

## TWO HALVES MAKE A MUSICAL WHOLE!

*How four well-known pop songs are actually made up of two separate pieces of music*

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

Most songs (from classical to pop) evolve from a single musical idea – with the final product having a beginning, a middle and an end. In common with other art-forms, a song evolves over many phases of development before the composer is satisfied with a viable ‘whole’.

Compared to classical songs, most pop music is transitory, and though the songs go through a similar creative process to classical *lieder*, the majority of pop songs develop from **one** source material ... with these four notable exceptions!

- ❖ ‘The Chain’ (Fleetwood Mac)
- ❖ ‘Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In’ (The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension)
- ❖ ‘A Day In The Life’ (The Beatles)
- ❖ ‘Strawberry Fields Forever’ (The Beatles)

Fleetwood Mac was an England/US 1970s rock band, formed by drummer Mick Fleetwood and bass guitarist John McVie – two core members who witnessed many internal personal conflicts, professional disagreements and line-up changes. Fleetwood Mac remains one of the world’s best-selling bands; ‘The Chain’ is one of the more enduring tracks on the classic 1977 album, *Rumours*.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension was a 1970s Los Angeles based pop group, whose personnel – like Fleetwood Mac – fluctuated around a few core members. Unlike Fleetwood Mac, The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension’s output was primarily vocal – often called ‘sunshine soul’ – much loved for its upbeat style and mass appeal. ‘Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In’ was a 1968 cover of two songs from the hippie musical, *Hair*.

The Beatles need no introduction! The group’s contribution to the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century popular music remains unpreceded and unmatched. After years of exhausting world-wide touring, The Fab Four retreated to the music studio to create what is considered to be the first ‘concept album’: *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*. This 1967 album, which started out as childhood memories of Liverpool, soon morphed into a groundbreaking sequence of original songs and studio effects.

‘A Day In The Life’ is the closing song of *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* and masterfully splices together two contrasting and incomplete John Lennon and Paul McCartney songs.

‘The Chain’, ‘Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In’ and ‘A Day In The Life’ are formidable examples of the melding of two songs. So why is ‘Strawberry Fields Forever’ included in this elite list? Isn’t this famous Beatles song one unified piece of music? Surely it is ... or maybe it’s not? 😊

This presentation will explain! Unlike the warning posted in opera programmes, singing along is encouraged. ☺

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DURATION: c1 hour

FEE: \$300.00

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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