

Girl (Beatles song)

"**Girl**" is a song written by [John Lennon](#)^[1] ^[2] (credited to Lennon/McCartney) and performed by the [Beatles](#) on their 1965 album *Rubber Soul*. "Girl" was the last complete song recorded for that album.^{[3][4]}

1 History

"Girl" is one of the most melancholic and complex of the Beatles' earlier love songs.^[5] The song's instrumentalization has specific similarities to Greek music; similar to "And I Love Her" and "Michelle".^[5] Lennon and [George Harrison](#) played acoustic guitars on the basic track and in addition, Harrison overdubbed the acoustic 12-string.

McCartney claimed that he contributed the lines "*Was she told when she was young that pain would lead to pleasure*" and "*That a man must break his back to earn his day of leisure*."^[2] However, in a 1970 interview with *Rolling Stone*, John Lennon explained that he wrote these lines as a comment on Christianity which he was "opposed to at the time". Lennon said: "I was just talking about Christianity, in that - a thing like you have to be tortured to attain heaven. [...] - be tortured and then it'll be alright, which seems to be a bit true but not in their concept of it. But I didn't believe in that, that you have to be tortured to attain anything, it just so happens that you were."^[6] McCartney also stated that the song's backing vocals were influenced by a recent work by the [Beach Boys](#):

The Beach Boys had a song out where they'd done 'la la la' and we loved the innocence of that and wanted to copy it, but not use the same phrase".^[7]

Lennon said that the fantasy girl in the song's lyric was an archetype he had been searching for his entire life ("There is no such thing as the girl — she was a dream") and finally found in [Yoko Ono](#).^[8] In an interview for *Rolling Stone* magazine on 5 December 1980, Lennon said his 1980 song "Woman":

Reminds me of a Beatles track, but I wasn't trying to make it sound like that. I did it as I did 'Girl' many years ago. So this is the grown-up version of 'Girl'.^[9]

In November 1977, [Capitol Records](#) scheduled the United States release of "Girl" backed with "You're Going to Lose That Girl" as a single (Capitol 4506) to accompany the release of *Love Songs*, a Beatles' compilation

album that contains both of these songs. However, the single was cancelled before it was issued.

2 Cover versions

- [Dalida](#) recorded "Girl" in Italian and released it as "Amo" on her 1967 Italian album *Piccolo Ragazzo*
- [Johnny Hallyday](#) recorded "Girl" in French and released it as "Je l'aime" in 1967
- [Cathy Berberian](#) included it in her 1967 album *Beatles Arias*
- [Jim Sturgess](#) sang "Girl" in the film musical *Across the Universe*
- [Rhett Miller](#) recorded a version of "Girl" that can be found on the album *This Bird Has Flown – A 40th Anniversary Tribute to the Beatles' Rubber Soul*
- [St. Louis Union](#) recorded a cover version in 1965, that was released in January 1966, and reached #11 on the [UK Singles Chart](#)^[10]
- [Tiny Tim](#) recorded a dramatic reinterpretation with the band [Brave Combo](#) in 1996
- [The Truth](#) recorded a cover version on the [Pye](#) label (7N.17035) in 1966 (b/w "Jailer Bring Me Water")
- [Ronnie Von](#) recorded a Portuguese version called "Meu Bem" in 1966; his version was released in Brazil before The Beatles version, and made such success that when The Beatles version arrived, the radios used to do this announcement: "And now Ronnie Von's song 'Girl' in the voice of The Beatles"
- [Serj Tankian](#) has covered the song live numerous times
- [Joe Jackson](#) covered the song on numerous stops on his 2003 tour for *Volume 4*, and this version appeared on the bonus disc of *Afterlife*
- [Roberts Gobziņš](#) recorded a version of the song with Latvian lyrics, appearing on his first album in 1993
- [Chris de Burgh](#) covered the song in his 1995 album "Beautiful Dreams"
- [Paul Carrack](#) recorded the song for his 2007 album "Old, New, Borrowed and Blue"

3 Personnel

- John Lennon – lead vocals, acoustic guitars
- Paul McCartney – backing vocals, bass guitar
- George Harrison – backing vocals, classical acoustic guitar, twelve-string acoustic guitar
- Ringo Starr – drums

Personnel per Ian MacDonald, except as noted.^[4]

4 Notes

- [1] Sheff 2000, p. 197.
- [2] Miles 1997, pp. 275–276.
- [3] Lewisohn 1988, p. 68.
- [4] MacDonald 2005, p. 181.
- [5] Unterberger 2009.
- [6] <http://www.beatlesbible.com/people/john-lennon/songs/god/>
- [7] Cross 2005, p. 353.
- [8] “62 - 'Girl'”. *100 Greatest Beatles Songs*. Rolling Stone. Retrieved 18 June 2012.
- [9] Cott 1980.
- [10] Roberts 2006, p. 479.

5 References

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6 External links

- Alan W. Pollack's *Notes on “Girl”*
- The Beatles Bible: Girl

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7.1 Text

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