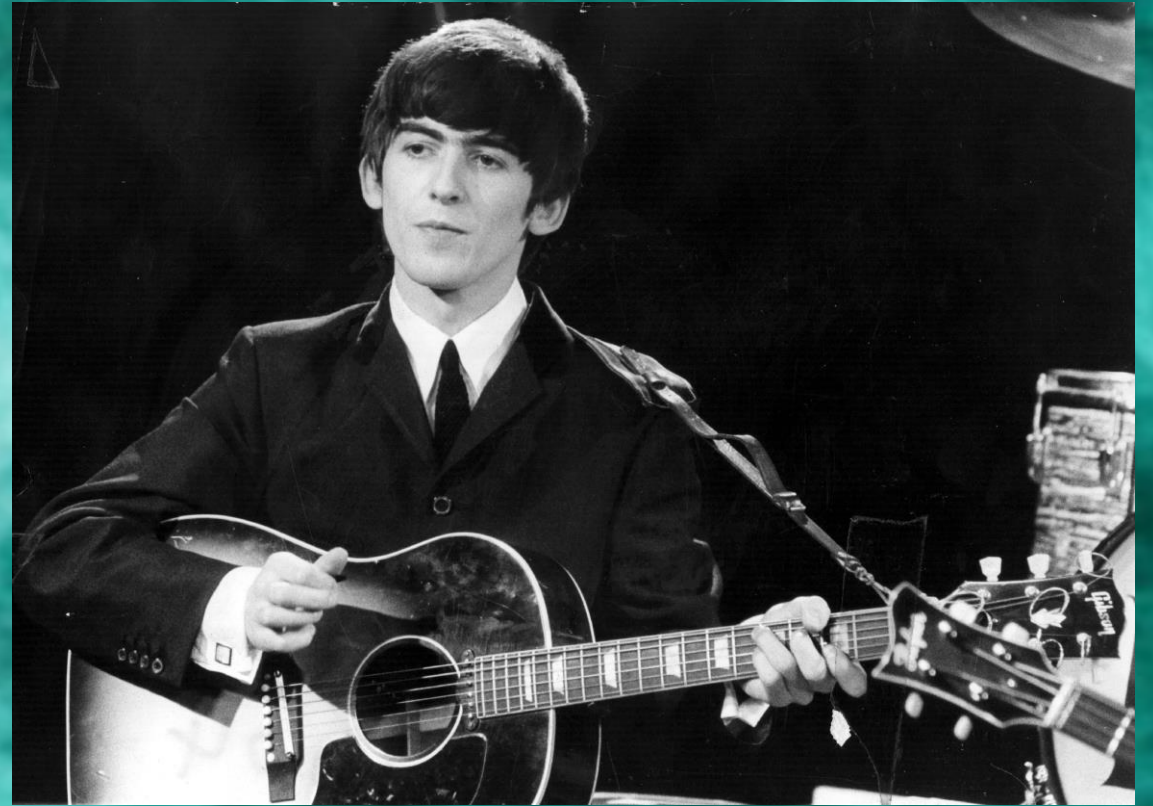


George Harrison



- **English musician, multi-instrumentalist, singer and songwriter and music and film producer who achieved international fame as the lead guitarist of the Beatles**
- **Although John Lennon and Paul McCartney were the band's primary songwriters, most of their albums included at least one Harrison composition**

- By 1965's *Rubber Soul*, Harrison had begun to lead the other Beatles into folk rock through his interest in the Byrds and Bob Dylan, and towards Indian classical music through his use of the sitar
- He later called *Rubber Soul* his favorite Beatles album



- ***Revolver* (1966)** included three of his compositions
- His introduction of the drone-like tambura part on Lennon's *Tomorrow Never Knows* exemplified the band's ongoing exploration of non-Western instruments
- The tabla-driven *Love You To*, Harrison's composition, was the Beatles' first genuine foray into Indian music

- By late 1966 Harrison's interests had moved away from the Beatles, as reflected in his choice of Eastern gurus and religious leaders for inclusion on the album cover for *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* in 1967



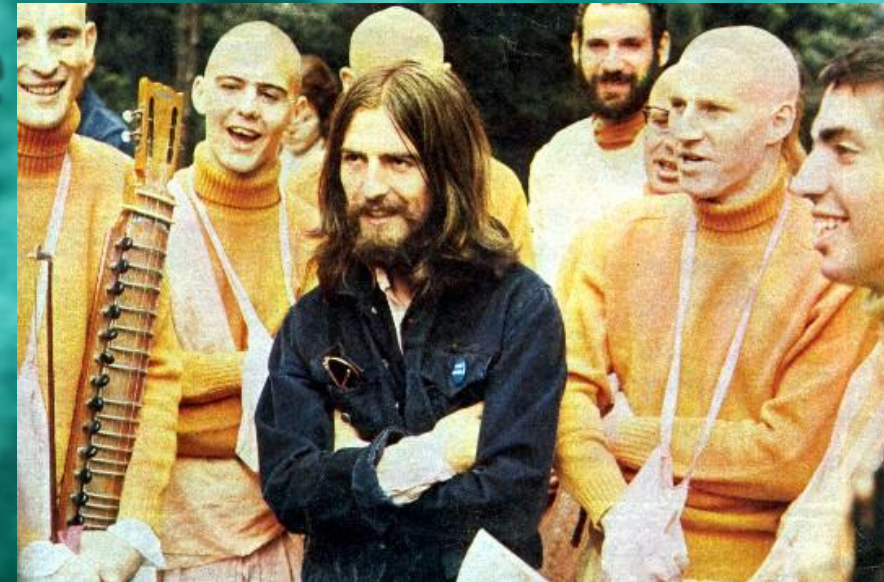
Within You Without You

- The song was produced for 1967's *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*
- The song was Harrison's second composition to be explicitly influenced by Indian classical music
- The first of many songs in which Harrison promotes Hindu spiritual concepts in his lyrics

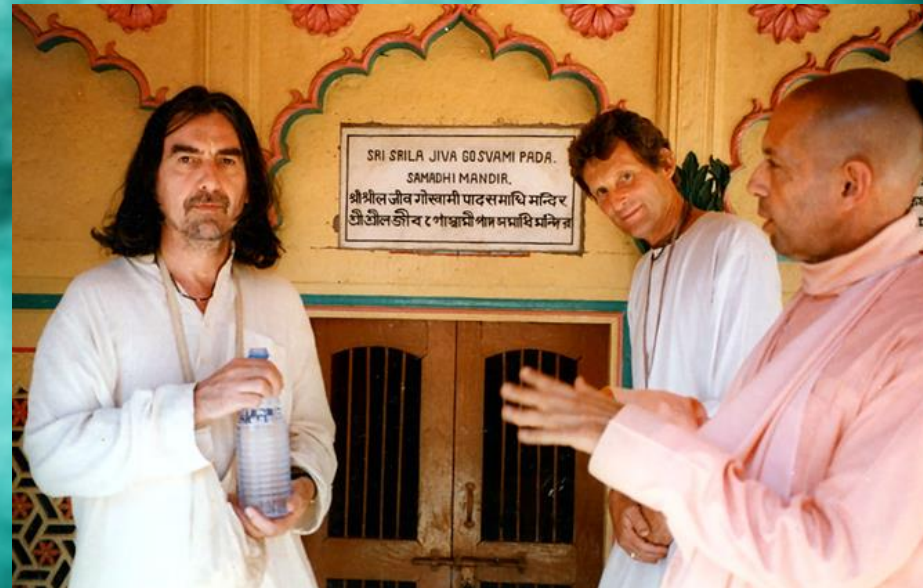
My Sweet Lord

- By the mid-'60s Harrison had become an admirer of Indian culture and mysticism, introducing it to the other Beatles
- Harrison became a devotee of the Indian mystic Paramahansa Yogananda, a guru who preached Kriya yoga, after he was given Yogananda's *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Ravi Shankar

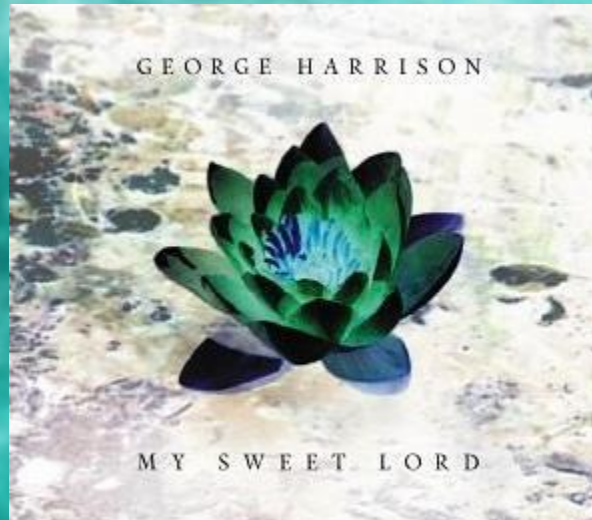
- (Yogananda and three other major figures from Kriya yoga, Sri Mahavatar Babaii, Sri Yukteswar Giri, and Sri Lahiri Mahasaya, appear on the cover of *Sgt. Pepper's*
- In mid-1969, he produced the single *Hare Krishna Mantra* performed by members of the London Radha Krishna Temple



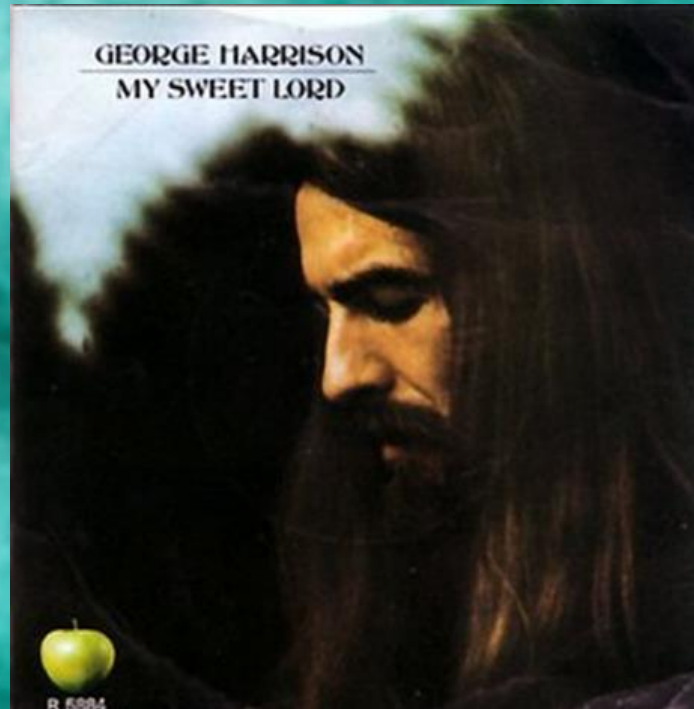
- Soon after, Harrison embraced the Hare Krishna tradition, particularly *japa-yoga* chanting with beads, and became a lifelong devotee
- Regarding other faiths he once remarked: “All religions are branches of one big tree”



- Harrison wrote *My Sweet Lord* in praise of the Hindu god Krishna while at the same time intending the lyrics to serve as a call to abandon religious sectarianism through his deliberate blending of the Hebrew word *hallelujah* with chants of *Hare Krishna* and *Vedic prayer*



- ***My Sweet Lord*** topped charts worldwide and was the biggest-selling single of 1971 in the UK
- In America and Britain, the song was the first number 1 single by an ex-Beatle



- The song's lyrics reflect Harrison's often-stated desire for a direct relationship with God, expressed in simple words that all believers could affirm, regardless of their religion



- **Some Christian fundamentalist anti-rock activists objected that chanting *Hare Krishna* in *My Sweet Lord* was anti-Christian or satanic, while some born-again Christians adopted the song as an anthem**
- **Several commentators cite the mantra and the simplicity of Harrison's lyrics as central to the song's universality**

- George Harrison-My Sweet Lord (Studio Version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kNGnIKUdMI>