The Beatles | The Long And Winding Road

SONG TITLE: THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD
ALBUM: LET IT BE
RELEASED: 1970
LABEL: APPLE
GENRE: POP

VOCALS: PAUL MCCARTNEY
PIANO: PAUL MCCARTNEY
GUITAR: GEORGE HARRISON
BASS: JOHN LENNON
DRUMS: RINGO STARR
RHODES PIANO: BILLY PRESTON

WRITTEN BY: JOHN LENNON, PAUL MCCARTNEY
PRODUCED BY: PHIL SPECTOR
ORCHESTRATION: RICHARD HEWSON

UK CHART PEAK: 1

This was the last single released by the Beatles from their 12th and final studio album Let It Be. The album was released a month after the band officially split up in 1970. Although credited to Lennon-McCartney, as all Beatles songs were, this was one of Paul McCartney's ballads. This is also the only Beatles song where John Lennon played Bass. Producer Phil Spector later removed George Harrison and Ringo Starr's parts, so the other two Beatles do not in fact appear on the released recording at all.

Despite the song reaching No.1, Paul McCartney was angered by Phil Spector's production of the track. Apparently, during the Beatles last ever recording session at the famous Abbey Road Studios, Spector added orchestral overdubs to four tracks: 'The Long and Winding Road', 'Across the Universe' and 'I Me Mine' whilst only one Beatle, Ringo Starr, was present and without the knowledge or permission of the other three. Spector's additions included: 18 violins, four violas, four cellos, three trumpets, three trombones, two guitars and a 14-strong female choir.

McCartney sent a letter to the Beatles' business manager, Allen Klein stating "don't ever do it again".

However, the orchestral overdubs from Spector still found their way into the final album release. It was said to be the catalyst to McCartney asking for the Beatles to be dissolved. A wide range of artists has since covered this song including: Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, George Michael and Ray Charles.

Let It Be was supposed to be released before Abbey Road. Some critics and fans think that in fact, Abbey Road should be considered their final album, due to the fact that the songs included on Let It Be were supposed to be a return to their simpler approach to music, which never in fact happened. Following the issues faced with Spector's production, an album called Let It Be... Naked was released in 2003 removing most of Spector's production work and featuring a reworking of some of the songs.
The Long And Winding Road

The Beatles

The long and winding road that leads to your door will never disappear.

I've seen that road before. It always leads me here.
Piano Grade 1

Lead me to your door. The wild and windy night that the rain...

...washed away, has left a pool of tears...

crying for the day... Why leave me standing here...

...let me know the way.