

For about a month, I have been wanting to continue my writings about love. That is really the whole purpose of creating *iSaunter*. And now my sights have been set on love songs. Obviously, there is no way to approach this comprehensively since 98 percent of songs are about love. I made up that figure! Thinking about the possibilities and avenues I could take with this subject is overwhelming.

I decided that it is best to start with who is most familiar with me in this genre. Although I do have artists I follow frequently such as Journey and Chicago that have evoked feelings of love for me for decades, I choose Paul McCartney to focus on here.

John Lennon, I paraphrase, had made a joke about needing to get back to work because Paul has just written something good again. He was referring to the song, "Silly Love Songs." It was actually critics at the time that were harping on McCartney's penchant for writing "soppy" love songs. McCartney responded to *Billboard*:

"But over the years people have said, 'Aw, he sings love songs, he writes love songs, he's so soppy at times.'" I thought, Well, I know what they mean, but, people have been doing love songs forever. I like 'em, other people like 'em, and there's a lot of people I love -- I'm lucky enough to have that in my life. So the idea was that "you" may call them silly, but what's wrong with that?"

"The song was, in a way, to answer people who just accuse me of being soppy. The nice payoff now is that a lot of the people I meet who are at the age where they've just got a couple of kids and have grown up a bit, settling down, they'll say to me, 'I thought you were really soppy for years, but I get it now! I see what you were doing!'"

Since I was a kid, my dad had me exposed to the Beatles music constantly. I remember trying to pick out who sang in each song. Reading the album liner notes to see which Beatle wrote this song or that one was a regular thing for me. I remember discussions with classmates on which Beatle I liked the best, too. I am sure that was the norm for most people my age.

Who was your favorite Beatle? They all had their personality strengths and intricacies and tastes that came out over the years. Paul was always my fave. Why? I love his true poetic writing, and I love what he wrote about and how he said it. If you read and dissect the lyrics from "Eleanor Rigby," you will find iambic pentameter perfection. Real poetry. He was definitely the one who promoted love the most. Love in his music is what touched me the most.

Even after the Beatles breakup, McCartney did not stop writing and singing about love. He continued through his new band, Wings. Much of that love emotion pouring out of him at that time was due to his undying love for Linda who passed away in 1998 of breast cancer. They were married 29 years. In retrospect, I think there is a good argument that McCartney's finest work was during his years with Wings.

Now, let me talk about my take on McCartney's music and professions of love. He once said in an interview that his all-time favorite song that he wrote was "Here, There, and Everywhere" for the Beatles. I am compelled to show you the lyrics because for people like me, reading has more impact. The lyrics demonstrate exactly what makes me such a huge fan of his work, and as a romantic, it warms my heart every time.

"To lead a better life, I need my love to be here

*Here, making each day of the year
Changing my life with a wave of her hand
Nobody can deny that there's something there*

*There, running my hands through her hair
Both of us thinking how good it can be
Someone is speaking, but she doesn't know he's there*

*I want her everywhere
And if she's beside me, I know I need never care
But to love her is to need her everywhere*

*Knowing that love is to share
Each one believing that love never dies
Watching her eyes and hoping I'm always there*

*I want her everywhere
And if she's beside me, I know I need never care
But to love her is to need her everywhere
Knowing that love is to share
Each one believing that love never dies
Watching her eyes and hoping I'm always there*

*I will be there and everywhere
Here, there, and everywhere*

— John Lennon/Paul McCartney

Here, There and Everywhere lyrics © Sony/atv Tunes LLC, Mpl Communications Inc

McCartney has equated music with what he calls magic. He applies this concept to all of music throughout history. According to him, music is something unique to humans. It evokes emotions through simple sound waves with or without lyrics. Music causes people to recount past life experiences when it plays, whether it be good memories, bad memories, and it is capable of wakening senses from memories such as smells related to life events.

The song, "With a Little Luck" takes me back to a time when my family had just moved from LA to Atlanta. I don't recall how I heard it other than a lot of radio play, but that song resonated with me strongly. When it plays now I immediately remember good things in my life prior to my parents divorce. Summers at the pool, tromping through the woods alone, my mom's cooking and decorating, playing catch with dad in the front lawn, family time, and more.

Similarly, the spiritual love song by George Harrison, "My Sweet Lord," brought back fears of impending doom to me for years. I know, that is odd since the song is a praise to God. I heard it prior to the San Fernando earthquake in '72. It was a destructive 7.0 doozy and scared this little boy so bad that I slept with the lights on for years so I could escape my room in another quake.

Today, I hear it and feel something is about to happen, but it is not always a bad feeling. I had to alter my thinking about it. The point is, music can and does trigger memories in us.

McCartney defined the Beatles tenure and successes with one simple answer, "All You Need is Love." He elaborated on this by saying that the band decided that the world already has enough problems, hate and violence in it. The guys simply decided to counter all of the violence in the world by creating music that resists the evils out there. I honestly have wondered in the past, why they got so popular and sustained for so long. This is it. Love, laugh, fun. They even poked fun at everything and everyone including themselves in the process. The world needed, and still needs that.

Being a romantic sap who dreams of and longs for a woman who would appreciate my pouring out and authentically reciprocate, I tend to focus on McCartney's more romantic work. I mean the songs that paint images of two people madly in love, tenderly in love, fun in love, in love forever. Today's society doesn't really believe in these concepts anymore, but I do.

In the song “And I Love Her,” from the Beatles earliest years, McCartney croons *Bright are the stars that shine, dark is the sky. I know this love of mine will never die*. In my room (Like The Beach Boys song lol), I sat in front of my record player for hours listening to tons of music and I replayed this song over and over. That line has always been a beacon to me. I have always wanted to borrow it to use for someone special. It is special.

McCartney songs that also give me hope for love include, “My Love,” “With a Little Luck” (my ringtone), “Maybe I’m Amazed,” “My Valentine,” and “Calico Skies.” The list doesn’t stop there with as much as he has written. He knows how to communicate love, relationships and romance. He is a true romantic, and by being deeply affected by his love songs, by deduction, I am, too.

I cannot end this without shouting out my favorite song (a trio) with a line from the Abby Road album. It is in my playlist multiple times so I can hear it more often. I still get so excited and sing horribly along when I hear it; “Golden Slumbers/Carry That Weight/The End.”

The dreamer in me longs for this lyric’s simple concept to take hold in the world, but it all starts with the individual. You must give and show love for others before you can receive it. For some like me, I have found that you can give, and give, and give your love, but still be left holding an empty cup. Yet, I will not give up on love.

*And in the end,
The love you take
Is equal to the love you make.*

Paul McCartney /John Lennon
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