



# Here, There and Everywhere: My Life Recording the Music of the Beatles

By Geoff Emerick, Howard Massey

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Geoff Emerick became an assistant engineer at the legendary Abbey Road Studios in 1962 at age fifteen, and was present as a new band called the Beatles recorded their first songs. He later worked with the Beatles as they recorded their singles “She Loves You” and “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” the songs that would propel them to international superstardom. In 1964 he would witness the transformation of this young and playful group from Liverpool into professional, polished musicians as they put to tape classic songs such as “Eight Days A Week” and “I Feel Fine.”

Then, in 1966, at age nineteen, Geoff Emerick became the Beatles’ chief engineer, the man responsible for their distinctive sound as they recorded the classic album *Revolver*, in which they pioneered innovative recording techniques that changed the course of rock history. Emerick would also engineer the monumental *Sgt. Pepper* and *Abbey Road* albums, considered by many the greatest rock recordings of all time. In *Here, There and Everywhere* he reveals the creative process of the band in the studio, and describes how he achieved the sounds on their most famous songs. Emerick also brings to light the personal dynamics of the band, from the relentless (and increasingly mean-spirited) competition between Lennon and McCartney to the infighting and frustration that eventually brought a bitter end to the greatest rock band the world has ever known.

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## Here, There and Everywhere: My Life Recording the Music of the Beatles By Geoff Emerick, Howard Massey Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #41291 in Books
- Brand: Alfred Music
- Published on: 2007-02-15
- Released on: 2007-02-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .90" w x 5.30" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Emerick was a fresh-faced young engineer in April 1966 when producer George Martin offered him the chance to work with the Beatles on what would become *Revolver*. He lasted until 1968, when tensions within the group, along with the band members' eccentricities and the demands of the job, forced him to quit after *The White Album*, exhausted and burned out. In this entertaining if uneven memoir, Emerick offers some priceless bits of firsthand knowledge. Amid the strict, sterile confines of EMI's Abbey Road studio, where technicians wore lab coats, the Beatles' success allowed them to challenge every rule. From their use of tape loops and their labor-intensive fascination with rolling tape backwards, the Beatles—and Emerick—reveled in shaking things up. Less remarkable are Emerick's personal recollections of the band members. He concedes the group never really fraternized with him—and he seems to have taken it personally. The gregarious McCartney is recalled fondly, while Lennon is "caustic," Ringo "bland" and Harrison "sarcastic" and "furtive." Still, the book packs its share of surprises and will delight Beatle fans curious about how the band's groundbreaking records were made. (Mar.)

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#### From [Booklist](#)

Emerick was only 15 when he began working with the Beatles as an assistant engineer at Abbey Road Studios. Later, as a 19-year-old full engineer, he was on board for the seminal *Revolver* and *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Always aiming for perfection, the Beatles never took no for an answer, and he did his best to oblige by developing innovative recording techniques, some simple (e.g., using a loudspeaker as a microphone), others more sophisticated. Being the Beatles' engineer wasn't entirely pleasant. Eventually, during the tense and uncomfortable *White Album* sessions, the Beatles barely spoke to one another without anger, and Emerick quit before recording was finished. But he returned to work on *Abbey Road* and several McCartney solo records, including *Band on the Run*. Anyone interested in the Beatles and their music ought to love Emerick's as-told-to insider's account of working with the world's most famous band when they made their most famous music. *June Sawyers*

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#### Review

Unlike other books detailing the group's recording history, Emerick's provides the kind of day-to-day experience of what it was like working with the world's most famous rock group. (*The Washington Post*)

There have been hundreds of books about the Beatles, but only a handful from insiders. And for seven years, Emerick was a witness to history who worked alongside the Fab Four and producer George Martin. (*The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland)

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