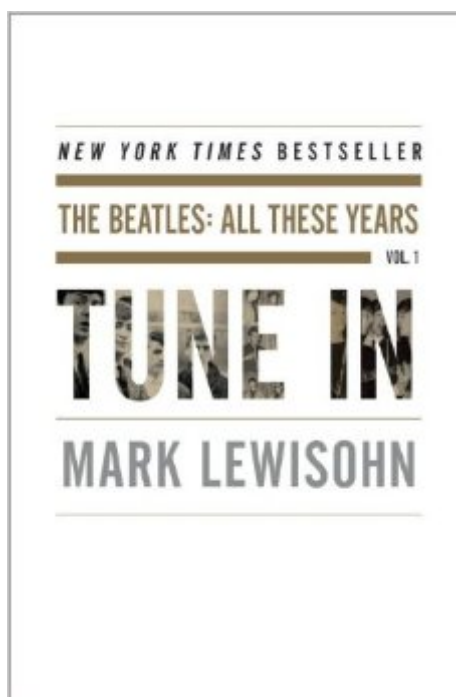


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Tune In: The Beatles - All These Years, Vol. 1



Synopsis

Tune In is the first volume of All These Years—a highly-anticipated, groundbreaking biographical trilogy by the world's leading Beatles historian. Mark Lewisohn uses his unprecedented archival access and hundreds of new interviews to construct the full story of the lives and work of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. Ten years in the making, Tune In takes the Beatles from before their childhoods through the final hour of 1962—when, with breakthrough success just days away, they stand on the cusp of a whole new kind of fame and celebrity. They've one hit record ("Love Me Do") behind them and the next ("Please Please Me") primed for release, their first album session is booked, and America is clear on the horizon. This is the lesser-known Beatles story—the pre-Fab years of Liverpool and Hamburg—and in many respects the most absorbing and incredible period of them all. Here is the complete and true account of their family lives, childhoods, teenage years and their infatuation with American music, here is the riveting narrative of their unforgettable days and nights in the Cavern Club, their laughs, larks and adventures when they could move about freely, before fame closed in. For those who've never read a Beatles book before, this is the place to discover the young men behind the icons. For those who think they know John, Paul, George, and Ringo, it's time to press the Reset button and tune into the real story, the lasting word.

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Customer Reviews

Now everybody seems to have there own opinionWho did this and who did thatBut as for me I don't see how they can rememberWhen they weren't where it was at -- Paul McCartney, "Early Days"

2013 Paul McCartney is one of the only two individuals left in the world who knows what it's like to be a Beatle, but even he doesn't know the whole story. Mark Lewisohn has a long standing reputation as one of the most thorough researchers of the Beatles. After authoring an excellent book detailing the Beatles live performances, EMI hired Lewisohn in the 1980s for an enviable task: to listen to every Beatles recording session tape that existed and catalog them. That led to 1988's book "The Complete Beatles Recording Sessions," a long out-of-print (but recently reissued) detailed analysis of all the recordings, that has been an invaluable resource for Beatle scholars ever since. He's written several other great books on the Beatles, and has worked for Apple and for Paul McCartney's company, MPL. This author has the experience and chops to handle the work, and when he announced that he was working on a 3-volume definitive history of the band, Beatle fans and scholars were overjoyed. Now the first volume has been released, and the level of detail is astounding. It's a thousand pages, give or take a few (944 really), but this takes us only to the first glimmer of the part of the Beatles career that everyone knows about, their amazing recording career. We start with the history on how the families of the Beatles first arrived in Liverpool, and go all the way to the end of 1962, the cusp of fame. Just one single to their name, and world wide everlasting fame the farthest thing from anyone's imagination.

I first heard of this project almost 10 years ago. I already had two of Mark Lewisohn's books on the Beatles: Recording Sessions and The Complete Beatles Chronicle. I knew they were books which were objective, yet with an eye for everything interesting and humorous. When the news came out that Lewisohn was writing a complete biography, I waited anxiously for its publication. And waited. And waited.... as it got pushed back ever further. Well, finally it's here; and the waiting was all worth while. 'Tune In' tells the story of the years before Beatlemania, weaving together the biographies of four boys from Liverpool who grew up with a shared passion, to play music. They each found ways of working towards realizing their dream; in fact, it's about the only thing they did work at, since nothing else seemed to be interesting to them. Their paths gradually came together, first John, then John and Paul, then John, Paul and George and finally, a few months before this part of the story ends, John, Paul, George and Ringo. Lewisohn cleverly constructs the book chronologically, bringing the stories together rather than dealing with each person separately. This gives the book a 'real time' feeling, in which events are recounted as they occur. This sense of immediacy is one of the book's biggest strengths; no other biography (and I've read many) gives the reader such a sense of being there, almost as if watching the story unfold in front of you. Lewisohn's greatest attribute is his willingness to take the trouble to get it right. He makes sure that he not only finds the

best sources, he sets them out in extensive footnotes. Where there is not a definitive source, he says so; there is no reciting of rumor, gossip and biased opinion as fact.

Prepare yourself for a journey with four typical Liverpool lads that will stretch from 1945 through 1962 in 804 pages. You will get the usual information that you have known all along. The kind of tidbits that gave you glances into each player's life. You have also heard most of the people's names in this book and their relationship to one another and to the Beatles. It is those intimate connections that Mark Lewisohn finds and fills in the gaps and chronicles the growth of the pre-fab four. It is fair to say he connects more dots than any prior author. What the author does in 'Volume 1' is fill in a lot of gaps between all the knowledge we had of the Beatles and their rise to fame. You will receive more intimate knowledge of their families, friends, schooling, and especially how rock and roll essentially saved them from the usual Liverpoolian descent into hard labor or unemployment. Rock and Roll was what inspired each of them to be the collective toppest-most of the popper-most. There are many instances where Lewisohn will question the authenticity of an incident or provide more than one perspective of an incident. It appears he has done his home work in detail. You will follow the fab four, throughout different band iterations, as they attempt to play their music and begin to write a few songs of their own. The one thing that I did like were the quotes the author collected from friends and hangers-on that literally witnessed the growth of the group from a rag tag collection of whom-ever would be available to play a gig, to the cohesive unit they eventually became.

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