

1970 and *Let It Be*

Hunter Davies, *The Beatles*, with a new introduction, New York: Norton, 2009 and  
Tim Riley, *Tell Me Why: A Beatles Commentary*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

### *Let It Be*

Released May 8, 1970

Originally conceived as *Get Back*, an album looking back to their roots

Designed in conjunction with a documentary film that would conclude with a live concert, similar to *A Hard Day's Night*.

Recording began in January 1969, but was suspended for about a year. In the meantime, they released the tapes ("needed cash in order to afford breaking up" [Riley, 291] and [Allen Klein] hired Phil Spector to create an album out of the recording sessions.

Spector sent a copy of the final album and letter to each Beatle and George Martin:

That made me angry - and it made Paul even angrier, because neither he nor I knew about it until it had been done. It happened behind our backs because it was done when Allen Klein was running John. He'd organised Phil Spector and I think George and Ringo had gone along with it. They'd actually made an arrangement with EMI and said, 'This is going to be our record.'

EMI came to me and said, 'You made this record originally but we can't have your name on it.' I asked them why not and they said: 'Well, you didn't produce the final thing.' I said, 'I produced the original and what you should do is have a credit saying: "Produced by George Martin, over-produced by Phil Spector". ' They didn't think that was a good idea. -G. Martin

Spector's "Wall Of Sound" apparent on "Across The Universe," "I Me Mine," "Let It Be," and "The Long And Winding Road."

"Let It Be"

released as single March 1970; guitar solo added for album

written by McCartney

Alludes to his mother, but other interpretations became more popular

Instruments include brass, organ (Billy Preston), piano, guitar, bass, drums, and vocals (McCartney)

Key: C major

4 bar intro on piano, closes with IV – I / 2 chords per bar

*VERSE:*

*2 chords per bar, piano accompaniment, gospel-influenced, same chord progression as intro:*

When I find myself in times of trouble

Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom

*HOOK:*

Let it be (IV – I)

*VERSE:*

And in my hour of darkness

She is standing right in front of me

Speaking words of wisdom

Let it be (IV- I)

*CHORUS*

*Add organ:*

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

*highest vocal (A) thus far / chord progression changed (C not F)*

Whisper words of wisdom

Let it be

*VERSE*

*Piano with drums, bass added*

And when the broken-hearted people

Living in the world agree

There will be an answer

Let it be (IV – I)

*VERSE*

For though they may be parted there is

Still a chance that they will see

There will be an answer

Let it be

*CHORUS*

*Add organ*

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

Yeah, there will be an answer

Let it be

*Add brass*

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom  
Let it be

*Instrumental break: Electric piano, organ, guitar*

*Organ, piano, bass, drums*

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom  
Let it be

*VERSE*

*Add organ, bass, drums, and guitar*

And when the night is cloudy  
There is still a light that shines on me  
Shine until tomorrow  
Let it be [*guitar*]

I wake up to the sound of music  
Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom  
Let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be  
There will be an answer  
Let it be

*Add brass*

Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be  
There will be an answer  
Let it be [*highest vocal note (C)*]

Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom  
Let it be [*highest vocal note (C)*]

*Electric piano progression of 8 chords in 2 bars, same as used in instrumental break*

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