

= Yellow Submarine ( album ) =

Yellow Submarine is the tenth studio album by the English rock band the Beatles , released on 13 January 1969 in the United States and on 17 January 1969 in the United Kingdom . It was issued as the soundtrack to the animated film of the same name , which premiered in London in July 1968 . The album contains six songs by the Beatles , of which " Yellow Submarine " and " All You Need Is Love " had both been previously released . The remainder of the album was a re @-@ recording of the film 's orchestral soundtrack by the band 's producer , George Martin .

The project was regarded as a contractual obligation by the Beatles , who were asked to supply four new songs for the film . Some songs were written and recorded specifically for the soundtrack , while others were unreleased tracks from other projects . The album was issued two months after the band 's self @-@ titled double LP ( also known as the " White Album " ) and was therefore not viewed by the band as a significant release . Yellow Submarine has since been afforded a mixed reception from music critics , some of whom consider that it falls short of the high standard generally associated with the Beatles ' work . It reached the top 5 in the UK and the US , and has been reissued on compact disc several times .

= = Background and recording = =

The album arose from contractual obligations for the Beatles to supply new songs to the soundtrack to United Artists ' animated film Yellow Submarine . Having recently completed their album Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band in April 1967 , the group showed minimal enthusiasm for the project . Along with the music for their Magical Mystery Tour TV film , the Yellow Submarine soundtrack was part of a period that author Ian MacDonald later described as the band 's " regime of continuous low @-@ intensity recording ... it had a workaday quality about it ? an intrinsic lack of tension which was bound to colour the resulting material . "

= = = Soundtrack songs = = =

Only one side of the album contains songs performed by the Beatles ; of the six , four were previously unreleased . " Yellow Submarine " had been issued in August 1966 as a single , topping the UK chart for four weeks , and had also been released on the album Revolver . Following the Beatles ' performance of the song on the Our World international television broadcast , " All You Need Is Love " had also been issued as a single , in July 1967 .

Of the unreleased tracks , the first to be recorded was George Harrison 's " Only a Northern Song " , taped in February 1967 but rejected for inclusion on Sgt. Pepper . The group performed overdubs on this basic track in April , immediately after completing the stereo mixes for that album . Among the sounds added during what Beatles historian Mark Lewisohn describes as " a curious session " , were trumpet , glockenspiel and spoken voices . Harrison 's lyrics reflect his displeasure at being merely a contracted songwriter to the Beatles ' publishing company , Northern Songs .

" All Together Now " was recorded in a single session on 12 May 1967 , specifically for the film project . The title came from a phrase Paul McCartney had heard as a child , to encourage everyone to sing music hall songs . He later described the song as " a throwaway " .

The band recorded Harrison 's " It 's All Too Much " in late May 1967 at De Lane Lea Studios in central London . Inspired by its author 's experimentation with the drug LSD , and originally running to over eight minutes in length , the song reflects the Summer of Love philosophy of 1967 and makes extensive use of guitar feedback . As with the later recorded " All You Need Is Love " , the track includes musical and lyrical quotations from other works ? in this case , a trumpet passage from Jeremiah Clarke 's " Prince of Denmark 's March " and a lyric from the Merseys ' 1966 hit " Sorrow " .

John Lennon 's " Hey Bulldog " was recorded on 11 February 1968 and evolved from an initial intent to shoot a promotional film for the single " Lady Madonna " . Like " All Together Now " , it was specifically recorded with the film soundtrack in mind . The track 's ending featured a jam session

after the point where a fade @-@ out was intended in the final mix , which was kept in the finished version . Lennon later described the song as " a good @-@ sounding record that means nothing " .

= = = George Martin orchestrations = = =

Side two features a re @-@ recording of the symphonic film score composed by the Beatles ' producer , George Martin , specifically for the album . The recording took place with a 41 @-@ piece orchestra over two three @-@ hour sessions on 22 and 23 October 1968 in Abbey Road , and edited down to the length on the LP on 22 November .

In some of his arrangements , Martin referenced his past work with the Beatles ; for example , " Sea of Time " includes what MacDonald terms " an affectionate quotation " from the Indian @-@ styled " Within You Without You " , from Sgt. Pepper , and " Yellow Submarine in Pepperland " reprises the film 's title track . In " Sea of Monsters " , Martin adapted part of Bach 's Air on the G String , while in other selections he parodies works by Stravinsky .

= = Release = =

The film received its worldwide premiere in London in July 1968 , by which time the Beatles were busy working on their eponymous double album , The Beatles , commonly called " the White Album " . Ultimately , the Beatles were enthusiastic about the finished film , and did more to associate themselves with it after release . Having been delayed so that it would not clash with the release of The Beatles , and to allow for the re @-@ recording of Martin 's contributions , Yellow Submarine was issued by Apple Records on 13 January 1969 in the US and on 17 January in the UK . The album was issued in stereo only in the US , while the UK album was available in both stereo and mono , although the mono version is simply a fold @-@ down ( a combination of two stereo channels into one mono ) rather than a specific mix . Since " All You Need Is Love " had been rush @-@ released a single , it did not have an official stereo mix . Although the track was released on the US LP Magical Mystery Tour , an official stereo mix of the track was not made until 29 October 1968 for the album . In the US , 8 @-@ track tape versions featured " Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds " as an extra song on side two .

= = = Artwork = = =

The artwork on the sleeve contains a drawing of the Beatles as featured on trailer posters , created by Heinz Edelman . The same basic design was used for the UK and US covers , though the UK jacket contains the words " Nothing is Real " ( taken from " Strawberry Fields Forever " ) just below the album 's title , while the US version did not .

On the back of the cover , the UK album contained a review of the White Album written for The Observer by Tony Palmer . The review was introduced by a few liner notes by Apple press officer Derek Taylor . The US cover contained a fictitious illustrated biography by Dan Davis of the Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band , in which the ensemble 's battle with the Blue Meanies was compared to three other epic struggles in the history of the English @-@ speaking world : Beowulf 's struggle to save the Heorot mead hall , King John 's signing of the Magna Carta and Thomas Jefferson 's writing of the Declaration of Independence .

= = = Unreleased EP = = =

An EP containing the new songs had been considered for release in September 1968 , but any plan to issue the soundtrack music from Yellow Submarine was then postponed to allow for the White Album 's unveiling . Following the delayed release of the soundtrack album , however , Lewisohn writes that the Beatles were " mildly criticised " for having ceded a full LP side to Martin 's music and thereby failing to provide their customary " excellent value @-@ for @-@ money " . As a result , the band considered issuing Yellow Submarine as a five @-@ track mono EP , without the film score

but including the then @-@ unreleased " Across the Universe " as a bonus track . This EP was mastered in March 1969 but never issued . The original running order for the EP was " Only a Northern Song " , " Hey Bulldog " and " Across the Universe " on side one , with " All Together Now " and " It 's All Too Much " on side two .

Lennon later dismissed Martin 's contributions as " all this terrible shit " and blamed Brian Epstein , the Beatles ' manager , for allowing Martin to participate in the project . According to author and music journalist Peter Doggett , neither the proposed EP format nor an expanded soundtrack album ( containing other previously issued Beatles songs that appear in the 1968 film ) was possible at the time , since " both options would have denied George Martin his contractual right to appear alongside The Beatles ? and robbed him of potentially the largest royalty payment of his career . "

= = = Reissues = = =

The first compact disc release appeared in August 1987 . It is consistent with the English version of the LP . The running order is the same , with " Sea of Time " and " Sea of Holes " as separate tracks ; the " Nothing Is Real " subtitle remains intact , and the review of the White Album with Taylor 's introduction is included inside the CD insert .

The album appeared in a revised version on 13 September 1999 , coinciding with the remastered re @-@ release of the film . Titled Yellow Submarine Songtrack , it dispenses with the George Martin orchestrations , and includes the six Beatles songs from the original album , along with an additional nine songs , all completely remixed for this disc .

The original album was remastered and reissued , along with the rest of the Beatles ' catalogue , on 9 September 2009 . This release included both the UK and US sleeve notes . The mono mixes of the four songs that were intended for the unreleased EP ( along with " Across the Universe " ) were released for the first time on the Mono Masters collection as part of the box set The Beatles in Mono .

= = Reception = =

In contrast to the animated film , Yellow Submarine was not generally considered to be a significant release . Issued two months after The Beatles , it was one of the few Beatles releases that failed to top the charts in either the United Kingdom or the United States , peaking instead at number 3 and number 2 , respectively . In Canada , Yellow Submarine topped the RPM national albums chart for two weeks , ending the White Album 's 12 @-@ week run at number 1 . On America 's Billboard Top LPs chart , it was kept from the top by the same album .

Recalling the release in a special @-@ edition issue of Mojo magazine , Peter Doggett writes that " The papers got all trippy for Yellow Submarine " . Beat Instrumental bemoaned the paucity of new material by the band , but added : " be not of bad cheer . The George Martin score to the film is really very nice , and two tracks by George Harrison redeem the first side . Both [ songs ] are superb pieces , considerably more enthralling than the most draggy All Together Now , a rather wet track . " In a review for International Times , Barry Miles considered Martin 's score " superbly produced " and , of the songs , wrote only of " It 's All Too Much " , which he described as , variously , " Endless , mantric , a round , interwoven , trellised , tessellated , filigreed , gidouiled , spiralling " and " Happy singalong music " . Writing in their book The Beatles : An Illustrated Record ( 1975 ) , NME critics Roy Carr and Tony Tyler bemoaned the commercial considerations that resulted in a full soundtrack album , saying that the four new songs " would have made a superb EP " .

More recently , AllMusic critic Richie Unterberger has written of Yellow Submarine : " The album would have been far better value if it had been released as a four @-@ song EP ... with the addition of a bonus track in " Across the Universe " ... No one would argue that there 's a huge amount more than meets the eye ( or ear ) there , but listening to the original album anew 40 years on , one is still struck by how mostly second @-@ rate , and recycled and rejected Beatles material still sounds so good . " Writing for Pitchfork Media , Mark Richardson opines that " the Yellow Submarine soundtrack is like the work of a supremely talented band that couldn 't really be bothered " and

describes " Hey Bulldog " as " a tough and funky piano @-@ driven rocker , [ and ] by a good margin the best song here " . Richardson concludes : " But as an album it 's ultimately forgettable , which is something the Beatles so rarely were otherwise . "

PopMatters ' David Gassman views Martin 's selections as " kind of twee and inconsequential " and the four new songs on side one as " fascinating " , adding that " The material 's tossed @-@ off origins give it a character unlike any other Beatles album . " While noting that the soundtrack was superseded with the 1999 release of Yellow Submarine Songtrack , Gassman writes : " No matter how you get them , though , the otherwise unavailable songs on this album ought to be part of any thinking Beatles fan 's collection . " Alex Young of Consequence of Sound writes : " as a whole , Yellow Submarine is a delightful album , even if it 's still a less @-@ than @-@ acceptable inclusion in the Beatles canon " , though he criticised the inclusion of Martin 's score , which he felt should have been sold as a separate release .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Lennon @-@ McCartney , except " Only a Northern Song " and " It 's All Too Much " , by George Harrison .

All songs written and composed by George Martin , except " Yellow Submarine in Pepperland " , by Lennon @-@ McCartney .

= = Personnel = =

The Beatles ( side one )

John Lennon ? lead and backing vocals , rhythm and lead guitars , piano , ukulele , banjo , harpsichord , handclaps

Paul McCartney ? lead and backing vocals , bass and acoustic guitars , double bass , trumpet , handclaps , percussion

George Harrison ? lead and backing vocals , lead and acoustic guitars , Hammond organ , percussion and handclaps , violin

Ringo Starr ? drums , percussion and handclaps , backing vocals , lead vocals ( on track 1 )

= = Certifications = =

BPI certification awarded only for sales since 1994 .

= = Charts = =