

= Hello , Goodbye =

" Hello , Goodbye " is a song by the English rock band the Beatles , written by Paul McCartney and credited to Lennon ? McCartney . Backed by John Lennon 's " I Am the Walrus " , it was issued as a non @-@ album single in November 1967 , the group 's first release since the death of their manager , Brian Epstein . The single was commercially successful around the world , topping charts in the United States , the United Kingdom , Canada , Australia and several other countries .

McCartney later said that the lyrics take duality as their theme . The song originated when , in response to a question from Beatles aide Alistair Taylor about songwriting , McCartney sat down at a harmonium and asked Taylor to say the opposite of whatever he said . The completed song includes a musical coda , which was improvised by the Beatles when they were recording the track in October 1967 . Unimpressed with the composition , Lennon pushed for " I Am the Walrus " to be the single 's A @-@ side , but McCartney and the band 's producer , George Martin , opted for the more commercial @-@ sounding " Hello , Goodbye " . The Beatles produced three promotional films for the song , one of which was shown on The Ed Sullivan Show in America . Due to regulations against lip @-@ syncing in Britain , none of the clips were aired there .

" Hello , Goodbye " has traditionally received a varied response from music critics . While some reviewers praise the song for its classic pop qualities , others deem it unadventurous by the Beatles ' standards and inconsequential . The track was included on the expanded US release of the Magical Mystery Tour soundtrack EP , and later appeared on compilation albums such as 1967 ? 1970 and 1 . McCartney has often performed " Hello , Goodbye " in concert , beginning with his Driving World Tour in 2002 . James Last , Bud Shank , Allen Toussaint , the Cure and the cast of Glee are among the acts who have also recorded the song .

= = Background = =

Although the songwriting credit is Lennon ? McCartney , " Hello , Goodbye " was written solely by Paul McCartney . The composition came about through an exercise in word association between McCartney and Alistair Taylor , an assistant of the Beatles ' manager , Brian Epstein . It originated during a period when , following the completion of their album Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band in April 1967 , the Beatles typically embraced randomness and simplicity as part of the creative process .

According to Taylor 's recollection , he was visiting McCartney at his home in St John 's Wood , London , and asked the Beatle how he went about writing a song . In response , McCartney took Taylor into the dining room , where they both sat at a harmonium ; McCartney then began playing the instrument and asked Taylor to call out the opposite to each word he happened to sing . Author Steve Turner writes of the result : " And so it went ? black and white , yes and no , stop and go , hello and goodbye . " Taylor later reflected : " I 've no memory at all of the tune ... I wonder whether Paul really made up [the melody to] that song as he went along or whether it was running through his head already . "

Talking in the 1990s to his official biographer , Barry Miles , McCartney said that the lyrics address duality , reflecting his astrological sign of Gemini . He added : " It 's such a deep theme in the universe , duality ? man woman , black white , ebony ivory , high low , right wrong , up down , hello goodbye ? that it was a very easy song to write . " McCartney also said that , in " Hello , Goodbye " , he was promoting " the more positive side of the duality " .

Among Beatles biographers , Ian MacDonald dates the composition to late September 1967 , while Bob Spitz says it was written in time for the Our World international television broadcast , in June that year . According to Spitz , McCartney suggested " Hello , Goodbye " as the Beatles ' contribution to Our World , an honour that instead went to the John Lennon @-@ composed " All You Need Is Love " .

= = Composition = =

" Hello Goodbye " is in the key of C major and in 4 / 4 time . MacDonald describes the musical structure as " characteristically scalar " and founded on " a descending sequence in C " , with " a brief touchdown on A flat as its only surprise " . Musicologist Walter Everett writes that the bassline in the chorus is an inverted form of the descending scale , which is accentuated on the Beatles ' recording by the lead guitar part .

In Everett 's estimation , much of " Hello , Goodbye " references previous Lennon ? McCartney compositions : over the verses , the parallel thirds in the vocal recall the band 's unreleased song " Love of the Loved " , among others ; melodically , the chorus is similar to the keyboard part on " For No One " ; and the complementary vocal parts in the final verse recall " Help ! " Everett also suggests that , early in " Hello , Goodbye " , McCartney appears to be imitating the V ? VI chord " ambivalence " of " Strawberry Fields Forever " . Everett describes the composition as " derivative McCartney " , for the most part , " freshened up " primarily through the use of phrase lengths that deviate from a standard eight bars .

Consistent with the song title , the lyrics comprise a series of antonyms ? such as yes ? no , black ? white and stay ? go . With the narrative perspective alternating between first and second person , the composition also recalls George and Ira Gershwin 's " Let 's Call the Whole Thing Off " .

Following the third chorus , at 2 : 36 on the released recording , the bassline descends chromatically to mark the start of what musicologist Alan Pollack terms the " first outro " and Everett calls a " codetta " . After this false ending , the song returns with a 45 @-@ second coda , which MacDonald identifies as a " Maori finale ? a mistake for ' Hawaiian ' (aloha) " . The coda consists of a repeated musical phrase over a pedal point in C major , accompanied by the vocal refrain " Helaheba @-@ hello @-@ a " .

= = Recording = =

The Beatles began recording " Hello , Goodbye " at EMI 's Abbey Road Studios in October 1967 , towards the end of filming for their Magical Mystery Tour television special . The latter was a film project that McCartney had championed , in an effort to focus the group in the wake of Epstein 's death that August . Under the working title " Hello Hello " , the Beatles taped the basic track for the song on 2 October , with George Martin producing the session and Geoff Emerick and Ken Scott as engineers . The line @-@ up on the take selected for overdubs , take 14 , was McCartney on piano , Lennon on Hammond organ , George Harrison on maracas , and Ringo Starr on drums .

The band members then added tambourine , conga drum and bongos over the coda . This last section of the song came about while the group were working in the studio . Lennon , who was otherwise highly critical of " Hello , Goodbye " , approved of the addition , saying : " The best bit was the end , which we all ad @-@ libbed in the studio , where I played the piano . Like one of my favourite bits on ' Ticket to Ride ' , where we just threw something in at the end . " In McCartney 's recollection , the coda " didn 't sound quite right " until Emerick increased the reverberation on the tom @-@ tom drums , at which point , " it just came alive . "

The Beatles returned to the song on 19 October , two days after attending a memorial service for Epstein at the New London Synagogue on Abbey Road . At this session , Harrison added his lead guitar parts (treated with Leslie effect) , McCartney recorded the lead vocal , and Lennon , McCartney and Harrison supplied backing vocals ; handclaps were also overdubbed . With two reduction mixes having been carried out since 2 October , to free up space on the four @-@ track tape for these and later overdubs , the master take was now nominally take 16 . This version of the song appeared on the 1996 outtakes compilation Anthology 2 . In his book The Unreleased Beatles , Richie Unterberger writes that take 16 features a more " active " guitar line from Harrison , who answers McCartney 's vocal phrasing over the opening verse with a series of descending fills . Also present on this version is a short guitar solo , which would be replaced on the official release by what Unterberger terms " some inspired Paul scat @-@ tinged singing " . Unterberger speculates that the removal of these guitar parts may have caused tension between McCartney and Harrison , anticipating the pair 's disagreements regarding the lead guitarist 's role on McCartney compositions such as " Hey Jude " and " Two of Us " over 1968 ? 69 .

Two violas were added to " Hello , Goodbye " at Abbey Road on 20 October . These string parts were played by classical musicians Kenneth Essex and Leo Brinbaum , and scored by Martin , who based the arrangement on a melody McCartney supplied on piano . McCartney overdubbed bass guitar on 25 October and , following a trip to Nice in France to film his " Fool on the Hill " segment for Magical Mystery Tour , added further bass to the track on 2 November . A mono mix of " Hello , Goodbye " was completed that same day , and the stereo version on 6 November .

= = Release = =

" Hello , Goodbye " was selected as the Beatles ' single for the 1967 Christmas season , their first release since Epstein 's death . A dismayed Lennon pushed for his composition " I Am the Walrus " to be the A @-@ side instead , but he was overruled by McCartney and George Martin , on the grounds that " Hello , Goodbye " was the more commercial of the two tracks . Lennon remained dismissive of the song ; he later said : " [' I Am the Walrus '] was the B side to ' Hello , Goodbye ' ! Can you believe it ? " Everett writes that , had " I Am the Walrus " been the A @-@ side , " [it] would probably have encouraged Lennon to lead the Beatles to new heights " , whereas the decision to choose " Hello , Goodbye " was " one more nail in the Beatles coffin " .

In Britain , Parlophone issued " Hello , Goodbye " backed by " I Am the Walrus " on 24 November 1967 , with the catalogue number R 5655 . Within a day of its release , the record had sold over 300 @, @ 000 copies there . It went on to top the UK 's official singles chart for seven weeks , through to 23 January 1968 , giving the Beatles their longest run at number 1 on that chart since " She Loves You " in 1963 . In the process , the song became the group 's fourth Christmas number 1 single in five years . For three weeks from 27 December 1967 , the band held the top two positions in the UK , with the Magical Mystery Tour soundtrack EP trailing " Hello , Goodbye " .

The single was released on 27 November in the United States , as Capitol 2056 . It peaked at number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for three weeks and became the band 's fifteenth American chart @-@ topper . The single was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America on 15 December 1967 . It was later listed by Billboard magazine as the band 's seventh biggest US chart hit . The single was successful in many other countries , topping charts in Australia , Canada , West Germany , Holland and Norway . It also peaked at number 2 in Ireland , Austria , Belgium and Switzerland .

" Hello , Goodbye " was included on the American Magical Mystery Tour album , which Capitol Records compiled by adding five non @-@ album singles tracks from 1967 to the six songs on the British double EP . In the Magical Mystery Tour film , which aired on British television on 26 December 1967 , the song 's coda plays over the end credits . " Hello , Goodbye " subsequently appeared on Beatles compilation albums such as 1967 ? 1970 and 1 .

= = Promotional films = =

The band made three promotional clips for " Hello , Goodbye " . Filmed on 10 November 1967 at the Saville Theatre in London , the clips were directed by McCartney . The first one shows the Beatles dressed in their Sgt. Pepper uniforms , apart from a brief cut @-@ away where the group are wearing their 1963 @-@ era matching collarless suits . In author John Winn 's description of the three clips , this version shows the Beatles performing the song against a psychedelic backdrop , while over the coda they are joined on the stage by female hula dancers . Starr is seen playing a miniature drum kit and , unusually , Lennon appears without his granny glasses . In the second clip , the Beatles mime to the song dressed in more conventional attire and with the stage backdrop depicting a rural setting . The third version combines footage shot during these two scenes with the band playing the song before what Winn terms a " glittery pastel backdrop " .

In the US , the first promo for " Hello , Goodbye " was premiered on The Ed Sullivan Show on 26 November . Author Mark Hertsgaard describes the film as " a slapdash affair featuring the hula dancers that was salvaged only by some ludicrously spastic dancing by Lennon " . Music critic Robert Christgau was also unimpressed ; speculating in the May 1968 issue of Esquire on the

content of the Magical Mystery Tour film , which had yet to air in America , Christgau wrote : " But if Paul McCartney 's work on the film clip of ' Hello Goodbye ' is any indication , we would be wise not to hope for too much . "

In Britain , the Beatles ran foul of the Musicians Union 's recently imposed ban on miming on television . With the first clip scheduled to premier on the 23 November edition of Top of the Pops , George Martin mixed a version of the track without violas , since no musician was seen to be playing those instruments ; the Beatles then allowed the BBC to film them at work editing Magical Mystery Tour on 21 November , in the hope that this new footage would replace any sections that contravened the ban . Instead , Top of the Pops aired the song over scenes from the band 's 1964 film A Hard Day 's Night . For the 7 December edition of the same show , the BBC ran a clip comprising still photographs mixed with some of the editing @-@ suite film ? a combination that served as the promo for " Hello , Goodbye " throughout the remainder of its UK chart run .

The clip included in the 1996 Beatles Anthology video release consists of the Beatles ' first Saville Theatre film , up until the song 's coda , which incorporates footage from all three of the original promo films . The first of the original promos was included in the Beatles ' 2015 video compilation 1 , and all three were included in the three @-@ disc versions of the compilation , titled 1 + . The BBC @-@ compiled clip appeared as a bonus feature on the 2012 DVD reissue of Magical Mystery Tour , under the title " Top of the Pops 1967 " .

In May 2013 , a Vox electric guitar used by Lennon during part of the filming for " Hello , Goodbye " sold for US \$ 408 @, @ 000 at an auction in New York .

= = Critical reception = =

Writing in December 1967 , Richard Goldstein of The New York Times said that " Hello , Goodbye " " sounds like a B @-@ side " and described it as " interesting but subordinate " . In his single review for Melody Maker , Nick Jones wrote : " Superficially it 's a very ' ordinary ' Beatles record without cascading sitars , and the involved , weaving hallucinogenic sounds that we 've grown to love so much . However , all the Beatles soul and feeling is shining through ... " More impressed , Derek Johnson of the NME welcomed the simplicity of " Hello , Goodbye " , describing it as " Supremely commercial , and the answer to those who feel The Beatles are going too way out " .

In his book Revolution in the Head , Ian MacDonald views the track as " blandly catchy " and comments that its long stay at number 1 in Britain " says more about the sudden decline of the singles chart than the quality of the song itself " . Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone considers that , at this stage in their career , " the Beatles didn 't need to push ? they could have hit # 1 with a tape of themselves blowing their noses " , which , he suggests , " would have been catchier " than both " Hello , Goodbye " and the band 's next single , " Lady Madonna " . Writing for Rough Guides , Chris Ingham describes " Hello , Goodbye " as a " harmless , facile word and chord @-@ play that kept the far more challenging ' Walrus ' from being the A @-@ side of the [Beatles '] first post @-@ Epstein single " . Among other Beatles biographers , Andrew Hickey dismisses the song as a " mindless little nothing " that was " completely outclassed by its flipside " , while Peter Doggett labels it " commercial but rather inconsequential ... three minutes of contradictions and meaningless juxtapositions , with a tune that was impossible to forget " .

In a 2005 review of the Magical Mystery Tour album , Sputnikmusic lauded the song for " encapsulating everything that made the Beatles such a great pop band " , and praised its piano line , Starr 's drumming , and the coda . Writing for AllMusic , Richie Unterberger names " Hello , Goodbye " as one of the " huge , glorious , and innovative singles " on Magical Mystery Tour , while Billboard 's Chris Payne rates the track among the band 's " most perfect pop songs " . Scott Plagenhoef of Pitchfork Media cites it as an example of how McCartney " excelled at selling simplistic lyrics that risk seeming cloying " , although he adds : " the kaleidoscopic , carnival @-@ ride melody and interplay between lead and backing vocals ensure it 's a much better record than it is a song . "

In the NME 's 2015 list of the " 100 Greatest Beatles Songs " as selected by other musicians , " Hello , Goodbye " was chosen by the Cure and ranked 91st . Ultimate Classic Rock website places

the track at number 45 on its list of the " Top 50 Beatles Songs " , while Rolling Stone ranks it last on the magazine 's " 100 Greatest Beatles Songs " list , with the editor remarking : " McCartney never claimed that the irresistibly bouncy ' Hello , Goodbye ' was his most profound songwriting moment . " In 2006 , the track appeared at number 36 in a similar list compiled by Mojo , accompanied by commentary from Alan McGee , who described it as " the greatest @-@ ever pop song , bar none " . " Hello , Goodbye " is ranked 76th by Stephen Spignesi and Michael Lewis in their book 100 Best Beatles Songs , where the authors call it a " classic " and a " fine , fresh , fun piece of pop " .

= = Cover versions and McCartney live performances = =

James Last , the Hollyridge Strings , Bud Shank and the Soulful Strings were all among the artists who covered " Hello , Goodbye " in the year following its release in 1967 . Allen Toussaint , with whom McCartney worked briefly on his and Wings ' 1975 album Venus and Mars , released a version of the song in 1989 . More recent covers include recordings by Dwight Twilley and the band Ash , and a novelty version by Looney Tunes characters credited to " Bugs & Friends " .

The cast of the US television show Glee released a recording of " Hello , Goodbye " as the opening track of their 2010 album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 Showstoppers . This version became a hit when issued as a single . In 2014 , the Cure recorded the song with McCartney 's son James , for inclusion on the multi @-@ artist compilation The Art of McCartney .

McCartney has performed " Hello , Goodbye " on many of his tours as a solo artist . These include 2002 's Driving World Tour and 2003 's Back in the World Tour , when he opened his concerts with the song , and the On the Run Tour in 2011 ? 12 . In addition , throughout his 1989 ? 90 world tour , McCartney segued the coda onto the end of " Put It There " . This medley was included on McCartney 's 1990 triple album Tripping the Live Fantastic , while a full live rendition of " Hello , Goodbye " appeared on Back in the U.S. in 2002 .

= = Personnel = =

According to Ian MacDonald :

The Beatles

Paul McCartney ? lead vocal , backing vocal , piano , bass , bongos , conga

John Lennon ? backing vocal , lead guitar , Hammond organ

George Harrison ? backing vocal , lead guitar

Ringo Starr ? drums , maracas , tambourine

Additional musicians and production

Kenneth Essex ? viola

Leo Birnbaum ? viola

George Martin ? producer

Geoff Emerick ? sound engineer

Ken Scott ? sound engineer

= = Charts and certifications = =