

It Won't Be Long

THE BEATLES

- ▶ **"It Won't Be Long"** is the opening track on *With the Beatles*, the Beatles' second UK album, and was the first original song recorded for it. Although credited to **Lennon–McCartney**, it was primarily a **John Lennon** composition, with **Paul McCartney** assisting with the lyrics and arrangement.



Composition

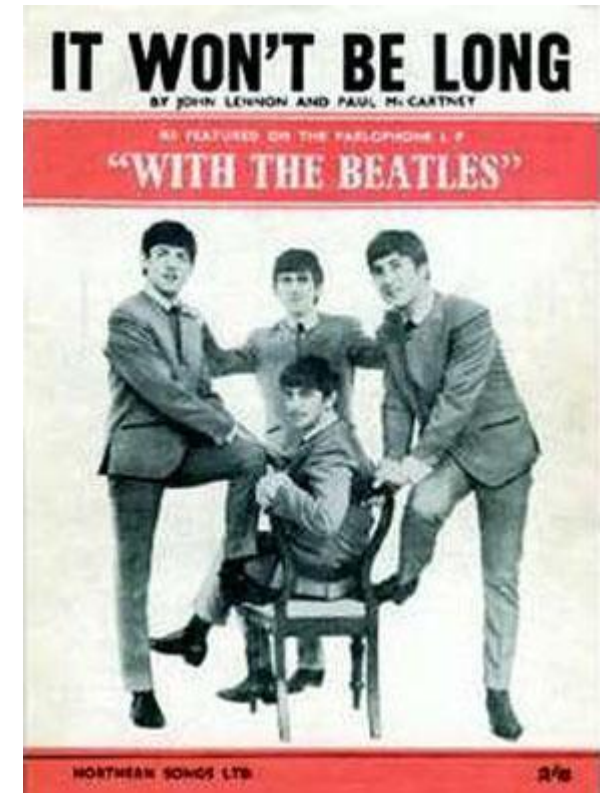
- ▶ The chorus is a play on the words "be long" and "belong".
- ▶ The song features early Beatles' trademarks such as call-and-response yeah-yeahs and the melodramatic ending.
- ▶ *John Lennon, in his last interview, told Playboy magazine that the song was the beginning of a wider audience for Beatles' music than the youthful throngs that had fervently followed them from their Liverpool clubbing days. "It was only after a critic for the [London] Times said we put 'Aeolian cadences' in 'It Won't Be Long' that the middle classes started listening to us. ... To this day, I have no idea what 'Aeolian cadences' are. They sound like exotic birds."*
- ▶ Actually the critic, William Mann, said this about the song "Not a Second Time."

- ▶ Bob Dylan had much the same thing in mind when he wrote that Beatles' chords were "outrageous, just outrageous."



Recording and release

- ▶ The Beatles recorded this song on 30 July 1963 in two sessions. The first session was in the morning, where they recorded 10 takes. The second session was in the afternoon, where they recorded seven takes, misnumbered as takes 17–23. The final product was a combination of takes 17 and 21, put together on 21 August.
- ▶ *The original release in the UK was on "With the Beatles", 20 November 1963.*
- ▶ *The song was never performed live or at any of the group's BBC sessions, although they did [lip-synch](#) to the track on an edition of "Ready Steady Go!" in March 1964.*





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