

‘HELLO, GOODBYE’: THE BEATLES LAST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE
August 29, 1966 at Candlestick Park, San Francisco: ‘It Was 50 Years Ago Today...’

An illustrated lecture presented by Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

The Beatles’ 1964 and 1965 successful US tours were followed by a 1966 return visit which would turn out to be the group’s last - the Fab Four had had enough of being on the road.

The Beatles were tired of hectic schedules (sometimes with two shows in a day), being confined to hotel rooms, driven to venues in armored trucks and playing the same song-list to screaming crowds that made more noise than their instruments.

By 1966, they were physically, emotionally and musically exhausted, or as George Harrison said: “We knew that we were not going to do this again. We were no longer on the buzz of fame and success.”

So the Beatles’ final concert of their 1966 tour turned out to be the group’s farewell to public performing. Nevertheless, Candlestick Park was only 50% full and the Beatles’ performance lasted only 35 minutes. No official audio or visual recording of this historic event was made, which may have been a good thing – the group could not hear themselves on stage, so their performances were less than satisfactory and added to the band’s collective decision to quit public performing.

This lecture outlines the details of this final public concert – including the supporting acts - as well as the background, content and aftermath of the event. The songs that the Beatles sang will be heard and discussed - singing along is encouraged :0 – along with a brief history of the group’s formation and a discussion of why their music is still popular and relevant today.

The songs of the Beatles continue to stand the test of time and the group’s contribution to the history of 20th century popular music remains unprecedented and unchallenged. A new generation is now experiencing the quality, variety and longevity of Beatles music which makes this presentation suitable for an audience of all ages and every level of musical appreciation and knowledge.

DURATION: c1 hour

FEE: \$275.00

EXPENSES: a contribution toward travel costs is appreciated

Please contact me for more information and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dulais Rhys, Ph.D

REFERENCES and REVIEWS

If you would like a critique and publicity material of my presentation, the named persons below have given their permission to be contacted:

- Burlingame Public Library, CA (October 3, 2013): Ms Linda Santo
- Livermore Public Library, CA (December 15, 2103): Mr Paul Sevilla
- San Mateo Pubic Library, CA (March 22, 2014): Ms Addie Spanbock
- Stockton Public Library, CA (May 3, 2014): Mr Bill Walker and/or Mr Dennis Tucker
- Las Vegas-Clark Co. Library District, NV (December 7, 2014): Ms Jennifer Weitz

'Your lecture was great. I really enjoyed your exposing the musical structure of their songs, as did very many in the audience. That is, by the way, the largest Noontime lecture I've ever seen during the summer at the Club. And they were all so happy they'd come.'

George H.: Chair of Humanities Program, The Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, August 19, 2014 (a recording of the lecture is available via its website)

'Are you ready for these numbers??41 adults and 4 children attended the Beatles program tonight. We heard lots of positive feedback from those who attended. A few are going to attend the program again on Saturday at Agave. We left the door open so staff and the customers could enjoy the music. We heard one person at the computer singing along quietly. It was such a great program. I am still smiling.'

Sabrina A.: Librarian, Yucca Library, Phoenix AZ, September 11, 2014 (to Kathy H. – see below)

'I'm writing to thank the library for sponsoring "The Beatles A Musical Revolution" presentation. I attended the presentation at the Desert Broom library yesterday morning. Dr. Rhys was a fabulous speaker. He was very knowledgeable and also very passionate about the subject. I found the presentation very interesting. Please pass along my thanks to Dr. Rhys and thank you also to the library for sponsoring the presentation.'

Al K.: lecture audience member, Desert Broom Library, Phoenix AZ, September 13, 2014 (to Kathy H. – see below)

'The Library is very, very pleased with the high audience turnout, quality of your program and the very positive reaction from our customers. Thank you again for a job well done!'

Kathy H., Adult Services Coordinator and lecture tour organizer, Phoenix Public Library, September 16, 2014

I really enjoyed your lecture, especially that you concentrated on the musical forms n structures of their writing. Man...I'm right with you on all that. ... It's great to meet a fellow Beatle student...I stopped talking so I wouldn't answer all your quiz questions correctly.

John J. : lecture audience member, Rainbow Library, Las Vegas NV, December 6, 2014

Dulais Rhys' recent lecture on the Beatles was extraordinary. The enthusiasm of the audience was palpable for weeks before the lecture actually took place and in the minutes before the event one could hear guests happily humming Beatles tunes in anticipation. Dr. Rhys' humorous discussion of Beatles musicology was happily interspersed with short and long samples of the music itself to the audience's delight. The collective singing, toe tapping, and dancing in the aisles made the program as a whole memorable. One often forgets how music – when heard and enjoyed in public – can enhance mood, energize, lower inhibitions, and encourage bonding. Our audience certainly had a great time and Dr. Rhys' presentation encouraged their understanding of the how and why of the Beatles phenomenon.

Taryn E.: Member Relations and Marketing Specialist, Mechanics' Institute, March 5, 2015

Thank you so much for the delightful program you presented last night at the Merced Branch Library on The Beatles and Their Songs. The audience members loved it!

Elizabeth T., Manager, Merced Branch Library, June 24, 2015

Thank you for such a wonderful presentation — my manager Seng and I agreed that our community fully enjoyed themselves! I think your style is unique in that you weave many cultural threads into your lecture, yet you keep it light and fun and have a gift for eliciting audience participation.

Chris G., Adult & Teen Services Librarian, Danville Library, Contra Costa Country, June 25, 2015