



The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook DVD Review

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The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook Directed by:

-

The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook Written by:

-

The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook Cast:

- [The Beatles](#)

The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook U.S. Distributor:

- Not set

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- Not set

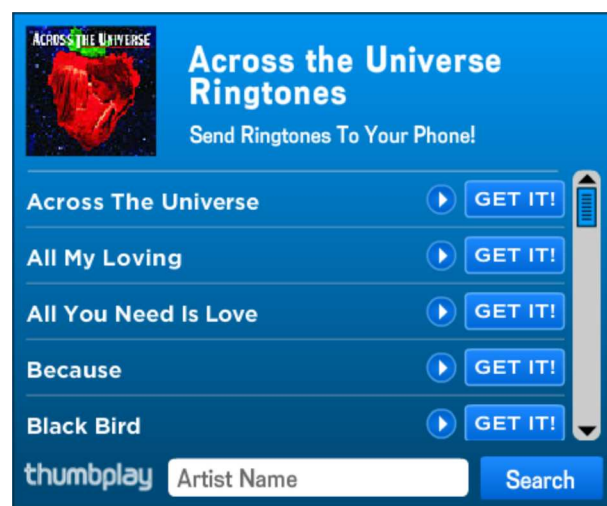
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The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook Synopsis:

This documentary chronicles the years of 1966-1970 of The Beatles. It focuses on the relationship and writing careers of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The film contains rarely seen pictures and footage of The Beatles on stage and in their personal lives.

The Beatles: Composing The Beatles Songbook Review:

Composing the Beatles Songbook is the perfect film for Beatles fanatics and music lovers. For the average viewer it may seem a bit long but the rare performance footage and photographs more than make up for that. The documentary uses interviews with friends of the Beatles as well as Beatles historians to shape the years of 1966-1970. The focus is mainly on the relationship in and out of the studio between John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The film does a great job of going beyond the stereotypes that have come to be associated with each man and really giving a complete picture of the amazing musicians they were.

The differences of Lennon and McCartney are discussed early on as Lennon saw rock and roll as rebellion whereas McCartney was the master of pop melody. The film goes through almost each album individually while explaining the evolution of the two songwriters. The disc also does a wonderful job of discussing drug use within the group but not making that the focus of the documentary. Each album is discussed in the realm of whether or not certain members of the group had taken Acid by the time of writing the songs.

One of the great joys of the disc is the personal anecdotes of how certain songs came into being. Many of the songs discussed are the less famous Beatles tunes such as "For No One." For instance, "Tomorrow Never Knows" is described as a mix between the psychedelic experiences of Lennon and McCartney's avant-garde music experimentation.

The comparisons of Lennon and McCartney are easily seen when describing their musical styles as well as the way they saw the world. The best example of this is that both "Penny Lane" and "Strawberry Fields" were songs chronicling respectively McCartney and Lennon's childhoods in England. The same themes are shown through distinct musical approaches.

The documentary does have some funny points through all the intense examination of Beatles songs though. The explanation of the lyrics to "I am the Walrus" is one such light hearted part of the film. Those interviewed say that Lennon wrote the song as a joke about what Bob Dylan did with his songs. They say many people tried to dissect them when really they were supposed to be meaningless and funny.

There are few extras on the disc but the film is so complete that extras are not really needed. "Allan Moore on A Day in the Life" is an interview with musician Moore and his ideas on the song. He goes through everything about the song and really dissects what makes it work. "Contributor Biographies" lists all the people interviewed for the disc and gives information on each person's accomplishments or connections with the Beatles. Unless it is viewed on a large screen however, the print is very difficult to read.

The amazing footage of the band on stage and off is one of the best features of the disc. There are rarely seen pictures of the group recording in the studio as well as in their personal lives. One picture that stands out is of Paul McCartney holding the hand of Lennon's son Julian. The film then goes into the story of how McCartney wrote the song "Hey Jude" with Julian in mind and the relationship he had with the boy.

The film wonderfully sets up the unraveling of the Beatles and the eventual end of the group. One point that will probably be appreciated by many is fact that Yoko Ono's influence is not overstated. The dissolution of the band is shown rather as an obvious and understandable growing apart than as some dramatic affair.

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