

remains a model of how deep popular song can go; his love for humor and film turned him, almost inadvertently, into an accomplished movie producer; and, without a doubt, his influence within the Beatle camp left an indelible mark on that band's music and character.

Over the course of the Beatles' unparalleled career, George Harrison played the role of guitarist, singer and songwriter. His contributions to the band's catalogue were crucial: "I Need You," "Taxman," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Something," and "Here Comes the Sun," to name only a few. The writing traversed a wide emotional range, from the tougher sentiments of "Don't Bother Me" and biting commentary of "Piggies" to the sublimity of "Something." If in the group's early years the public came to know him as the media dictated, George Harrison was, as his friend and Beatles' publicist Derek Taylor insisted, "so far from being the Quiet Beatle."

Among George Harrison's passions, it was his interest in Indian music and spirituality that left the greatest mark on his life and art. It was in 1965 that George met and became a pupil of Ravi Shankar, the master Indian sitar player and composer. The lessons were only the beginning of a lifelong friendship, the sitar instruction a mere facet of what passed from teacher to student. To be sure, if the sixties were a time of cultural exploration, for George Harrison that exploration was anything but a passing fad. The answers he found in Indian