



## TEACHER RESOURCES

# CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE: THE BEATLES

## *Abbey Road*



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019**

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON  
Workshop: 7 PM | Concert: 8 PM

To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this Share the Music event, please visit [roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic](http://roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic)

## ABBEY ROAD - 50 YEARS LATER

Classic Albums Live is a celebration of the most influential albums in recent music history. Tonight's concert features *Abbey Road*, by The Beatles. *Abbey Road* was released on September 26, 1969 by Apple Records and is the eleventh studio album (last to be produced, but not last to be released) by The Beatles. It is also the last album where all four Beatles were present during recording sessions: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. *Abbey Road* takes inspiration from the blues, progressive rock, and pop genres and is famous for its usage of a Moog synthesizer and Leslie speaker: a combination of a loudspeaker and an amplifier. Band member Paul McCartney said there is no theme to the album:

***"I don't like people explaining albums. The only way you can explain it is to hear it. You can't really use words about music, otherwise we'd do a talking album. The album is the explanation, and it's up to you to make what you want of it. There is no theme to Abbey Road. There never is a theme to any of our albums, although some people saw one in Sgt. Pepper."* - PAUL MCCARTNEY, 1969**

*Abbey Road* came out to mixed critical reviews, including ones questioning the authenticity of the album and the usage of artificial effects. However, the album was a huge success and became number one in the United Kingdom and the United States, and still remains as one of the most important albums ever created.

*What is it that makes Abbey Road a masterpiece? Well, the breadth of the musical vision, the sheer scale of the band's collective musical imagination, and the audacity of it all, at a time when The Beatles were coming to the end of their time together.*

**- RICHARD HAVENS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018**





## DID YOU KNOW?

**ACCORDING TO JOHN LENNON, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE SOUND OF THE SONG “BECAUSE”, HE ASKED YOKO ONO TO PLAY THE CHORDS TO BEETHOVEN’S “MOONLIGHT SONATA” BACKWARDS.**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What impact have The Beatles had on popular music?
- ◆ What were some social and cultural factors The Beatles might have been influenced by during their time? How?
- ◆ How can you use new technology to create musical pieces? How can technology be a benefit in music creation?
- ◆ What are some common technological aids used in music today?



## FURTHER RESOURCES

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:** <https://www.thebeatles.com>

**ALLMUSIC - BIOGRAPHY:** <https://www.allmusic.com/album/abbey-road-mw0000192938>

**ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA - THE BEATLES:** <https://www.britannica.com/topic/the-Beatles#ref1030419>

**ULTIMATE CLASSIC ROCK - HOW THE BEATLES SAID A PROPER GOODBYE WITH ABBEY ROAD:**  
<https://youtu.be/kXqlRIBl-9A>

**BEATLE STORIES - JOHN LENNON TALKS ABOUT THE BEATLES ABBEY ROAD ALBUM TRACK BY TRACK:**  
<https://youtu.be/aLfZTBjylEY>

### TO LISTEN

The Beatles -  
*Abbey Road* (*Spotify*)

### TO READ

*Abbey Road/Let It Be: The Beatles* (Classic Rock Album Series)  
by Peter Doggett (Schirmer Trade Books, 1998)

*Solid State: The Story of “Abbey Road” and the End of the Beatles*  
by Kenneth Womack (Cornell University Press, 2019)

### TO WATCH

“The Compleat Beatles” (1982)

## SHARE THE MUSIC:

*Share the Music*, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students’ musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to Classic Albums Live: The Beatles and other notable performances in the 2019/20 season. For more information, please visit [roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic](http://roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic)

## CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

**EMAIL:** [education@mh-rth.com](mailto:education@mh-rth.com) **WEBSITE:** [roythomsonhall.com/education](http://roythomsonhall.com/education)

