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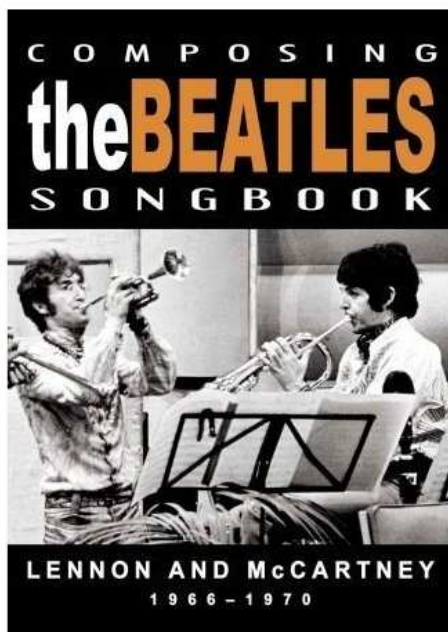
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"Composing the Beatles Songbook - Lennon and McCartney 1966 - 1970" takes intelligent look at Beatles' later work

A review by Steve Marinucci

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(11/20/2008) The distinguished panel of critics and journalists -- many with some very distinct Beatle connections -- who made [Composing the Beatles Songbook: Lennon & McCartney 1957-1965](#); such an intelligent and authoritative look at the early works of Lennon and McCartney now tackle their later years with "[Composing the Beatles Songbook 1966-1970](#)" ([Region 1 DVD](#)) released Nov. 17 in the UK (as a [Region 2 DVD](#)) and Nov. 25 in the U.S.



Those on board again are Klaus Voorman, who drew the "Revolver" cover, Barry Miles, co-author of Paul McCartney's biography "Many Years From Now," Maureen Cleave, the journalist to whom Lennon uttered the infamous quote about "we're now more famous than Jesus," and broadcast journalist Paul Gambaccini, who has interviewed Paul for several official projects. Also on the disc are veteran journalists Robert Christgau (Village Voice) and Anthony DeCurtis (Rolling Stone) and authors Johnny Rogan ("The Complete Guide to the Music of John Lennon," "The Byrds: Timeless Flight Revisited: The Sequel"), Peter Doggett ("Abbey Road/Let It Be: The Beatles [Classic Rock Albums Series]"), Steve Turner ("A Hard Day's Write: The Stories Behind Every Beatles' Song"), Nigel Williamson ("The Rough Guide to Bob Dylan", Uncut magazine), Alan Moore ("Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band") and Chris Ingham ("The Rough Guide to the Beatles").

Barry Miles sets the tone with the very first comment, saying "The Beatles had reached the stage where 'we can do anything and, by God, we're going to.'" The panel starts out by examining how the Lennon-McCartney had evolved and why "Rubber Soul" was a turning point for the Beatles. The discussion moves through individual analyses of the Beatles' albums after "Soul" and how the Lennon-McCartney partnership started to move their separate ways, including how McCartney took more of a leadership role in the band after Brian Epstein's death and as Lennon became more involved in outside activities. The insights are illuminating because they go beyond a simple retelling of history.

There are, of course, Beatle clips and music scattered throughout. Ironically, that's not the reason to buy this. As with the earlier disc, the discussion is challenging and will give even veteran fans something to ponder. That's the real value of this DVD and one reason this one (as well as the earlier volume) is well

worth adding to your collection.

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