Sage Hassisch piano vocal guitar the dark horse years 1976

Essettareisch the dark horse years 1976 - 1992



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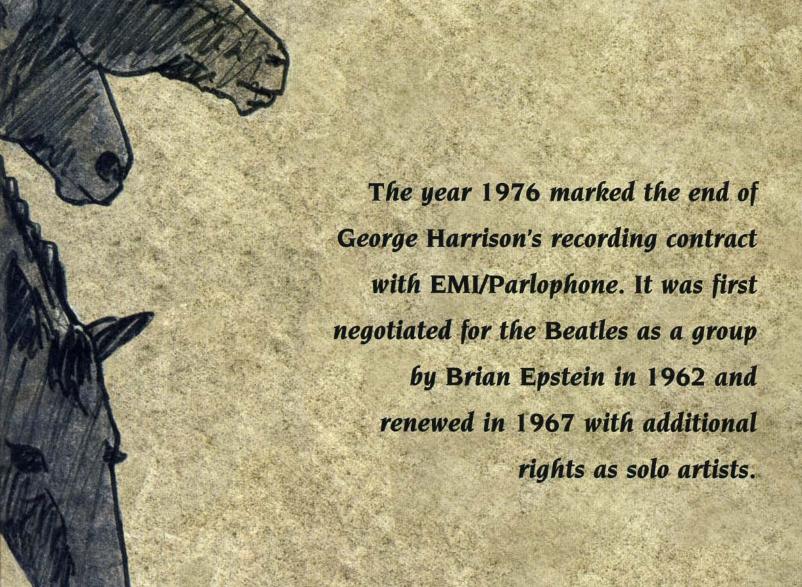
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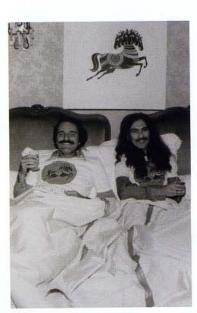
the history of dark horse 1916 - 1992



Over a span of fourteen years, thirteen original Beatle albums, several compilations and six solo albums were released. George looked forward to a change with such anticipation that in 1974 he created his own label. Although it would be two years before his contractual obligations were fulfilled, Dark Horse Records was ready for George's arrival.

The Dark Horse label was distributed initially by Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss's A&M Records, situated at the old Charlie Chaplin Studios on La Brea Avenue in Hollywood. In October 1974, I was there to welcome George to his new office. We shared the ground floor of a two-storey bungalow with Lou Adler's Ode Records. Having worked at A&M for the previous two years I knew how





George with A&M Owner Jerry Moss



George with Warner Bros. President Mo Ostin and his button





much prestige George would bring to any record company. Not only had he been in the Beatles, but after the break-up of the band, George's first solo album, All Things Must Pass, reached number one. The Concert for Bangladesh and Living in the Material World were still fresh in our minds and George was held in high esteem by us all.

George spent a good deal of time at the Dark Horse office while recording his own album, Extra Texture, in A&M studios. Over two years, eight albums were released by artists on his label. Ravi Shankar, the band Attitudes (with friend Jim Keltner), the duo Splinter from Sheffield (produced by George), R&B vocal group The Stairsteps, ex-Joe Cocker guitarist Henry McCullough and a California band named Jiva made up the Dark Horse roster.

By the time George came to release

Thirty Three & 1/3 — his first album for the label, Dark Horse had moved to Warner

Bros. in Burbank.









Mo Ostin had stepped in to sign
George for what would be the remainder of his solo music career, as well as
two albums with The Traveling Wilburys.
George enjoyed the Warner family,



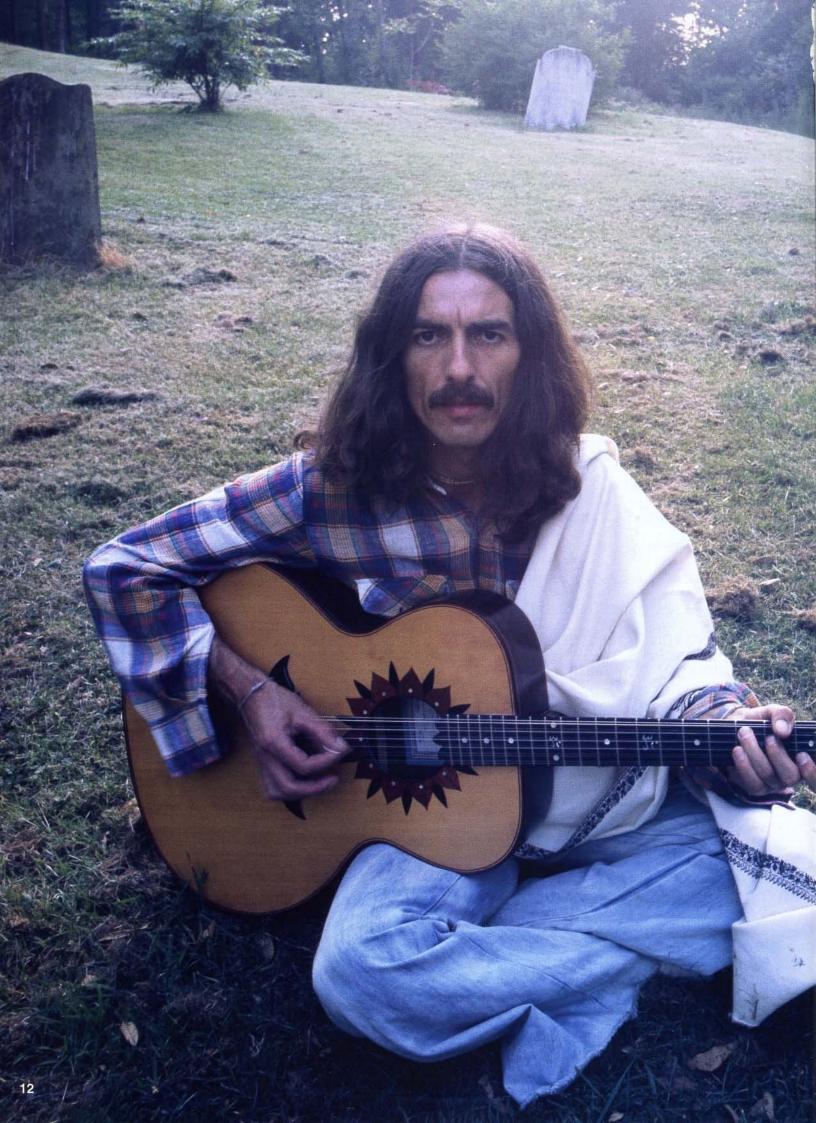
even recruiting Warner Bros. staff for the video of 'This Song' from Thirty Three & 1/3 and he remained close friends with Mo Ostin for the rest of his life.

George recorded six Dark Horse albums from 1976 to 1992. They contained songs written while he was in the Beatles including, 'See Yourself' and 'Not Guilty' right up to 'Cheer Down,' written at the request of Dick Donner, the director of Lethal Weapon 2.

Some of George's songs were featured in movies made by his company Handmade Films, including, 'Shanghai Surprise' from the much-talked-about but little-seen Sean Penn and Madonna movie and 'Dream Away' from Terry Gilliam's Time Bandits.

Listening to the albums in chronological order, George's evolution as a songwriter, guitarist and seeker are obvious. 'Mystical One' and 'Your Love Is Forever' are my favourite ballads; the type of love song Eric Clapton describes as spiritual love songs. In fact, George wrote 'Mystical One' with Eric ('shimmering slowhand') in mind. 'Devil's Radio' was his comment on gossip and 'Life Itself,' 'Circles' and 'Dear One' clear expressions of his spirituality. He wrote for himself as well as others but without premeditation for commercial success. Some of these albums received more acclaim than others. The reward was in the creation of his songs as well as the companionship of other musicians during the recording







sessions. All George's creativity, attention and unexpressed emotion went into his music.

Once an album was delivered, the least enjoyable part for him (promotion and press) would commence. Sometimes he cooperated wholeheartedly, sometimes not. Whatever the outcome, he did not wait around for approval before beginning the writing process over again.

The Dark Horse has come full circle now— back with EMI/Parlophone since 2002— and the seven-headed horse still spins George's name and music according to his own plan. George chose this symbol to be at the forefront of his musical legacy— a legacy now firmly imprinted in this material world and the spiritual sky beyond.



Olivia Harrison November 2003 Oxfordshire, England



On one of George's many visits to India, the drawing of a seven-headed horse on the side of a tin box caught his eye. Always one to appreciate a mystical symbol, he carried the small tin back to



England and adapted it as the logo for Dark Horse Records.

Known as Uchchaisravas, the seven-headed horse appears often in Indian art and mythology (the Puranas).

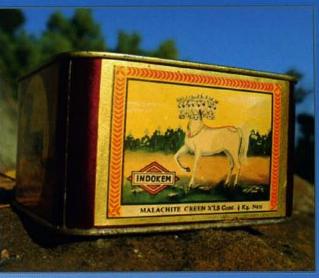
His story of origin tells of a time when there were so many demons threatening the world that the gods had become weak. Lord Vishnu whipped up a tonic—an elixir of immortality—by churning the Ocean of Beginnings.

Uchchaisravas, the seven-headed horse appeared from the milky sea as did the goddess Laxmi and

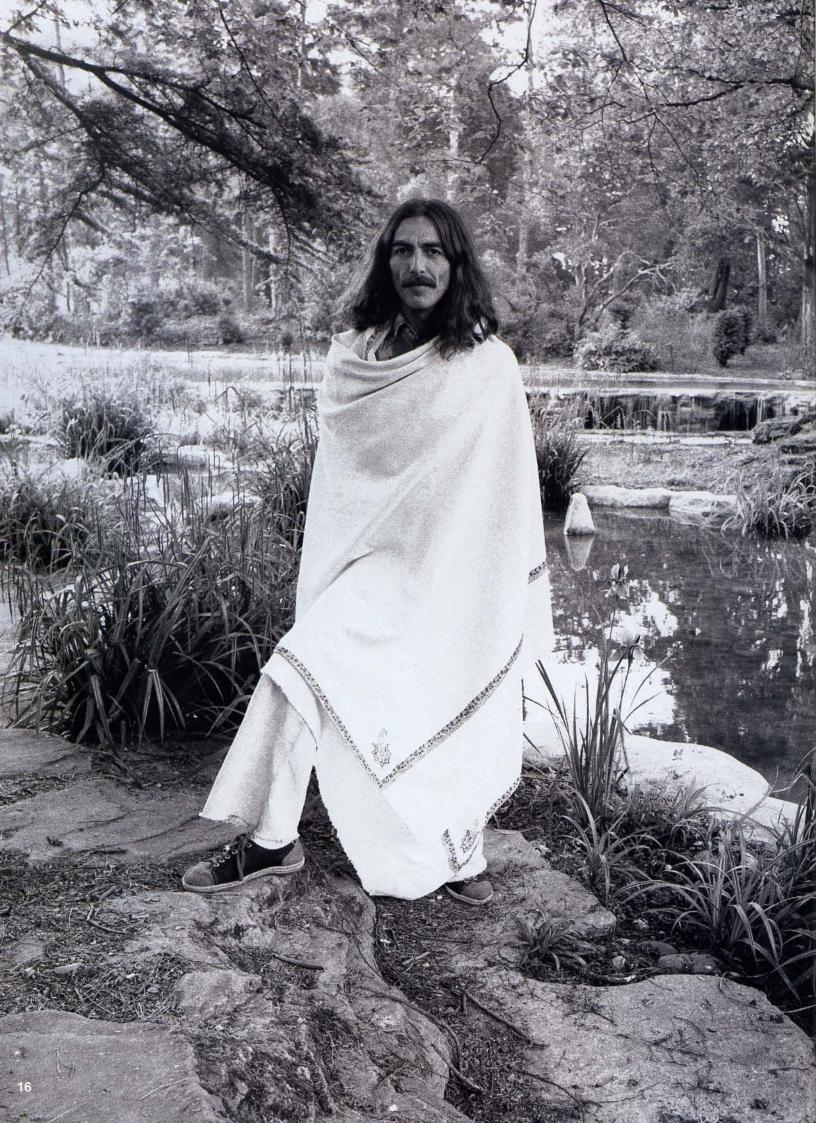


many other creatures. In some stories the enchanted horse pulls the chariot of Krishna and his disciple, Arjuna. Sometimes he is seen hitched to the chariot of the sun god, Surya or the mount of the god Indra.

In the West, of course, we often refer to a person with hidden talents as a dark horse, a thought for which George had an affinity. It was not unusual for George to express himself with symbology that contained both Eastern and Western connotations. 'Create and preserve the image of



your choice,' said Mahatma
Ghandi. It was a quote George
used frequently, and his choice of
this horse was as deliberate as any
other image he associated with his
music or himself.



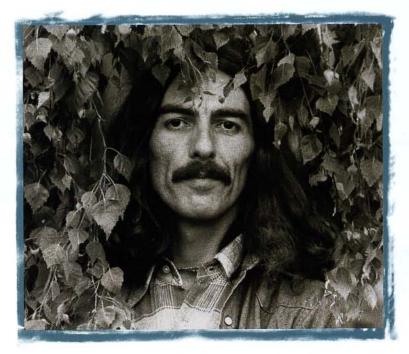


george harrison dark horse

At the top of the original inner sleeve for George Harrison's 1981 album, Somewhere in England, were the words of Sri Krishna in the Bhagavad-Gita: 'There was never a time when I did not exist, nor you. Nor will there be any future when we cease to be.' It was a dedication from Harrison to his friend and fellow Beatle, John Lennon.

Those words are a lesson and a comfort; a reassurance from Harrison himself that he is very present in the world. Particularly on the records in this collection.

Harrison's entire life in music was a search for a balanced inner peace; a reconciliation of the earthly rewards of rock 'n' roll with a higher lasting wisdom. These six albums were a big part of that life, and our knowledge of him is incomplete without them. This wonderful library of warm soulful singing, bright incisive guitar playing, secular lyrical mischief and serene prayer is long overdue for rediscovery – and, more importantly, sharing. 'It only takes time 'til love comes to everyone,' Harrison sang over the church-bell strum and beatific stroll of 'Love Comes to Everyone.' The time has come.





Remember that Harrison was only 26 in 1970, when the Beatles broke up and he astonished the mourners with his triumphant, sumptuous solo debut, All Things Must Pass.

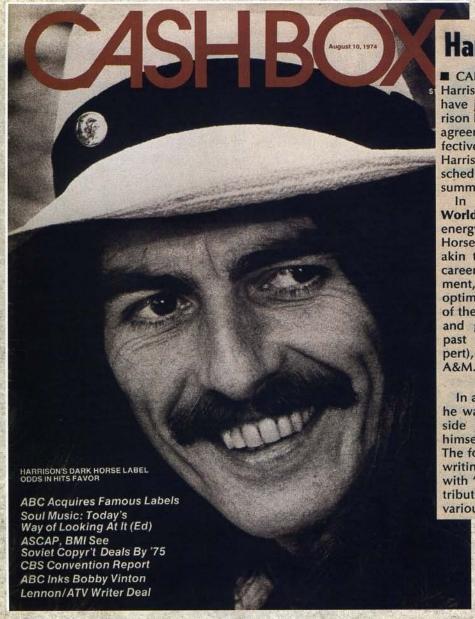
Then consider this: He was just 33 when he started making this music for his own label, Dark Horse. Over the next 16 years he produced films, became an avid gardener, entered fatherhood, grieved for Lennon, collaborated with friends and mentors such as Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan and Ravi Shankar and, one last time, went on tour. Harrison's middle age was a rich, busy, creatively vital period, and he put it all in song, playing some of the finest guitar of his career and singing with relaxed assurance. The spaces between albums got longer, but Harrison was no longer a 'Solo Artist' in the self-promoting, music-biz sense. He was simply a Musician again.

'George was a reluctant rock star, but he loved to play rock 'n' roll,' says Jeff Lynne. He first met Harrison in the mid-Eighties when asked to co-produce Cloud Nine, and remained a close friend for the rest of Harrison's life. 'At the end of a session,' Lynne continues, 'around two in the morning, we'd have a few drinks, listen back to the stuff we'd been doing and then start playing other songs together, some of his old favorites. He didn't like the bullshit that goes with being famous. But he loved to make music, and he loved recording. He really liked making demos - getting songs down fast, then leaving them alone.'





'Guitars, basic drums and analog tape – that's the way I like it,' Harrison confirmed years later in Rolling Stone. 'It doesn't go with trends. My trousers don't get wider and tighter every six months. My music just stays what it is, and that's it.' That's what you hear on these records: Harrison at his most honest and musically pure, playing what he wanted to hear, the way he liked to hear it, when the time was right.



Harrison Signs with Dark

■ CANNES, FRANCE — George Harrison and Dark Horse Records have jointly announced that Harrison has signed a multiple record agreement with the company, effective January 27, 1976. A first Harrison album for the label is scheduled for late spring or early summer release.

In conversation with Record World, Harrison exuded new energy, approaching the Dark Horse agreement as a challenge akin to that of the early Beatles career. At the official announcement, Harrison said, "I feel very optimistic being in the company of the Dark Horse artists and staff, and greatly encouraged by my past relationship with Herb (Alpert), Jerry (Moss) and the staff of A&M."

Production Plans

In addition, Harrison stated that he was thinking of using an outside producer in order to free himself for artistic considerations. The former Beatle began his songwriting career in November 1963 with "Don't Bother Me." He contributed over the years to the various Beatle albums and films

and later e perhaps be three-record Pass."

Horse label, fair in Canr formed a ne drummer fo Harrison i Horse with distributes t Dark Horse Harrison' Spring. Abo Maker: co-producer

I met Harrison at one of those times, in November 1976 at a press-the-flesh affair in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the release of Thirty-Three & 1/3. He shook my hand warmly, autographed a promotional photo and flashed an enigmatic smile with me for my friend's camera. It was a remarkable moment for me and it changed the way I listened to his music, especially that record. I had spoken to the man, not the History, and that's whom I found on Thirty-Three & 1/3. I found a guy obsessed with wheels and speed (the references to 450s and 'stick shifties' in 'It's What You Value'); happy in his home at Friar Park (seen in Eric Idle's video for 'Crackerbox Palace'); tired of courtrooms and lawyers after being found guilty of 'unconscious plagarism' in the notorious 'My Sweet Lord' case ('This Song' delivered his own verdict); and so much in love with his future wife

Olivia Arias that even the wide-open admiration of 'Beautiful Girl' was not testimony enough. He covered Cole Porter's song, 'True Love.'

Thirty-Three & 1/3 is also the sound of Harrison feeling absolutely free. It's all over the record in his sunny, doubled vocals and especially in his saucy bayou-county licks on 'Woman Don't You Cry for Me.' He founded Dark Horse Records in 1974 as a haven for himself and others, but it was not until he resolved legal difficulties with his original partner, A&M, and dissolved his final ties to EMI, that Harrison truly tasted independence. Thirty Three & 1/3 was not only Harrison's best record since All Things Must Pass; it was the first time he could put his own name on his own label.

George Harrison To Record For Dark Horse; Signs With Own Label Handled By A&M

CANNES, France — MIDEM 1976 was the setting for George Harrison to announce that he had signed a multi-album deal with his own record label, Dark Horse Records.

The signing, revealed to Cash Box publisher George Albert, on hand for the MIDEM event, ends an association stretching back 14 years — the start of the Beatles — with Capitol Records.

Harrison told Albert that the new contract is effective from January 27 and



Harrison, Albert, Clyde, CBs Kim Thorne

Dark Horse will continue to be distributed in the U.S. and Canada by A&M Records. A&M will also handle distribution of Dark Horse in the U.K.

Harrison's first Dark Horse album has already been completed and will be released in late spring throughout the world. Up to now Dark Horse had everything except Harrison product available to the label.

Harrison commented: "For the first time I feel I can receive personalized attention. I am very fond of Jerry Moss and his organization — it was shortly before the last MIDEM that I signed the first deal for Dark Horse with A&M — and I feel very secure creatively. I think that now I will be able to express all of my talents."

A&M president Moss and Dark Horse's Jonanthan Clyde from London were on hand to hear Harrison's announcement.

First singles to be released under the new deal are "From You To Us" by Stairsteps, produced by Bob Margouleff, Billy Preston and Stairsteps, and "Ain't Love Enough" by Attitudes, produced by Lee Keifer and the group.

Harrison Quits EMI's Roster

By PETER JONES

CANNES—George Harrison has become the first of the ex-Beatles to formally break a 13-year association with EMI. He announced at MIDEM that his personal recording future would be on his own Dark Horse label which he formed 18

Of the other former Beatles, Paul McCartney has concluded a new world-wide deal with EMI, while John Lennon and Ringo Starr have still to confirm their future plans.

Harrison admitted that there had been no shortage of big money of-

next album will be on his own Dark mounced at MIDEM, the music trade to, on Monday. And Mick Taylor has in partnership with Colin Allen, the with Focus.

EM this week discussing plans for Dark epresentatives of A&M Records, which hroughout the world. He officially joined artist — on Tuesday.

Im for the label will be released in late cording plans, Harrison told the Melody meone to produce me, either that or a friend working with me. I've found can judge your own work, It's always and around.

The produce me is always around.

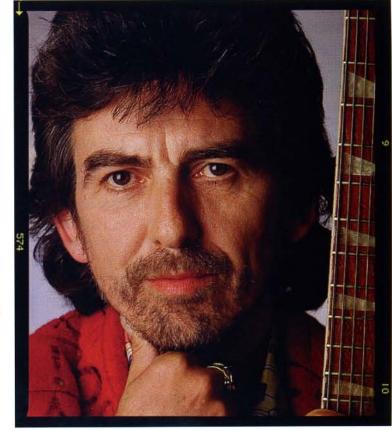
solo career

hed by the

Things Must

By the time of George Harrison, he was the only act on the label. Yet in the thick of punk rock and the ascendance of hip hop, while the record business got drunk measuring an album's success in the tens of millions of copies sold, Harrison made, in the most literal sense, popular music. Of his five Dark Horse studio LPs during the Seventies and Eighties, all but Gone Troppo made Billboard's Top Twenty and Cloud Nine hit the Top Ten.

Heard together now, the records seem like brothers, a boxed set originally issued in extended serial form. It has much to do with the attention to melody and concision in Harrison's guitar playing. Regardless of the circumstances – a Beatles song, his own albums, a guest lick or break on someone else's session – he made every note count. 'George, in the studio, would





spend a lot of time working out solos — nothing was done really fast,' Beatles engineer Geoff Emerick once said. Jeff Lynne saw that thoughtfulness firsthand, during the making of Cloud Nine: 'The guitar parts were meaningful pieces to him, right up there with the vocals. You could always remember one of his solos, because he put so much thought into them.' Listen to the liquid slide work in George Harrison's 'Blow Away.' Or the sunbaked sigh of his dobro in Gone Troppo's 'Greece' and the muscular clucking under Eric Clapton's quick, fierce screams in 'Wreck of the Hesperus' on Cloud Nine.

You can laugh and pray with Harrison – he does both in equal measures on these records – but much of his greatest songwriting was done in a spirit of worship and transformation. In a 1974 interview, during his first and only North American solo

tour, Harrison responded to a question about identity – the weight of being Beatle George – this way: 'Gandhi says, 'Create and preserve the image of your choice." Harrison saw himself not as a star or a legend, but a man of questions, craft and surrender. The 'you' in many of his spiritual and romantic lyrics is rhetorical. They are songs of rigorous self-examination and shared prayer. He sang not from a pulpit, by right of celebrity, but from the ground, looking up, often on his knees.

On the very day I met him in 1976, while talking to a Rolling Stone writer, Harrison answered the inevitable Beatles-reunion query like this: 'The Beatles were other people a long time ago. They're for the history books, like the year 1492.' But the Beatles never stopped mattering completely to Harrison. He often went back to his unrecorded songs

He often went back to his unrecorded songs and demos for these albums: 'See Yourself,'







'Not Guilty' and 'Circles' were all originally from The Beatles era. On the 1991 Japanese tour with Eric Clapton's band, caught on Live in Japan, he went even further back playing 'Old Brown Shoe' and 'Piggies,' complete with the comic, philharmonic coda. In 'When We Was Fab,' co-written with Jeff Lynne, Harrison cheerfully recreated the paisley-carnival air of 1967, with tongue firmly in cheek. And when Lennon died, 'All Those Years Ago' became the tender, healing centerpiece of Somewhere in England. Starr's loping drums were there; McCartney and his wife Linda added harmonies; and Harrison sang of a love that had survived success, hysteria, frustration and estrangement: 'Living with good and bad/I always looked up to you.' The Beatles had changed, defined and complicated Harrison's life. They were a huge part of his life, for better and worse - and he put everything on these records.

If you need any other reasons to forget all you think you know about Harrison's Dark Horse years, here are a couple of mine: 'Here Comes the Moon' is a gorgeous sequel to his Abbey Road classic 'Here Comes the Sun,' with milkywaterfall harmonies in the chorus line. Then there's the airtight, vocal-army introduction to 'Got My Mind Set on You,' his final number one hit and a cover of a 1962 R&B single by James Ray that Harrison had adored since the dawn of the Beatles.

But you will soon find your own pleasures. With the return of these songs and performances, in this very special set, love comes to everyone. Again.

David Fricke, November, 2003



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO





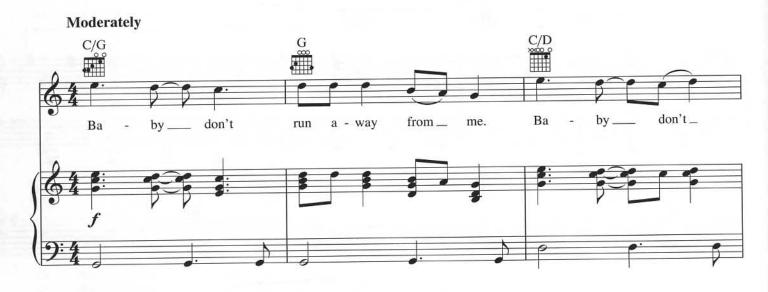


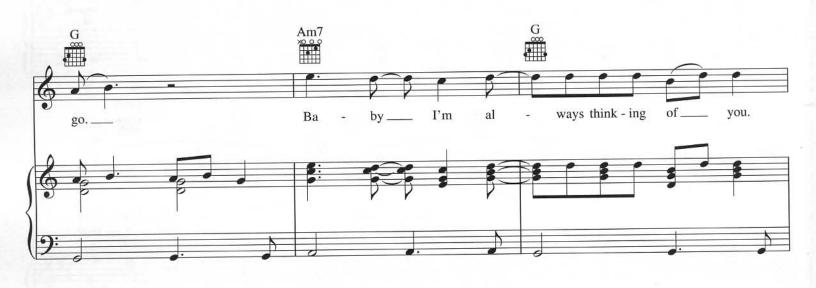


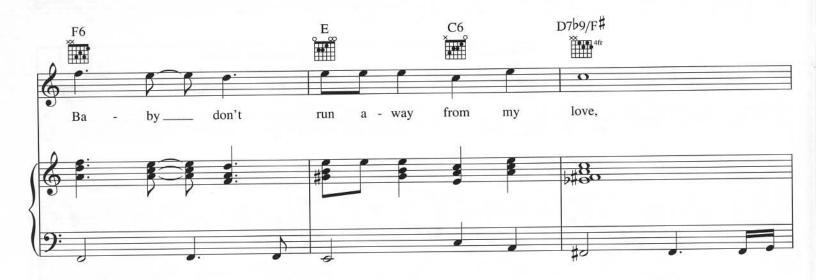


BABY DON'T RUN AWAY

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON



















BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Words and Music by HOAGY CARMICHAEL and PAUL FRANCIS WEBSTER



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BLOOD FROM A CLONE











BEAUTIFUL GIRL















BLOW AWAY







BREATH AWAY FROM HEAVEN







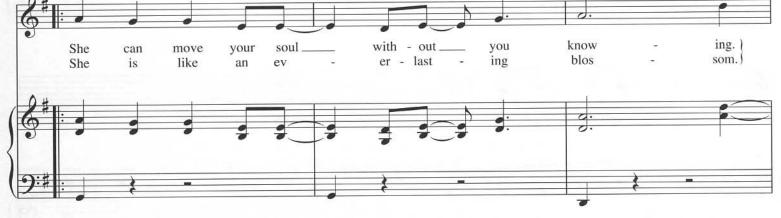


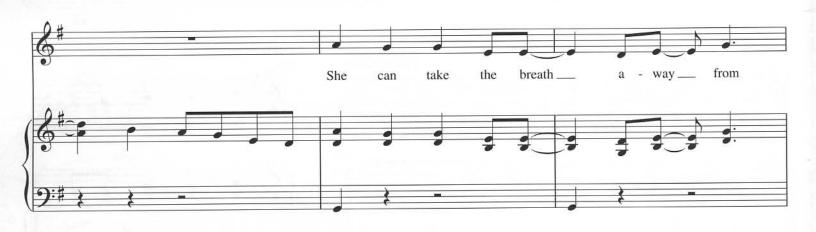


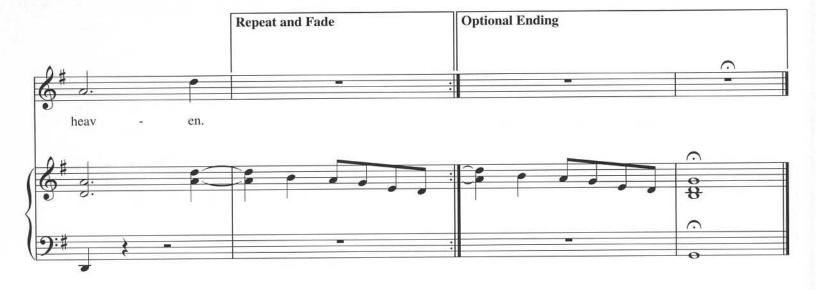








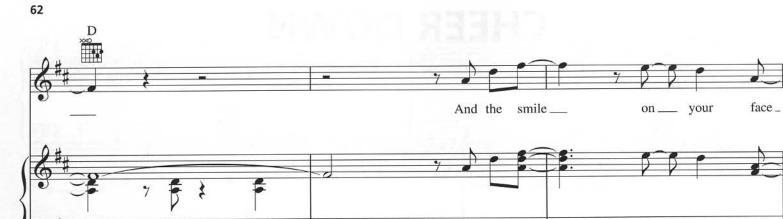




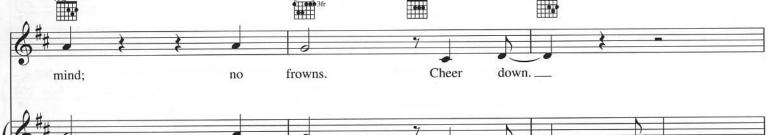
CHEER DOWN

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON and TOM PETTY Moderately Gm6 D 2 D by your grin_ can see C bling that you're trem Gm D Gm down._ cheer all_ It's o - ver town;_

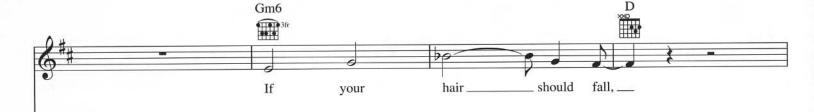
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CRACKERBOX PALACE











CIRCLES

Words and Music by













CLOUD NINE



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DARK SWEET LADY

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON







DEAR ONE











DEVIL'S RADIO

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON



















DREAM AWAY















FASTER

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON









FISH ON THE SAND

Words and Music by **GEORGE HARRISON Moderate Rock** A5 A5 mf With pedal I know_you're close to ev-I know_you're in the sun; but hide __ be - hind the day-You call ___ me in the night, Am/E Dm times, _ it's like you don't ____ have hold _ on ____ me._ 'ry - one. ing like the light; and blow wind, ___ you don't let_ me see. _

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GONE TROPPO

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON













GOT MY MIND SET ON YOU

Words and Music by RUDY CLARK













I REALLY LOVE YOU

Words and Music by LEROY SWEARINGEN





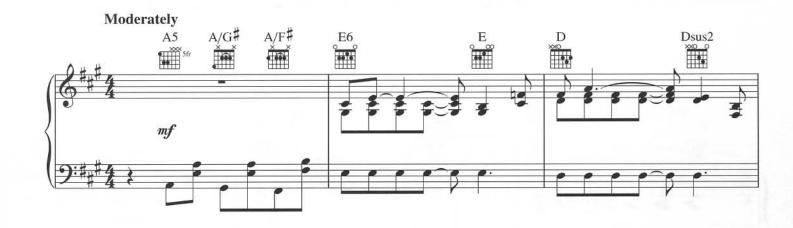




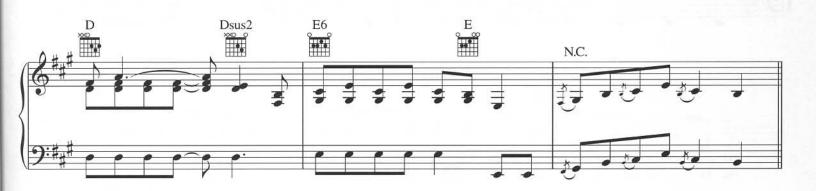


GREECE

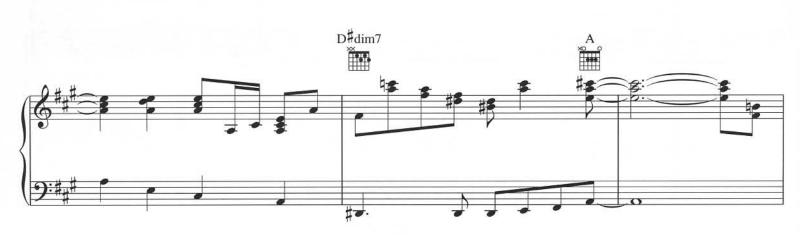
Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON



















HERE COMES THE MOON

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON









HONG KONG BLUES

Words and Music by HOAGY CARMICHAEL That's of sto-ry Amaj7/C# C#m6 3 fr. old Hong got ar - rest- ed down col ored man. who











IF YOU BELIEVE

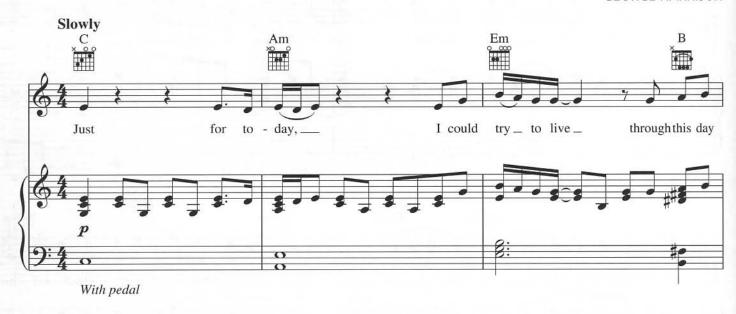
Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON and GARY WRIGHT

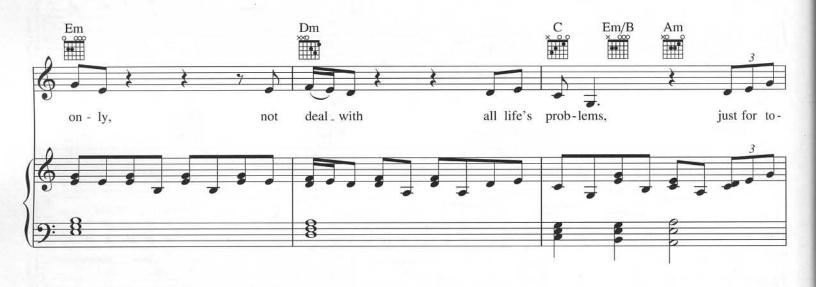






JUST FOR TODAY











IT'S WHAT YOU VALUE









LEARNING HOW TO LOVE YOU





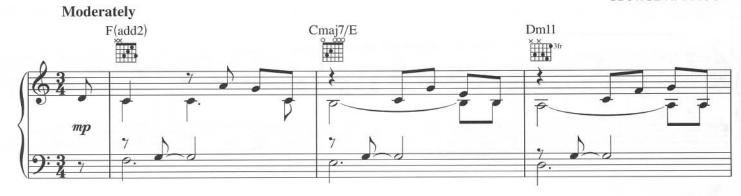


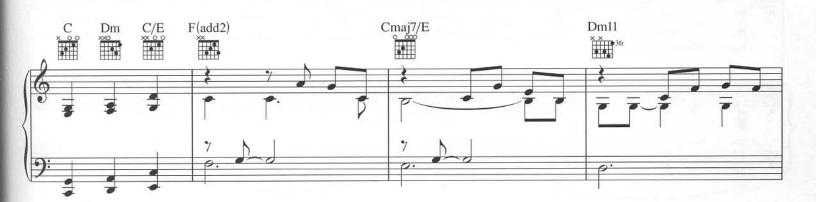


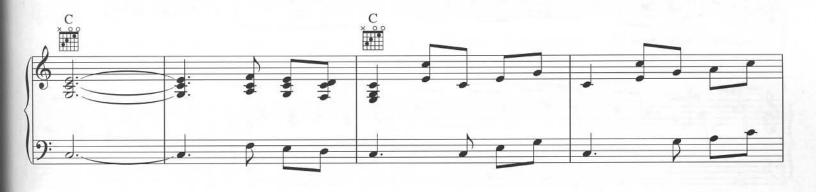




LIFE ITSELF

















LOVE COMES TO EVERYONE

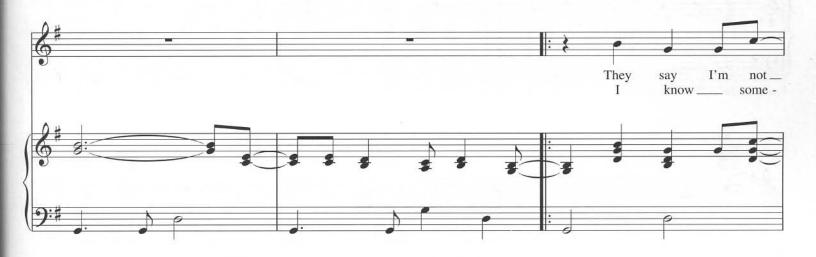






MYSTICAL ONE







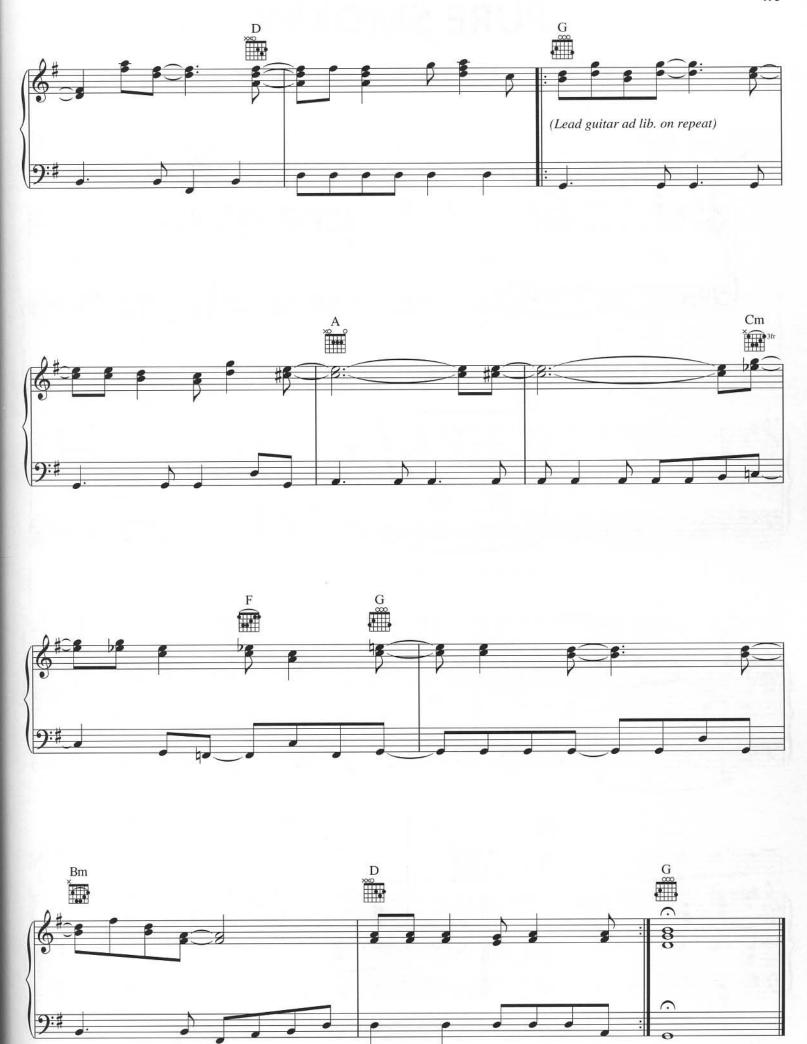












PURE SMOKEY

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON

















NOT GUILTY

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON







SAVE THE WORLD

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON

















SEE YOURSELF

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON











SHANGHAI SURPRISE



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SOFT HEARTED HANA

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON











SOMEPLACE ELSE

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON



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SOFT TOUCH

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON









TEARDROPS











TEARS OF THE WORLD

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON













THAT WHICH I HAVE LOST

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON













THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES















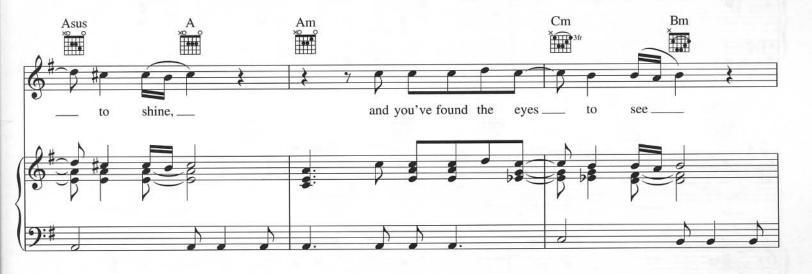


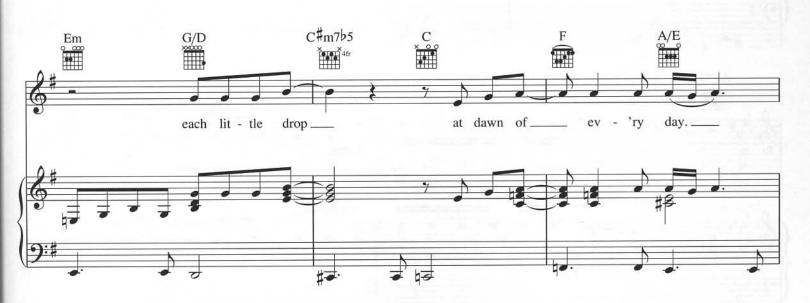


THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON, JEFF LYNNE and GARY WRIGHT















THIS IS LOVE

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON and JEFF LYNNE















THIS SONG

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON







TRUE LOVE

from HIGH SOCIETY

Words and Music by COLE PORTER







UNCONSCIOUSNESS RULES









WHEN WE WAS FAB



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UNKNOWN DELIGHT

Words and Music by













WAKE UP MY LOVE













WOMAN DON'T YOU CRY FOR ME

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON













WRECK OF THE HESPERUS

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON













WRITINGS ON THE WALL

Words and Music by **GEORGE HARRISON** Moderately bright The writ-ing's on the wall,_ There's noth-ing that you need ._ home, Be care-ful go -ing mfO Gm/A Em7-5 Your life is The Lord is in your in you hands ._ broth-er. sis - ter. all. Be watch-ful down that road. sis - ter. the writ - ing's the It's up to you to see. on Life is de-signed to the writ - ing's the on see. More to You've got a 1ot sis - ter. love,









YOUR LOVE IS FOREVER

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON







ZIG ZAG

Words and Music by GEORGE HARRISON and JEFF LYNNE









all those years ago baby don trun away baltimore oriole beautiful girl blood trops a clone blow away breath away from heaven cheer down circles cloud nine crackerbox palace dark sweet lady dear one devil s radio dream away taster tish on the sand gone troppo

got my mind set on you here comes the moon hong Kong blues i really love you it you believe it's what you value just for today learning how to love you life itself love copnes to everyone mystical one not quilty pure smokey save the world see yoursett shanghai surprise soft hearted hana soft touch

someplace else teardrops tears of the world that which i have lost that's the way it goes that's what it takes this is love this song true love unconsciousness rules unknown delight wake up my love when we was tab woman don't you cry for me wreck of the hesperus writings on the wall your love is torever gig gag



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