

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds (1967)

The Beatles

LISTEN FOR

- Psychedelic influences in lyrics, music
- Two-part verse and chorus with contrasting meters, keys
- Production techniques, especially in vocals, organ

CREATION

Songwriters John Lennon

Album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

Label Capitol MAS-2653 (U.S.), Parlophone PMC-7027 (UK)

Musicians John Lennon (double-tracked vocal, maracas, acoustic guitar), Paul McCartney (harmony vocal, bass guitar, Lowrey organ), George Harrison (lead guitar, acoustic guitar, tamboura), Ringo Starr (drums)

Producer George Martin

Engineer Geoff Emerick

Recording EMI Studios (London); March 1967; stereo

Charts Album 1, UK 1

MUSIC

Genre Psychedelic rock

Form Contrasting verse-chorus

Key A major (verse), B-flat major (pre-chorus), G major (chorus)

Meter 3/4 (verse, pre-chorus), 4/4 (chorus)

LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro (4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple meter (three beats per measure). • Electric organ with very heavy reverb.
0:06	Verse 1 (19+12)	"Picture yourself"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocals enter, drone-like bass, echo and overdub on vocal. • At 0:32, the pre-chorus modulates up a step to B-flat major and shifts to a more active bass line, shuffle rhythm in cymbals, increased echo, guitar doubles vocal, new harmonies. • Four even hits on the tom-tom lead into the Chorus.
0:50	Chorus (7)	"Lucy in the Sky"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in key (G major) and meter (quadruple—four beats per measure). • Harder, rock-like groove and texture.
1:09	Verse 2 (19+12)	"Follow her down"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before.
1:51	Chorus (7)	"Lucy in the Sky"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before.
2:08	Verse 3 (19)	"Picture yourself"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First half of verse without pre-chorus.
2:33	Chorus (7)	"Lucy in the Sky"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before.
2:54	Chorus (7)	"Lucy in the Sky"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before.
3:13	Outro	"Lucy in the Sky"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fade.

"Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" (The Beatles, 1967)

LYRICS

Picture yourself in a boat on a river,
 With tangerine trees and marmalade skies.
 Somebody calls you, you answer quite
 slowly;
 A girl with kaleidoscope eyes.

Cellophane flowers of yellow and green
 Towering over your head;
 Look for the girl with the sun in her eyes,
 And she's gone.

Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Ah . . .

Follow her down to a bridge by a fountain,
 Where rocking horse people eat
 marshmallow pies.
 Everyone smiles as you drift past the
 flowers
 That grow so incredible high.

Newspaper taxis appear on the shore,
 Waiting to take you away.
 Climb in the back with your head in the
 clouds,
 And you're gone.

Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Ah . . .

Picture yourself on a train in a station,
 With plasticine porters with looking-glass
 ties.
 Suddenly, someone is there at the turnstile:
 The girl with kaleidoscope eyes.

Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Ah . . .

Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Ah . . .

Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!
 Lucy in the sky with diamonds!

SOURCES

- <http://www.sing365.com/music/lyric.nsf/Lucy-in-the-Sky-with-Diamonds-lyrics-The-Beatles/268F467B6ECC8C7148256BC20013FDB3>.