

Beatles stages 1969

30

January

1969 - the roof of the Beatles' Apple Corps building at 3 Seville Row, London. It was on this day that the Beatles appeared in public as a playing group for the final time. On the roof of the Apple Corps building, the Beatles had played and filmed a total of ten songs by the time the police arrived, having been asked to stop this impromptu concert on the grounds that the noise and din they were producing was causing a great disturbance to people living or working in buildings adjacent to Apple Corps. It was they who had called the police to complain about the Beatles.

There were dozens of others, though, who had opened all the windows and doors of their flats adjacent to the Beatles' company building to enjoy the fantastic sound of the Liverpudlians' music. We should add that the plan to hold a concert on the roof was entirely the brainchild of Paul McCartney who, seeing the group "dying down", had made a number of grand plans to reanimate it. These included a return by the Beatles to touring and holding "live" concerts. P.S. How did they manage to film the Beatles during their improvised concert on the roof of their company Apple?

The first two numbers are two different versions of the song "Get Back". (The film "Let It Be" (1970) features a polished and well-edited reworking based on these two different "rooftop" versions of the song "Get Back"). Incidentally, the black American musician Billy Preston played the keyboard in "Get Back".

The third song is John's "Don't Let Me Down". It appeared only in the film "Let It Be". "I've Got Feeling" was also played. This recording featured on the album "Let It Be" (1970) and in the eponymous film.

After that they played their old (often played by them in their much younger days) song "One After 909" (this version of the song also features on the album and film of the same name ("Let It Be")). "Dig A Pony" was the sixth song (it also features on the album and in the film). After performing this song, which the second sound engineer Alan Parsons began recording on a new tape, the Beatles played a quick version of the British national anthem "God Save The Queen".

When Alan Parsons changed the tapes, he managed to catch the last few seconds of the Beatles' rendition of the anthem but it is not seen in the film or released on the "Let It Be" album. The eighth song was the second version of "I've Got Feeling". This version is not seen in the "Let It Be" film nor does it appear on the album of the same name. This is followed by the second "rooftop" version of John's song "Don't Let Me Down", which did not appear anywhere else either.

The tenth and final song was the third "rooftop" version of "Get Back" during which the police arrived, having been asked to stop this impromptu concert because residents in surrounding buildings had complained about the "incredible noise"!

"I'd like to say thank you on behalf of the group and myself", said John Lennon, grabbing the microphone. "I hope we've passed the audition", he added.