

= Syd Barrett =

Roger Keith " Syd " Barrett (6 January 1946 ? 7 July 2006) was an English musician , composer , singer , songwriter , and painter . Best known as a founder member of the band Pink Floyd , Barrett was the lead singer , guitarist and principal songwriter in its early years and is credited with naming the band . Barrett was excluded from Pink Floyd in April 1968 after David Gilmour took over as their new guitarist , and was briefly hospitalised amid speculation of mental illness .

Barrett was musically active for less than ten years . With Pink Floyd , he recorded four singles , their debut album (and contributed to the second one) , and several unreleased songs . Barrett began his solo career in 1969 with the single " Octopus " from his first solo album , The Madcap Laughs (1970) . The album was recorded over the course of a year with five different producers (Peter Jenner , Malcolm Jones , David Gilmour , Roger Waters and Barrett himself) . Nearly two months after Madcap was released , Barrett began working on his second and final album , Barrett (1970) , produced by Gilmour and featuring contributions from Richard Wright . He went into self-imposed seclusion until his death in 2006 . In 1988 , an album of unreleased tracks and outtakes , Opel , was released by EMI with Barrett 's approval .

Barrett 's innovative guitar work and exploration of experimental techniques such as dissonance , distortion and feedback influenced many musicians . His recordings are also noted for their strongly English accented vocal delivery . After leaving music , Barrett continued with painting and dedicated himself to gardening . Biographies began appearing in the 1980s . Pink Floyd wrote and recorded several tributes to him , most notably the 1975 album Wish You Were Here , which included " Shine On You Crazy Diamond " , as homage to Barrett .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early years = = =

Syd Barrett was born as Roger Keith Barrett in the English city of Cambridge to a middle-class family living at 60 Glisson Road . Barrett was the fourth of five children . His father , Arthur Max Barrett , was a prominent pathologist and he was related to Elizabeth Garrett Anderson , through Max 's maternal grandmother Ellen Garrett , who was Elizabeth 's cousin . In 1951 his family moved to 183 Hills Road .

Barrett played piano occasionally , but usually preferred writing and drawing . He got a ukulele at 10 , a banjo at 11 and a Hofner acoustic guitar at 14 . A year after he got his first acoustic guitar , he bought his first electric guitar and built his own amplifier . One story of how Barrett acquired the nickname " Syd " is that at the age of 14 he was named after an old local Cambridge jazz double bassist , Sid " The Beat " Barrett , which claims Syd Barrett changed the spelling to differentiate himself from his namesake . Another story is that when he was 13 , his schoolmates nicknamed him " Syd " after he showed up to a field day at Abington Scout site wearing a flat cap instead of his Scout beret because " Syd " was a " working class " name . He used both names interchangeably for several years . His sister Rosemary stated , " He was never Syd at home . He would never have allowed it . " He was a Scout with the 7th Cambridge troop and went on to be a patrol leader .

At one point at Morley Memorial Junior School he was taught by Roger Waters ' mother , Mary . Later , in 1957 , he attended Cambridgeshire High School for Boys (with Waters) . His father died of cancer on 11 December 1961 , less than a month before Barrett 's 16th birthday . Also on this day , Barrett had left the entry in his diary for this date blank . By this time , his brothers and sisters had left home and his mother decided to rent out rooms to lodgers . Eager to help her son recover from his grief , Barrett 's mother encouraged the band in which he played , Geoff Mott and The Mottoes , a band which Barrett formed , to perform in their front room . Roger Waters and Syd Barrett were childhood friends , and Waters often visited such gigs . At one point , Waters even organised a gig , a CND benefit at Friends Meeting House on 11 March 1962 , but shortly afterwards Geoff Mott

joined the Boston Crabs , and the Mottoes broke up .

In September 1962 , Barrett had taken a place at the Cambridge Technical College art department , where he met David Gilmour . During the winter of 1962 and early 1963 , the Beatles made an impact on Barrett , and he began to play Beatles songs at parties and at picnics . In 1963 , Barrett became a Rolling Stones fan and Barrett and then @-@ girlfriend Libby Gausden saw them perform at a village hall in Cambridgeshire . It was at this point Barrett started writing songs ; one friend recalls hearing " Effervescing Elephant " (later to be recorded on his solo album Barrett) . Also around this time , Barrett and Gilmour occasionally played acoustic gigs together . Barrett had played bass guitar with Those Without during the summer of 1963 and both bass and guitar with The Hollerin ' Blues the next summer . In 1964 , Barrett and Gausden saw Bob Dylan perform . After this performance , Barrett was inspired to write " Bob Dylan Blues " . Barrett , now thinking about his future , decided to apply for Camberwell College of Arts in London . Barrett enrolled in the college in the summer of 1964 to study painting .

= = = Pink Floyd years (1965 ? 68) = = =

Starting in 1964 , the band that would become Pink Floyd evolved through various line @-@ up and name changes including " The Abdabs " , " The Screaming Abdabs " , " Sigma 6 " , and " The Meggadeaths " . In 1965 , Barrett joined them as The Tea Set (sometimes spelled T @-@ Set) . When they found themselves playing a concert with another band of the same name , Barrett came up with " The Pink Floyd Sound " (also known as " The Pink Floyd Blues Band " , later " The Pink Floyd ") . During 1965 , they went into a studio for the first time , when a friend of Richard Wright 's gave the band free time to record .

During this summer Barrett had his first LSD trip in the garden of friend Dave Gale , with Ian Moore and Storm Thorgerson . During one trip , Barrett and another friend , Paul Charrier , ended up naked in the bath , reciting : " No rules , no rules " . That summer , as a consequence of the continuation of drug use , the band became absorbed in Sant Mat , a Sikh sect . Storm Thorgerson (then living on Earlham Street) and Barrett went to a London hotel to meet the sect 's guru ; Thorgerson managed to join the sect , while Barrett , however , was deemed too young to join . Thorgerson perceives this as a deeply important event in Barrett 's life , as he was intensely upset by the rejection . While living within proximity of his friends , Barrett decided to write more songs (" Bike " was written around this time) .

= = = London Underground , Blackhill Enterprises and gigs = = =

While Pink Floyd began by playing cover versions of American R & B songs , by 1966 they had carved out their own style of improvised rock and roll , which drew as much from improvised jazz . After Bob Klose departed from the band , the band 's direction changed . However , the change was not instantaneous , with more improvising on the guitars and keyboards . Mason reflected , " It always felt to me that most of the ideas were emanating from Syd at the time . "

At this time , Barrett 's reading reputedly included : Grimm 's Fairy Tales , Tolkien 's The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings , Carlos Castaneda 's The Teachings of Don Juan , and The I @-@ Ching . During this period , Barrett wrote most of the songs for Pink Floyd 's first album , and also songs that would later appear on his solo albums . In 1966 , a new rock concert venue , the UFO (pronounced as " you @-@ foe ") , opened in London and quickly became a haven for British psychedelic music . Pink Floyd , the house band , was its most popular attraction and after making appearances at the rival Roundhouse , became the most popular musical group of the " London Underground " psychedelic music scene .

By the end of 1966 , Pink Floyd had gained a reliable management team in Andrew King and Peter Jenner . Towards the end of October 1966 , Pink Floyd , with King and Jenner , set up Blackhill Enterprises , to manage the group 's finances . Blackhill was staffed by lodgers Jenner found in his Edbrooke Road house , and among others , Barrett 's flatmate , Peter Wynne Wilson (who became road manager , however , since he had more experience in lighting , he was also lighting assistant)

. King and Jenner wanted to prepare some demo recordings for a possible record deal , so at the end of October , they booked a session at Thompson Private Recording Studio , in Hemel Hempstead . King said of the demos : " That was the first time I realised they were going to write all their own material , Syd just turned into a songwriter , it seemed like overnight . "

King and Jenner befriended American expatriate Joe Boyd , the promoter of the UFO Club , who was making a name for himself as one of the more important entrepreneurs on the British music scene . The newly hired booking agent , Bryan Morrison , and Boyd had proposed sending in better quality recordings . From Morrison 's agency the band played a gig outside London for the first time . In November , the band performed the first (of many) strangely named concerts : Philadelic Music for Simian Hominids , a multimedia event arranged by the group 's former landlord , Mike Leonard , at Hornsey College of Art . They performed at the Free School for the following two weeks , before performing at the Psychodelphia Versus Ian Smith event at the Roundhouse in December , arranged by the Majority Rule for Rhodesia Campaign , and an Oxfam benefit at the Albert Hall (the band 's biggest venue up to this point) .

= = = = Tonite Lets All Make Love in London = = = =

At the beginning of 1967 , Barrett was dating Jenny Spires (who would later marry future Stars member Jack Monck) . However , unknown to Barrett , Spires had an affair with Peter Whitehead . Spires convinced Whitehead (who thought the band sounded like " bad Schoenberg ") to use Pink Floyd in a film about the swinging London scene . So at the cost of £ 80 , in January , Whitehead took the band into John Wood 's Sound Techniques in Chelsea , with promoter Joe Boyd in tow . Here , the band recorded a 16 @-@ minute version of " Interstellar Overdrive " and another composition , " Nick 's Boogie " . Whitehead had filmed this recording , which was used in the film Tonite Let 's All Make Love in London and later on the video release of London ' 66 ? ' 67 . Whitehead later commented about the band that : " They were just completely welded together , just like a jazz group " .

= = = = The Piper at the Gates of Dawn = = = =

Boyd attempted to sign the band with Polydor Records . However , Morrison had convinced King and Jenner to try to start a bidding war between Polydor and EMI . In late January , Boyd produced a recording session for the group , with them returning to Sound Techniques in Chelsea again . After the aforementioned bidding war idea was finished , Pink Floyd signed with EMI . Unusually for the time the deal included recording an album , which meant the band had unlimited studio time at EMI Studios , in return for a smaller royalty percentage . The band then attempted to re @-@ record " Arnold Layne " , but the Boyd version from January was released instead .

The band 's first studio album , The Piper at the Gates of Dawn , was recorded intermittently between February and July 1967 in Studio 3 at Abbey Road Studios , and produced by former Beatles engineer Norman Smith . At the same time , the Beatles were recording " Lovely Rita " for their album , Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band , in Studio 2 . By the time the album was released on 4 August , " Arnold Layne " (which was released months earlier , on 11 March) had reached number 20 on the British singles charts (despite being banned by Radio London) and the follow @-@ up single , " See Emily Play " , had done even better , peaking at number 6 . The album was successful in the UK , hitting number 6 on the British album charts . Their first three singles (including their third , " Apples and Oranges ") , were written by Barrett , who also was the principal visionary / author of their critically acclaimed 1967 debut album . Of the eleven songs on Piper , Barrett wrote eight and co @-@ wrote another two .

= = = Departure from Pink Floyd = = =

Through late 1967 and early 1968 , Barrett 's behaviour became increasingly erratic and unpredictable , partly as a consequence of his reported heavy use of psychedelic drugs , most

prominently LSD . There is also much speculation that he suffered from schizophrenia . Once described as joyful , friendly , and extroverted , he became increasingly depressed and socially withdrawn , and experienced hallucinations , disorganized speech , memory lapses , intense mood swings , and periods of catatonia . Although the changes began gradually , he went missing for a long weekend and , according to several friends including Rick Wright , came back " a completely different person . " One of the striking features of his change was the development of a blank , empty , dead @-@ eyed stare (referred to in Pink Floyd 's " Shine on You Crazy Diamond " with the line " now there 's a look in your eye like black holes in the sky ") . He was unable to recognize old friends that he had known for years , and often did not know where he was . At one point , while on a tour of the city of Los Angeles , Barrett is said to have exclaimed , " gee , it sure is nice to be in Las Vegas ! " Many reports described him on stage , strumming one chord through the entire concert , or not playing at all . At a show at The Fillmore in San Francisco , during a performance of " Interstellar Overdrive " , Barrett slowly detuned his guitar . The audience seemed to enjoy such antics , unaware of the rest of the band 's consternation . Interviewed on Pat Boone 's show during this tour , Syd 's reply to Boone 's questions was a " blank and totally mute stare , " according to Nick Mason , " Syd wasn 't into moving his lips that day . " Barrett exhibited similar behaviour during the band 's first appearance on Dick Clark 's popular TV show American Bandstand . Although surviving footage of this appearance shows Barrett miming his parts of the song competently , during a group interview afterwards , when asked two questions by Clark , Barrett 's answers were terse , almost to the point of rudeness (though , Clark noted , they had been flying non @-@ stop from London to Los Angeles) . During this time , Barrett would often forget to bring his guitar to sessions , damage equipment and occasionally was unable to hold his pick . Before a performance in late 1967 , Barrett reportedly crushed Mandrax tranquilliser tablets and an entire tube of Brylcreem into his hair , which subsequently melted down his face under the heat of the stage lighting , making him look like " a guttered candle " . Nick Mason later disputed the Mandrax portion of this story , stating that " Syd would never waste good mandies " .

During their UK tour with Jimi Hendrix in November 1967 , guitarist David O 'List from The Nice was called in to substitute for Barrett on several occasions when he was unable to perform or failed to appear . Sometime around Christmas , David Gilmour (Barrett 's old school friend) was asked to join the band as a second guitarist to cover for Barrett , with the idea of retaining a five @-@ member line @-@ up of the band . For a handful of shows Gilmour played and sang while Barrett wandered around on stage , occasionally deciding to join in playing . The other band members soon grew tired of Barrett 's antics and , on 26 January 1968 , when Waters was driving on the way to a show at Southampton University , the band elected not to pick Barrett up : one person in the car said , " Shall we pick Syd up ? " and another said , " Let 's not bother . " As Barrett had , up until then , written the bulk of the band 's material , the initial plan was to keep him in the group as a non @-@ touring member ? as The Beach Boys had done with Brian Wilson ? but this soon proved to be impractical . Gilmour subsequently became a full @-@ time member of the band .

According to Roger Waters , Barrett came into what was to be their last practice session with a new song he had dubbed " Have You Got It Yet ? " The song seemed simple enough when he first presented it , but it soon became impossibly difficult to learn and they eventually realised that while they were practising it , Barrett kept changing the arrangement . He would then play it again , with the arbitrary changes , and sing " Have you got it yet ? " Eventually they realised they never would , and that they were simply bearing the brunt of Barrett 's idiosyncratic sense of humour . Waters had called it " a real act of mad genius " .

Barrett did not contribute material to the band after A Saucerful of Secrets was released in 1968 . Of the songs he wrote for Pink Floyd after The Piper at the Gates of Dawn , only one , " Jugband Blues " , made it to the band 's second album ; one , " Apples and Oranges " , became a less @-@ than @-@ successful single ; and two others , " Scream Thy Last Scream " and " Vegetable Man " , were never officially released as they were deemed too dark and unsettling . Feeling guilty for ousting their friend , the members of Pink Floyd were unable to bring themselves to definitively tell Barrett that he was no longer in the band . According to Rick Wright , who lived with Barrett at the time , Wright had the awful job of telling Barrett that he was going out to buy cigarettes while he

went off to play a gig . He would return hours later to find Barrett in the same position , sometimes with a cigarette burned completely down between his fingers (an incident later referenced in Pink Floyd 's The Wall) . Emerging from catatonia and unaware that a long period of time had elapsed , Barrett would ask , " Have you got the cigarettes ? " . Barrett supposedly spent time outside the recording studio , in the reception area , waiting to be invited in . He also showed up to a few gigs and glared at Gilmour . Barrett played slide guitar on " Remember a Day " (which had been first attempted during the Piper sessions) , and also played on " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " . On 6 April 1968 , the group officially announced Barrett was no longer a member , the same day the band 's contract with Blackhill Enterprises was terminated as the record label , considering Barrett to be the musical brains of the band , stayed with Barrett .

= = = Solo years (1968 ? 72) = = =

After leaving Pink Floyd , Barrett was out of the public eye for a year . Then , in 1969 , at the behest of EMI and Harvest Records , he embarked on a brief solo career , releasing two solo albums , The Madcap Laughs and Barrett (both 1970) , and a single , " Octopus " . Some songs , " Terrapin " , " Maisie " and " Bob Dylan Blues " , reflected Barrett 's early interest in the blues .

= = = The Madcap Laughs = = =

After Barrett left Pink Floyd , Jenner followed suit . He led Barrett into EMI Studios to record some tracks in May that would later be released on Barrett 's first solo album , The Madcap Laughs . However , Jenner said : " I had seriously underestimated the difficulties of working with him " . By the sessions of June and July , most of the tracks were in better shape ; however , shortly after the July sessions , Barrett broke up with girlfriend Lindsay Corner and went on a drive around Britain in his Mini , ending up in psychiatric care in Cambridge . During New Year 1969 , a somewhat recovered Barrett had taken up tenancy in a flat on Egerton Gardens , South Kensington , London , with the Post Modernist artist Duggie Fields . Here , Barrett 's flat was so close to Gilmour 's that Gilmour could look right into Barrett 's kitchen . Deciding to return to music , Barrett contacted EMI and was passed to Malcolm Jones , the then @-@ head of EMI 's new prog rock label , Harvest (after Norman Smith and Jenner declined to produce Barrett 's record , Jones produced it) . Barrett wanted to recover the Jenner @-@ produced sessions recordings ; several of the tracks were improved upon .

The Jones @-@ produced sessions started in April 1969 at EMI Studios . After the first of these sessions , Barrett brought in friends to help out : Humble Pie drummer , Jerry Shirley and Jokers Wild (Gilmour 's old band) drummer , Willie Wilson . For the sessions , Gilmour played bass . Talking to Barrett wasn 't easy , said Jones : " It was a case of following him , not playing with him . They were seeing and then playing so they were always a note behind " . A few tracks on the album feature overdubs by members of the band Soft Machine . During this time , Barrett also played guitar on the sessions for Soft Machine founder Kevin Ayers ' debut LP Joy of a Toy , although his performance on " Religious Experience " (later titled " Singing a Song in the Morning ") was not released until the album was reissued in 2003 . One time , Barrett had told his flatmate that he was going off " for an afternoon drive " . However , he followed Pink Floyd to Ibiza (according to legend , he skipped check @-@ ins and customs , ran onto the runway and attempted to flag down a jet) . One of his friends , J. Ryan Eaves , bass player for the short @-@ lived but influential Manchester band " York 's Ensemble " , later spotted him on a beach wearing messed @-@ up clothes and with a carrier bag full of money . At this point , during the trip , Barrett had asked Gilmour for his help in the recording sessions .

After two of the Gilmour / Waters @-@ produced sessions , they remade one track from the Soft Machine overdubs and recorded three tracks . These sessions came to a minor halt when Gilmour and Waters were mixing Pink Floyd 's newly recorded album , Ummagumma , to Barrett 's dismay . However , through the end of July , they managed to record three more tracks . The problem with the recording was that the songs were recorded as Barrett played them " live " in studio . On the

released versions a number of them have false starts and commentaries from Barrett . Despite the track being closer to complete and better produced , Gilmour and Waters left the Jones @-@ produced track " Opel " off Madcap .

Gilmour later said of the sessions for The Madcap Laughs :

[Sessions] were pretty tortuous and very rushed . We had very little time , particularly with The Madcap Laughs . Syd was very difficult , we got that very frustrated feeling : Look , it 's your fucking career , mate . Why don 't you get your finger out and do something ? The guy was in trouble , and was a close friend for many years before then , so it really was the least one could do .

Upon the album 's release in January 1970 , Malcolm Jones was shocked by the substandard musicianship on the Gilmour and Waters @-@ produced songs : " I felt angry . It 's like dirty linen in public and very unnecessary and unkind " . Gilmour said : " Perhaps we were trying to show what Syd was really like . But perhaps we were trying to punish him " . Waters was more positive : " Syd is a genius " .

Barrett said " It 's quite nice but I 'd be very surprised if it did anything if I were to drop dead . I don 't think it would stand as my last statement . "

= = = = Barrett = = = =

The second album , Barrett , was recorded more sporadically than the first , with sessions taking place between February and July 1970 . The album was produced by David Gilmour , and featured Gilmour on bass guitar , Richard Wright on keyboard and Humble Pie drummer Jerry Shirley . The first two songs attempted were for Barrett to play and / or sing to an existing backing track . However , Gilmour thought they were losing the " Barrett @-@ ness " . One track (" Rats ") was originally recorded with Barrett on his own . That would later be overdubbed by musicians , despite the changing tempos . Shirley said of Barrett 's playing : " He would never play the same tune twice . Sometimes Syd couldn 't play anything that made sense ; other times what he 'd play was absolute magic . " At times Barrett , who experienced extreme synesthesia , would say : " Perhaps we could make the middle darker and maybe the end a bit middle afternoonish . At the moment it 's too windy and icy " .

These sessions were happening while Pink Floyd had just begun to work on Atom Heart Mother . On various occasions , Barrett went to " spy " on the band as they recorded their album .

Wright said of the Barrett sessions :

Doing Syd 's record was interesting , but extremely difficult . Dave [Gilmour] and Roger did the first one (The Madcap Laughs) and Dave and myself did the second one . But by then it was just trying to help Syd any way we could , rather than worrying about getting the best guitar sound . You could forget about that ! It was just going into the studio and trying to get him to sing .

= = = = Performances = = = =

Despite the numerous recording dates for his solo albums , Barrett undertook very little musical activity between 1968 and 1972 outside the studio . On 24 February 1970 , he appeared on John Peel 's BBC radio programme Top Gear playing five songs ? only one of which had been previously released . Three would be re @-@ recorded for the Barrett album , while the song " Two of a Kind " was a one @-@ off performance (possibly written by Richard Wright) . Barrett was accompanied on this session by Gilmour and Shirley who played bass and percussion , respectively .

Gilmour and Shirley also backed Barrett for his one and only live concert during this period . The gig took place on 6 June 1970 at the Olympia Exhibition Hall as part of a Music and Fashion Festival . The trio performed four songs , " Terrapin " , " Gigolo Aunt " , " Effervescing Elephant " and " Octopus " . Poor mixing left the vocals barely audible until part @-@ way through the last number . At the end of the fourth song , Barrett unexpectedly but politely put down his guitar and walked off the stage . The performance has been bootlegged . Barrett made one last appearance on BBC Radio , recording three songs at their studios on 16 February 1971 . All three came from the Barrett album . After this session , he took a hiatus from his music career that lasted more than a year ,

although in an extensive interview with Mick Rock and Rolling Stone in December , he discussed himself at length , showed off his new 12 @-@ string guitar , talked about touring with Jimi Hendrix and stated that he was frustrated in terms of his musical work because of his inability to find anyone good to play with .

= = = Later years (1972 ? 2006) = = =

= = = Stars and final recordings = = =

In February 1972 , after a few guest spots in Cambridge with ex @-@ Pink Fairies member Twink on drums and Jack Monck on bass using the name The Last Minute Put Together Boogie Band (backing visiting blues musician Eddie " Guitar " Burns and also featuring Henry Cow guitarist Fred Frith) , the trio formed a short @-@ lived band called Stars . Though they were initially well received at gigs in the Dandelion coffee bar and the town 's Market Square , one of their gigs at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge with the MC5 proved to be disastrous . A few days after this final show , Twink recalled that Barrett stopped him on the street , showed him a scathing review of the gig they had played , and quit on the spot , despite having played at least one subsequent gig at the same venue supporting Nektar .

Free from his EMI contract on 9 May 1972 , Barrett signed a document that ended his association with Pink Floyd , and any financial interest in future recordings . Barrett attended an informal jazz and poetry performance by Pete Brown and former Cream bassist Jack Bruce in October 1973 . Brown arrived at the show late , and saw that Bruce was already onstage , along with " a guitarist I vaguely recognised " , playing the Horace Silver tune " Doodlin ' " . Later in the show , Brown read out a poem , which he dedicated to Syd , because , " he 's here in Cambridge , and he 's one of the best songwriters in the country " when , to his surprise , the guitar player from earlier in the show stood up and said , " No I 'm not " . By the end of 1973 , Barrett had returned to live in London , staying at various hotels and , in December of that year , settling in at Chelsea Cloisters . He had little contact with others , apart from his regular visits to his management 's offices to collect his royalties , and the occasional visit from his sister Rosemary .

In August 1974 , Jenner persuaded Barrett to return to Abbey Road Studios in hope of recording another album . According to John Leckie , who engineered these sessions , even at this point Syd still " looked like he did when he was younger .. long haired " . The sessions lasted three days and consisted of blues rhythm tracks with tentative and disjointed guitar overdubs . Barrett recorded 11 tracks , the only one of which to be titled was " If You Go , Don 't Be Slow " . Once again , Barrett withdrew from the music industry , but this time for good . He sold the rights to his solo albums back to the record label and moved into a London hotel . During this period , several attempts to employ him as a record producer (including one by Jamie Reid on behalf of the Sex Pistols , and another by The Damned , who wanted him to produce their second album) were all fruitless .

= = = Withdrawal to Cambridge = = =

In 1978 , when Barrett 's money ran out , he moved back to Cambridge to live with his mother . He returned to live in London again in 1982 , but lasted only a few weeks and soon returned to Cambridge for good . Barrett walked the 50 miles (80 km) from London to Cambridge . Until his death , Barrett received royalties from his work with Pink Floyd from each compilation and some of the live and studio albums and singles that featured his songs ; Gilmour said that he " made sure the money got to [Barrett] . "

In 1996 , Barrett was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of Pink Floyd , but he did not attend the ceremony .

According to a 2005 profile in the book Madcap by biographer and journalist Tim Willis , Barrett , who had reverted to using his original name of Roger , continued to live in his late mother 's semi @-@ detached home in Cambridge , and had returned to painting , creating large abstract canvases

. He was also said to have been an avid gardener and his main point of contact with the outside world was his sister , Rosemary , who lived nearby . He was reclusive , and his physical health declined , as he suffered from stomach ulcers and type 2 diabetes .

Although Barrett had not appeared or spoken in public since the mid @-@ 1970s , time did little to diminish interest in his life and work . Reporters and fans still travelled to Cambridge to seek him out , despite his attempts to live a quiet life and public appeals from his family for people to leave him alone . Many photos of Barrett being harassed by paparazzi when walking or cycling from the 1980s until his death in 2006 , have been published in various media . Apparently , Barrett did not like being reminded about his musical career and the other members of Pink Floyd had no direct contact with him . However , he did visit his sister 's house in November 2001 to watch the BBC Omnibus documentary made about him ? reportedly he found some of it " a bit noisy " , enjoyed seeing Mike Leonard of Leonard 's Lodgers again , calling him his " teacher " , and enjoyed hearing " See Emily Play " again .

Barrett made a final public acknowledgement of his musical past in 2002 , his first since the 1970s , when he autographed 320 copies of photographer Mick Rock 's book *Psychedelic Renegades* , which contained a number of photos of Barrett . Rock was perhaps the last person in the music industry with whom Barrett kept in contact . In 1971 , Rock conducted the final interview of Barrett before his retirement from the music industry a few years later , and Barrett subsequently turned up on Rock 's London doorstep " four , maybe five times " for a cup of tea and conversation through 1978 , before Barrett moved back to Cambridge . They had not spoken in more than twenty years when Rock approached Barrett to autograph his photography book , and Barrett uncharacteristically agreed . Having reverted to his birth name " Roger " from his stage name " Syd " many years before , he had autographed the book simply " Barrett . "

= = = Death and aftermath = = =

After suffering from diabetes for several years , Barrett died at home in Cambridge on 7 July 2006 , aged 60 . The cause of death was pancreatic cancer . The occupation on his death certificate was " retired musician " . He was cremated , with his ashes given to a family member or friend . In 2006 , his home in St. Margaret 's Square , Cambridge , was put on the market and reportedly attracted considerable interest . After over 100 showings , many by fans , it was sold to a French couple who bought it simply because they liked it ; reportedly they knew nothing about Barrett . On 28 November 2006 , Barrett 's other possessions were sold at an auction at Cheffins auction house in Cambridge , raising £ 120 @,@ 000 for charity . Items sold included paintings , scrapbooks and everyday items that Barrett had decorated . NME produced a tribute issue to Barrett a week later with a photo of him on the cover . In an interview with The Sunday Times , Barrett 's sister revealed that he had written a book :

He read very deeply about the history of art and actually wrote an unpublished book about it , which I 'm too sad to read at the moment . But he found his own mind so absorbing that he didn 't want to be distracted .

In response to the news of Barrett 's death , fellow Pink Floyd bandmate David Gilmour said :

We are very sad to say that Roger Keith Barrett ? Syd ? has passed away . Do find time to play some of Syd ? s songs and to remember him as the madcap genius who made us all smile with his wonderfully eccentric songs about bikes , gnomes and scarecrows . His career was painfully short , yet he touched more people than he could ever know .

According to local newspapers , Barrett left approximately £ 1 @.@ 7 million to his two brothers and two sisters . This sum was apparently largely acquired from royalties from Pink Floyd compilations and live recordings featuring songs he had written while with the band . A tribute concert called *Games for May* was held at the Barbican Centre , London on 10 May 2007 with Robyn Hitchcock , Captain Sensible , Damon Albarn , Chrissie Hynde , Kevin Ayers and his Pink Floyd bandmates performing . A series of events called *The City Wakes* was held in Cambridge in October 2008 to celebrate Barrett 's life , art and music . Barrett 's sister , Rosemary Breen , supported this , the first @-@ ever series of official events in memory of her brother . After the festival 's success , arts

charity Escape Artists announced plans to create a centre in Cambridge , using art to help people suffering from mental health problems . A memorial bench has been placed in the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge and a more prominent tribute is planned in the city .

= = Legacy = =

= = = Wish You Were Here sessions = = =

Barrett had one noted reunion with the members of Pink Floyd , in 1975 during the recording sessions for Wish You Were Here . He attended the Abbey Road session unannounced , and watched the band record " Shine On You Crazy Diamond " ? a song that happened to be about Barrett . By that time , the 29 @-@ year @-@ old Barrett had become quite overweight , had shaved off all of his hair (including his eyebrows) , and his ex @-@ bandmates did not at first recognise him . Barrett 's behaviour at the session was erratic ; he spent part of the session brushing his teeth . Roger Waters finally managed to ask him what he thought of the song and he simply said " sounds a bit old " . He briefly attended the reception for Gilmour 's wedding to Ginger that immediately followed the recording sessions ; however , he left early without saying goodbye .

Apart from a brief encounter between Waters and Barrett in Harrods a couple of years later (during which , when Barrett saw Waters he ran outside , dropping his bags full of sweets in the process) , this was the last time any member of Pink Floyd saw him . A reflection on the day appears in Nick Mason 's book Inside Out : A Personal History of Pink Floyd . A reference to this reunion also appears in the film The Wall , where the character Pink , played by Bob Geldof , shaves his body hair after having a mental breakdown , just as Barrett had .

= = = Compilations = = =

In 1988 , EMI Records (after constant pressure from Malcolm Jones) released an album of Barrett 's studio out @-@ takes and previously unreleased material recorded from 1968 to 1970 under the title Opel . The disc was originally set to include the unreleased Barrett Pink Floyd songs " Scream Thy Last Scream " and " Vegetable Man " , which had been remixed for the album by Jones , but the band pulled two songs before Opel was finalised . In 1993 EMI issued another release , Crazy Diamond , a boxed set of all three albums , each with further out @-@ takes from his solo sessions that illustrated Barrett 's inability / refusal to play a song the same way twice . EMI also released The Best of Syd Barrett : Wouldn 't You Miss Me ? in the UK on 16 April 2001 and in the US on 11 September 2001 . This was the first time his song " Bob Dylan Blues " was officially released , taken from a demo tape that Gilmour had kept after an early 1970s session . Gilmour kept the tape , which also contains the unreleased " Living Alone " from the Barrett sessions . In October 2010 Harvest / EMI and Capitol Records released An Introduction to Syd Barrett ? a collection of both his Pink Floyd and remastered solo work . The 2010 compilation An Introduction to Syd Barrett includes the downloadable bonus track " Rhamadan " , a 20 @-@ minute track recorded at one of Syd 's earliest solo sessions , in May 1968 . In 2011 , it was announced that a vinyl double album version would be issued for Record Store Day .

Bootleg editions of Barrett 's live and solo material exist . For years the " off air " recordings of the BBC sessions with Barrett 's Pink Floyd circulated , until an engineer who had taken a tape of the early Pink Floyd gave it back to the BBC ? which played it during a tribute to John Peel on their website . During this tribute , the first Peel programme (Top Gear) was aired in its entirety . This show featured the 1967 live versions of " Flaming " , " Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun " , and a brief 90 @-@ second snippet of the instrumental " Reaction in G " . In 2012 , engineer Andy Jackson said he had found " a huge box of assorted tapes " , in Mason 's possession , containing versions of R & B songs that (the Barrett @-@ era) Pink Floyd played in their early years .

= = = Creative impact and technical innovation = = =

Barrett wrote most of Pink Floyd 's early material . He was also an innovative guitarist , using extended techniques and exploring the musical and sonic possibilities of dissonance , distortion , feedback , the echo machine , tapes and other effects ; his experimentation was partly inspired by free improvisation guitarist Keith Rowe of the group AMM , active at the time in London . One of Barrett 's trademarks was playing his guitar through an old echo box while sliding a Zippo lighter up and down the fret @-@ board to create the mysterious , otherworldly sounds that became associated with the group . Barrett was known to have used Binson delay units to achieve his trademark echo sounds . Daevid Allen , founder member of Soft Machine and Gong , has cited Barrett 's use of slide guitar with echo as a key inspiration for his own " glissando guitar " style .

His recordings both with Pink Floyd and in later solo albums were delivered with a strongly British @-@ accented vocal delivery , specifically that of southern @-@ England . He was described by Guardian writer Nick Kent as having a " quintessential English style of vocal projection " . David Bowie was quoted as saying that Barrett , along with Anthony Newley , was the first person he had heard sing rock or pop music with a British accent .

Barrett 's free @-@ form sequences of " sonic carpets " pioneered a new way to play the rock guitar . He played several different guitars during his tenure , including an old Harmony hollowbody electric , a Harmony acoustic , a Fender acoustic , a single @-@ coil Danelectro 59 DC , several different Fender Telecasters and a white Fender Stratocaster in late 1967 . A silver Fender Esquire with mirrored discs glued to the body was the guitar he was most often associated with and the guitar he " felt most close to . "

= = = Musical and pop culture influence = = =

Many artists have acknowledged Barrett 's influence on their work . Paul McCartney , Pete Townshend , Blur , Kevin Ayers , Gong , Marc Bolan , Tangerine Dream , Julian Cope and David Bowie were inspired by Barrett ; Jimmy Page , Brian Eno , and The Damned all expressed interest in working with him at some point during the 1970s . Bowie recorded a cover of " See Emily Play " on his 1973 album Pin Ups . The track " Grass " , from XTC 's album Skylarking was influenced when Andy Partridge let fellow band member Colin Moulding borrow his Barrett records . Robyn Hitchcock 's career was dedicated to being Barrett @-@ esque ; he even played " Dominoes " for the 2001 BBC documentary The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story .

Barrett 's decline had a profound effect on Roger Waters ' songwriting , and the theme of mental illness permeated Pink Floyd 's later albums , particularly 1973 's The Dark Side of the Moon and 1975 's Wish You Were Here which was a deliberate and affectionate tribute to Barrett , the song , " Shine on You Crazy Diamond " , and also 1979 's The Wall . " Wish You Were Here " , partly about Barrett , borrows imagery of a " steel rail " from Barrett 's solo song , " If It 's in You , " from The Madcap Laughs album .

In 1987 , an album of Barrett cover songs called Beyond the Wildwood was released . The album was a collection of cover songs from Barrett 's tenure with Pink Floyd and from his solo career . Artists appearing were UK and US indie bands including The Shamen , Opal , The Soup Dragons , and Plasticland .

Other artists who have written tributes to Barrett include his contemporary Kevin Ayers , who wrote " O Wot a Dream " in his honour (Barrett provided guitar to an early version of Ayers ' song " Religious Experience : Singing a Song in the Morning ") . Robyn Hitchcock has covered many of his songs live and on record and paid homage to his forebear with the song " (Feels Like) 1974 " . Phish covered " Bike " , " No Good Trying " , " Love You " , " Baby Lemonade " and " Terrapin " . The Television Personalities ' single " I Know Where Syd Barrett Lives " from their 1981 album And Don 't the Kids Love It is another tribute . In 2008 , The Trash Can Sinatras released a single in tribute to the life and work of Syd Barrett called " Oranges and Apples " , from their 2009 album In the Music . Proceeds from the single go to the Syd Barrett Trust in support of arts in mental health .

Johnny Depp showed interest in a biographical film based on Barrett 's life . Barrett is portrayed briefly in the opening scene of Tom Stoppard 's play Rock ' n ' Roll (2006) , performing " Golden

Hair ". His life and music , including the disastrous Cambridge Corn Exchange concert and his later reclusive lifestyle , are a recurring motif in the work . Barrett died during the play 's run in London .

= = = Statue = = =

In October 2015 , a proposed statue of Barrett to be erected in the foyer of Cambridge Corn Exchange was announced . With £ 10 @, @ 000 funded by Cambridge City Council , the unveiling is planned for 2016 .

= = Personal life = =

There has been much speculation concerning Barrett 's psychological well @-@ being . His family have denied that he suffered from mental illness , (despite displaying an almost textbook case of schizophrenia) , but in a 2016 interview , his sister Rosmary Breen said that his mind was brilliant , bordering on that seen in Aspergers Syndrome . Barrett 's use of psychedelic drugs , especially LSD , during the 1960s is well documented , and there were theories he subsequently suffered from schizophrenia . Rick Wright asserts that Syd 's problems stemmed from a massive overdose of acid , as the change in his personality and behavior came on quite suddenly . However , Roger Waters maintains that Syd suffered " without a doubt " from schizophrenia and in an article published in 2006 , in response to notions that Barrett 's problems came from the drug , and Gilmour was quoted as saying :

In my opinion , his nervous breakdown would have happened anyway . It was a deep @-@ rooted thing . But I 'll say the psychedelic experience might well have acted as a catalyst . Still , I just don 't think he could deal with the vision of success and all the things that went with it . "

Many stories of Barrett 's erratic behaviour off stage as well as on are also well @-@ documented . In Saucerful of Secrets : The Pink Floyd Odyssey , author Nicholas Schaffner interviewed people who knew Barrett before and during his Pink Floyd days . These included friends Peter and Susan Wynne @-@ Wilson , artist Duggie Fields (with whom Barrett shared a flat during the late 1960s) , June Bolan and Storm Thorgerson , among others .

" For June Bolan , the alarm bells began to sound only when Syd kept his girlfriend under lock and key for three days , occasionally shoving a ration of biscuits under the door . " A claim of cruelty against Barrett committed by the groupies and hangers @-@ on who frequented his apartment during this period was described by writer and critic Jonathan Meades . " I went [to Barrett 's flat] to see Harry and there was this terrible noise . It sounded like heating pipes shaking . I said , ' What 's up ? ' and he sort of giggled and said , ' That 's Syd having a bad trip . We put him in the linen cupboard ' " . Storm Thorgerson responded to this claim by stating " I do not remember locking Syd up in a cupboard . It sounds to me like pure fantasy , like Jonathan Meades was on dope himself . " Other friends assert that Barrett 's infamous flatmates , " Mad Jock " and " Mad Sue , " believed that acid held all the answers and thought of Barrett as a genius or " god , " and were spiking his morning coffee with LSD every day without his knowledge , leaving him in a never @-@ ending trip . He was later rescued from that flat by friends and moved elsewhere , but his erratic behavior continued . Watkinson and Anderson included quotes from a story told to them by Thorgerson that underscored how volatile Barrett could be . " On one occasion , I had to pull him off Lindsay (Barrett 's girlfriend at the time) because he was beating her over the head with a mandolin " . On one occasion , Barrett threw a woman called Gilly across the room , because she refused to go to Gilmour 's house . These strange behaviors contradicted Barrett 's usually gentle nature . According to Gilmour in an interview with Nick Kent , the other members of Pink Floyd approached psychiatrist R. D. Laing with the ' Barrett problem ' . After hearing a tape of a Barrett conversation , Laing declared him " incurable " .

After Barrett died , his sister Rosemary insisted that Barrett neither suffered from mental illness nor received treatment for it at any time since they resumed regular contact in the 1980s . She allowed that he did spend some time in a private " home for lost souls " ? Greenwoods in Essex ? but claimed there was no formal therapy programme there . Some years later , Barrett apparently

agreed to sessions with a psychiatrist at Fulbourn psychiatric hospital in Cambridge , but Breen claimed that neither medication nor therapy was considered appropriate . His sister denied he was a recluse or that he was vague about his past :

Roger may have been a bit selfish ? or rather self @-@ absorbed ? but when people called him a recluse they were really only projecting their own disappointment . He knew what they wanted , but he wasn 't willing to give it to them .

Barrett , she said , took up photography and sometimes they went to the seaside together . She also said he took a keen interest in art and horticulture and continued to devote himself to painting :

Quite often he took the train on his own to London to look at the major art collections ? and he loved flowers . He made regular trips to the Botanic Gardens and to the dahlias at Anglesey Abbey , near Lode . But of course , his passion was his painting .

Despite his relationships with various women such as Libby Gaudsen , Lindsay Korner , Jenny Spires and Iggy the Eskimo ; Barrett never married or had children , he was briefly engaged to marry Gayla Pinion and planned to relocate to Oxford , but the marriage never happened .

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

The Madcap Laughs (1970)

Barrett (1970)

= = Filmography = =

Syd Barrett 's First Trip (1966) directed by Nigel Lesmoir @-@ Gordon

London ' 66 ? ' 67 (1967)

Tonite Lets All Make Love in London (1967)

The Pink Floyd and Syd Barrett Story (2003)