

here comes the sun george harrison

Here Comes the Sun is one of the most beloved songs in the catalog of The Beatles and stands as a quintessential piece of music written by George Harrison. Released in 1969 on the iconic album "Abbey Road," this track is not just a testament to Harrison's songwriting prowess but also embodies the spirit of hope and renewal. The song has transcended its era, becoming an anthem for various movements and a staple in popular culture. This article delves into the creation, meaning, and legacy of "Here Comes the Sun," exploring why it remains a timeless classic.

Background and Creation

Inspiration Behind the Song

"Here Comes the Sun" was written by George Harrison during a time of personal and professional turmoil for The Beatles. The song was conceived in early 1969 at the estate of Eric Clapton in the countryside, where Harrison sought solace from the intense pressures of being in the band. The arrival of spring, after a long and dreary winter, served as a metaphor for renewal and optimism.

Harrison himself described the moment of inspiration:

- The feeling of relief after the long English winter.
- The joy of being surrounded by nature.
- The weight of stress lifting as he played the guitar.

These elements combined to create a song that encapsulated the feeling of hope returning after a difficult period.

Recording Process

The recording of "Here Comes the Sun" took place at Abbey Road Studios in London. Harrison brought the song to the studio, where it was initially met with enthusiasm. The recording sessions were marked by:

1. The use of innovative production techniques.
2. The collaboration with other Beatles members, particularly with Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.
3. Harrison's exploration of new sounds, including the use of an acoustic guitar and synthesizers.

Harrison's desire to create a unique sound led him to experiment with different musical elements, contributing to the song's uplifting and bright character.

Musical Composition

Structure and Melody

"Here Comes the Sun" is structured in a traditional verse-chorus format, yet it stands out due to its intricate arrangement and melodic lines. Key features include:

- A gentle introduction featuring a fingerpicked acoustic guitar.
- A catchy melody that evokes feelings of warmth and happiness.
- Harmonies that complement Harrison's lead vocals, adding depth to the overall sound.

The song's musical composition reflects the themes of rebirth and optimism, with its ascending melody mirroring the idea of the sun rising.

Instrumentation

The instrumentation of "Here Comes the Sun" is notable for its rich texture and variety. Key instrumental elements include:

- Acoustic guitar: Played by Harrison, setting the warm tone of the song.
- Moog synthesizer: One of the first instances of this instrument being used in popular music, adding a futuristic touch.
- Bass guitar: Played by McCartney, providing a smooth foundation.
- Drums: Ringo Starr's simple yet effective drumming complements the song's laid-back vibe.

This combination of instruments helps to create a soundscape that feels both organic and innovative, allowing the song to stand out in The Beatles' extensive discography.

Lyric Analysis

Thematic Elements

The lyrics of "Here Comes the Sun" resonate with themes of renewal, positivity, and liberation. Some key themes include:

- Hope: The recurring phrase "Here comes the sun" symbolizes the arrival of brighter days after a period of darkness.
- Change: The lyrics reflect a sense of transformation, both personally for Harrison and in a broader societal context.
- Nature: References to the sun and the changing seasons highlight a connection to the natural world, emphasizing cycles of life.

Harrison's use of simple yet profound language makes the song relatable to listeners, allowing them to find their own meanings within the lyrics.

Personal Significance

For Harrison, "Here Comes the Sun" was not just a song but a personal reflection of his journey. The lyrics capture his feelings during a challenging period in his life, making the song deeply autobiographical. This emotional authenticity has contributed to its timeless appeal, allowing listeners to connect with it on a personal level.

Impact and Legacy

Reception and Popularity

Upon its release, "Here Comes the Sun" was met with critical acclaim, and it has since grown in popularity. Notable aspects of its reception include:

- It became one of The Beatles' most enduring hits, often featured in various greatest hits compilations.
- The song has been covered by numerous artists, ranging from contemporary musicians to classic rock bands.
- Its use in films, commercials, and television shows has cemented its status as a cultural touchstone.

The song's uplifting message resonates across generations, making it a favorite at celebrations and gatherings.

Cultural Significance

"Here Comes the Sun" has taken on a life of its own outside of music. Its themes of hope and renewal have made it a go-to anthem during times of hardship. Some notable instances include:

1. Social Movements: The song has been used in various campaigns advocating for peace and change.
2. Health and Wellness: It has been associated with positivity in mental health initiatives, often played in therapy settings.
3. Celebrations: The song is frequently chosen for weddings, graduations, and other joyous occasions, symbolizing new beginnings.

The cultural significance of "Here Comes the Sun" highlights its ability to inspire and uplift, making it more than just a song but a beacon of hope for many.

Conclusion

In conclusion, "Here Comes the Sun" stands as one of George Harrison's crowning achievements and a defining moment in The Beatles' legacy. Its heartfelt lyrics, innovative composition, and profound themes have ensured its place in the hearts of listeners for decades. As we navigate the complexities of life, the song's message of hope and renewal remains ever-relevant, reminding us that even after the darkest nights, the sun will rise again. The enduring popularity of "Here Comes the Sun" is a testament to Harrison's genius as a songwriter and the universal appeal of its message.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Here Comes the Sun' by George Harrison?

The main theme of 'Here Comes the Sun' is the arrival of spring and the optimism that comes with new beginnings, symbolizing hope and renewal after a long, dark winter.

When was 'Here Comes the Sun' released?

'Here Comes the Sun' was released on September 26, 1969, as part of The Beatles' album 'Abbey Road.'

Who wrote 'Here Comes the Sun'?

The song was written by George Harrison, who was the lead guitarist of The Beatles.

How has 'Here Comes the Sun' been received over the years?

'Here Comes the Sun' has been widely acclaimed and is considered one of The Beatles' most beloved songs, often praised for its uplifting melody and lyrics.

What instruments are prominently featured in 'Here Comes the Sun'?

The song features acoustic guitar, keyboards, and strings, creating a warm and inviting sound that complements its lyrical themes.

What inspired George Harrison to write 'Here Comes the Sun'?

Harrison was inspired to write the song during a visit to Eric Clapton's house in early 1969, where he felt a sense of relief and joy in the arrival of spring after a challenging period.

How has 'Here Comes the Sun' been used in popular culture?

'Here Comes the Sun' has been featured in numerous films, television shows, and commercials, often associated with themes of positivity and change.

What impact did 'Here Comes the Sun' have on George Harrison's solo career?

The success of 'Here Comes the Sun' helped solidify George Harrison's reputation as a talented songwriter and musician, paving the way for his successful solo career.

Have any notable artists covered 'Here Comes the Sun'?

Yes, many artists have covered 'Here Comes the Sun,' including Nina Simone, Peter, Paul and Mary, and more recently, artists like the band Elbow.

Is 'Here Comes the Sun' part of any significant anniversaries or celebrations?

'Here Comes the Sun' has been celebrated during various anniversaries of 'Abbey Road' and is often included in tributes to The Beatles and George Harrison.

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