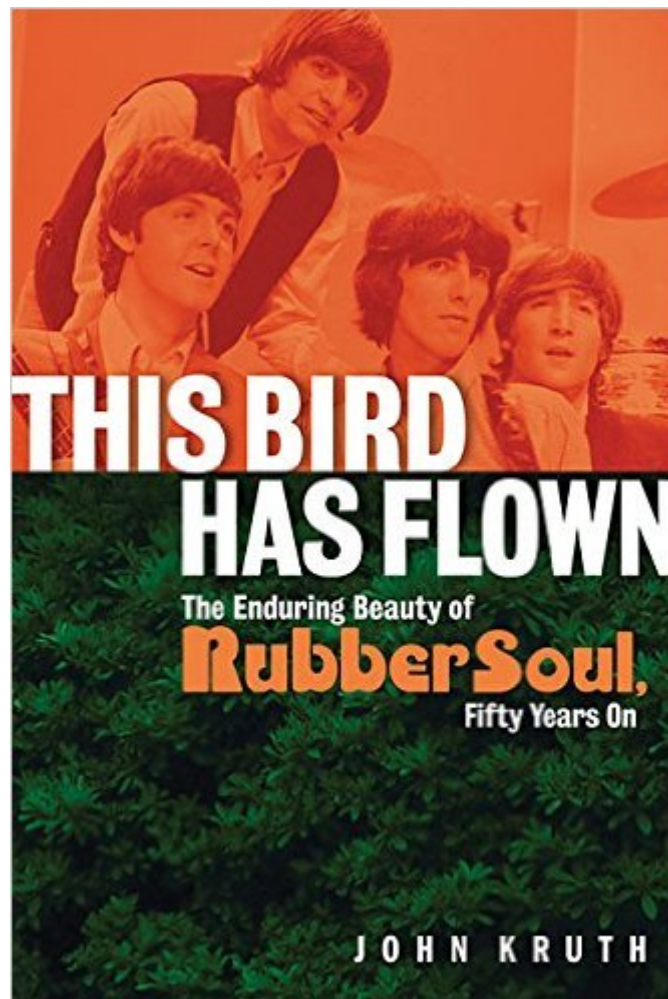


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This Bird Has Flown: The Enduring Beauty Of Rubber Soul, Fifty Years On



Synopsis

The Beatles' sixth studio album, *Rubber Soul*, was a game changer. By December 1965, when the album was released, the Beatles had played the first arena rock show at Shea Stadium for 55,000 delirious fans, been awarded MBE (Member of British Empire) medals, and were indisputably the greatest musical phenomenon since Elvis Presley. With their first film, *A Hard Day's Night*, John, Paul, George, and Ringo laid down the blueprint for everyone who ever wanted to form a group. The movie, entertaining as it was, became an instruction manual for aspiring pop stars of the day on how to play, dress, and act. Richard Lester's 1964 comedy turned out to be the touchstone for every music video that followed. Then, with the release of *Rubber Soul*, the Beatles created an artistic benchmark to which their peers measured their craft and creativity. Touring the world over two years, the band had grown up fast. Both musically and lyrically their new album represented a major leap. Upon hearing *Rubber Soul*, Bob Dylan allegedly remarked, "I get it, you're not cute anymore." *Newsweek* hailed the Beatles as "the Bards of Pop," while critic Greil Marcus claimed *Rubber Soul* was "the best album they would ever make." For Traffic's Steve Winwood, the album "broke everything open. It crossed music into a whole new dimension and was responsible for kicking off the sixties rock era." In *This Bird Has Flown*, John Kruth not only analyzes the songs and making of *Rubber Soul*, putting the album in context of the turbulent times in which it was created, but captures the spirit of musical innovation and poetry that makes the record a standout in the Beatles' canon.

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Customer Reviews

The Beatles have earned the title of musical legend. Like them or not, there is no denying that their influence and accomplishments have been nothing less than monumental. As such, volumes have been written about them. So, if one dares assume the mantle of "Beatles Biographer", one had better be ready to make a real contribution to an already formidable (and densely populated) lexicon. The newest book, *This Bird Has Flown: The Enduring Beauty of Rubber Soul, Fifty Years On* by New York City based musician, bandleader, author, and music professor John Kruth is an answer to this challenge. The choice of writing about this album was, for Kruth, strategically meaningful. Rubber Soul was, for the Beatles, a game changer. Its acoustic emphasis came at the same time that Bob Dylan embraced electric instruments. With Rubber Soul, they said a very permanent farewell to the "Fab Four / Mop-Tops" and embarked upon the path of serious musicianship, and immersion into meaningful artistic life. The structure of the book focuses in a somewhat linear fashion on individual songs, and the progression of the book walks the reader through a timeline of the songs' compositional period, recording and production, and the impact it made on the musical world. Kruth succeeded admirably in presenting a legendary subject in a manner that speaks of a view simultaneously academic, worldly and personal. His detailed research and scholarship comes across in a conversational, as opposed to academic manner. There is no pretension here, no dry and spiritless academia, no distance between writer and reader; just an honest and sincere look at a musical masterpiece and cultural game changer.

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