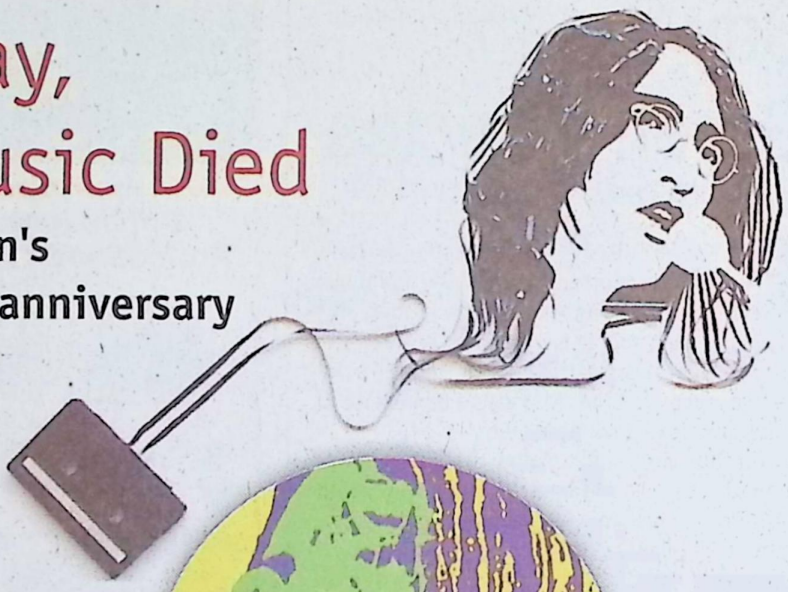
The Day, the Music Died

John Lennon's 30th death anniversary

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"Something touched me deep inside; the day, the music died,"
- Don McLean, American Pie 1971

December 8, 1980. A man returns home with his wife to their apartment in Dakota, New York City at 10:50 pm. An autistic and schizophrenic man calls from behind. He took an autograph earlier in the day. The man looks back to see Mark Chapman. Four bullets enter his back. Before arriving to the nearby Roosevelt Hospital the man left the 'material world' and with him took 'all the love he could need'. December 8, 2010 marks the 30th Death Anniversary of one of the most influential personalities of the 20th Century - John Winston Lennon.

John Lennon was born on October 9, 1940 in Liverpool, United Kingdom. His parents -- Jack and Julia Lennon -- divorced when John was five. Jack left for the sea; Julia re-married. Julia's eldest sister Mimi and her husband George Smith looked after John although John was in regular contact with Julia. Julia bought John his first guitar in 1957. She told him, "Son, if you know how to play an instrument, you'll never be short of friends." A year later Julia was overrun by a car driven by an off duty policeman and died very shortly. Through his music and collaboration with Paul McCartney, John and Paul composed some of the most influential songs of the 20th Century. Through his music, John also expressed his personal experiences in life through songs like 'Strawberry Fields Forever'; 'Julia'; 'The Ballad of John and Yoko'; 'Mother' and the songs of the Double Fantasy LP.

The Sixties of the 20th Century was 'the' decade for music. Whether in this part of the world through Modern Bangla; Hindi in Bollywood; and Urdu through Ghazals in Pakistan; or even through the powerful notes of Umm Kulthum in the Arab world -- music was flowering 'here there and everywhere'. The Buena Vista Social Club was just the tip of many icebergs that sent out all-inspiring notes throughout the non-English speaking Americas. Rock n Roll from the mid fifties through Chuck Berry, BB King, Muddy Waters, Fats Doimno, Little Richard, Jerry Lewis, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley et al was an inspirational platform for groups and individual artists of the Sixties.

It is in this historical context that the Beatles surfaced with their first LP 'Please, Please Me' in March 1963. The initial Beatles songs were very much influenced by the Rock n Roll of the fifties especially by Chuck Berry. But the Beatles had an edge in three places. First they were a group that was young and could automatically identify with the listening audience with their wry humour and wit. Second the Beatles were composing songs of a universal appeal- love. Through 'I wanna hold your hand' and the Ed Sullivan shows the Beatles invaded the USA in 1964 with Beatlemania with