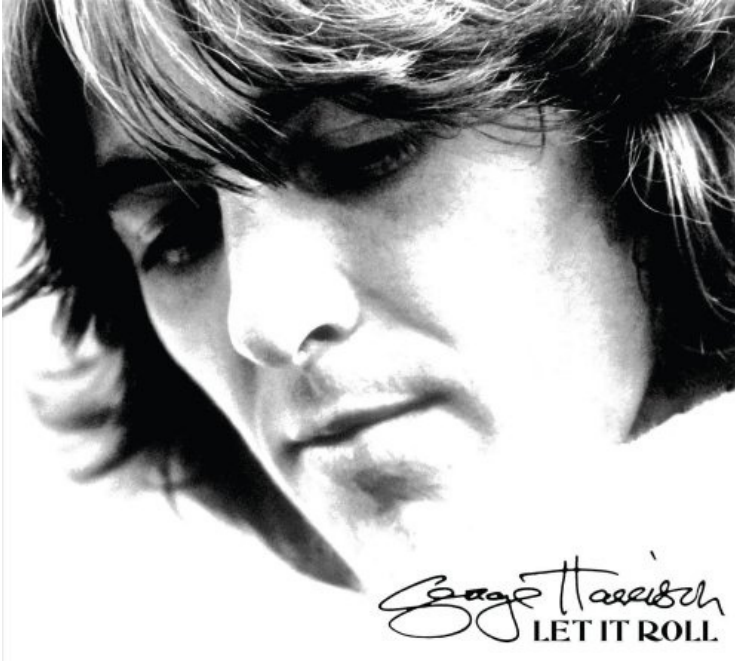


SPELLOUT SEATTLE

living fast and keeping it under \$25

« "Let there be dancing in the streets, drinking in the saloons, and necking in the parlor." Things you can do with that pencil »

Reissue, repackage, repackage: "Let It Roll: Songs by George Harrison"



Oh, those Fabs — as adept at merchandising as they ever were at creation. I ask myself: How much more advanced can "remastering" technology get? And does a person truly need every last offering in every conceivable format? But then I realize that if we don't buy these products, future Beatle great-great-grandchildren might be forced to actually, I don't know, get *jobs*. And I'm a pushover for lost tracks, "never-before-seen" photos and the rest of the come-ons. So I've grown not to mind when one of the lads surfaces to pick my pocket anew.

The marketing of this latest item as George Harrison's "first-ever solo hits collection" is a bit of a cheat. The out-of-print *Best of Dark Horse 1976-1989* covered much of the same ground, and a pricey box set a few years back filled in the gaps. Nevertheless, for those out there who simply aren't yet hip to the wonders of Harrison's solo catalog, *Let It Roll* is a fine place to start.

The 19-song disc justifiably serves up plenty from Harrison's 1970 solo debut, *All Things Must Pass*: a monster triple album released when the guitarist was just 27, calling to mind Tom Lehrer's mordant observation that "when Mozart was my age, he had been dead for two years." His Beatles money shot, "Something," appears in a live incarnation from his 1971 all-star hootenanny and proto-Live Aid *Concert for Bangladesh*.

Harrison's playful middle period (hey, I liked *Extra Texture*, you wanna make somethin' out of it?) isn't much in evidence, but included are the choicest cuts from the posthumous 2002 release *Brainwashed*: the jaunty philosophy of "Any Road" and the blissful "Marwa Blues," aka Santo and Johnny Cruise the Ganges.

The carrot for completists is a rare, Dylan-penned ditty called "I Don't Want to Do It," which originally saw the light on (ahem) the *Porky's Revenge* soundtrack. Drenched in '80s production, this bit of fluff sends your finger hovering over "skip" at the outset, but before you know it you've surrendered to its top-down, summer-night sweetness.

After he jumped off the commercial merry-go-round, Harrison somehow got tagged as a weird, reclusive old crank. But this collection of songs, soulful, tender and often jubilant,

what goes on?

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reflects his abundant light. And come on — “Got My Mind Set on You” was fun, wasn't it?

Let It Roll is on sale at [Easy Street Records](#) for \$14.98 ... and at [Amazon.com](#) for a ten-spot, but you're going to buy local, aren't you? I'm pretty sure that's the way George would want it.



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