

SONG FACTS

The Long and Winding Road

Album: Let It Be Date: 1970

One of the last Beatles songs, Paul McCartney wrote this based on tensions within the band.

The road McCartney is talking about is the B842 which runs down the east coast of Kintyre and on into Campbeltown near his Scottish farmhouse.

McCartney: "I just sat down at my piano in Scotland, started playing and came up with that song, imagining it was going to be done by someone like Ray Charles. I have always found inspiration in the calm beauty of Scotland and again it proved the place where I found inspiration."

The Beatles recorded this in January, 1969 as a fairly simple ballad. By 1970, The Beatles were breaking up and Phil Spector was brought in to go through the tapes and produce the album. Spector was known for his "Wall Of Sound" recording technique, where he added many instruments and layered the tracks to create a very full sound. On this, he took out most of The Beatles instruments and added a string section and choir. The result was very different from what the group originally had in mind. Even though he wrote this, Paul McCartney didn't go to the sessions where Spector produced it. When McCartney heard the results, he made it clear that he hated what Spector did to his song, and tried to get the original version, which was mixed by engineer Glyn Johns, on the album. The band was already falling apart, and this caused further turmoil within the group, as Harrison and Lennon both supported Spector. Paul has not changed his stance over the years, and still believes Spector butchered it.

The Beatles performed this in the movie *Let It Be*. Both the movie and album were the last The Beatles released. **Abbey Road** was the last album they recorded.

Adapted from www.songfacts.com

