

BE THE BEATLES

For seven amazing years, between 1963 and 1970, the Beatles gave us a continuing soundtrack of unparalleled charm and reassurance. As long as they kept on delivering fresh songs along with the morning milk, everything was right in our optimistic world. Quite quickly, the Beatles became an institution all of their own.

That the Beatles were woven into the fabric of British life was due in large part to the regularity of their attention to good habits - the Christmas messages to fans, the package tours, the visits home to Liverpool families, an honest paying of all the expected dues and in no small measure to the BBC, who provided that unparalleled broadcasting expertise to keep the nation in touch with 'the boys' through fifty two broadcasts. Radio allowed them to 'be themselves' and that was always enough for the Beatles and for their followers.

Tempting to say those were the days, but of course as we live now, these are the days yet truly, those were happy days and no-one who sat by those transistors or by older receivers and heard that unmistakable friendly music will ever forget how good it felt.

Derek Taylor

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1 Beatle Greetings (Speech)

Introductions during a BBC magazine programme called 'The Public Ear' broadcast on 3 November 1963. Presenter Tony Hall pointed out that the Beatles 'didn't just happen overnight' and mapped out the group's progress from their earliest days in Liverpool. Their contribution was recorded on 9 October 1963.

2 From Us To You

Previously unreleased variation

(Lennon-McCartney)

Rec: 28 February 1964

BBC Paris Theatre, London.

Producer: Bryant Marriott

The signature tune and title of four programmes broadcast on public holidays. This adaptation of their third single was heard on the three 1964 shows broadcast on Easter, Whitsun and August Bank Holidays.

3 Soldier Of Love

Previously unreleased song

(Cason-Moon)

John sang Arthur Alexander's 'Anna' on the first Beatles album and here he covers another record by the singer; a track which could have enhanced any of the group's early discs.

4 Sha la la la la! (Speech)

5 Baby It's You

(David-Bacharach-Williams)

Pop Go The Beatles

Trans: 11 June 1963

Rec: 1 June 1963

BBC Paris Theatre, London

Producer: Terry Henebery

Lee Peters presented the first batch of four Pop Go The Beatles programmes and the group were tickled by his relentless corny links. 'Baby It's You' - an American Top Ten hit for the Shirelles in summer 1962 - was included on the first album Please Please Me. The BBC version has a cute ending rather than the familiar fade.

6 Clarabella

Previously unreleased song

(Pingatore)

In the Beatles' set list since 1960, this obscure favourite of Paul's was originally recorded in 1956 by the Jodimars refugees from Bill Haley's Comets.

7 I Just Don't Understand

Previously unreleased song

(Wilkin-Westberry)

Pop Go The Beatles

Trans: 20 August 1963

Rec: 16 July 1963

BBC Paris Theatre, London

Producer: Terry Henebery

Swedish born movie starlet Ann Margret (Olson) had an American Top 20 hit with this in August 1961.

8 Glad All Over

Previously unreleased song

(Bennett-Tepper-Schroeder)

Pop Go The Beatles

Trans: 20 August 1963

Rec: 16 July 1963

BBC Paris Theatre, London

Producer: Terry Henebery

One of two recordings made for the BBC of this 1957 Carl Perkins track sung by George.

9 Matchbox

(Perkins)

Pop Go The Beatles

Trans: 30 July 1963

Rec: 10 July 1963

Aeolian Hall Studios

Producer: Terry Henebery

Ringo takes his turn at a Carl Perkins number first released in 1957.







