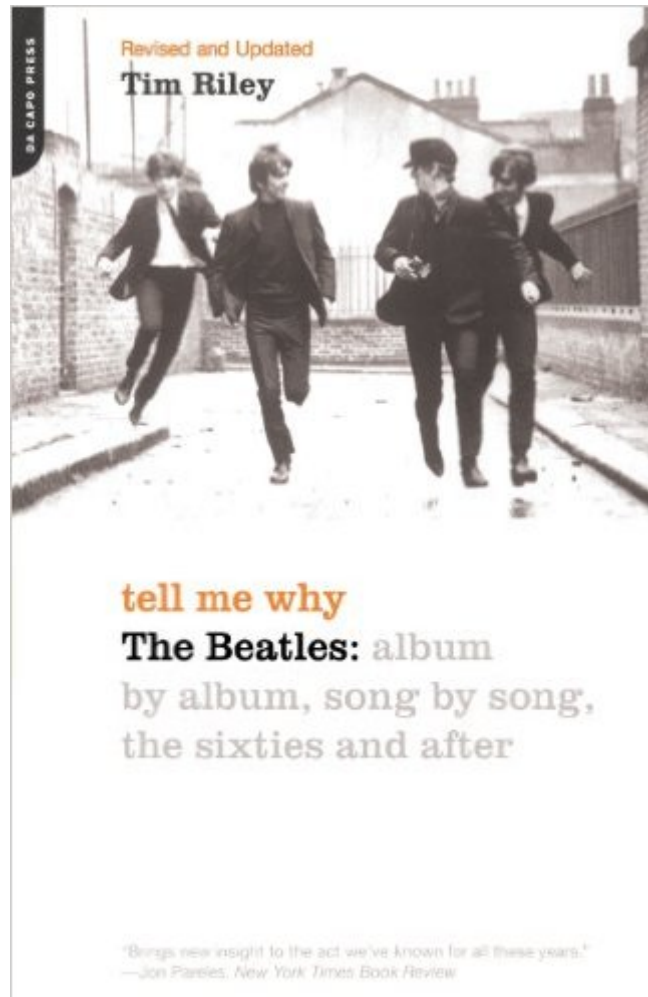


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# Tell Me Why: The Beatles: Album By Album, Song By Song, The Sixties And After



## Synopsis

A unique combination of musical analysis and cultural history, *Tell Me Why* stands alone among Beatles books with its single-minded focus on the most important aspect of the band: its music. Riley offers a new, deeper understanding of the Beatles by closely considering each song and album they recorded in an exploration as rigorous as it is soulful. He tirelessly sifts through the Beatles discography, making clear that the legendary four were more than mere teen idols: They were brilliant innovators who mastered an extremely detailed art. Since the first publication of *Tell Me Why* in 1988, much new primary source material has appeared; Paul McCartney's authorized biography, the Anthology CDs and videos, the complete Parlophone-sequenced albums on CD, the Live at the BBC sessions, and the global smash 1. Riley incorporates all the new material in an update that makes this a crucial book for Beatles fans.

## Book Information

Paperback: 475 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; Revised ed. edition (May 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306811200

ISBN-13: 978-0306811203

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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## Customer Reviews

I did not like the Beatles when I first heard them in high school, but by the time Sgt. Pepper came out, I had matured enough to discover that they were a very special phenomenon. Now there are so many books about them that it is hard to know what to read to get the best sense of their contribution to music. I recommend Tim Riley's book for that purpose. The best thing about this book is that it will increase your sensitivity to the Beatles creative art as you listen to their songs. If you pay attention, you will be able to hear the way Paul brings the bass in to support the lead guitar or to counter the drums. You can hear how Ringo changes the beat in accord with what the song is

trying to convey, and you have a better sense of how the words and music work together. As other reviewers have noted, it does require some knowledge of music, notably chord theory, to understand some of the details, I do not think it is entirely necessary. I know just enough about chords to understand major and minor changes and what they mean to the music, but I get lost when he goes into descriptions of the tonic and dominant. You will also need to know a lot about percussion, because he refers not generally to Ringo's drumming, but to what he is using (high hats, tom-toms, snare, etc.). It is clear from this book that Ringo contributed more to the group than he is usually credited with doing. He is the one, according to Riley, who was able to subdue his ego and try to keep everything together with his beat and ability to complement everyone else. Riley likes John Lennon the best and tends to favor whatever Lennon did, albeit not uncritically.

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