



Composing Outside the Beatles: Lennon and McCartney 1967-1972, (MVDvisual, 4 stars)

This DVD comprises a good package with the previously reviewed one about Lennon and McCartney's songwriting during The Beatles career. A panel of experts, who range from Beatle-friend bassist Klaus Voorman and early Plastic Ono Band (current Yes) drummer Alan White to journalists Robert Christgau and Johnny Rogan, analyze and discuss the work of John Lennon and Paul McCartney, which began with Lennon and Yoko Ono's avant-garde work prior to The Beatles dissolution.

This was followed by the stripped-down, home-demo feel of Paul's initial "McCartney" solo album and John's instrumentally naked but Spector-produced "Plastic Ono Band."

Their recorded and live outputs through 1972 are discussed by these folks and others, spotlighting in-studio tensions, triumphant moments like "Imagine," the legal wrangling, Paul's struggle for critical acclaim and other things most folks can't understand.

Beatles admirers and fans of either principal will enjoy this somewhat scholarly package.

- Ricky Flake