

BEATLES COVERS UNCOVERED!

Many early Beatles songs, such as ‘Twist and Shout’ were not Lennon & McCartney compositions but a ‘cover’ (a version not by the original recording artist). This presentation compares the original and Beatles version of classic pop songs of the 1950s and outlines the background of the original performers.

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

During The Beatles’ world tours of 1964-66, the band often closed a performance not with a Lennon-McCartney song but with a rousing rendition of Little Richard’s ‘Long Tall Sally’.

In the years following World War 2, the youth of Liverpool were exposed to 1950s American Rhythm & Blues and early Rock & Roll. To the north of the city (and known locally as ‘Little America’), RAF Burtonwood was a US Air Force Base and home to c18,000 service men and women – many of whom were African American – whose pop music had also crossed the Atlantic.

So Liverpool teenagers – including John, Paul, George and Ringo - got to hear and enjoy the great songs of Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis and many others ...

Liverpool schoolboys then formed spontaneous pop groups with constantly changing personnel and played these classic songs on cheap guitars and microphones, tiny amplifiers and a basic drum kit.

After forming in 1960, The Beatles honed their music skills by singing classic American songs such as ‘Roll Over Beethoven’, ‘Johnny B. Goode’ and ‘Be-Bop-A-Lula’. As the Fab Four matured as musicians and composers, the band performed more Lennon & McCartney songs but continued to enjoy belting out their first American pop music influences.

As resident band at the Star Club in Hamburg in 1962, The Beatles were on stage for hours on end which meant having to create endless versions, variations and arrangements of standards such as ‘Kansas City’, ‘Rock & Roll Music’, ‘Dizzy Miss Lizzy’ as well as many older ‘non-pop’ songs such as ‘Till There Was You’ (from *The Music Man*, 1957), ‘I Remember You’ (1941), ‘Besame Mucho’ (1940) and even Marlene Dietrich’s signature song ‘Falling In Love Again’ of 1930!

To appreciate what the Beatles did to make a covered song 'their own', this presentation will give the history of the original performers followed by both versions of the same song. Unlike the warning posted in opera programmes, singing along is encouraged ☺

DURATION: c1 hour

FEE: \$275.00

EXPENSES: a contribution toward travel costs is appreciated.

Thank you for considering my proposal and please contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

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REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

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