

# RAIN<sup>®</sup>

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## A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

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### A Simple Note of Thanks

I often think about how lucky I am to have grown up during the 1960's. Not because the 60's were really so great; they often weren't. Here in the U.S. we were going through the Vietnam War, we lived in fear of nuclear war with a communist Cuba pointing missiles at the U.S. from 90 miles off of our shores, our beloved president had been assassinated. Our nation was split down the middle between those who felt that we had to go to war to preserve our way of life, and those who felt that the war was an unjust, and unnecessary waste of life, and that we should do everything possible to live in peace. While we were trying to land a man on the moon, our inner cities were literally burning because of racial strife. Yet somehow when I think back to my youth and the 60's, it seems like a great time to be coming of age. I believe that a great deal of the credit for this falls onto the shoulders of four young men from Liverpool that changed music, and the world forever. I don't believe that it was their intention to change the world, but just to make great music, and that they did.

I'm proud to say that I was there when America tuned into the Ed Sullivan Show, and saw The Beatles presented to a nation for the first time. I remember what it was like to take the plastic wrap off of a "Meet The Beatles" LP, and be introduced to all of these classic songs for the first time. I remember looking forward to each new Beatles song, not knowing that these songs would evolve into universally accepted classic contemporary music that would last for several generations, if not eternity. All I knew was that I loved this music, and playing it brought me a great deal of pleasure, as it did for most of my generation.

Like many teenagers, The Beatles made me want to be a musician. Whenever I saw them on TV, listened to them on my record player or the radio, or went to their movies, all I could think of was how great it would be to be a Beatle, to be bringing this music to people all over the world. Of course this was just a kid's fantasy, no different than wanting to be Mickey Mantle on the Yankees, Cassius Clay in the boxing ring, or Sean Connery, as James Bond on the movie screen. Now here I am many, many years later. Somehow the passion and joy that I experienced by performing this great music has evolved into a career. Although this was never my original intention, I feel like I was blessed. If somebody had told me back in mid-'70s when Rain was performing at clubs and amusement parks in Southern California, back when audience members used to come up to the stage and ask "don't you play anything but Beatles?", that some day we'd be starring on Broadway, I'd have told them that they're crazy.

Finally I'd just like take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to John, Paul, George, and Ringo. The Beatles. For giving the world some of the greatest music ever written and recorded, for the joy that this music has brought to all of us, and for the wonderful career and life that it has personally brought to myself, my family, and the other members of Rain. Our goal has always been to present this music in a live environment to audiences throughout the world, and most importantly, to maintain the integrity of The Beatles, and their music. After all, it is their music. We are just a few very fortunate guys that get to perform this music night after night. What's better than that?

Yours Truly,

Mark Lewis  
Manager/original keyboardist/founding member