

= Hey Jude =

" Hey Jude " is a song by the English rock band the Beatles , written by Paul McCartney and credited to Lennon ? McCartney . The ballad evolved from " Hey Jules " , a song McCartney wrote to comfort John Lennon 's son , Julian , during his parents ' divorce . " Hey Jude " begins with a verse @-@ bridge structure incorporating McCartney 's vocal performance and piano accompaniment ; further instrumentation is added as the song progresses . After the fourth verse , the song shifts to a fade @-@ out coda that lasts for more than four minutes .

" Hey Jude " was released in August 1968 as the first single from the Beatles ' record label Apple Records . More than seven minutes in length , it was at the time the longest single ever to top the British charts . It also spent nine weeks at number one in the United States , the longest for any Beatles single . " Hey Jude " tied the " all @-@ time " record , at the time , for the longest run at the top of the US charts . The single has sold approximately eight million copies and is frequently included on professional critics ' lists of the greatest songs of all time . In 2013 , Billboard named it the 10th biggest song of all time .

= = Inspiration and writing = =

In May 1968 , John Lennon and his wife Cynthia Lennon separated because of John 's affair with Yoko Ono . The following month , Paul McCartney drove out to visit Cynthia and John 's son , Julian , at Kenwood , the family 's home in Weybridge . Cynthia had been part of the Beatles ' social circle since before the band 's rise to fame in 1963 ; McCartney later said he found it " a bit much for them suddenly to be personae non gratae and out of my life " . Cynthia Lennon recalled of McCartney 's surprise visit : " I was touched by his obvious concern for our welfare ... On the journey down he composed ' Hey Jude ' in the car . I will never forget Paul 's gesture of care and concern in coming to see us . "

The song 's original title was " Hey Jules " , and it was intended to comfort Julian Lennon from the stress of his parents ' separation . McCartney later said , " I knew it was not going to be easy for him " , and that he changed the name to " Jude " " because I thought that sounded a bit better " .

According to music journalist Chris Hunt , in the weeks after writing the song , McCartney " test [ed] his latest composition on anyone too polite to refuse . And that meant everyone . " On 30 June , after recording the Black Dyke Mills Band 's rendition of his instrumental " Thingumybob " , in Yorkshire , McCartney stopped at a village in Bedfordshire and performed " Hey Jude " at a local pub . He also regaled members of the Bonzo Dog Band with the song while producing their single " I 'm the Urban Spaceman " , in London , and interrupted a recording session by the Barron Knights to do the same . Ron Griffith of the group the Iveys ? soon to be known as Badfinger and , like the Black Dyke Mills Band , an early signing to the Beatles ' new record label Apple Records ? later recalled that on their first day in the studio , McCartney " gave us a full concert rendition of ' Hey Jude ' " .

When introducing the composition to Lennon , McCartney assured him that he would " fix " the line " the movement you need is on your shoulder " , reasoning that " it 's a stupid expression ; it sounds like a parrot . " Lennon replied : " You won 't , you know . That 's the best line in the song . " McCartney retained the phrase ; he later said of his subsequent live performances of the song : " that 's the line when I think of John , and sometimes I get a little emotional during that moment . "

Although McCartney originally wrote " Hey Jude " for Julian , John Lennon thought it had actually been written for him . In a 1980 interview , Lennon stated that he " always heard it as a song to me " and contended that , on one level , McCartney was giving his blessing to Lennon and Ono 's relationship , while , on another , he was disappointed to be usurped as Lennon 's friend and songwriting partner .

Other people believed McCartney wrote the song about them , including Judith Simons , a journalist with the Daily Express . Still others , including Lennon , have speculated that in the lyrics to " Hey Jude " , McCartney 's failing long @-@ term relationship with Jane Asher provided an unconscious " message to himself " . McCartney and Asher had announced their engagement on 25 December

1967 , yet he began an affair with Linda Eastman in June 1968 ; that same month , Francie Schwartz , an American who was in London to discuss a film proposal with Apple , began living with McCartney at his St John 's Wood home . When Lennon mentioned that he thought the song was about him and Ono , McCartney denied it and told Lennon he had written the song about himself .

Author Mark Hertsgaard has commented that " many of the song 's lyrics do seem directed more at a grown man on the verge of a powerful new love , especially the lines ' you have found her now go and get her ' and ' you 're waiting for someone to perform with . ' " Music critic and author Tim Riley writes : " If the song is about self @-@ worth and self @-@ consolation in the face of hardship , the vocal performance itself conveys much of the journey . He begins by singing to comfort someone else , finds himself weighing his own feelings in the process , and finally , in the repeated refrains that nurture his own approbation , he comes to believe in himself . "

= = Production = =

= = = Abbey Road rehearsals = = =

Having earmarked the song for release as a single , the Beatles recorded " Hey Jude " during the sessions for their self @-@ titled double album , commonly known as " the White Album " . The sessions were marked by an element of discord within the group for the first time , partly as a result of Ono 's constant presence at Lennon 's side , and also reflective of the four band members ' divergence following their communal trip to Rishikesh in the spring of 1968 to study Transcendental Meditation . Author Peter Doggett describes the completed version of " Hey Jude " as a song that " glowed with optimism after a summer that had burned with anxiety and rage within the group " .

The Beatles first taped 25 takes of the song at EMI 's Abbey Road Studios in London over two nights , 29 and 30 July 1968 , with George Martin as their producer . These dates served as rehearsals , however , since they planned to record the master track at Trident Studios to utilise their eight @-@ track recording machine (Abbey Road was still limited to four @-@ tracks) . A take from 29 July , which author and critic Kenneth Womack describes as a " jovial " session , was issued on the Anthology 3 compilation in 1996 .

The 30 July rehearsals were filmed for a short documentary titled Music ! The film shows only three of the Beatles performing " Hey Jude " , however , since George Harrison remained in the studio control room , with Martin and EMI recording engineer Ken Scott . Author Simon Leng views this as indicative of how Harrison was increasingly allowed little room to develop ideas on McCartney compositions , whereas he was free to create empathetic guitar parts for Lennon 's songs of the period .

During the rehearsals that day , Harrison and McCartney had a heated disagreement over the lead guitar part for the song . Harrison 's idea was to play a guitar phrase as a response to each line of the vocal , which did not fit with McCartney 's conception of the song 's arrangement , and he vetoed it . In a 1994 interview , McCartney said , " looking back on it , I think , Okay . Well , it was bossy , but it was ballsy of me , because I could have bowed to the pressure . " Ron Richards , a record producer who worked for Martin at both Parlophone and AIR Studios , said McCartney was " oblivious to anyone else 's feelings in the studio " , and that he was driven to making the best possible record , at almost any cost .

= = = Trident Studios recording = = =

The master track for " Hey Jude " was recorded at Trident Studios on 31 July . Trident 's founder , Norman Sheffield , recalled that Mal Evans , the Beatles ' aide and former roadie , insisted that some pot plants he had brought be placed in the studio to make the place " soft " , consistent with the band 's wishes . Sheffield served as recording engineer for the session . The line @-@ up on the basic track was McCartney on piano and lead vocal , Lennon on acoustic guitar , Harrison on electric guitar , and Ringo Starr on drums .

The Beatles recorded four takes of " Hey Jude " , the first of which was selected as the master . With drums absent for the first 50 seconds of the song , McCartney began this take unaware that Starr had just left for a toilet break . Starr soon returned ? " tiptoeing past my back rather quickly " , in McCartney 's recollection ? and performed his cue perfectly . McCartney added : " his timing was absolutely impeccable . "

On 1 August , the group carried out overdubs on the basic track , again at Trident . These additions included McCartney 's lead vocal and bass guitar ; backing vocals from Lennon , McCartney and Harrison ; and tambourine , played by Starr . They then added a 36 @-@ piece orchestra over the long coda , scored by Martin . The orchestra consisted of ten violins , three violas , three cellos , two flutes , one contra bassoon , one bassoon , two clarinets , one contra bass clarinet , four trumpets , four trombones , two horns , percussion and two string basses . With the introduction of what musicologist Walter Everett terms the " bottom @-@ heavy " orchestral instruments , particularly the string basses , McCartney 's bass part was cut from the start of the coda onwards .

According to Sheffield , there was dissension initially among the orchestral musicians , some of whom " were looking down their noses at the Beatles , I think " . Sheffield recalls that McCartney ensured their cooperation by demanding : " Do you guys want to get fucking paid or not ? " During the first few takes , McCartney was unhappy about the lack of energy and passion in the orchestra 's performance , so he stood up on the grand piano and started conducting the musicians from there .

The Beatles then asked the orchestra members if they would clap their hands and sing along to the refrain in the coda . All but one of the musicians complied (for a double fee) , with the abstainer reportedly saying , " I 'm not going to clap my hands and sing Paul McCartney 's bloody song ! " Apple Records assistant Chris O 'Dell says she joined the cast of backing singers on the song ; one of the label 's first signings , Jackie Lomax , also recalled participating .

Trident was paid £ 25 per hour by EMI for the " Hey Jude " sessions . Sheffield said that the studio earned about £ 1000 in total at the time , but by having the Beatles record there , and in turn raving about the facility , the value was incalculable . The band carried out further work at Trident during 1968 , and Apple artists such as Lomax , Mary Hopkin , Billy Preston and the Iveys all recorded there over the next year .

= = = Mixing = = =

Scott , Martin and the Beatles mixed the finished recording at Abbey Road . The transfer of the Trident master tape to acetate proved problematic due to the recording sounding murky when played back on EMI 's equipment . The issue was resolved with the help of Geoff Emerick , whom Scott had recently replaced as the Beatles ' principal recording engineer . Emerick happened to be visiting Abbey Road , having recently refused to work with the Beatles any longer , due to the tension and abuse that had become commonplace at their recording sessions . A stereo mix of " Hey Jude " was then completed on 2 August and the mono version on 8 August .

Everett writes that the song 's " most commented @-@ on feature " is its considerable length , at 7 : 11 . The precedent for issuing such a long track on a single had recently been set by Richard Harris ' hit recording of " MacArthur Park " , the composer of which , Jimmy Webb , was a visitor to the studio around this time . According to Webb , Martin admitted to him that " Hey Jude " was only allowed to run over seven minutes because of the success of " MacArthur Park " .

In the song 's final bridge section , at 2 : 58 , the spoken phrase " Fucking hell ! " appears . Scott admits that although he was told about it , he could not hear the words originally . Lennon attributed the expletive to McCartney , according to Emerick , who reports Lennon 's comment in his autobiography : " ' Paul hit a clunker on the piano and said a naughty word , ' Lennon gleefully crowed , ' but I insisted we leave it in [at Trident] , buried just low enough so that it can barely be heard . Most people won 't ever spot it ... but we 'll know it 's there . ' " Womack considers that the expletive was actually uttered by Lennon . Malcolm Toft , the mix engineer on the Trident recording , also attributes it to Lennon . In Toft 's recollection , Lennon was overdubbing his harmony vocal when , in reaction to the volume being too loud in his headphones , he first called out " Whoa ! " then , two seconds later , swore as he pulled the headphones off .

== Composition and structure ==

" Hey Jude " begins with McCartney singing lead vocals and playing the piano . The patterns he plays are based on three chords : F , C , and B ? (I , V and IV) . The main chord progression is " flipped on its head " , in Hertsgaard 's words , for the coda , since the C chord is replaced by E ? . Everett comments that McCartney 's melody over the verses borrows in part from John Ireland 's 1907 liturgical piece *Te Deum* , as well as (with the first change to a B ? chord) suggesting the influence of the Drifters ' 1960 hit " Save the Last Dance for Me " .

The second verse of the song adds accompaniment from acoustic guitar and tambourine . Tim Riley writes that , with the " restrained tom @-@ tom and cymbal fill " that introduces the drum part , " the piano shifts downward to add a flat seventh to the tonic chord , making the downbeat of the bridge the point of arrival (' And any time you feel the pain ') . " At the end of each bridge , McCartney sings a brief phrase (" Na @-@ na @-@ na na ? ") , supported by an electric guitar fill , before playing a piano fill that leads to the next verse . According to Riley , this vocal phrase serves to " reorient the harmony for the verse as the piano figure turns upside down into a vocal aside " . Additional musical details , such as tambourine on the third verse and subtle harmonies accompanying the lead vocal , are added to sustain interest throughout the four @-@ verse , two @-@ bridge song .

The verse @-@ bridge structure persists for approximately three minutes , after which the band leads into a four @-@ minute @-@ long coda , consisting of nineteen rounds of the song 's double plagal cadence . During this coda , the rest of the band , backed by an orchestra that also provides backing vocals , repeats the phrase " Na @-@ na @-@ na na " followed by the words " hey Jude " until the song gradually fades out . In his analysis of the composition , musicologist Alan Pollack comments on the unusual structure of " Hey Jude " , in that it uses a " binary form that combines a fully developed , hymn @-@ like song together with an extended , mantra @-@ like jam on a simple chord progression " .

Riley considers that the coda 's repeated chord sequence (I - ? VII @-@ IV @-@ I) " answers all the musical questions raised at the beginnings and ends of bridges " , since " The flat seventh that posed dominant turns into bridges now has an entire chord built on it . " This three @-@ chord refrain allows McCartney " a bedding ... to leap about on vocally " , so he ad @-@ libs his vocal performance for the rest of the song . In Riley 's estimation , the song " becomes a tour of Paul 's vocal range : from the graceful inviting tones of the opening verse , through the mounting excitement of the song itself , to the surging raves of the coda " .

== Release ==

" Hey Jude " was released on 26 August 1968 in the United States and 30 August in the United Kingdom , backed with " Revolution " on the B @-@ side of a 7 " single . It was one of four singles issued simultaneously to launch Apple Records ? the others being Mary Hopkin 's " Those Were the Days " , Jackie Lomax 's " Sour Milk Sea " , and the Black Dyke Mills Band 's " Thingummybob " . In advance of the release date , Apple declared 11 ? 18 August to be " National Apple Week " in the UK , and sent gift @-@ wrapped boxes of the records , marked " Our First Four " , to Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family , and to the British prime minister . The release was promoted by Derek Taylor , who , in Doggett 's description , " hyped the first Apple records with typical elan " . " Hey Jude " was the first of the four singles , since it was still designated as an EMI / Parlophone release in the UK and a Capitol release in the US , but with the Apple Records logo now added . In the US , " Hey Jude " was the first Beatles single to be issued in a company sleeve rather than a picture sleeve .

Lennon wanted " Revolution " to be the A @-@ side of the single , but the other Beatles did not agree . In his 1970 interview with *Rolling Stone* , he said " Hey Jude " was worthy of an A @-@ side , " but we could have had both . " In 1980 , he told *Playboy* he still disagreed with the decision .

The single was a highly successful debut for Apple Records , and contrasted with the public

embarrassment the band faced after the recent closure of their short @-@ lived retail venture , Apple Boutique . " Hey Jude " began its sixteen @-@ week run on Britain 's official singles chart on 7 September 1968 , claiming the top spot a week later . It lasted two weeks on top before being replaced by Hopkin 's " Those Were the Days " , which was produced by McCartney . " Hey Jude " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on 13 September ; that same week , NME reported that two million copies of the single had been sold . The song entered the Billboard Hot 100 in the US on 14 September , beginning a nineteen @-@ week chart run there . It reached number one on 28 September and held that position for nine weeks , for three of which , " Those Were the Days " held the number @-@ two spot . This was the longest time spent by a Beatles single at number one , as well as being the longest @-@ playing single to reach number one . The song was the 16th number @-@ one hit for the band in America , tying Elvis Presley 's record at the time for most number @-@ one songs there . Billboard ranked it as the number @-@ one song for 1968 .

In the UK , where " MacArthur Park " had failed to top the chart , " Hey Jude " remained the longest number @-@ one hit for nearly a quarter of a century . It was surpassed in 1993 by Meat Loaf 's " I 'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won 't Do That) " , which ran to 7 : 52 as a single .

On 30 November 1968 , NME reported that sales had reached nearly six million copies worldwide . " Hey Jude " became the biggest @-@ selling debut release for a record label ever , selling an estimated eight million copies worldwide and topping the charts in eleven countries . In 1999 , it was certified 4x platinum by the RIAA , representing four million units shipped in the US .

= = Promotion = =

A failed early promotional attempt for the single took place after the Beatles ' all @-@ night recording session on 7 ? 8 August 1968 . With Apple Boutique having closed a week before , McCartney and his girlfriend , Francie Schwartz , painted Hey Jude / Revolution across its large , whitewashed shop windows . The words were mistaken for anti @-@ Semitic graffiti (since Jude means " Jew " in German) , leading to complaints from the local Jewish community , and the windows being smashed by passers @-@ by . Discussing the episode in The Beatles Anthology , McCartney explained that he had been motivated by the location ? " Great opportunity . Baker Street , millions of buses going around ? " ? and added : " I had no idea it meant ' Jew ' , but if you look at footage of Nazi Germany , ' Juden Raus ' was written in whitewashed windows with a Star of David . I swear it never occurred to me . " According to Barry Miles , McCartney caused further controversy in his comments to Alan Smith of the NME that month when he said : " Starvation in India doesn 't worry me one bit , not one iota ? And it doesn 't worry you , if you 're honest . You just pose . "

The Beatles hired Michael Lindsay @-@ Hogg to shoot a promotional film for " Hey Jude " , after he had previously directed a clip for " Paperback Writer " in 1966 . They settled on the idea of filming with a live , albeit controlled audience . In the film , the Beatles are first seen by themselves , performing the initial chorus and verses , and then are joined by the audience who appear as the last chorus concludes and coda begins ; the audience sings and claps along with the Beatles through the song 's conclusion . Hogg shot the film at Twickenham Film Studios on 4 September 1968 , with McCartney himself designing the set . Tony Bramwell , a friend of the Beatles , later described the set as " the piano , there ; drums , there ; and orchestra in two tiers at the back . " The event marked Starr 's return to the group , after McCartney 's criticism of his drumming had led to him walking out during a session for the White Album track " Back in the U.S.S.R. " During his two @-@ week absence , Starr announced that he had left the band .

The final film was a combination of several different takes and included filmed " introductions " to the song by David Frost (who introduced the Beatles as " the greatest tea @-@ room orchestra in the world ") , and Cliff Richard , for their respective , eponymous TV programmes . As filming wore on , Lennon repeatedly asked Lindsay @-@ Hogg if he had the footage he needed . After twelve takes , McCartney said , " I think that 's enough " , and filming concluded . It was first aired in the UK on Frost on Sunday on 8 September 1968 , and the film was later broadcast for the United States on The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour on 6 October . According to Riley , the showing on Frost on

Sunday " kicked ' Hey Jude ' into the stratosphere " in terms of popularity . Hertsgaard pairs it with the release of the animated film Yellow Submarine as two events that created " a state of nirvana " for Beatles fans , in contrast with the problems besetting the band regarding Ono 's influence and Apple .

The 4 September 1968 promo film is included in the Beatles ' 2015 video compilation 1 , while the three @-@ disc versions of that compilation , titled 1 + , also include an alternate video , with a different introduction and vocal , from the same date .

= = Critical reception = =

Upon the single 's release , Derek Johnson of the NME wrote : " The intriguing features of ' Hey Jude ' are its extreme length and the 40 @-@ piece orchestral accompaniment ? and personally I would have preferred it without either ! " While he viewed the track overall as " a beautiful , compelling song " , and the first three minutes as " absolutely sensational " , Johnson rued the long coda 's " vocal improvisations on the basically repetitive four @-@ bar chorus " . Time magazine described the coda as " a fadeout that engagingly spoofs the fadeout as a gimmick for ending pop records " . The same reviewer contrasted " Hey Jude " with its B @-@ side , " Revolution " , saying that " The other side of the new disk urges activism of a different sort " , due to McCartney " liltily exhort [ing] a friend to overcome his fears and commit himself in love " . Rolling Stone also attributed the song 's meaning as a message from McCartney to Lennon to end his negative relationships with women : " to break the old pattern ; to really go through with love " . Other commentators interpreted " Hey Jude " as being directed at Bob Dylan , then semi @-@ retired in Woodstock .

Writing in 1971 , Robert Christgau of The Village Voice called it " one of [McCartney 's] truest and most forthright love songs " and was critical of its omission from the album The Beatles . In their 1975 book The Beatles : An Illustrated Record , critics Roy Carr and Tony Tyler wrote that " Hey Jude " " promised great things " for the ill @-@ conceived Apple enterprise and described the song as " the last great Beatles single recorded specifically for the 45s market " . They noted also that " the epic proportions of the piece " encouraged many imitators , yet these other artists " [failed] to capture the gentleness and sympathy of the Beatles ' communal feel " .

Among more recent commentators , Alan Pollack admires " Hey Jude " as " such a good illustration of two compositional lessons ? how to fill a large canvas with simple means , and how to use diverse elements such as harmony , bassline , and orchestration to articulate form and contrast . " Pollack considers that the song 's long coda provides " an astonishingly transcendental effect " , while AllMusic 's Richie Unterberger similarly opines : " What could have very easily been boring is instead hypnotic because McCartney varies the vocal with some of the greatest nonsense scatting ever heard in rock ? " In his book Revolution in the Head , Ian MacDonald wrote that the " pseudo @-@ soul shrieking in the fade @-@ out may be a blemish " but he praised the song as " a pop / rock hybrid drawing on the best of both idioms " . MacDonald concluded : " ' Hey Jude ' strikes a universal note , touching on an archetypal moment in male sexual psychology with a gentle wisdom one might properly call inspired . " Lennon said the song was " one of [McCartney 's] masterpieces " .

= = Awards and accolades = =

" Hey Jude " was nominated for the Grammy Awards of 1969 in the categories of Record of the Year , Song of the Year and Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal , but failed to win any of them . In the 1968 NME Readers ' Poll , " Hey Jude " was named the best single of the year , and the song also won the 1968 Ivor Novello Award for " A @-@ Side With the Highest Sales " . In 2001 , " Hey Jude " was inducted into the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences Grammy Hall of Fame .

In 2004 , Rolling Stone ranked " Hey Jude " at number eight on the " 500 Greatest Songs of All Time " , making it the highest @-@ placed Beatles song on the list . Among its many appearances

in other best @-@ song @-@ of @-@ all @-@ time lists , VH1 placed it seventh in 2000 and Mojo ranked it at number 29 in the same year , having placed the song seventh in a 1997 list of " The 100 Greatest Singles of All Time " . In 1976 , the NME ranked it 38th on the magazine 's " Top 100 Singles of All Time " , and the track appeared at number 77 on the same publication 's " The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time " in 2014 . In January 2001 , " Hey Jude " came in third on Channel 4 's list of the " 100 Greatest Singles " . The Amusement & Music Operators Association ranks " Hey Jude " as the 11th @-@ best jukebox single of all time . In 2008 , the song appeared in eighth place on Billboard 's " All Time Hot 100 Songs " .

In July 2006 , Mojo placed " Hey Jude " at number 12 on its list of " The 101 Greatest Beatles Songs " (between " Eleanor Rigby " and " Come Together ") . On a similar list compiled four years later , Rolling Stone ranked the song at number seven .

In 2015 , the ITV program " The Nation 's Favourite Beatles Number One " ranked Hey Jude number one in the show 's countdown .

= = Auctioned lyrics = =

Julian Lennon discovered that " Hey Jude " had been written for him almost twenty years after McCartney composed the song . He recalled of his and McCartney 's relationship : " Paul and I used to hang about quite a bit ? more than Dad and I did . We had a great friendship going and there seems to be far more pictures of me and Paul playing together at that age than there are pictures of me and my dad . " In 1996 , Julian paid £ 25 @,@ 000 for the recording notes to " Hey Jude " at an auction . He spent a further £ 35 @,@ 000 at the auction , buying John Lennon memorabilia . John Cousins , Julian Lennon 's manager , stated at the time : " He has a few photographs of his father , but not very much else . He is collecting for personal reasons ; these are family heirlooms if you like . "

In 2002 , the original handwritten lyrics for the song were nearly auctioned off at Christie 's in London . The sheet of notepaper with the scrawled lyrics had been expected to fetch up to £ 80 @,@ 000 at the auction , which was scheduled for 30 April 2002 . McCartney went to court to stop the auction , claiming the paper had disappeared from his West London home . Richard Morgan , representing Christie 's , said McCartney had provided no evidence that he had ever owned the piece of paper on which the lyrics were written . The courts decided in McCartney 's favour and prohibited the sale of the lyrics . They had been sent to Christie 's for auction by Frenchman Florrent Tessier , who said he purchased the piece of paper at a street market stall in London for £ 10 in the early 1970s . In the original catalogue for the auction , Julian Lennon had written , " It 's very strange to think that someone has written a song about you . It still touches me . "

= = Cover versions and performances = =

" Hey Jude " was one of the few Beatles songs that Elvis Presley covered , when he rehearsed the track at his 1969 Memphis sessions with producer Chips Moman , a recording that appeared on the 1972 album Elvis Now . A medley of the Beatles ' " Yesterday " and " Hey Jude " was included on the 1999 reissue of Presley 's 1970 live album On Stage .

A 1968 cover by Wilson Pickett attracted success and attention for the guitar work , by a young Duane Allman . Eric Clapton commented , " I remember hearing [it] and calling either Ahmet Ertegun or Tom Dowd and saying , ' Who 's that guitar player ? ' ... To this day , I 've never heard better rock guitar playing on an R & B record . It 's the best . "

" Weird Al " Yankovic included " Hey Jude " in his first polka medley , " Polkas on 45 " , from his 1984 album " Weird Al " Yankovic in 3 @-@ D. Katy Perry performed a cover of the song as part of the 2012 MusiCares Person of the Year concert honouring McCartney .

Paul McCartney sang the song in the closing moments of the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics hosted in London . On 4 August 2012 , McCartney led the crowd in a rendition of " Hey Jude " while watching cycling at the velodrome .

= = Personnel = =

Paul McCartney ? lead vocal , piano , bass , handclaps

John Lennon ? backing vocal , acoustic guitar , handclaps

George Harrison ? backing vocal , lead guitar , handclaps

Ringo Starr ? backing vocal , drums , tambourine , handclaps

Uncredited 36 @-@ piece orchestra ? 10 violins , three violas , three cellos , two double basses , two flutes , two clarinets , one bass clarinet , one bassoon , one contrabassoon , four trumpets , two horns , four trombones , and one percussion instrument ; 35 of these musicians on additional backing vocals and handclaps

Personnel per Ian MacDonald and Mark Lewisohn .

= = Charts = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = All @-@ time charts = = =

= = Certifications = =