timeless LPs 'A Hard Day's Night'; 'Beatles for Sale'; 'Help' and 'Revolver'. Their final edge was in their first manager Brian Epstein who was very clever in presenting the Beatles to live up to the Beatlemania they created -- something that was never seen before in popular music and something that has never been re-matched since.

After the untimely death of Brian Epstein in 1967, the Beatles were on their own to manage their empire. The little boys in John and Paul by now had grown up to become men. John divorced his first wife Cynthia and married Yoko Ono. Paul got engaged with Linda Eastman. In spite of the cracks developing between John and Paul, the Beatles still came up with critically acclaimed LPs in 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' (1967); 'The White Album' (1968); and 'Abbey Road' (1970). The rooftop concert from their Abbey Road studio was their last live concert that coincided with their last album in 'Let It Be' in 1970. The band disintegrated leaving the fans with the message that 'all you need is love'.

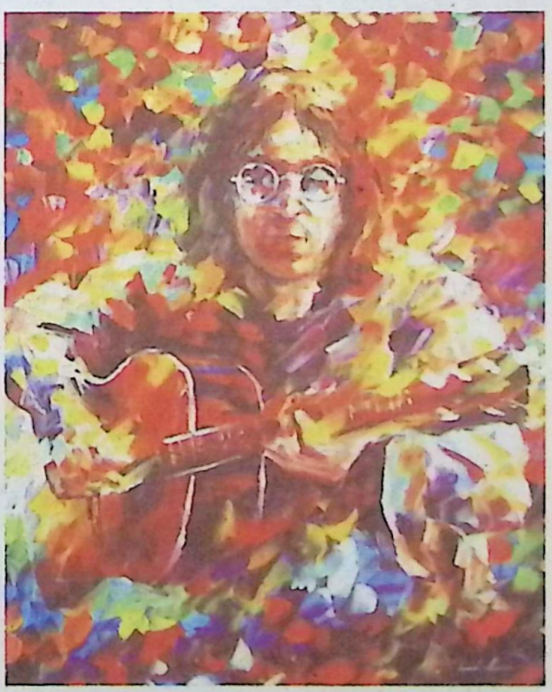
After their disintegration the four Beatles followed their own 'beats'. Between 1970 and 1975 John went back to his Rock n Roll roots and his anti-War activities with "Give Peace A Chance" that become the anthem of the anti-Vietnam war activists. John's solo masterpiece is probably the controversial yet romantic 'Imagine' in 1971. After the 'Rock n Roll' LP in 1975 John retired from music to give time to his second son, Sean from Yoko- something he missed out on with his first son, Julian from Cynthia. 1980- five years after a 'golden slumber' John and Yoko were back with their 2LP album- 'Double Fantasy'. The title track was apt 'Just like starting over'. All the tracks in this album had a personal touch with 'Watching the Wheels'; 'Beautiful Boy'; 'Dear Yoko'.

Then- just when it was all really 'staring over' again- the fateful event happened on 8 December 1980. Four bullets of Mark Chapman put rest to the ever-restless soul of John Lennon.

Thirty years on the legacy of John Lennon and the Beatles lives on. It lives on not only because of their artistic creations, but also because of their universal appeal towards and against love, war and peace. The Beatles and John Lennon (along with George Harrison) gave Rock n Roll a Sufi touch while keeping true to their own roots and history. Probably this was their everlasting effect on Rock n Roll.

The beauty of any art lies in its universal emotions. One artist's emotions become the emotions of other artists because of this universal appeal. When Don McLean wrote American Pie in 1971 commemorating the tragic airplane death of Buddy Holly in 1959, little did he know those same words "Something touched me deep inside; the day, the music died," would also sing the emotions for John Lennon in 1980 in another tragic death.

The beauty of musicians is they sing and speak our latent emotions for us in a way better than we could ever have done. John Lennon is one such musician among the many that have graced human civilization.



The beauty of musicians is they sing and speak our latent emotions for us in a way better than we could ever have done. John Lennon is one such musician among the many that have graced human civilization. Thirty years since the 'music died'- John Thanks for Everything. Let's 'Imagine John Lennon's Soul Living in Peace'!

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