




By George



For a fifteen year old kid, waiting in line overnight for a concert ticket in Manhattan was pretty exciting stuff, but it was well worth it to get to see George Harrison's historic Concert for Bangladesh in 1971. In one show I got to see George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Billy Preston, Leon Russell, Ravi Shankar, and others. I had been a fan long before that of course, since the Beatles music hit America in 1964. On reading his life story, I came upon two common facts; we both hated going to school, and both our fathers were bus drivers. I have no idea if this means anything. On this recording project, I chose some of my favorite Harrison songs, from The Beatles, and his solo recordings. All the songs are "by George", except "I'm Happy Just To Dance With You", which is a Lennon/McCartney composition. ...but I was looking for every excuse to play my Rickenbacker twelve string!

George's inventive and melodic guitar work gave the music a unique sound, drawing on musical influences, from Rockabilly and Country, to Indian music. By the end of The Beatles, his compositions were arguably as strong as Lennon & McCartney's, with Abbey Road gems "Something" and "Here Comes The Sun". I remember being mesmerized on Christmas morning, listening to the "All Things Must Pass" album, his post Beatles double record solo release. There was an apparent backlog of great music in him, waiting to come out.

There was always an emotional quality to George's vocals that stood out to me. Listening back to the recordings, this quality intensified as he wrote more and more about things near and dear to him, such as the human condition and his faith. A strong sense of humor and hope always seems to surface in the words and music of George Harrison.



About The Recordings

It was while in Mississippi as part of a theatre production of "Lost Highway: Hank Williams" that I started the recording process for "By George". We were there for more than a month, so I packed the car with recording equipment and instruments and headed south. It was great fun alternating my days and nights immersed in the music of George Harrison, and Hank Williams. That was Spring 2007, and I continued working on the CD back at my home studio until Fall, when we remounted the "Hank" show in Roanoke Virginia...so pack the car again and head north! As luck would have it, I found a beautiful 1966 Hofner bass, just like McCartney's in the back room of a small music store right near my room. Also just outside my room was the Norfolk Southern Railroad yards, and if you listen carefully to the end of "Here Comes The Sun", you can hear a train's wheels squealing in the background. Back home again, Christmas was especially merry with the arrival (thanks Colleen) of a Rickenbacker twelve string! How could I possibly record "If I Needed Someone" without it? As construction of the new recording studio was completed in 2009, so was the mixing and mastering of "By George". I hope you enjoy it; I truly enjoyed the process of creating it.

-Bruce Lang

Barnardsville, NC 2009



My Rickenbacker 12, '66 Hofner & '65 Gretsch Country Gentleman

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1. Give Me Love (Give Me Peace On Earth)
 2. Don't Bother Me
 3. I'm Happy Just To Dance With You
 4. I Need You
 5. I Want To Tell You
 6. Beware Of Darkness
 7. Taxman
 8. Here Come The Sun
 9. Old Brown Shoe
 10. I'd Have You Anytime
 11. Badge
 12. If I Needed Someone
 13. Savoy Truffle
 14. While My Guitar Gently Weeps
 15. Something
 16. For You Blues
 17. My Sweet Lord

*All songs by George Harrison except; "I'm Happy Just To Dance With You" (Lennon/McCartney)
"I'd Have You Anytime" (Harrison/Dylan) "Badge" (Harrison/Clapton)*

Cover photo-Suzanne Williams Design-Colleen Lang

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