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Walter Everett

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Walter Everett : The Beatles As Musicians: The Quarry Men through Rubber Soul before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beatles As Musicians: The Quarry Men through Rubber Soul:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Revolver Through The Anthology" is just as good, if not better due to the fact that ...By Swanny If you're a huge fan of The Beatles, know every album, song, lyric and who played what instrument on which song, this is the logical next step if you also happen to be a musician. Although the book COULD

be read by anyone, a very clear understanding of music and theory would be a big bonus in getting into the heads of Lennon, McCartney and Harrison to study their methods of writing. This book may be way over the heads of the average casual Beatles fan, but for those really serious about their music, this is the most detailed and exceptionally well written book about their writing and recording that has been released so far (in my opinion). The partner book "The Beatles As Musicians: Revolver Through The Anthology" is just as good, if not better due to the fact that their music became much more complex beginning with "Revolver". Such a book should be required reading for those studying pop music and theory at the same time. Of all the books on their music that I have read, this one is really the very best. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The only indispensable Beatles book, but... By Aveline It is not a work for everybody, if you mean to read it and understand it all. To read this book you need a more than basic knowledge of music theory + a certain amount of time to get used to the author's analytical technique + the transcriptions of (almost) all the Beatles recorded works as published by Wise in UK and Hal Leonard in USA (with all their mistakes, as pointed out by Everett) + all the recordings by the group, not only the official ones but as many bootlegs you can put your hands on. Everett spent lots of time listening to the works, reading all published material (especially interviews) on the subject, getting to all available recorded, photographic and video sources. His analysis of the single recordings is amazing, very in-depth, deconstructing the songs to the minimal unit and demonstrating how each of these units fit into the whole construction of the best songs. I have heard this music since I was a child and still reading Everett's book made me perceive so many unheard before aspects I never knew existed. So I want to thank him for this not small feat. In the title of my review though there's a hint of an objection. Which is this: I think Everett is absolute master of his method, he has musical knowledge as few other writers have and dedication and passion for the music he analyzes. And still... I don't think he has that quid (lat.) which differentiates the great critic from the academic. His work is a great study, but it is not a great book. He should have been able to differentiate the essential points from the dross. I don't think that much of his analysis is necessary for the appreciation of the songs and he doesn't make aesthetic choices, the songs being relevant only for their technical, musical aspects. Everett is not able to analyze lyrics convincingly in conjunction with the music and he rarely, if ever, does it, limiting himself most of the time to quote the authors themselves as to how they came on to a particular catch-phrase. Still words are inherent in songs, inextricably married to the music: I'd expect more from such a book in that respect. A minor grievance is how some musical analysis terms and techniques are not explained or sufficiently well explained. F.e., his schemes with the skeleton of the songs are not explained as to how they're constructed, so it remains hard to follow explanations based on them. Also, in spite of the glossary at the end of the volume, some symbols and abbreviations used in the book are absent or not sufficiently explained. It also leaves me perplexed at how he renounces analyzing a song like Holly's Words of Love because aesthetically irrelevant: I think this is (debatably, of course) the Beatles greatest cover version and a great improvement on Holly's version. Still, I repeat, this is the best book written on the Beatles yet, (though I should probably re-read Mellers before declaring it such) but not the definitive one it aims to be. Thank God, we won't ever have such a one! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Musically Detailed By Sachmoh yo Combines very interesting biographical information with the musical theory based evolution of Beatles compositions.

The Beatles as Musicians: The Quarry Men through Rubber Soul is a comprehensive, chronologically-ordered study of every aspect of the group's musical life--composition, performance, recording and reception histories--from its beginnings in 1956 through 1965. Richly authoritative interpretations from every available reliable musical document are interwoven through a documentary study of many thousands of audio, video, print, and multimedia sources. The text will enable general readers and musicians as well as educated music theorists to learn new levels of beauty in the music of the Beatles.

"Walter Everett's recent contribution to the extensive literature on the Beatles is a welcome addition to the serious musicological study of the most influential rock musicians in history. ... Everett's work is not only important in elucidating the music of the Beatles, it also serves as a model for further scholarship in rock music."--Journal of Musicological Research "The Quarry Men to Rubber Soul and its predecessor, Revolver Through the Anthology, are important additions to the literature of rock music study and are necessary volumes for the serious scholar of all popular music styles a model for further scholarship in rock music."--Journal of Musicological Research "[A] staple in the Beatles scholarly literature.... The book's method does not descend to a merely theoretical approach to the Beatles as musicians, but maintains a balance between compositional and performative aspects of their style."--Notes "Walter Everett's recent contribution to the extensive literature on the Beatles is a welcome addition to the serious musicological study of the most influential rock musicians in history. ... Everett's work is not only important in elucidating the music of the Beatles, it also serves as a model for further scholarship in rock music."--Journal of Musicological Research About the Author Walter Everett is Associate Professor of Music in Music Theory at the University of Michigan. He is the author of The Beatles as Musicians: Revolver through the Anthology (OUP, 1999).