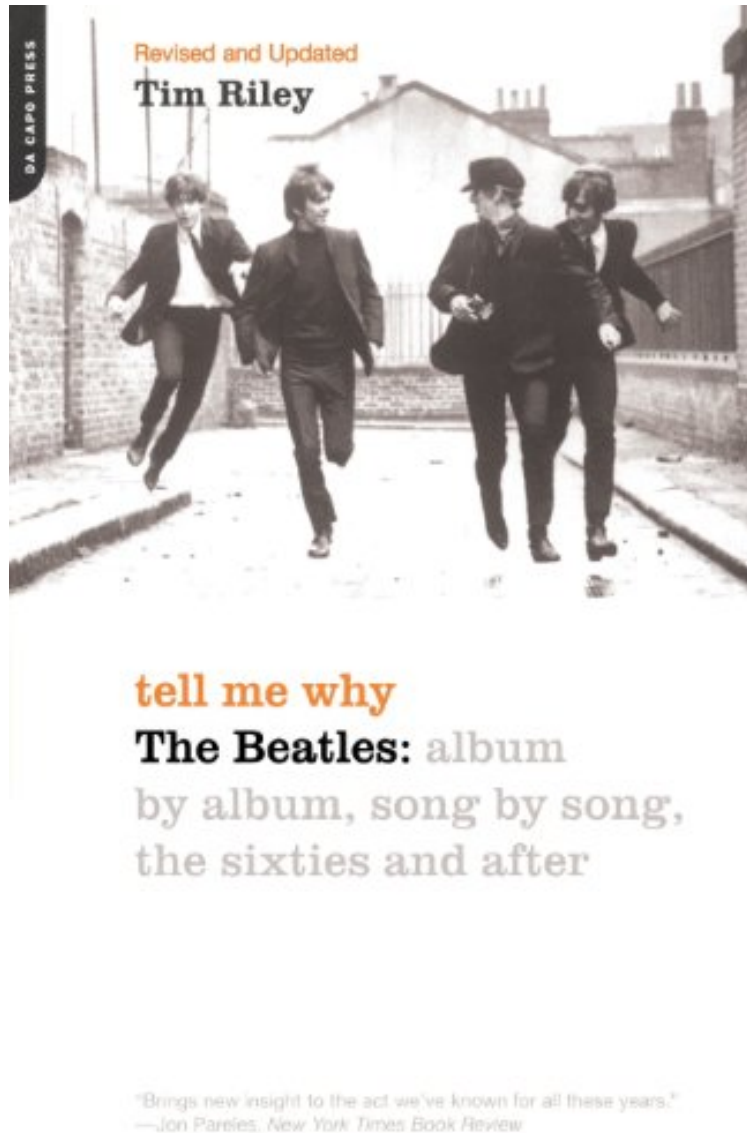


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Tell Me Why: The Beatles: Album By Album, Song By Song, The Sixties And After

Tim Riley

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A unique combination of musical analysis and cultural history, *Tell Me Why* stands alone among Beatles books with its single-minded focus on the most important aspect of the band: its music. Riley offers a new, deeper understanding of the Beatles by closely considering each song and album they recorded in an exploration as rigorous as it is soulful. He tirelessly sifts through the Beatles discography, making clear that the legendary four were more than mere teen idols: They were brilliant innovators who mastered an extremely detailed art. Since the first publication of *Tell Me Why* in 1988, much new primary source material has appeared: Paul McCartney's authorized biography, the Anthology CDs and videos, the complete Parlophone-sequenced albums on CD, the Live at the BBC sessions, and the global smash 1. Riley incorporates all the new material in an update that makes this a crucial book for Beatles fans.

From Publishers Weekly Song by song, record by record, an American music critic discusses the Beatles albums from *Please Please Me* (1962) to *Abbey Road* (1969), recounts the circumstances that led to the composition of each song and analyzes the means by which it achieves its individual character. A final chapter, "The Dream Is Over," surveys and sums up the subsequent solo albums. Riley shows that Paul McCartney rarely personalized his songs the way John Lennon did; he had a keener commercial instinct and satisfied pop expectations, while Lennon challenged his audience with lofty ideas like the illusory nature of reality and acute anxiety. Once they became solo artists, their best albums epitomized their strengths as they delineated what a remarkable match of sensibilities the two of them had been. An essential work for all interested parties. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Shrewdly balanced -- with musicology as important as sociology -- [Riley] offers Beatles criticism of unprecedented fullness." -- Kirkus s From the Inside Flap Perhaps the first serious analysis of the Beatles' work and its impact on popular music, *Tell Me Why* is meticulous in its purpose and long overdue.... Of the hundreds of books written about [the Beatles] none bring the musical knowledge and the familiarity with the period that Riley offers here." -- Cleveland Plain Dealer Album by album, song by song, Tim Riley gives us a new, deeper understanding of the Beatles. Outdistancing the countless tell-all biographies that have been written, Riley's study of the Beatles' music is as rigorous as it is soulful. He explores the entire Beatles catalogue, making clear that the legendary four were not simply teen idols -- that they were, in fact, brilliant musical innovators who created timeless songs and virtually invented the album-as-art.