

The legacy of the "quiet Beatle"

Frank Sinatra once called George Harrison's "Something" the most beautiful love song he had ever heard.

A legend is gone, but generations will remember

□ Read about his life, his hits and the fans he leaves behind.

MARGARET COONEY
Staff Reporter

People everywhere were saddened to learn that on Thursday, Nov. 29, former Beatle George Harrison died after a battle with cancer.

Harrison, better known to the world as the "quiet Beatle," was 58 years old. In 1998, he was diagnosed with throat cancer, which eventually moved to his brain, resulting in his death.

The past few years have been a rough time for Harrison. In 1999, he was hospitalized after being stabbed by a deranged robber who broke into his house.

In his time with the Beatles, Harrison was known for writing such hits like "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" and "Here Comes the Sun."

Although Harrison was not the most outspoken member of the Beatles, he was the most spiritual. Fascinated with various religions and musical styling, Harrison brought a variety of styling to all his music.

Once the Beatles broke up, Harrison went on to enjoy a successful solo career. He scored a number 1 hit, "My Sweet Lord," and number one album, *All Things Must Pass*, in 1970. In the late 1980s, Harrison's album *Cloud Nine*

became the most successful of his solo album's to date with its catchy number one hit, "I've Got My Mind Set On You."

When an obsessed fan murdered John Lennon in 1980, it served as a reminder to people that even the great Beatles are not invincible.

With Harrison's passing, Beatle's fans are realizing once again that life is short.

Harrison was known not

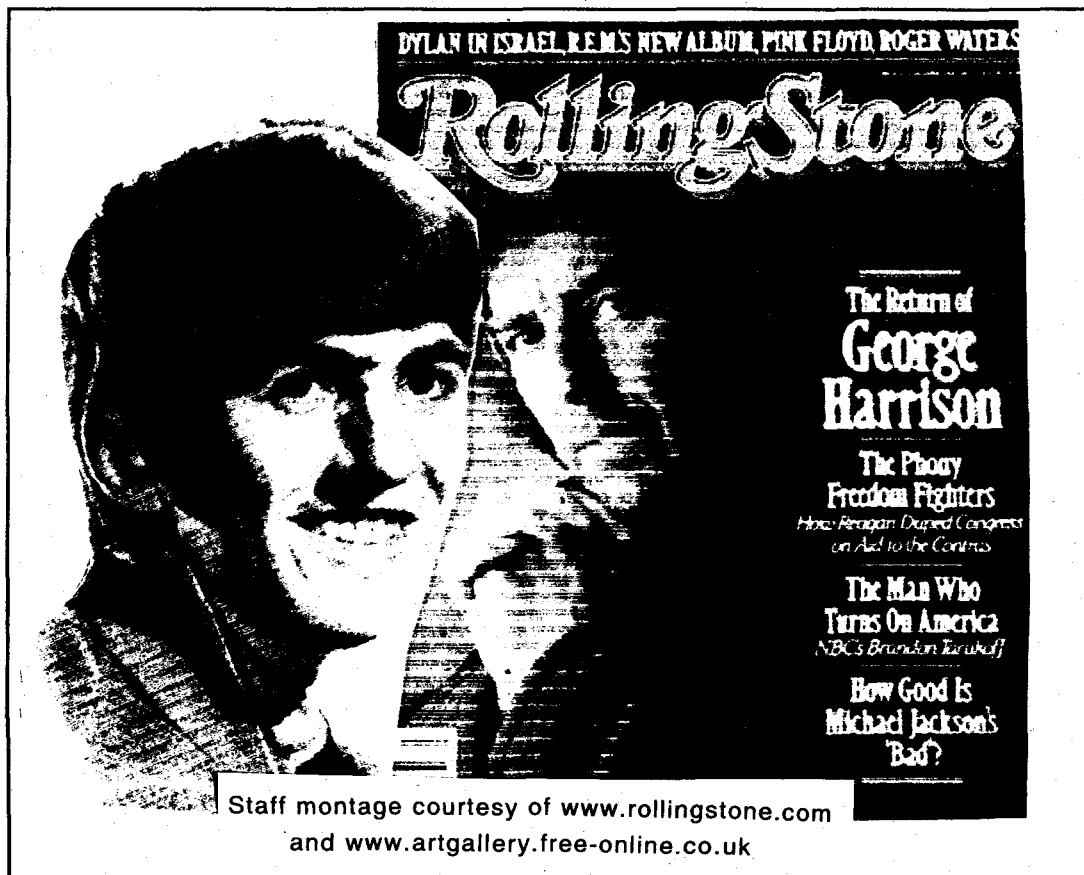
"The passing of Harrison is a reminder of the passing of a generation. The music of the Beatle's inspired not only baby boomers but also the generations after. And they will inspire many to come."

only for his music, but also for his humanitarian contributions. He founded various benefit concerts to aid relief efforts in various third world countries.

The passing of Harrison is a reminder of the passing of a generation.

The music of the Beatle's inspired not only baby-boomers but also the generations after. And they will inspire many to come.

With only two members left, the remnants of the Beatles have become more cherished than ever. Fans everywhere mourn the loss of the "quiet Beatle."



I heard the news today...

□ He died on Thursday, but he leaves behind a musical legacy and a secretly recorded final album.

LYNDA-MARIE TAURASI
Music Columnist

Waking up to NPR news was a bit different for me last Friday morning. I was awakened to the buzzing of my alarm clock, the bright sun shining in my face and the stuffy, English accent of the BBC radio announcer delivering the news that former Beatle George Harrison was dead.

George Harrison finally surrendered to his fight with cancer on Thursday, Nov. 29, at around 4:30 p.m.

Granted, I knew that the Beatles would never get back together; I wasn't even born when they were in their prime. But the Beatles were my child-

hood, albeit unwillingly at first. Even when Lennon was murdered, the legacy of the greatest rock band still carried on through the lives of the remaining three.

Harrison penned the most beautiful, self-reflecting and melancholy Beatles' songs such as "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" and "Here Comes the Song."

Maybe he was not as prolific as the Lennon/McCartney duo, but he wrote with emotion. Even Frank Sinatra performed Harrison's first tune to be included in a Beatle's album, "Something," and called it the most beautiful love song he had ever heard.

Unfortunately, Sinatra credited the mantra to Lennon/McCartney. Apparently, Harrison just laughed and was humbly delighted that Sinatra would even consider performing a Beatles' song.

It was Harrison that led the rest of the Beatles to India for an Eastern pilgrimage and to

the spiritual guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in the late '60s. Eastern religion became a life-long devotion for Harrison long after the rest of the band lost interest.

It was also Harrison who topped the charts with the first post-Beatle song, "My Sweet Lord" and gave the all-star charity tribute, *Concert for Bangladesh*.

So it is sad that another one has passed on. But the proclaimed "quiet Beatle" does not succumb so quietly.

Harrison secretly recorded a final album, completed only days before his death, perhaps as a way to finally gain the upper hand in the healthy, competition with rival songwriter, Sir Paul McCartney.

After all, McCartney's latest album, *Driving Rain*, was just released on Nov. 13.

Perhaps, he just wanted a final chance to spread his message.