

SONG FACTS

Hey Jude

Album: Past Masters, Vol. 2 **Date:** 1968

Paul McCartney wrote this as "Hey Jules," a song meant to comfort John Lennon's son Julian as his parents were getting a divorce. The change to "Jude" was inspired by the character "Jud" in the musical *Oklahoma!*. McCartney loves show tunes.

This was the Beatles longest single, running 7:11, and at the time was the longest song ever released as a single. It was the first long song to get a lot of airplay, as radio stations still preferred short ones so they could play more of them. When this became a hit, stations learned that listeners would stick around if they liked the song, which paved the way for long songs like "American Pie" and "Layla." Disc jockeys were the real winners here, as they could finally take a reasonable bathroom break.

This was the first song released on Apple Records, The record label owned by The Beatles.

McCartney didn't like the initial lyrics, especially the line "The movement you need is on your shoulder." Lennon convinced him to keep them.

This is the most commercially successful Beatles song. It was #1 in at least 12 countries and by the end of 1968 had sold more than 5 million copies.

The fadeout takes 4 minutes. The chorus is repeated 19 times.

The original 1968 version was recorded in mono, and many listeners find it far superior to the stereo remake from 1970, which is much more heavily produced.

John Lennon added a four-letter word that is hidden deep in the song around the 3-minute mark, and the intro ("From the heart of the black country: When I was a robber in Boston place You gathered round me with your fine embrace") was spoken by John and Paul. "Boston place" (mentioned by Paul) is a small London street where The Beatles' company Apple had just installed an electronics laboratory.

Adapted from www.songfacts.com

