lightning " as " the definitive version of his song " .

The Yardbirds based their version of " The Train Kept A @-@ Rollin ' " on the 1956 rockabilly arrangement by Johnny Burnette and the Rock and Roll Trio . However , their recording adds a brief rave up section , new guitar parts , and a harmonica solo . Beck biographer Annette Carson notes , " the Yardbirds ' recording plucked the old Rock & Roll Trio number from obscurity and turned it into a classic among classics " .

= = Recording and production = =

The recordings with Beck for Having a Rave Up took place at various studios between April and September 1965 . Three were recorded during the Yardbirds ' first American tour ? " The Train Kept A @-@ Rollin ' " and " You 're a Better Man than I " were recorded 12 September 1965 by Sam Phillips at his Phillips Recording studio in Memphis , Tennessee , and " I 'm a Man " ( studio version ) at the Chess Studios in Chicago by Ron Malo 19 September 1965 . Further refinements to the three songs were recorded at the Columbia Recording Studio in New York City by Roy Halee 21 and 22 September 1965 .

Another three songs with Beck were recorded by Roger Cameron at Advision Studios in London ? " Heart Full of Soul " 20 April 1965 , " Still I 'm Sad " 17 August 1965 ( also at Olympic Studios by Keith Grant 27 July 1965 ) , and " Evil Hearted You " 23 August 1965 . The four remaining live songs with Clapton were recorded in March 1964 at the Marquee Club in London ? " Smokestack Lightning " , " Respectable " , " I 'm a Man " , and " Here ' Tis " . These were taken from the UK debut album Five Live Yardbirds .

The album was produced by the Yardbirds ' manager Gomelsky with Samwell @-@ Smith . Clapton acknowledges that Samwell @-@ Smith was behind the group 's rave up sound and on " For Your Love " , Samwell @-@ Smith assumed the role of de facto producer . He received a credit as " Musical Director " for their first American album as well as Having a Rave Up . By the time Samwell @-@ Smith left the group in June 1966 , Koda notes , " he was shouldering most , if not all , of the production and arranging responsibilities " .

= = Release and charts = =

Having a Rave Up was released in the US on 15 November 1965 by the Yardbirds ' American label , Epic Records . The album cover photo shows the group posing in matching black suits in a mock performance ; Yardbirds ' biographer Adam Clayton compares it to " more of a tea dance than a rave @-@ up " . Clapton , who left the band eight months earlier , is not pictured on the album cover . The liner note reads like ad copy , with no mention of the band members or recording information . The album entered Billboard magazine 's Top LPs chart in December 1965 at number 137 and reached number 53 in February 1966 . In total , it spent 33 weeks in the chart . Having a Rave Up remained in print until 1972 , longer than any other Yardbirds album on Epic .

Having a Rave Up or an equivalent was not released in the UK , where it was the practice at the time not to include singles on albums . The live tracks with Clapton appeared on Five Live Yardbirds , which was issued on 31 December 1964 . Between June and October 1965 , " Heart Full of Soul " , " Evil Hearted You " , and " Still I 'm Sad " were released as singles and reached the pop chart Top

10 . In February 1966 , " You 're a Better Man than I " became the UK B @-@ side of " Shapes of Things " . " The Train Kept A @-@ Rollin ' " and " I 'm a Man " ( studio version ) were not released in the UK until 1976 and 1977 , well after the group had disbanded . In January 1966 , the Yardbirds ' UK label , Columbia , pressed Having a Rave Up for export to Germany and Sweden . In Canada , the album was issued by Capitol Records in 1966 .

= = Live and film performances = =

Five songs from Having a Rave Up , plus the following two singles , made up the core of the Yardbirds ' concert repertoire : " Smokestack Lightning " , " I 'm a Man " , " Heart Full of Soul " , " You 're a Better Man Than I " , " The Train Kept A @-@ Rollin ' " , " Shapes of Things " , and " Over Under Sideways Down " . Numerous live performances were recorded beginning in mid @-@ 1965 and include these songs . They were also recorded by the BBC on various dates for broadcast . In 1991 , several were released on Yardbirds ... On Air ( reissued in 1997 as BBC Sessions ) .

During one of many appearances on Ready Steady Go ! , the UK pop music variety television programme , the Yardbirds performed an updated version of " Here ' Tis " with Beck . After Page joined the group in June 1966 , film director Michelangelo Antonioni wanted to add a scene of the Yardbirds performing " The Train Kept A @-@ Rollin ' " to his 1966 film Blowup . Relf wrote new lyrics and the group worked out a new instrumental arrangement with both Beck and Page on lead guitars , retitled " Stroll On " . The performance is included in the film and on the Blow @-@ Up soundtrack album .

When Beck left the group in October 1966 , Page became the sole guitarist . Although several new songs were added , set lists still included their earlier material . A 1968 live performance in New York City ( released in 1971 as Live Yardbirds : Featuring Jimmy Page ) features the core songs , plus the Page solo piece " White Summer " and an early version of " Dazed and Confused " . Page carried over these songs to Led Zeppelin and " Smokestack Lightning " became a medley , which developed into " How Many More Times " . Dreja sums up the lasting appeal : " We all feel , I think , that the period Jeff spent with the band was the most creative . His scope of inventiveness was probably the widest of the three guitarists we played with ? and none of them were exactly slouches . "

= = Critical reception and influence = =

Having a Rave Up was released before the advent of critical rock music journalism . A December 1965 staff review in Billboard indicated the album 's potential to enter the Top LPs chart . Several retrospective reviews have been favourable . AllMusic 's Eder gave the album four and a half out of five stars and describes it as " one of the best LPs of the entire British invasion , on a par with the greatest mid @-@ 1960s work of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones " . Author Denise Sullivan noted , " Among British blues @-@ rock albums , this Giorgio Gomelsky production is the pick for its wealth of hits and its influence on garage rock and hard rock lead guitar . "

Clapton biographer David Bowling calls the album " early and important rock ' n ' roll ... It remains an important step in the evolution of rock music . " A review in Guitar Player magazine included :

Today [ circa 1989 ] , the Yardbirds ' second American album sounds something like the ultimate garage band meets an end @-@ of @-@ the @-@ world guitarist . For a while in ' 65 , though , Having a Rave Up with the Yardbirds ( Epic , LN 24177 ) contained rock 's freshest , most vital guitar playing .

In 2010 , Rolling Stone magazine ranked the album at number 355 on its list of the " 500 Greatest Albums of All Time " . The accompanying review noted , " Freed from Eric Clapton 's blues purism and spurred by Jeff Beck 's reckless exhibitionism , the Yardbirds launched a noisy rock & roll avant @-@ garde . This is the bridge between beat groups and psychedelia . "

= = Track listing = =

== Original album ==

== Album reissues ==

The Yardbirds ' 2001 compilation album Ultimate ! contains eight of the ten tracks from the original album . Having a Rave Up has been reissued by several record labels , including Repertoire ( 1999 , 2007 ) , Get Back ( 1999 ) , JVC ( 2000 , 2009 ) , and Sunspots ( 2002 ) . In addition to the ten tracks from the original album , the Repertoire reissue includes the Yardbirds ' next US single ( tracks 11 ? 12 ) ; demos recorded March ? April 1966 for their upcoming Yardbirds / Over Under Sideways Down ( a.k.a. Roger the Engineer ) album ( tracks 13 ? 18 ) ; backing tracks for a Ready Steady Go ! television appearance ( tracks 19 ? 20 ) ; and the soundtrack contribution to Blow @-@ Up ( track 21 ) .

== Personnel ==

Keith Relf ? vocals , harmonica , acoustic guitar , percussion  
Jeff Beck ? lead guitar ( Side 1 and all reissue bonus tracks )  
Eric Clapton ? lead guitar ( Side 2 )  
Jimmy Page ? second lead guitar on " Stroll On " bonus track  
Chris Dreja ? rhythm guitar ( except on " Stroll On " bonus track where he plays bass )  
Paul Samwell @-@ Smith ? bass guitar , backing vocals , musical director  
Jim McCarty ? drums , backing vocals  
Giorgio Gomelsky ? producer , backing bass vocal on " Still I 'm Sad "  
Ron Prentice ? bass on " Heart Full of Soul "