

# Ringo Starr, an Annotated Discography (1970-2005)

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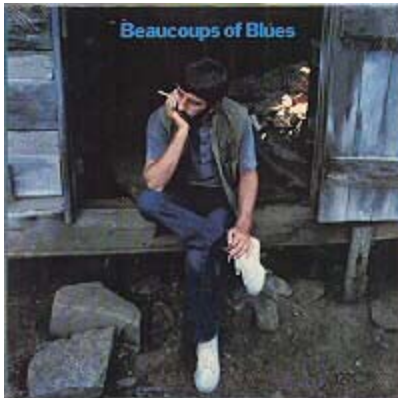


***Sentimental Journey***

Apple SW-3365

Apr. 24, 1970

Ringo's first solo offering was appropriately named, for it consisted of his renditions of songs his mother enjoyed. Ringo was assisted in his journey by several (other) famous persons, and the album sold well enough to peak at #20 on the charts. Not bad for an album of "standards".



***Beaucoups of Blues***

Apple SMAS-3368

Sep. 28, 1970

Ringo went to Nashville, gathered together some well-known country stars (such as Charlie Daniels), and put together his own album of country stylings. When played for people who grew up on older country music, the album usually winds up being appreciated. "Who's singing that?" But country buyers weren't interested in the Beatles' drummer, and rock buyers weren't interested much in country then. The album made it to #31, though, perhaps on talent alone.



**"Beaucoups of Blues"**

Apple 2969

Oct. 5, 1970

The title song of Ringo's country album was pulled off as a single--a single which could rise no higher than #69. The single is noteworthy in that western copies featured both a "star" on the unsliced side and the Capitol logo sliced side--Apple's only such single. Eastern copies of the sleeve were misnumbered "1826".



**"It Don't Come Easy"**

Apple 1831

Apr. 16, 1971

Ringo's most popular single to date was the autobiographical "It Don't Come Easy." A chart-topping success for Mr. Starkey (also featuring George Harrison), it was backed with another song, "Early 1970," which gave Ringo's opinion on the breakup of the Beatles. A "must have" single.



**"Back off Boogaloo"**

Apple 1949 Mar. 20, 1972

As the coming year (1972) unfolded, Ringo was getting strongly into "boogie" music and was being influenced, too, by T. Rex. A solid offering, "Back Off Boogaloo" was treated to a #8 spot on the charts.

The B-side, "Blindman," was relevant to people who had seen the Blindman film, for Ringo was becoming known for his spots in feature films. While George's color of choice for the apple was orange (*All Things Must Pass*) and John's was white, Ringo preferred blue, and first pressings of the single in many countries featured blue Apple labels.



**"Photograph"**

Apple 1865 Sep. 24, 1973

While Ringo had not fared well with his two albums to date, he was starting a string of Top Ten singles. "Photograph" proved to be the third in that string of successes, breezing its way to the #1 spot, accompanied by the ever-present Mr. Harrison. Ringo sounds at home singing about his lost love, as he stares at her picture.



**Ringo**

Apple SWAL-3413 Oct. 31, 1973

This album was a "gimme"--a sure hit. For the first time in over three years, all four Beatles could be heard on a new release. Lennon would claim that all four played on "I'm the Greatest," although the liner notes do not mention Paul. Furthermore, Ringo's cast-of-thousands (see album cover) included a number of other decently-well-known persons, including Beatles buddy Klaus Voormann, who designed sketches for each of the songs in the lyric booklet. The album had little trouble reaching the top spot--Ringo's best showing to date, as albums go.

Tape copies and most promotional albums of *Ringo* feature a version of "Six O'Clock" (Paul's song) with an extended ending. The extended ending was edited off of normal vinyl copies.



**"You're Sixteen"**



Apple 1870 Dec. 3, 1973

All of a sudden, Ringo is HOT! The second single from his self-titled album shot to #1, following up the success of "Photograph." The retro-50's craze was just getting underway, and "You're Sixteen" seemed a fine throwback to that period.



**"Oh My My"**

Apple 1872 Feb. 18, 1974

The pulse-pounding "Oh My My" was an excellent choice to be the third single pulled from *Ringo*. Although by now, most people had the album, the single still made it to #5, extending a string of Top Ten successes by the ex-Beatle who was least known for his singing voice. Play that boogie, play that slide!



**"Only You (And You Alone)"**



Apple 1876 Nov. 11, 1974

Ringo's success in helping usher in the 50's retro craze had not gone unnoticed. By this time, Happy Day's was warming up to full steam. "Only You," performed with Harry Nilsson (and others), was the natural choice to be a leadoff from Ringo's next album. And notice Harry's backward secret message at

the end. As Ringo's singing, "Only you and you alone...," Harry (in reverse) sings, "Money, money, money!" Oh yeah, and that Lennon guy's along for the ride. Another Top Fiver.



**Goodnight Vienna**

Apple SW-3417 Nov. 18, 1974

This album, while it did make #5, proved that Ringo was mortal. There were a few noteworthy songs, but the album definitely did not have the hit potential of *Ringo*. As most people know now, the cover was taken from the sci-fi classic "The Day the Earth Stood Still," in which the immortal phrase "Klaatu Barada Nikto" was uttered--the same immortal phrase that gave the Canadian group Klaatu ("Calling Occupants") its name. All in all, the album is fairly diverse, offering a stronger Lennon influence than his earlier material.



**"No No Song"**

Apple 1880 Jan. 27, 1975

Ringo and Nilsson were at it again, ordering up a #1 hit with a Hoyt Axton song. Ay-yi-yi-yi, everyone was singing the song in early Spring of '75. The hit, another in Ringo's string of Top Fives, fades out to, "I'll have the same, just put mine in a boot."



"(It's All Down to) Goodnight Vienna"

Apple 1882 Jun. 2, 1975

For two albums in a row, Ringo had sustained three singles. But this third one, a Lennon number built on an expression for "I'm getting out of here," was robbed of its success. It peaked at #29, but its failure to make the Top Five (or even Top Twenty) would begin a period of failure for Ringo, who had been charmed since 1971. The B-side of the single, "[Oo-Wee](#)," was also promoted, but this didn't help much.



**Blast From Your Past**

Apple SW-3422 Nov. 20, 1975

This was the last of all original Apple albums, and for that reason, the label is red instead of green. Ringo had had so many hits in the past few years. A greatest hits collection from someone so "hot" ought to be warmly welcomed, right? One would think so, but *Blast From Your Past* turned out to be a failure, peaking at #30 and failing at the record stores--low sales. Perhaps by this time, people were turning to the newer sounds of what was being labeled Disco. For whatever reason, Ringo's greatest hits collection was a flop.



"A Dose of Rock 'N' Roll"

Atlantic 45-3361 Sep. 20, 1976

Ringo's first offering for his new record company had somewhat of a fifties flavor, but this time, the nostalgia among buyers was not as strong. There was a decent amount of airplay and promotion-- enough to take the single to #26, but Ringo was now in a string of singles that were NOT Top Five records.



***Ringo's Rotogravure***

Atlantic SD-18193 Sep. 27, 1976

Most people who heard Ringo's first non-Apple album were turned off by it. The overall sound was similar to what he had had success with, but apparently people were hoping for something different. *Rotogravure* hit the budget bins almost immediately, but not before Beatles fans realized that the back cover featured a photograph of the much-defaced door to the (original) Apple building. Oh yeah, and the album peaked at #28.



**"Hey Baby"**

Atlantic 45-3371 Nov. 22, 1976

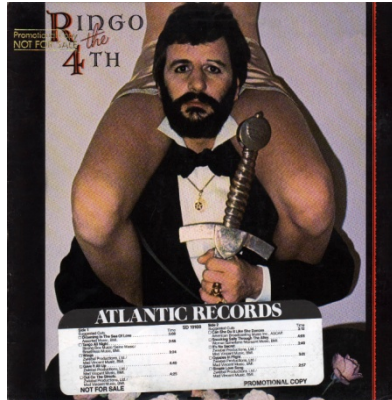
The second single from *Rotogravure* came and went before anyone really noticed it. The song would take three months to chart and would peak at a poor #62. Maybe it was time to try something new?



## "Wings"

Atlantic 45-3429 Aug. 25, 1977

A different song was already in the promotional works, but shortly before its debut, Atlantic decided on "Wings." Ah, the leadoff single from a new Starr album. But even "Beaucoups of Blues" fared better-- "Wings" didn't make the Hot 100. This was not a good sign for Ringo's career. He had been fighting alcoholism for a few years now, and at this time, he did not appear to be winning.



## *Ringo the 4th*

Atlantic SD-19108 Sep. 26, 1977

Atlantic waited for "Wings" to chart, and after the single failed to take off, the album was released. Was Ringo committing seppuku as Mark Wallgren suggested? Perhaps, for even Lennon's *Life With the Lions* proved a better seller. The album barely made it into the Top 200 definitely marked a nadir for the sliding career of the great drummer.



## "Drowning in the Sea of Love" Atlantic 3412 Oct. 18, 1977

Was it Ringo's career that was drowning? The record failed to chart, even though a promotional film (showing Ringo as a lounge singer) and a "disco" 12" promo single (shown above, DSKO-93) were issued to help it. The commercial singles sell for \$125 because they are so rare.







**"Wrack My Brain"**

Boardwalk NB7-11-130 Oct. 27, 1981

Ringo's relationship with Portrait Records broke off abruptly in early 1981, delaying the release of his new album by a year. "Wrack My Brain" was the most interesting single from Ringo in a good while, and his struggles with his personal problems seem to have been faring better. Written by George, the song is obviously autobiographical, but Ringo gives it a lighter feel, and the video (featuring his ex-Beatle buddies) is fun. This was Ringo's first Top Forty single (37) since he left Apple, proving to be the correct choice to showcase his latest album.



***Stop and Smell the Roses***

Boardwalk NB1-33246 Oct. 27, 1981

This project originated with the name *Can't Fight Lightning* and was mainly a 1980 effort. All four ex-Beatles were planning to work on the album, but John and George had projects that they were wrestling with at the time, so the decision was made to put off their work on Ringo's album (for the most part) until 1981. Lennon's death postponed the album still further. Then Ringo left Portrait Records, finally settling down (for the time being) at Boardwalk. The album contents were shuffled somewhat from what was originally intended, and by this time, Ringo had a brand new wife, Barbara Bach, with whom he fell in love on the set of their film, *Caveman*, the previous year. The album charted only as high as 78, but Ringo's life at least was on an upward turn.



**"Private Property"**

Boardwalk NB7-11-134 Jan. 13, 1982

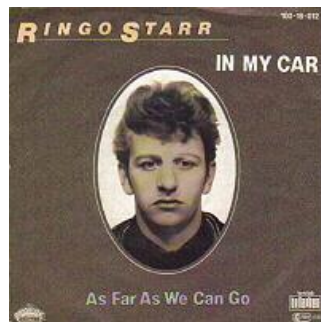
This was Paul's song and was expected to fare reasonably well on the charts, as a follow-up to the moderately successful "Wrack My Brain." No one touched "Private Property," though, and the record failed to chart. Ringo would go into virtual musical seclusion after this.



**Old Wave**

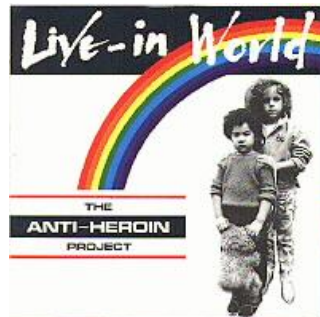
RCA DXL1-3233 (Canada) Jun. 8, 1983

Ringo's new label, RCA, decided not to bother releasing his new album in the USA, although some countries (Canada, Germany) did issue the record. Eventually, though (September, 1993), the Capitol affiliate Right Stuff Records, acquired the rights and issued *Old Wave* in the United States (T4-29675). Most of the songs on the album were recorded and mixed during Summer of 1982. The Joe Walsh song, "In My Car," was a favorite and was pulled as a single. Walsh, who worked with Ringo on some of the songs, would later (1987) release the song himself.



**"In My Car"/"As Far as We Can Go"** Boardwalk/Bellaphon 100-16-012 (Germany) 1983

A single from the *Old Wave* album. Like the album, the single was not released in the USA until much later (November, 1994), when Right Stuff/Cema issued a colored vinyl single ([S7-18178](#)). The single was issued in Canada originally, though. In all honesty, the record was better than much of Ringo's late 70's fare and deserved to be released in the US in 1983. Oh well, those are the breaks.



**"You Know it Makes Sense"**

Parlophone 12AHP-1 (UK)

1986

Ringo continued to struggle with alcoholism and to remain out of the public eye, although he would say from time to time that he wouldn't mind touring with a band. The Anti-Heroin Project approached him about their work, and both he and (his son) Zak Starkey agreed to be part of it. Ringo's contribution to the four-track EP was to read what sounds like a public service announcement, "You Know it Makes Sense." It makes sense to avoid drugs. The "main" track on the Anti-Heroin Project was called "Live-In World."



***Starr Struck: Ringo's Best Vol. 2***

Rhino R2-70135 (CD)

R1-70199 (LP)

Feb. 22, 1989

Ringo's first album to be available nearly simultaneously on CD was the second volume of his greatest hits. Rhino Records, by this time a well-known independent label with a penchant for releasing material by great artists of the past, took a chance and issued a record of Ringo songs from the post-Apple period. Four songs from *Old Wave* made their first US appearance on this album. The album sold well enough to stay in print, and most of the albums (such as *Bad Boy*) had by this time fallen into obscurity, so *Starr Struck* was almost a necessity for the Ringo Starr fan.



**"Act Naturally"**

Capitol B-44409 Jul. 24, 1989

One song that Ringo enjoyed singing with the Beatles was a tune Buck Owens and the Buckaroos made famous--"Act Naturally." Now, 24 years after the Beatles cut their version, Ringo was able at last to sing the song in duet with the man most associated with its success. The single by Buck and Ringo received quite a bit of notoriety and even airplay upon its release, and indeed it's a fine-sounding rendition of the song.



***Ringo Starr and his All-Starr Band***

Rykodisc RALP-0190 Oct. 12, 1990

In mid-1989, Ringo made public his plans to perform a concert at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles, along with other people equally famous as himself. This collection of people came to be called the All-Starr Band, and an album of material was recorded then (Sept. 3, 1989) and released the following year. Vinyl pressings were limited to 5000 numbered copies, and a Deluxe CD edition (RCD 10190) with bonus CD EP (RCD5-1019) was also limited, but the regular CD and cassette editions continued to be available to fans who wanted to hear Ringo and company sing live.

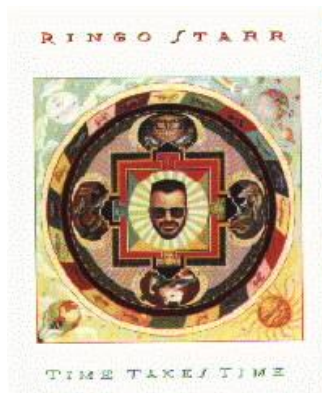


**"Weight of the World"**

Private Music 81003-4

Apr. 30, 1992

The leadoff single from Ringo's latest collection of new songs found him on yet another label, Private Music. The record was Ringo's most highly-regarded single in a good many years, leading into an album that would be looked upon favorably, too.



***Time Takes Time***

Private Music 82097-4      May 22, 1992

At last, Ringo sounded like he was beating his alcoholism and back recording quality material. This was the first studio Ringo album released in the USA since *Stop and Smell the Roses*, and overall it proved to be a good one. Ringo was now regaining a portion of the success that he had once enjoyed.



***All-Starr Band Live From Montreux***

Rykodisc 20264

September, 1993

His first collection of All-Stars had proven popular and enjoyable enough that Ringo decided to put together a second band and perform once again. The concert and album were again reasonably popular, and it has been suggested that Ringo will continue to perform with All-Stars.



Another successful concert--this time at the Budokan Arena in Tokyo in 1995-- was followed (eventually) by an exclusive release from Blockbuster Entertainment. The twelve song CD proves that Ringo hasn't lost his touch.



***The Vertical Man***

Mercury 314-558-598-2

July, 1998

Released in time for Ringo's 58th birthday, his latest collection of new material came as no surprise to Beatles/Ringo fans but as a surprise indeed to much of the world. The album was catchy and successful, cracking the Top Forty with ease. Also released in special die-cut cover format (314-558-400-2) with a bonus CD (MECP 424), available only through Best Buy stores.



**"La De Da"**

Mercury MELP 195 (45)  
or MECP 419 (CD)

July, 1998

The infectuous single from *Vertical Man* proved to be a fun sing-along. The video poked fun at several things, including himself. At one point in the video, he's sitting with pop group Hanson as screaming teenagers approach. They chase Hanson off but ignore Ringo. A change of fortune indeed from the Beatlemania days, hearkening back to Ringo's deadpan humor in *A Hard Day's Night*.



***VH1 Storytellers***

Mercury 314-538-118-2 October 20, 1998

Continuing to promote his latest release, Ringo's appearance with Joe Walsh on VH1's Storytellers program was issued on CD. The album features 14 tracks from the program, including several of Ringo's famous hits and "Blisters on my Fingers."



**"King of Broken Hearts"**

Mercury MECP 443 (CD)

Fall, 1998

This promo-only single from *Vertical Man* did not fare well in the charts. After the relative success of "La De Da," the buying public were ready for something else. The single contains an edited version of the song (4:15) and the same version as on the LP (4:44).



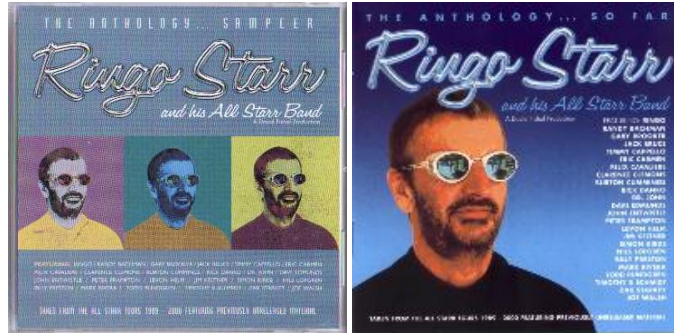
***I Wanna Be Santa Claus***

Mercury 314-546-668-2

October 19, 1999

This was the first Christmas-themed album from any ex-Beatle. On it, Ringo plays both versions of familiar hits ("Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer") and new songs ("I Wanna Be Santa Claus"). Six of the twelve songs are new, and Ringo even covers the Beatles' own "Christmastime is Here Again," from the 1967 Christmas record. Beatles/Ringo fans loved this album, but Mercury failed to promote it, meaning that it was a critical and musical success but not a chart hit.





***Anthology...So Far***

Koch Records (CD) July 24, 2001

A three disc set featuring highlights from the All-Starr Band work from 1989 through 2000, plus some material that had not been released on previous All-Starr collections. A promo sampler (Koch Records 8312) featuring 10 of the 47 tracks was also made available to radio stations.



***Ringo & His New All-Starr Band*** King Biscuit Flour Hour Records 88003-2 (CD) August 6, 2002

Summer, 2001, brought the latest incarnation of Ringo's All-Starr band; the CD was released the following year by King Biscuit, the folks who practically invented the live radio show. The CD omits songs like "Cleveland Rocks," "Boys," and "I'm the Greatest" -- which were part of the live show, but the CD buyer who didn't see the tour will get the impression that they are hearing a complete performance. Sheila E. and Roger Hodgson put on a great show, and every song on the CD was or could have been a hit. Ringo's at top form, playing to the crowd, and with musicians like Ian Hunter and Greg Lake fronting for him, they all pull together to create a memorable concert experience, with every version sounding like a potential single. Sometimes, you have to wonder how the All-Starr concept keeps getting better!



***Ringo Rama***

Koch KOC-CD-8429 (CD) March 25, 2003

Ringo's next release saw the inclusion of a bonus DVD containing footage of Ringo in concert. This thirteen-track album features artists like Eric Clapton, David Gilmore, and Willie Nelson. "Never Without You" is a tribute to George Harrison.



**Choose Love**

Koch KOC-CD-9550 (CD) June 7, 2005

Ringo got together with the Roundheads -- whom Ringo labeled a "well-to-do garage band," Chrissie Hynde, Billy Preston, and others to record his first studio album in two years. The album was promoted with two promo CD's: one labeled "Advance CD" containing all twelve songs, and a [radio sampler](#) (KOC-SA-9550) spotlighting three tracks. Meanwhile, the album itself was available in "regular" CD form and in "dual CD" form (KOC-CD-9919) with media on what is normally the "back" side. Specifically, the dual CD has a "DVD side" featuring an album documentary, the lyrics to the songs, a song-by-song analysis, and Ringo biography. Due to the fact that the Dual CD and regular CD were treated as separate items by *Billboard*, the album did not chart on the main album chart, although it reached #29 on the Independent Albums chart.

[Back to Across the Universe](#)