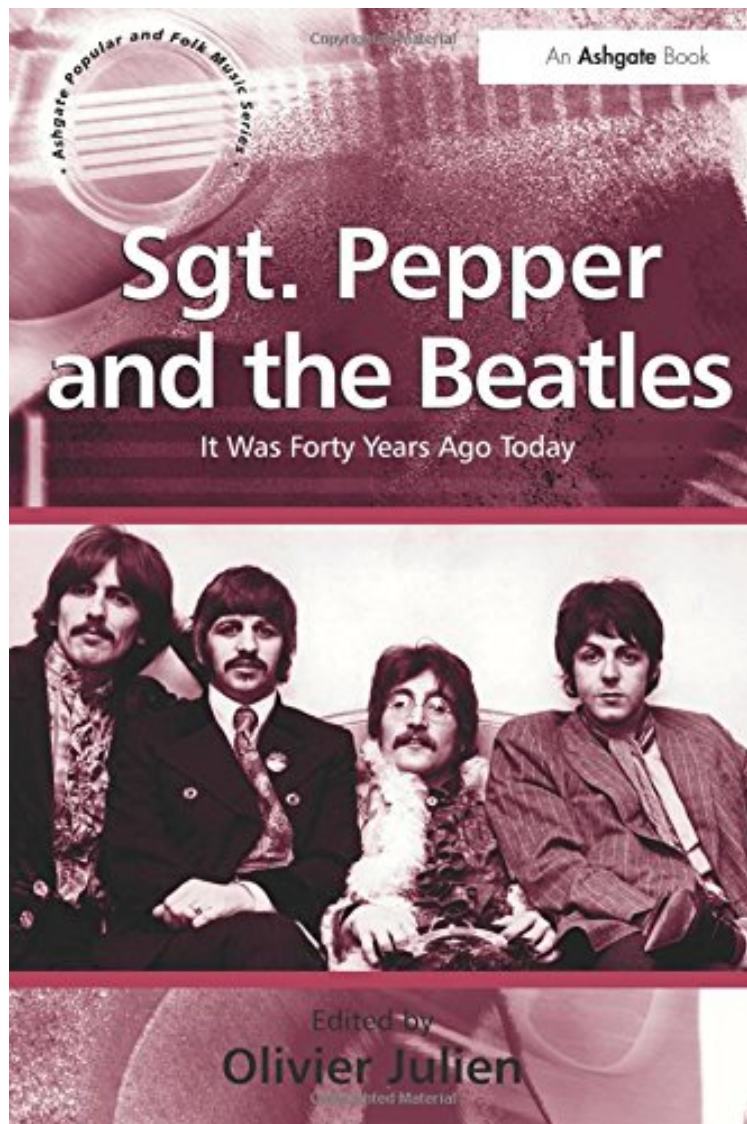


[FREE] Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles: It Was Forty Years Ago Today (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series)

Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles: It Was Forty Years Ago Today (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series)

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From Brand: Ashgate : Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles: It Was Forty Years Ago Today (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles: It Was Forty Years Ago Today (Ashgate Popular and Folk Music Series):

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly Dissection of a Classic Beatles Album!By Mike

O'Connor To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the release of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Sorbonne History and Musicology Professor Olivier Julien and MPG Books assembled a team of 11 university professors from around the world to "examin(e) the album by addressing issues that will contribute to explain its absolutely unique position in the history of recorded popular music." The scholars were to analyze and discuss "the various aspects that make Sgt. Peppers a groundbreaking album - formal unity, cover design, lyrics, connections with psychedelia and, more generally, with the sociocultural context of the 1960s, influence of non-European music and art music, critical reception, songwriting, production (and) sound engineering." SGT. PEPPER AND THE BEATLES; IT WAS FORTY YEARS AGO TODAY is the culmination of that research. Being a dedicated Beatles fan, I'd like to say I enjoyed Julien's tract but truth be told, half the time I didn't understand what the hell those college profs were talking about! Scanning through the chapters found in Julien's book is a good indicator of the problems facing a typical Beatles fan. Sample chapters include: 'Tangerine Trees and Marmalade Skies, Cultural Agendas or Optimistic Escapism;' 'Sgt. Pepper and the Diverging Aesthetics of Lennon and McCartney;' 'The Beatles and Indian Music;' 'Cover Story - Magic, Myth and Music;' 'The Beatles Psycheclassical Synthesis, Psychedelic Classicism and Classical Psychedelia in Sgt. Pepper;' 'A Lucky Man Who Made the Grade, Sgt. Pepper and the Rise of a Phonographic Tradition in Twentieth-Century Popular Music;' and so on. Not being a Rhodes scholar, I didn't have a clue what "Psycheclassical Synthesis" meant before I picked up Julien's book. And after I slogged through that chapter, I still don't know what it means. Many sections of the books left me utterly bewildered. Consider these sample sentences chosen at random: "The melody is simply a descending Hypo-Mixolydian mode, with a transfer of register an octave higher." "The coda concludes with a pentatonic line that covers the entire ambitus of the song." "Suffice it to say here that the controlled cacophony of the aleatoric, rising glissandos transcends whatever theme or meaning the surrounding bars may imply." "McCartney's five-bar, mostly ascending guitar solo line in the first organ break (at 1'18") sounds very un-guitar-like (more like a digital synthesizer sound yet to be invented), and is likely to have been palm-muted and played with either precise up-and-down plectrum strokes or treated with slap-back tape echo as well as with other effects." Huh!?! Given the mix of authors and subjects, some chapters do make for easier reading and comprehension. Yet even those sections are dry. Given that 'Pepper' is such a magical album, there isn't nearly enough joy or sense of wonder in this book; it's all clinical dissection. In short, university music professors, students taking university music classes, musical scholars and musicologists will probably find Julien's book a great read. The rest of us mere mortals won't.

The first concept album in the history of popular music, the soundtrack of the Summer of Love or 'Hippy Symphony No. 1': Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band is first and foremost the album that gave rise to 'hopes of progress in pop music' (The Times, 29 May 1967). Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles commemorates the fortieth anniversary of this masterpiece of British psychedelia by addressing issues that will help put the record in perspective. These issues include: reception by rock critics and musicians, the cover, lyrics, songwriting, formal unity, the influence of non-European music and art music, connections with psychedelia and, more generally, the sociocultural context of the 1960s, production, sound engineering and musicological significance. The contributors are world renowned for their work on the Beatles: they examine Sgt. Pepper from the angle of disciplines such as musicology, ethnomusicology, history, sociology, literature, social psychology and cultural theory.

Winner of the 2009 ARSC (Association for Recorded Sound Collections) Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research: Best Research in Recorded Rock and Popular Music Given the amount of coverage Sgt. Pepper has received in Beatles' histories, biographies, memoirs, interviews, and scholarly and popular periodicals, what more is there possibly to learn? Surprisingly, after reading the collection of essays edited by Olivier Julien ... one realizes that much uncharted territory remains ... Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles: It Was Forty Years Ago Today acts as an exquisite program guide that enhances experienced as well as novice's listening to this monumental album.' --North American British Music Studies Association 'An unprecedented survey ...' -- L'Education Musicale '12 essays from world-renowned Beatles scholars on the ubiquitous recording. Each of the essays provides an insightful discussion of a theme of the album ... Recommended. All readers, all levels.' -- Choice 'Each of the authors present their "take" on the album, and many of the essays included complement ... each other, ultimately making this collection useful not only for its individual chapters, but as a whole.' --ARSC Journal 'The Beatles have been the subject of many extended analytical treatments, and this collection offers a few additions to that tradition ... Scattered throughout its pages are occasional jewels of insight ...' -- Ethnomusicology 'The contributors to this volume form an impressive array of scholars whose work on the Beatles has been well regarded and influential ... This book is well edited, coherently written throughout and should provide a welcome addition to both the teaching and analysis of late-1960s popular culture.' --Musicology Australia About the Author Olivier Julien teaches the history and musicology of popular music at the Universities of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and Paris-Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris III), France.