

# Buddy Holly and His Influence On The Beatles



February the third was the 60th anniversary of the deaths of Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Richie Valens in a plane crash in Iowa, United States. Holly was only 22 at the time but his music had greatly influenced the future Beatles, in particular John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

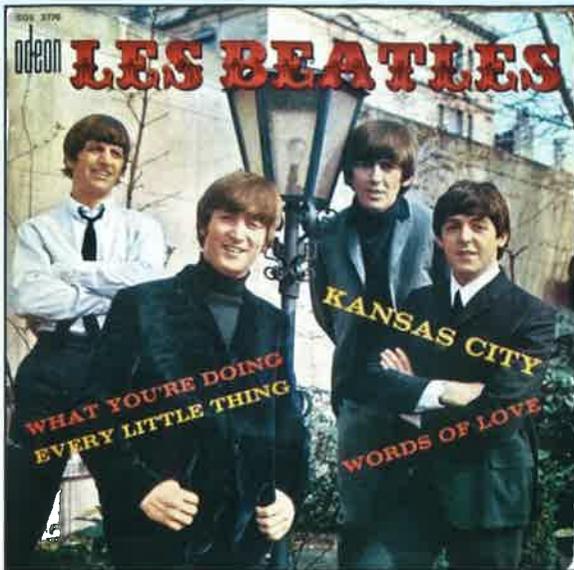
Buddy Holly was born on 7 September in 1936. He first performed on television at the age

of 16 but didn't commit to a career in music until 1955 when he saw Elvis Presley perform in his home town of Lubbock, Texas. After a difficult time with his recording label Decca, Holly formed a new band called The Crickets. The singles 'That'll Be the Day' and 'Peggy Sue' were big hits in 1957. He had a posthumous hit with 'It Doesn't Matter Anymore' shortly after his death in 1959.

Buddy Holly records became well known to the Liverpool bands in the late 1950s, brought back from the US by sailors. John Lennon became a huge fan and, as someone who was also short-sighted, later remarked that "Buddy made it okay to wear glasses". Both Lennon and Paul McCartney liked the fact he wrote his own material, something that was rare in the 1950s. This was one of the reasons they started to write their own material. It is no surprise that The Quarrymen chose to record 'That'll Be the Day' at the Percy Phillips Studio in summer 1958. This recording was included on *Anthology 1* in 1995.



The Beatles played a number of Buddy Holly songs when they performed in Hamburg. They also covered some Holly tracks, including 'Crying Waiting Hoping', at their audition for Decca in 1962 and released 'Words of Love' on *Beatles For Sale* in 1964. John Lennon included 'Peggy Sue' on his *Rock 'n' Roll* album in 1975. Paul McCartney covered 'Love is Strange' on Wings' first album and also 'Brown Eyed Handsome Man' on *Run Devil Run* in 1999, both songs previously covered by Buddy Holly.



Paul McCartney's publishing company bought the rights to Holly's songs in the mid-1970s and in 1977 Wings guitarist Denny Laine released a compilation of his songs on an album called *Holly Days*. The album included contributions from Paul and Linda McCartney. Paul would also arrange a special Buddy Holly week each year to celebrate his music, the first being in 1976.

In 1988 Paul performed the song 'T-Shirt' with The Crickets at the launch of Buddy Holly Week in 1988 at Stefanos Restaurant, Holborn, London. Chrissie Hynde,

DJs Mike Read and Tony Prince as well as Mike Berry and Linda McCartney joined Paul on stage to perform 'Rave On'.

Holly did not have Elvis Presley's sex appeal, but nevertheless his music captivated teenagers in the late 1950s. The influence Holly had on The Beatles cannot be underestimated and, without his song writing, the partnership of Lennon and McCartney may never have happened. His music and legacy live on 60 years after his untimely death.

Ernie Sutton

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# JOHN LENNON ROCK 'N' ROLL

1. A-LULA\*\*  
C Corp.

2. BY ME\*\*  
H. Spoler  
M.

3. Y:  
TUP\*\*  
Marascallo  
for Music Co. Ltd. (EMI)

4. BY TEDDY\*\*  
Marascallo  
C. Corp.

5. NT CATCH ME\*\*  
Linn Ltd.

6. HAT A SHAME\*\*  
M. Johnson  
S. Music Ltd. (EMI)

7. WANT TO DANCE\*\*  
Publishing Ltd.)

8. LITTLE SIXTEEN\*\*  
C (S.S.)

9. SLIPPIN' AND SLIDIN'\*\*  
P. Harrison, B. Coogan, Collins, Smith  
(ATV Music)

10. PEGGY SUE\*\*  
Holly, Allison Petty  
(Southern Music Publ. Co. Ltd.)

11. MEDLEY:  
a) BRING IT ON HOME TO ME\*\*  
Coxsone  
(Rambit Music Ltd.)  
b) SEND ME SOME LOVIN'\*\*  
Primo Marascallo  
(ATV Music)

12. BONY MORONIE\*\*  
Williams  
(ATV Music)

13. YAYA\*\*  
Robinson, Dunley, Lewis  
(Tro. Essex Music Ltd.)

14. JUST BECAUSE\*\*  
Price  
(EMI Music Publishing Ltd.)

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Made by EMI Records Ltd.  
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Produced by the Beatles. Arranged by John Lennon & the Specter  
All Tracks and Arranged by John Lennon

MONO  
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Paul McCartney  
No Other Baby /  
Brown Eyed Handsome Man Parlophone

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