

= I 'll Still Love You =

" I 'll Still Love You " is a song written by English musician George Harrison and first released in 1976 by his former Beatles bandmate Ringo Starr . Produced by Arif Mardin , the track appeared on Starr 's debut album for Atlantic Records and Polydor , Ringo 's Rotogravure . The composition had a long recording history before then , having been written in 1970 as " Whenever " , after which it was copyrighted with the title " When Every Song Is Sung " .

Harrison originally intended the song for Welsh singer Shirley Bassey , who had a hit in the summer of 1970 with a cover version of his Beatles composition " Something " . Although Harrison recorded " When Every Song Is Sung " himself during the sessions for All Things Must Pass that year , it was not included on his album . He went on to produce recordings of the track by former Ronette Ronnie Spector in February 1971 , and Cilla Black in August 1972 , but neither version was completed for release . Mary Hopkin and Leon and Mary Russell also attempted the song during the first half of the 1970s , with Harrison participating in the Russells ' recording . A later version by Black ? produced by David Mackay and titled " I 'll Still Love You ( When Every Song Is Sung ) " ? appeared on her 2003 compilation Cilla : The Best of 1963 ? 78 .

Together with John Lennon and Paul McCartney 's respective contributions , the song 's inclusion on Rotogravure marked the second occasion when Starr 's former bandmates had each supplied a song for one of his albums , after Ringo in 1973 . While Starr 's rendition is often held in low regard , some commentators consider " When Every Song Is Sung " to be one of Harrison 's finest love songs and on a par with " Something " . Author Ian Inglis describes the song as " an unfinished masterpiece " .

= = Background and composition = =

In late 1969 , after George Harrison 's song " Something " had been issued on the A @-@ side of a single by the Beatles ? the first time that one of his compositions had been given that honour ? he remarked in an interview : " There 's a lot of songs like that in my head . I must get them down . Maybe even other people would like to sing them . " In the summer of 1970 , " Something " gave Welsh singer Shirley Bassey her biggest UK hit in nine years , an achievement that led her to tell the press that she and Harrison could become a singer @-@ and @-@ songwriter pairing on the scale of Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach . Although he would later be dismissive of Bassey 's version of " Something " , Harrison wrote a new song for her to record after reading these comments . Originally titled " Whenever " , it became " When Every Song Is Sung " and later " I 'll Still Love You " .

As he had with " Something " , Harrison composed the melody on a piano , part @-@ way through a recording session ? in this case , while working on his first post @-@ Beatles solo album , All Things Must Pass ( 1970 ) . As reproduced in his 1980 autobiography , I , Me , Mine , Harrison 's original lyrics carried the title " WHENEVER ( by Shirley Bassey ) " . He recalls in the book : " I got the chord sequence , and ' When every song is sung ' were the first words to come out of my mouth , and it developed from there . "

Harrison 's musical biographer , Simon Leng , considers it to be an " emotionally complex lyric that ponders how love will even survive , ' when every soul is free ' " . Christian theologian Dale Allison interprets the subject matter of the song as moksha , or liberation from rebirth , in the Hindu faith . He writes : " ' I 'll Still Love You ( When Every Song Is Sung ) ' looks forward to the time when all souls are ' free , ' when all eyes will ' see , ' and when all human beings will be of the same mind . ' All Things Must Pass , ' but no one really ever passes away . "

Author Robert Rodriguez describes the musical tone as that of a " moody torch song " . Leng notes that the verses have the same descending semitone pattern as " Something " and , structurally , it features a middle eight that is " harsher " and " dramatic " compared to the verses , just like the middle eight in Harrison 's 1969 composition .

= = Pre @-@ Ringo 's Rotogravure recording history = =

= = = George Harrison = = =

Still using the title " Whenever " , Harrison recorded " When Every Song Is Sung " for All Things Must Pass in 1970 but did not include it on the album . The sessions took place between late May and August that year , at London 's Abbey Road and Trident studios . According to bootlegs subsequently compiled from the sessions , 44 takes of the song were taped . The recordings reveal a musical arrangement featuring acoustic guitars , piano , bass , drums and horns .

Along with other unreleased material from the All Things Must Pass sessions , Harrison 's " When Every Song Is Sung " became available in the 1990s on unofficial outtake compilations such as Songs for Patti , some of which list the track as " I 'll Still Love You " . AllMusic critic Richie Unterberger describes this early version of the song as " haunting " and " a noteworthy find " among outtakes from Harrison 's 1970 triple album .

= = = Ronnie Spector = = =

" When Every Song Is Sung " was one of up to six Harrison compositions recorded in February 1971 for what was intended to be a debut solo album by Ronnie Spector . The latter was the former lead singer of the Ronettes and the wife of Harrison 's All Things Must Pass co @-@ producer , Phil Spector . As in 1970 , Harrison and Spector co @-@ produced the sessions .

Basic tracks for this and the other songs were taped at Abbey Road Studios with some of the musicians who had played on All Things Must Pass ? including Jim Gordon , Klaus Voormann and Gary Wright ? along with Leon Russell on piano . The recording was not completed , however , since Phil Spector 's erratic behaviour led to the project being abandoned . Issued on Apple Records in April 1971 , the single " Try Some , Buy Some " was the only official Ronnie Spector release from these sessions .

= = = Cilla Black = = =

Due to his commitment to the Bangladesh relief effort , Harrison 's music @-@ making was limited for much of 1971 and the following year . In early August 1972 , shortly after the UK release of the Concert for Bangladesh film , he resumed his role as a record producer with a session for a new Cilla Black single , the A @-@ side of which was to be " When Every Song Is Sung " . The recording took place at Apple Studio in London , during Black 's day off from her summer variety season in Blackpool . Among the support musicians were Voormann , Ringo Starr and Eric Clapton .

A second Harrison composition , " You Got to Stay With Me " , was also attempted at the session , but as with the Ronnie Spector solo album , the project was not completed . Black told radio presenter Spencer Leigh that her ability to record that day was hindered by her discomfort following a dental appointment just before the session began . The B @-@ side that Harrison started writing for her similarly took an alternative route , ending up as the autobiographical " The Light That Has Lighted the World " , which he chose to include on his 1973 album Living in the Material World .

According to author Alan Clayson , former Apple artist Mary Hopkin also recorded a version of " When Every Song Is Sung " during this period . Black still thought the song was " super " , she told Leigh , and so re @-@ recorded it over 1974 ? 75 , this time with producer David Mackay . She said of this later recording : " even then , [ the song ] didn 't have the magic it deserved . It should have had a ' Yesterday ' -type arrangement . "

In his book The Beatles Diary Volume 2 , Keith Badman writes that Harrison and Black met in a London restaurant over Christmas in 1982 and discussed completing their recordings from ten years before . Black 's Mackay @-@ produced version of the song was eventually released in May 2003 , as " I 'll Still Love You ( When Every Song Is Sung ) " , on her three @-@ CD compilation Cilla : The Best of 1963 ? 78 .

= = = Leon and Mary Russell = = =

After their various projects together between 1969 and 1971 , including the Concert for Bangladesh , Harrison renewed his musical association with Leon Russell in 1975 , while recording Extra Texture in Los Angeles . Aside from contributing to that album , Russell made a new recording of " When Every Song Is Song " with his wife Mary ? formerly Mary McCreary of the vocal group Little Sister , and subsequently a solo artist signed to Russell 's Shelter record label . The couple married in June 1975 , after which they began recording the first of their two albums together , titled Wedding Album .

Harrison participated in the session for " When Every Song Is Sung " . According to Tom Petty , who was a Shelter artist at the time , recording took place at Russell 's home studio in Encino , with Ringo Starr also at the session . As before , this attempt failed to produce a finished recording of the song .

= = Ringo 's Rotogravure recording = =

Starr was another admirer of the song , describing it in an NME interview as " a big ballady thing " and a track " I 've always loved " . In April 1976 , John Lennon and Paul McCartney had each agreed to donate a song and participate in the sessions for Ringo 's Rotogravure , Starr 's first album on Atlantic Records and Polydor . While he had been Starr 's most frequent collaborator out of all of Starr 's former bandmates after the Beatles ' break @-@ up , Harrison was unable to attend the sessions , since he was under pressure to deliver his first Dark Horse Records album , after being waylaid by hepatitis . Starr instead received his permission to record " When Every Song Is Sung " , now titled " I 'll Still Love You " . Ringo 's Rotogravure thereby became the second album by an ex @-@ Beatle , after Starr 's Ringo in 1973 , to feature compositions by all four former members of the band .

The Rotogravure sessions took place between April and July 1976 , mostly at Cherokee Studios in Los Angeles . Arif Mardin produced the album , since Richard Perry , Starr 's usual producer , was committed to another project . The musicians on " I 'll Still Love You " included pianist Jane Getz and a rhythm section comprising Starr and Jim Keltner ( both on drums ) and Voormann ( on bass ) . Lon Van Eaton , a former Apple Records signing , played lead guitar on the track .

As further contributions to a recording that Rodriguez describes as a " dramatic ballad " , Mardin added a string synthesizer part , played on an ARP String Ensemble , and Gene Orloff arranged and conducted orchestral strings . Mardin recorded these overdubs at Atlantic Studios in New York , without Starr . According to Keith Badman , Harrison was " not pleased " with Starr 's version of the song and took legal action against him , which was soon settled out of court .

= = Release and reception = =

Ringo 's Rotogravure was issued on 17 September 1976 in Britain and ten days later in the United States , with " I 'll Still Love You " sequenced as the second track on side two of the LP . The US release coincided with heightened speculation regarding the possibility of a Beatles reunion , following promoter Sid Bernstein 's offer of \$ 230 million for a single concert by the group . While Starr was often asked about his former bandmates ' contributions to the album , he was frustrated by the media 's preference for discussing the Beatles . Starr also dismissed the idea that Harrison 's non @-@ appearance on " I 'll Still Love You " was to avoid Rotogravure being seen as a work by " The New Beatles " , as one interviewer had suggested . Although it was not selected for release as a single , Starr made a promotional film for the song , along with two other tracks from the album . The film clip , which was rarely seen at the time , shows Starr and a woman dancing together in a park in Hamburg .

As with its parent album , " I 'll Still Love You " received a mixed response from music critics . In one of the more favourable reviews , Ray Coleman of Melody Maker admired Rotogravure as " a pleasing album of uncomplicated pop music " and added that the song was " simplicity itself " ,

likening it to " Something " . Less impressed , Bob Woffinden of the NME said : " ' I 'll Still Love You ' is a song Harrison wrote some years back . Lyrics are dreadful , but the melody 's quite pretty . " In his 1977 book The Beatles Forever , Nicholas Schaffner described the contributions from Starr 's former bandmates as " sound [ ing ] more like throwaways " , in contrast with their " inspired work " on Ringo . Schaffner lamented that the treatment of " I 'll Still Love You " was almost a " Harrison parody " , complete with Van Eaton 's " fluid imitation " of the guitarist 's playing style .

Writing more recently , Robert Rodriguez describes " I 'll Still Love You " as one of the highlights of Ringo 's Rotogravure , and evidence that " when it came to George , Ringo was the recipient of his strongest giveaways " . In his book on Harrison , for the Praeger Singer @-@ Songwriter Collection , Ian Inglis writes dismissively of Starr 's " boisterous shouts " of " Yes I will " and finds Mardin 's production similarly unsuitable . Inglis laments that Harrison never revisited the song himself , adding : " It has the potential , lyrically and musically , to become one of his loveliest creations . As it stands , it is an unfinished masterpiece . " In Simon Leng 's estimation , " When Every Song Is Sung " is among Harrison 's finest love songs and it " deserved better " than the " sub @-@ Spector production " of Starr 's version . Alan Clayson similarly describes it as a Harrison composition that " [ satisfied ] every musical and lyrical qualification required of an evergreen like ' Yesterday ' or his own ' Something ' " , yet the song received " its burial " beside the " makeweight bagatelles " on side two of Rotogravure .

= = Personnel = =

As listed in the musicians ' credits on the Ringo 's Rotogravure LP :

Ringo Starr ? vocals , drums

Lon Van Eaton ? electric guitar

Jane Getz ? piano

Arif Mardin ? ARP string synthesizer

Klaus Voormann ? bass

Jim Keltner ? drums

Gene Orloff ? string arrangement and direction

David Lasley ? backing vocals