

Over a period of decades, George Harrison earned a reputation as one of the most enigmatic and creative individuals born to rock and roll. As was the case for every former Beatle, George's disentanglement from the group identity was slowed by the world's abiding and sometimes-obsessive love for the Beatles as a singular entity. But, as the 1970 release of his epic *All Things Must Pass* revealed, here was a man with a story all his own. Songs like "My Sweet Lord" and "What Is Life" were tucked into a vast collection that remains one of the great works of the album era. Today George is remembered as one who followed his passions to remarkable conclusions, a man of paradox whose unusual balance of spiritual devotion, wry humor, and true compassion touched the lives of many.

The keyhole into the world of George Harrison is the music itself. Yet his songs and the accomplishments for which he's remembered are inextricably bound—and those accomplishments are, without question, eclectic in scope. In life and in music, George Harrison went where he wanted to go. His love for and public celebration of Indian culture prefigured—by decades—the era of "world music"; his Concert for Bangladesh provided a blueprint for the age in which artists regularly *give back*; his unflagging appreciation for the band dynamic, learned as a member of the world's best-loved rock and roll group, led him to form the Traveling Wilburys with Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty, and Jeff Lynne; his songwriting, often understated but powerful enough to generate standards in the field,