



John and Yoko Ono Lennon

## Lennon: leaping while we looked

*"We feel like this is just a start now"*

"Christ, you know it ain't easy. You know how hard it can be. They're gonna crucify me."  
—John Lennon, 1971

By BRUCE MEYER  
United Press International  
John Lennon was an artist of living. In his music, in his politics, in his quest for peace both public and private, Lennon was special because of his attitude toward life. He leaped while the world looked—and whether he landed on his feet or flat on his face, he managed to point the way.

Not so much a man of his times as one of those who helped make the times over to suit himself, Lennon became the archetype of a volatile generation, gleefully outraging his elders as he delighted his peers.

It began, of course, as a group effort: John, Paul, George and Ringo—the Beatles. From their beginnings as a simple (some said simple-minded) pop group in the early '60s, the Beatles went on to transform the world's taste in music. Their innovative blend of American blues and rock 'n' roll with the lightweight "skiffle" sound of their native Liverpool struck a sympathetic chord with young people—first in England, then in Europe and the United States and finally around the world.

They developed a following so loyal they could do what they chose—and did: experimenting and pushing the boundaries of rock far past its previous limits. And Lennon, more than any of the four, was a boundary-stretcher, unafraid in his music, as elsewhere in his life, to make mistakes and profit by them. At his worst, he was crude or maudlin or downright silly. At his best, he was the best there was.

Lennon did not choose to be a leader—he started out with no higher ambition than getting out of working-class Liverpool by becoming a rock 'n' roll star. But as he did, he kept arriving at places and states of mind a little ahead of everyone else; his super-celebrity status as a Beatle took care of the rest.

Lennon's role within the Beatles was clear from the start. Collaborator with Paul McCartney on most of the group's hits, Lennon was the hard rocker to McCartney's pop star. While McCartney banked the teenyboppers' shrieks, Lennon gathered the loyalty of the rebels who would later join him in the ranks of the anti-war movement.

In the public record, McCartney is shown as the Beatle who initiated the band's formal split. But most of those who were on the inside at the time, as the '60s drew to a close and the war was heating up, say it was Lennon and his intense relationship with Yoko Ono, along with the heavy use of psychedelic drugs, that prompted the Beatles to crumble from the inside.

"By his own count, John had taken a thousand or so acid trips," says author Geoffrey Stokes in a forthcoming book on the Beatles. "There were, as one might expect, consequences. Some of them were felt in his marriage; Cynthia was devastating for millions of music fans, it was a welcome relief for Lennon, who moved on with Yoko to a series of more-or-less successful albums and anti-war stunts, including the famous 'bed-in' for peace in Toronto.

Then the Vietnam War was over and, typically, Lennon was quick to drop out while other anti-war leaders groped about for new causes. Anticipating what became known as the "me" decade of the '70s, he settled into a "househusband" status in Manhattan, leaving his business affairs to Yoko and the lawyers and ignoring music while the glitter bands and Southern rock and disco and punk came and went.

He spent five years as a near recluse, making no records and giving no interviews. Then, apparently purged by the time and privacy, he began again. The single from his and Yoko's new album was called "Starting Over."

The album, "Double Fantasy," was a 50-50 Ono-Lennon collaboration but the themes were familiar—life and peace and love. Musically it was, perhaps, not his best effort. But it was a human record and full of feeling.

"We feel like this is just a start now." I'm talking to guys and gals who had been what we had been through together, the '60s group that had survived... survived the war, the drugs, the politics, the violence on the street, the whole she-bang," Lennon told his final interviewers.

But John Lennon did not survive. The "violence on the street" got him. And for those who loved him for his music and for his irreverence and for just being himself, it is a bitter irony that even as he emerged from that self-imposed cocoon at last, John Lennon—of all people—should become a martyr to his own fame.

## 'Double Fantasy': sharing the artists' dreams

By JON BRIAN PETERSON  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer  
It's difficult to view John Lennon and Yoko Ono's latest release, "Double Fantasy," in the same light as I did last week. At that time I was totally engrossed in the record's magic, ranting and raving about it to all my friends.

But now, it no longer needs my praise, or anyone else's for that matter. State College record shops have been sold out of the LP since Tuesday, and virtually all major East Coast distributors have also depleted their supplies. Apparently, nothing this side of Heaven is going to prevent "Double Fantasy" from rising to the top of the charts.

The album represents a new phase in the personal and professional life of the couple. With the exception of "Somebody in New York City," Yoko Ono's presence on previous Lennon albums served inspirational purposes only; John went so far as even crediting Yoko with playing "the wind" on the primal "John Lennon-Plastic Ono Band" LP.

But "Double Fantasy" is not similar to previous Lennon solo works. Described by Lennon as being a "heartplay," or "a dialog between a man and his wife," it is a true collaboration between John and Yoko.

Consisting of 14 new songs, (seven by Lennon, seven by Ono) "Double Fantasy" speaks for both. But the main themes for this songs revolves around John himself—a new John.

Lennon is no longer the "angry young man" of rock 'n' roll. For one thing, John is no longer angry or young. But "Double Fantasy" doesn't portray Lennon and his new psyche as a "mellow middle-aged man," either. John's five-year hiatus from the music scene has enabled him to step down from his rock superstar pedestal and take on a new role—one which allows him to show us the man behind the legend: a fragile, flawed, sensitive human being.

But devoted Lennites need not fear. Just because former partner Paul McCartney turned the family experience into disposable pop schmalz on early Wings LPs does not imply that John must do the same. No "Mary Had a Little Lamb" for John Lennon. Tunes such as "Clean Up Time" and "I'm Losing You" display the perennial Lennon razor-sharp wit and flare in top form.

Kicking off with "Just Like Starting Over," a '50s styled mid-tempo rocker, "Double Fantasy" is essentially divided into two parts. Side one represents an evolution in the development of their roles since 1975—John becoming the "house husband," struggling, suffering, and learning in a reversal of roles as Yoko sets out to conquer the business world.

On side two, the Lennons have worked out the problems encountered in their role reversal. In doing so the couple finally become androgynous and gain a new insight into their love for each other and their family, discovering that "the two of us are really one," as John tells us in "Dear Yoko."

Many who have never heard any of the Yoko Ono solo work, described by Lennon as being a "heartplay," or "a dialog between a man and his wife," it is a true collaboration between John and Yoko.

## Uncovering the mystery of Mystery Plays

By PADDY PATTON  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer  
Half the mystery of a medieval mystery play is that few people really know what one is. But the Lutheran Student Parish will remedy that situation this weekend when it performs five of these works in authentic 15th century style.

"A mystery play usually refers to some biblical event that theoretically reveals the mysteries of the scriptures. They are among the earliest written English dramas but they are seldom produced," said John Wenzke, minister with the Lutheran Student Parish.

At 8:30 tonight in Eisenhower Auditorium and 8:30 p.m. Sunday at the Grace Lutheran Church, at the corner of Beaver Avenue and Garner Street, a cast of 35 actors will present "The Fall of Man," "The Parliament of Heaven," "The Birth of Christ," "The Play of the Shepherds" and "Herod and the Kings."

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## Poet Lucey illumines human experiences

There is a vanishing act performed in certain sorts of writing: Look hard at the poem - the poem's not there at all. A shadow may be glimpsed shaking hands with the title; An ambiguous ghost sensed melting through the wall.

Beyond a "shadow" of a doubt these words belong to Irish poet Sean Lucey, who read his poems and those of his countrymen at a reading Tuesday in the Rare Books Room of Fettes.

Lucey, a ruddy-looking professor of English from University College in Cork County, Ireland, read poems which questioned the powerful, dark extremities of human experience, and the worth of love and order in the face of inevitable destruction.

Especially noteworthy in this respect is Lucey's latest work, "Unfinished Sequence and other poems," his first published collection of poems in a decade. Meant as a lament but also a celebration," Lucey said, the collection is a tribute to his friend, the late Irish composer Sean O Riada.



Plus de pas de deux

Geisey Kirkland and Mikhail Baryshnikov may be smiling through their rerun of "The Nutcracker," to be presented on CBS-TV Christmas Eve, but lately they've been doing nothing of the sort. Baryshnikov, director of the American Ballet Theatre Foundation, recently dismissed Kirkland and principal dancer Patricia Bissell from the company, citing the couple "for their gross breach of contract, including their failure to appear for a dress rehearsal with orchestra at Kennedy Center on Dec. 9."

## Choirs present 'Hodie'

By KAREN KONSKI  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer  
The Penn State Choir will celebrate an early Christmas this year by performing "Hodie," a Christmas cantata, at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in Eisenhower Auditorium.

"We're performing this because it's a very joyous Christmas kind of thing," said Assistant Choir Director Tommie Irwin. "It's very exciting; some of the lines of the text are from the Biblical text about the Nativity."

The cantata is divided into four parts with 16 movements. The entire choir will be singing the choruses, while the narrative sections will be done by soloists and a boys' choir.

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The professional staff of the Mental Health Center will be offering the following groups this winter. For more information and assistance in deciding about participating, contact us by calling 863-0397 or stopping by at 217 Ritenour Health Center, Monday through Friday, 8:00-12:00, 1:00-5:00. Most groups will begin the 3rd week, starting Monday, December 15th.

- Graduate Student Group** — resolving issues related to work and interpersonal relationships of graduate life. Mondays, 8:30-10:00 A.M.
- Motivation Group** — for working on clarifying your intentions and directing your resources toward attainment of goals. Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 P.M.
- Growth Group for Women** — for women interested in exploring themselves, their beliefs, feelings, relationships. Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 P.M.
- Personal Growth Group** — for students interested in exploring themselves, their beliefs, feelings, relationships. Thursdays, 11:00 A.M.-12:30. Another time to be announced.
- Male-Female Relationships** — focusing on beginning relationships with the opposite sex. Tuesdays, 8:30-10:00 A.M.
- Stress Reduction** — learning to relax and to deal more effectively with a variety of stressful situations. Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 A.M., Tuesdays, 1:00-2:15 P.M., Tuesdays, 2:20-3:45 P.M.
- Managing Depression and Similar "Low-Feeling" States** — will focus on strategies for reducing depressive states, increasing pleasurable stimulation, and the improvement of mood states. Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
- Controlling Substance Use and Abuse** — will focus on reducing dependencies on various drug substances, working towards moderate usage or abstinence, and learning alternative sources of gratification. Fridays, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
- Test Anxiety** — four sessions of structured experiences for reducing anxiety, increasing confidence and relaxation for exam preparation and taking. Monday 10:45-12:00 noon. Another time to be set.
- Weight Control** — 2 term group. First term, Reduction Readiness — will work on patterns that prohibit successful reduction (e.g. motivational problems, emotional eating). Second term, Weight Loss and Maintenance — will teach a variety of strategies for effective weight loss and maintenance. Time to be arranged.
- Growing Up with An Alcoholic** — for students who have or are having to cope with parents or other significant person who is an alcoholic. For support, information about understanding and coping with an abuser and exploring personal impact of being involved with an alcoholic. Time to be arranged.
- Advanced Stress Reduction** — further work with relaxation training for those with experience. Will include use of imagination and examination of attitudes. Time to be arranged.
- Assertiveness Training** — will provide an opportunity for men and women to learn the skills involved in assertive behavior. Thursdays, 7:45-9:00 P.M.
- Binge Eating and Purging** — will focus on problem eating patterns and the personal/emotional concerns that accompany such problem behavior. Time to be arranged.

If you are interested in a group and the set times do not fit your schedule, or if you wish to talk about other services, please contact us to make an appointment.