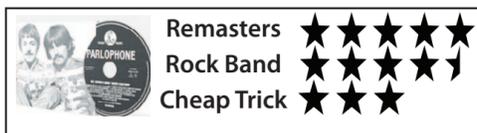


# Beatles Rock Band relives classics



Remasters ★★★★★  
Rock Band ★★★★★  
Cheap Trick ★★★★★

BY COREY BOMMEL  
Reviewer

September 9, 2009, 9-9-09, what will it have meant to you? Numerologists, conspiracy theorists and fans of the Dreamcast all have reason to celebrate, but for music fans it went down as an immensely important day in musical history, for on that day the world received a plethora of Beatles goodness.

If you have never heard of the Beatles, then please come out from under that rock. It's quite nice in the sunshine. One of the most influential and critically-acclaimed bands of all time, they put a mark on the music industry that will be hard to forget. Formed in 1960 in Liverpool, the band eventually included four of the most recognized musicians in history: Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Ringo Starr and George Harrison. The Beatles were an international powerhouse, selling hundreds of millions of albums worldwide. They toured the world extensively and brought the "British Invasion" to the States. That's just the short story.

On Sept. 9, the entire remastered Beatles discography was released in two special edition box sets. The sets include all of the Beatles' studio recordings from "Please, Please Me" to "Let It Be" (or "Abbey Road" if you want to be a complete Beatles purist). The set also includes a DVD featuring mini-documentaries about each of the included albums. Four years in the making, this box

set was produced with extensive care, as it would anger quite a few longtime Beatles fans if the recordings weren't up to snuff. They succeed on all accounts with this release, pleasing old and new fans alike. The stereo quality brings a clarity to the instruments that never has been seen on a Beatles re-issue. While listening to these classics over again, you might catch underlying musical tones missed on previous listens, especially if you put on a nice set of headphones. For the audiophiles out there, a mono

version of the box set was released at the same time. This version stays true to many of the earlier vinyl albums as well as bringing a few of the later ones into mono format. There is something for everyone in these sets.

The digital rhythm game "The Beatles: Rock Band" was also released on this date. For those not familiar with the Rock Band series of video games, players use instrument-shaped controllers to play music on their television. Colored notes stream down the screen that you must hit with carefully-timed button presses under a familiar karaoke style vocal section. Up to four players can jam simultaneously on one system. The game's creators had a hard time obtaining digital rights to these songs, as critics were afraid the video game industry would simply cash in on the music game craze to bring the Beatles to the

games. This game ends the digital distribution scuffle, bringing one of what I call the "Unattainable Trifecta" to video game format, the other two unreleased bands being Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin. The creators went to great lengths to create a game worthy of the Beatles, working with the surviving members of the band and their family members ex-

tensively. A game was produced that brings many important events of Beatles history to life, from their beginnings at the Cavern Club, to their final performance on the Apple building rooftop. The digital characters' appearances and movements all are true to their real life counterparts and change in appearance as the Beatles timeline progresses. More than 40 songs are included on the disc, spanning the band's entire career, and downloadable content is already in the works to bring other entire albums to the game. If you have played the original Rock Band games you aren't getting anything new in terms of game play elements, save for three-part harmony if you've got three microphones, but if you enjoy the Beatles and are a fan of rhythm games, you should pick this one up.

The pop rockers, Cheap Trick, released a cover a couple of weeks ago of one of the Beatles' great albums, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." The band plays the entire album from start to finish and musically sounds very much like the original Beatles' recording, with the addition of an extra guitar. Although this gives tribute to a great album, I would have liked Cheap Trick to stray from the beaten path and improvise a little bit. No one wants to see a band butcher a classic Beatles song, but a little bit of original interpretation could have improved this release. The track lengths are almost identical, and the only large scale improvisation is on the final "Medley Song." If you want to listen to "Sgt. Pepper's," just pick up the Beatles original even if you are a fan of Cheap Trick.

Photos provided by thebeatlesrockband.com and gametrailers.com

## Reviewer recalls Disney film

"The Little Mermaid"



BY NICK FRUMSON  
Reviewer

"The Little Mermaid" is probably one of the most beloved Disney movies of all time. It is the story of Ariel, a mermaid princess who falls in love with a human. Heart set on being with him, she makes a deal with the sea witch, Ursula, to trade her voice for three days as a human. After Prince Eric saves the day, he and Ariel live happily ever after.

When I was a kid, I loved this movie. I loved Scuttle and Flounder as the comic relief, and who could forget that grumpy crab, Sebastian? I can probably still recite the whole movie and definitely sing all the songs. No classic Disney movie would be complete without the songs we all know, love and expect. The music and well-known lyrics were written by none other than Alan Menken. He has brought us memorable songs like "Be Our Guest" from "Beauty and the Beast" and "A Whole New World"

from "Aladdin."

"The Daughters of Triton," also known as the performance that Ariel was supposed to be in but wasn't, is one of the first songs in the movie.

I think it's a charming little song showcasing Ariel's sisters' intense vibrato and singing talent. It's a great opener to the movie.

"Part of Your World" is one of my favorite songs from this movie. It's a sad song in which Ariel reflects about all the things she wants to see and doesn't know about because she isn't human. I think the music is absolutely beautiful. With captivating lyrics and an incredible melody, this song is one of Alan Menken's best.

"Under the Sea" is a fun song later in the movie. Almost every time I hear that song I want to dance. In this song, Sebastian tries to convince Ariel that "under the sea" is where it's at. It's musically and rhythmically interesting. The lyrics are awesome. The best set of lyrics is

during the part in which they rhyme many types of fish with various instruments. The song is a clever number, which progresses the movie.

Later in the movie, Ursula finally sings a song of her own, trying to coax Ariel to give up her voice in exchange for legs. It's a low alto range with wonderfully evil lyrics, and you really get to see much more of Ursula than before. In this song, she strikes up a tempting deal with quite a catch. At one part Ursula says that she is "a very busy woman" and she "hasn't got all day." It's funny because she lies around all day thinking of ways to bring King Triton down. She makes it seem as if she really is busy, but she is just trying to rush Ariel.

"Kiss The Girl" is another good song the movie offers. It's a cute song, but I think its best-known rendition is the a cappella arrangement. Perhaps TrueMen should do a cover of it.

"When I was a kid, I loved this movie. I loved Scuttle and Flounder as the comic relief, and who could forget that grumpy crab, Sebastian? I can probably still recite the whole movie and definitely sing all the songs."

### The Little Mermaid Through the years

Original author: Hans Christian Anderson

Country of Origin: Denmark

Publishing Date: April 7, 1837

Adaptations: theatre, literature, Anime, and both live action and animated films.

The Little Mermaid was also a comic book, artwork, a ballet, a TV episode, and will soon become a theme park ride.

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