Chronology

February 18, 1933 Yoko Ono is born in Tokyo.

September 10, 1939 Cynthia Powell is born in Blackpool.

June 23, 1940 Stuart Sutcliffe is born in Edinburgh.

July 7, 1940 Richard Starkey is born in the front room of 9 Madryn Street, Liverpool, a Victorian terraced house.

October 9, 1940 John Winston Lennon is born at Oxford St. Maternity Hospital in Liverpool.

June 18, 1942 James Paul McCartney is born at Walton Hospital, Rice Lane, in Liverpool.

February 25, 1943 George Harrison is born at 12 Arnold Grove, a two-up, two-down terraced house built in the 1890s, in the Wavertree section of Liverpool.

January 16, 1957 Alan Synter opens the jazz-themed Cavern Club on Mathew Street in a seedy warehouse district of Liverpool. Inspired by the Parisian jazz club, Le Caveau Français, the short-lived jazz theme soon changes to skiffle, and then to rock.

May 1957 Lennon forms the Quarry Men.

June 22, 1957 The Quarry Men make their public debut at a street carnival on Rosebery Street in Liverpool.

July 6, 1957 Ivan Vaughan introduces fifteen-year-old Paul McCartney to John Lennon at the garden fête, St. Peter's Church, Woolton, Liverpool.

August 7, 1957 The Quarry Men skiffle group, led by John Lennon but sans Paul McCartney (who was at a Boy Scout summer camp) and George Harrison (who hadn't joined yet), makes its Cavern Club debut.

February 6, 1958 George Harrison joins the Quarry Men.

July 15, 1958 Julia Lennon dies after being struck by a vehicle driven by an off-duty police officer outside Aunt Mimi's Menlove Avenue house in Liverpool. Eventually, the officer goes to trial but is acquitted.

August 29, 1959 The Quarry Men play on opening night in the basement of the Casbah coffee club, a teenage social club, in West Derby, Liverpool. Run by Mona Best, Pete Best's mother, the group played there forty-four times.

May 1960 The Silver Beetles audition for Larry Parnes at the Blue Angel in Liverpool, receiving their first break. Passing the audition, they are hired to be the backing band for Johnny Gentle on a nine-day tour of Scotland, making stops at Alloa, Inverness, Fraserburgh, Keith, Forres, Nairn, and Peterhead.

May 25, 1960 Rory Storm and the Hurricanes, with Ringo Starr on drums, make their debut at the Cavern Club.

May 30, 1960 The Silver Beetles make their debut at the Jacaranda coffee bar on Slater Street in Liverpool.

June 2, 1960 The Beatles perform their first "professional" engagement at Neston Institute in Liverpool.

August 17–October 3, 1960 The Beatles play two clubs in Hamburg: the Indra and the Kaiserkeller.

November 21, 1960 George Harrison is deported from Germany for being underage and not having a work permit.

Late November 1960 Astrid Kirchherr gets engaged to Stuart Sutcliffe.

December 27, 1960 Considered the turning point in the Beatles career and the birthplace of Beatlemania, the Beatles perform at the Town Hall Ballroom in Litherland, Liverpool.

January 1961 Stuart Sutcliffe returns to England.

February 21, 1961 The Beatles play their first gig—a lunchtime session—at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. Their pay? A whopping £5. They make their evening debut a month later, on March 21.

April 1–July 1, 1961 The Beatles play thirteen weeks at the Top Ten Club on the Reeperbahn in Hamburg.

June 1961 The Beatles record with producer Bert Kaempfert in Hamburg, backing Tony Sheridan on five songs: two standards, "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," Sheridan's "Why (Can't You Love Me Again)," Hank Snow's "Nobody's Child," and Jimmy Reed's "Take Out Some Insurance on Me, Baby." They also make two recordings without Sheridan, "Ain't She Sweet" and "Cry for a Shadow."

Late June 1961 Stuart Sutcliffe leaves the band at the end of the month to study art and stay in Hamburg.

July 2, 1961 The Beatles return to Liverpool, without Stuart Sutcliffe.

July 6, 1961 The first issue of *Mersey Beat*, the Liverpool music newspaper, is published. Lennon contributes the article "Being a Short Diversion on the Dubious Origins of the Beatles."

September 1, 1961 Sutcliffe begins his studies at the Staatliche Hochschule für bildende Künste (University of Fine Arts) under Eduardo Paolozzi.

October 23, 1961 "My Bonnie" is released in Germany, reaching No. 32 on the German hit parade.

November 9, 1961 Brian Epstein attends a lunchtime performance by the Beatles at the Cavern Club.

December 10, 1961 Brian Epstein agrees to become the Beatles' manager.

January 1, 1962 The Beatles make their first formal audition for a British record company at Decca Studios, Broadhurst Gardens, in London, where they tape fifteen songs: "Like Dreamers Do," "Money (That's What I Want)," "Till There Was You," "The Sheik of Araby," "To Know Her Is to Love Her," "Take Good Care of My Baby," "Memphis, Tennessee," "Sure to Fall (In Love with You)," "Hello Little Girl," "Three Cool Cats," "Crying, Waiting, Hoping," "Love of the Loved," "September in the Rain," "Besame Mucho," and "Searchin'."

April 1962 The Star-Club opens in Hamburg.

April 10, 1962 Twenty-one-year-old Stuart Sutcliffe dies of a brain hemorrhage in Hamburg while en route to the hospital. His body is returned to Liverpool in May.

April 13–May 31, 1962 The Beatles spend seven weeks at the Star-Club in Hamburg.

June 4, 1962 The Beatles sign a recording contract with Parlophone, a division of EMI.

June 6, 1962 The Beatles make their first visit to EMI Studios, 3 Abbey Road, in St. John's Wood, London, recording four songs: "Besame Mucho," "Love Me Do," "P.S. I Love You," and "Ask Me Why."

June 24, 1962 The Beatles make their final appearance at the Casbah coffee club, which closes at the end of the month.

August 16, 1962 Drummer Pete Best is fired.

August 18, 1962 Ringo Starr makes his first appearance with the Beatles at Hulme Hall, a Tudor-style village hall in Port Sunlight, on the Wirral peninsula across the Mersey from Liverpool.

August 23, 1962 John Lennon marries Cynthia Powell at Mount Pleasant Register Office in Liverpool.

September 11, 1962 After three separate trips to EMI Studios, the Beatles finish recording their first single, "Love Me Do"/"P.S. I Love You," with session drummer Andy White replacing Ringo Starr on the drums.

October 5, 1962 "Love Me Do"/"P.S. I Love You" is released as a single in the U.K.

November 1–14, 1962 The Beatles return to the Star-Club in Hamburg for a brief tour. They perform on a bill with Little Richard.

November 26, 1962 The Beatles return to EMI Studios to record their second single, "Please Please Me"/"Ask Me Why."

December 18–31, 1962 The Beatles make their final visit to Hamburg, playing at the Star-Club for thirteen nights.

January 1963 The Beatles play their second tour of Scotland—and their first tour as headliners—stopping at Elgin, Dingwall, Bridge of Allan, and Aberdeen and making an appearance on a children's television show in Glasgow.

February 11, 1963 The Beatles record their entire album, the fourteen-track *Please Please Me,* in one day at EMI Studios.

March 22, 1963 *Please Please Me* is released in Britain.

April 8, 1963 John Charles Julian Lennon is born to John and Cynthia Lennon at Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool.

April 18, 1963 The Beatles make their first appearance at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

August 3, 1963 After nearly three hundred performances, the Beatles make their final appearance at the Cavern Club.

September 11, 1963 The Beatles begin work on their second album, *With the Beatles,* at EMI Studios.

October 1963 The Beatles begin their Swedish concert tour.

October 13, 1963 The first twinges of Beatlemania emerge when the Beatles perform on *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* on British television.

January 20, 1964 *Meet the Beatles,* the first Beatles album in the United States, is released.

February 9, 1964 The Beatles perform live in front of an audience of 728 people on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in New York City. An estimated 73 million people in the United States watch as the band performs five songs: "All My Loving," "Till There Was You," "She Loves You," "I Saw Her Standing There," and "I Want to Hold Your Hand." The show also features singer/banjoist Tessie O'Shea, the New York cast of *Oliver* starring Georgia Brown and future Monkee Davy Jones, and impressionist Frank Gorshin.

February 11, 1964 The Beatles give their first concert in North America at the Washington Coliseum in Washington, D.C.

February 12, 1964 The Beatles give two thirty-four-minute shows at Carnegie Hall in New York City, at 7:45 and 11:15 P.M.

February 16, 1964 The Beatles make their second live appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* from the Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach. An estimated 70 million people watch as they perform "She Loves You," "This Boy," "All My Loving," "I Saw Her Standing There," "From Me to You," and "I Want to Hold Your Hand."

March 2, 1964 Shooting on *A Hard Day's Night* begins. Filming continues on and off until late April. The locations include Marylebone station in London; the Turks Head pub in St. Margaret's; Twickenham Film Studios; Gatwick Airport South in Surrey; Scala Theatre in London; River Thames towpath in Kew, Surrey; Hammersmith Odeon cinema in London; Thornbury Playing Fields in Isleworth; and Edgehill Road in West Ealing.

March 23, 1964 John Lennon's first book, *In His Own Write,* is published.

April 4, 1964 The Beatles occupy all five top positions on *Billboard*'s Top Pop Singles chart.

June 4, 1964 The Beatles twenty-seven-day world tour begins in Copenhagen. Other stops on the tour include Hillegom and Blokker in the Netherlands; Kowloon in Hong Kong; Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane in Australia; and Wellington, Auckland, Dunedin, and Christchurch in New Zealand. In Melbourne alone, some 250,000 people—reportedly the largest number of Australians ever assembled in one place at one time—line the streets.

July 6, 1964 The Beatles attend the world premiere of *A Hard Day's Night* at the London Pavilion cinema in Piccadilly Circus.

July 28–29, 1964 The Beatles return to Sweden for a brief second tour.

August 11, 1964 The Beatles begin recording *Beatles for Sale* at EMI Studios.

August 19–September 20, 1964 The Beatles begin their first full-fledged North American tour with their first stop at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, followed by the Convention Center in Las Vegas; the Coliseum in Seattle; Empire Stadium in Vancouver; the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles; Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Denver; Cincinnati Gardens in Cincinnati; Forest Hills Tennis Stadium in Queens, New York; Convention Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey; Convention Hall in Philadelphia; Indiana State Fair Coliseum in Indianapolis; Milwaukee Arena in Milwaukee; International Amphitheatre in Chicago; Olympia Stadium in Detroit; Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto; the Forum in Montreal; Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida; Boston Garden in Boston; Civic Center in Baltimore; Civic Arena in Pittsburgh; Public Auditorium in Cleveland; City Park Stadium in New Orleans; Municipal Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri;

Dallas Memorial Auditorium in Dallas; and the Paramount Theatre in New York City.

September 6, 1964 Halfway through their first American tour the Beatles made public in a statement to the press their feelings toward segregation: "We will not appear unless Negroes are allowed to sit anywhere," referring to reports that blacks were confined to balconies at public events.

October 19–21, 1964 The Beatles perform three consecutive nights in Scotland in Edinburgh, Dundee, and Glasgow.

February 1965 Shooting of *Help!* begins in the Bahamas. Other locations include Austria and Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.

February 11, 1965 Ringo Starr marries Maureen Cox.

June 12, 1965 The Beatles are created Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBEs) by Queen Elizabeth. Not everyone is pleased, though—some soldiers return their medals in protest.

June 14, 1965 Paul McCartney begins recording "Yesterday" at EMI Studios.

June 24, 1965 John Lennon's second book, *A Spaniard in the Works*, is published.

June 24–27 and 30, 1965 The Beatles perform in Milan, Genoa, and Rome in Italy and in Nice in France.

July 2–3, 1965 The Beatles perform in bullrings in Madrid and Barcelona, Spain.

July 29, 1965 The premiere of *Help!* takes place in London; it opens in New York on August 23.

August 11, 1965 Race riots in Watts, an African-American neighborhood of Los Angeles, leave thirty-four dead.

August 15–31, 1965 The Beatles start their second North American tour, performing their first concert at Shea Stadium in New York. More than 55,600 people attend (including Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, as well as Steve Van Zandt and Meryl Streep), creating a new world record for a pop concert. Other locations on the tour are Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto; Atlanta Stadium in Atlanta; Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston; Comiskey Park in Chicago; Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis; Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon; Balboa Stadium in San Diego; the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles; and ending at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

October 12, 1965 The Beatles begin recording *Rubber Soul* at EMI Studios.

October 26, 1965 The Beatles receive their MBEs from the queen at Buckingham Palace.

November 27, 1965 The first of Ken Kesey's so-called acid tests is held in Santa Cruz, California.

December 3, 1965 The Beatles begin their last British tour with stops in Glasgow, Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, London, and Cardiff.

January 21, 1966 George Harrison marries Pattie Boyd.

March 4, 1966 Lennon grants an interview with Maureen Cleave of the London *Evening Standard*, and makes a controversial statement about the Beatles being more popular than Jesus.

April 6, 1966 Recording on *Revolver* begins at EMI Studios.

April 8, 1966 The cover of *Time* asks, "Is God Dead?"

June 5, 1966 The Beatles return to *The Ed Sullivan Show* with a taped appearance, introducing two music videos, "Rain" and "Paperback Writer." On subsequent shows, the Beatles introduce other videos, including "Hello Goodbye," "Penny Lane," "Strawberry Fields Forever," "Two of Us," and "Let It Be."

June 24–26, 1966 The Beatles perform in Munich, Essen, and Hamburg.

June 30–July 2, 1966 The Beatles perform five shows in the Nippon Budokan Hall in Tokyo, becoming the first rock band to perform there.

July 4, 1966 The Beatles perform twice—for 30,000 in the afternoon and 50,000 in the evening—at Rizal Memorial Football Stadium in Manila. The next day riots break out over a supposed snub of Imelda Marcos by the group.

July 29, 1966 *Datebook*, an American teen magazine, reprints the Maureen Cleave interview. Radio stations throughout the American South—the so-called Bible Belt—burn Beatles' records.

August 11–12, 1966 Lennon apologizes for the furor over his remarks at a press conference in Chicago.

August 12–29, 1966 The Beatles begin their final concert tour at the International Amphitheatre in Chicago. The other venues are Olympia Stadium in Detroit; Cleveland Stadium in Cleveland; D,C. Stadium in Washington, D.C.; John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia; Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto; Suffolk Downs Racetrack in Boston; Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis; Crosley Field in Cincinnati; Busch Stadium in St. Louis; Shea Stadium in New York; the Coliseum in Seattle; and Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. The Beatles perform their last concert at Candlestick Park in San Francisco on August 29.

September 1966 Shooting of *How I Won the War,* with Lennon in the role of Pvt. Gripweed, begins in West Germany.

November 9, 1966 John Lennon meets Yoko Ono at the Indica Gallery in London during a private preview of her show, *Unfinished Paintings and Objects.*

November 24, 1966 The Beatles begin recording *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.*

March 30, 1967 The cover of *Sgt. Pepper,* designed by pop artist Peter Blake, is shot at photographer Michael Cooper's studio in the Chelsea section of London. It consists of a montage of fifty-seven photographs, nine waxwork models, and, of course, the Beatles themselves.

June 1, 1967 *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* is released in Britain.

June 2, 1967 *Sgt. Pepper* is released in the United States.

June 16–18, 1967 Monterey Pop is held in California.

June 25, 1967 The Beatles perform "All You Need Is Love" for the *Our World* television special, the first television special to be broadcast worldwide. An estimated 400 million people (some sources say as many as 700 million) watch. Singing backup are Eric Clapton and members of the Rolling Stones and the Who.

July 7, 1967 *Time* runs a cover story on "The Hippies: Philosophy of a Sub-Culture."

July 12, 1967 Race riots leave twenty-six dead and fifteen hundred injured in Newark, New Jersey.

July 23–27, 1967 Race riots in Detroit leave forty-three dead and two thousand injured.

July 24, 1967 A full-page ad in the London *Times* urges the legalization of marijuana in Britain. All four Beatles sign it.

August 25, 1967 The Beatles travel from Euston Station in London to Bangor, Wales, to attend a weekend seminar on meditation by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

August 27, 1967 Brian Epstein dies of a drug overdose in his flat at 24 Chapel Street, Belgravia, London. The death is officially ruled accidental.

November 9, 1967 *Rolling Stone* publishes its first issue.

January 1968 The Beatles launch Apple Corps, which includes a recording studio, a record label (Apple Records), a film division, and a boutique. In addition to Beatles records, Apple releases albums by James Taylor, Mary Hopkin, Billy Preston, Ravi Shankar, and others.

March 31, 1968 Lyndon Baines Johnson announces that he will not run for re-election.

April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis, triggering weeks of rioting and looting across the United States.

May 3, 1968 Leftist student protesters in France attempt to topple the government of Charles de Gaulle.

May 14, 1968 John Lennon and Paul McCartney appear on *The Tonight Show,* the first appearance either makes on an American television talk show, to announce the formation of Apple Corps. The guest host is baseball player Joe Garagiola, who, inexplicably, seems at a loss for words during the interview.

July 1, 1968 Lennon's first art exhibition, *You Are Here,* opens at the Robert Fraser Gallery in London.

July 17, 1968 *Yellow Submarine* stages its world premiere.

August 22, 1968 Cynthia Lennon sues John for divorce on grounds of adultery.

August 26–29, 1968 The Democratic National Convention is held in Chicago; antiwar demonstrators and police clash.

September 6, 1968 Eric Clapton plays solo guitar on "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" during the recording of the White Album at EMI Studios, the first time a non-Beatle musician plays on a Beatles studio recording.

October 18, 1968 Police raid Ringo Starr's flat at 34 Montagu Square, London, where Lennon and Yoko temporarily are staying and discover 219 grams of cannabis.

November 21, 1968 Yoko has a miscarriage.

November 25, 1968 *The Beatles* (better known as the White Album) is released in the United States.

November 28, 1968 In London, Lennon pleads guilty to possession of marijuana.

November 29, 1968 Lennon and Ono's first album together, *Unfinished Music No. 1: Two Virgins,* is released.

January 30, 1969 In their last public performance, the Beatles perform "Get Back," "Don't Let Me Down," "I've Got a Feeling," and "The One After 909" in a forty-two-minute lunchtime concert on the rooftop of the Apple Corps building. A portion of the performance appears in the *Let It Be* film.

March 12, 1969 [illegible] and Linda Eastman marry in London.

March 20, 1969 [illegible] and Yoko Ono marry in Gibraltar.

March 25–31, 1969 John and Yoko stage their first "bed-in" for peace in Room 902 of the Amsterdam Hilton.

May 8, 1969 John and Yoko's second album, *Unfinished Music No. 2: Life with the Lions*, is released.

May 1969 Lennon's application for an American visa is rejected because of his drug conviction in November 1968.

May 26 to June 1, 1969 John and Yoko stage their second, and final, "bed-in" for peace in Room 1742 of the Hôtel Reine-Elizabeth in Montreal.

July 1, 1969 Recording on the Beatles' final studio album, *Abbey Road*, begins at the EMI Studios.

July 4, 1969 "Give Peace a Chance," Lennon's first solo single, is released.

July 20, 1969 Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the moon.

August 9, 1969 Five people, including actress Sharon Tate, are murdered by the Manson family in Los Angeles. Manson gives two reasons for the murder spree: the Book of Revelations and the White Album.

August 15, 1969 Woodstock Music and Art Fair takes place in Bethel, New York, attracting some 450,000 people.

August 20, 1969 The last Beatles studio session at Abbey Road, featuring all four band members, takes place; the last song they record is, appropriately, "The End."

September 13, 1969 The Plastic Ono Band stages its concert debut at Varsity Stadium, University of Toronto.

September 23, 1969 Rumors that "Paul is dead" circulate.

October 12, 1969 Yoko suffers her second miscarriage.

October 15, 1969 Moratorium Day, a nationwide protest against the Vietnam War, prompts more than a quarter of a million people to congregate in Washington, D.C., the largest antiwar rally ever.

October 27, 1969 Ringo begins recording *Sentimental Journey* at EMI Studios, becoming the first Beatle to record a solo studio album.

November 25, 1969 Lennon returns his MBE medal to the Queen. He includes a note with the medal, which states: "Your Majesty, I am returning my MBE in protest against Britain's involvement in the Nigeria-Biafra thing, against our support of America in Vietnam, and against 'Cold Turkey' slipping down in the charts. With love, John Lennon."

December 12, 1969 The *Plastic Ono Band—Live Peace in Toronto* is released on Apple.

January 1970 Lennon's solo single, "Instant Karma," is released.

April 10, 1970 The Beatles officially break up.

April 17, 1970 Paul McCartney releases his first solo album, *McCartney*.

May 8, 1970 The album *Let It Be* is released in Britain.

May 13, 1970 The film *Let It Be* opens in New York. It opens in London and Liverpool a week later, on May 20.

November 1970 George Harrison becomes the first Beatle to release a solo record, the mammoth three-album set *All Things Must Pass*, prompting Richard Williams in *Melody Maker* to proclaim the event as "the rock equivalent of the shock felt by pre-war moviegoers when Garbo first opened her mouth in a talkie: 'Garbo talks!—Harrison is free!'"

December 11, 1970 *Plastic Ono Band*, Lennon's first solo album, is released.

August 1, 1971 George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh, to raise funds for the victims of the Pakistani civil war, is held at Madison Square Garden in New York. Among the participants are Ravi Shankar, Billy Preston, Eric Clapton, Leon Russell, a surprise appearance from Bob Dylan, and the always reliable Ringo Starr, who sings "It Don't Come Easy." The concert raises more than $200,000 for UNICEF.

October 9, 1971 Lennon's album *Imagine* is released.

December 11, 1971 John and Yoko perform at a benefit rally, attended by 15,000 people, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to support John Sinclair, writer and founder of the White Panther Party. Sinclair had been sentenced to nearly a decade in prison for possession of two marijuana cigarettes.

February 14–18, 1972 John and Yoko cohost the *Mike Douglas Show* on American television.

March 16, 1972 John and Yoko are served with deportation notices because of his 1968 drug conviction in London.

March 1973 Despite protests from fans, the Cavern Club is demolished. A replica is later rebuilt using the bricks from the original building. Today, it is a crucial part of the revitalized Mathew Street scene.

March 23, 1973 Lennon is ordered to leave the United States within sixty days; Yoko is granted permanent residency status.

September 7–8, 1974 The first Beatlefest (now called the Fest for Beatles Fans) is held at the Commodore Hotel in New York by founder Mark Lapidos. Lapidos met with John Lennon five months earlier and shared with him his idea of holding a Beatles fan convention, complete with movies, special guests, live music, flea markets, discussions, and even look-alike and sound-alike contests. All the Beatles donate items for a charity raffle. Lennon is especially supportive ("I'm all for it. I'm a Beatles fan, too!").

November 16, 1974 Lennon's single, "Whatever Gets You through the Night," tops the *Billboard* charts.

January 9, 1975 The Beatles partnership is dissolved in the London High Court.

October 7, 1975 The New York State Supreme Court reverses Lennon's deportation order.

October 9, 1975 Sean Ono Lennon is born in New York.

February 23–25, 1976 George Harrison is sued by Bright Tunes Music, which owns the copyright for the 1963 Chiffons hit, "He's So Fine," charging that Harrison lifted the melody and arrangement of the song for "My Sweet Lord." The court finds Harrison guilty of "subconscious plagiarism" and orders him to pay the plaintiff more than a half million dollars.

April 1, 1976 Freddie Lennon, John's father, dies in Brighton General Hospital in England.

July 27, 1976 Lennon's application to become a resident alien is approved at a hearing in New York.

September 29, 1980 John and Yoko's first "comeback" interview is published in *Newsweek*.

November 17, 1980 John and Yoko's *Double Fantasy* album is released.

December 8, 1980 John Lennon is fatally shot by Mark David Chapman outside the lobby of the Dakota apartment building in New York City. He is cremated at Hartsdale Crematorium, New York.

December 27, 1980 "(Just Like) Starting Over" bolts to the top of the U.S. singles chart, staying there for five weeks.

March 29, 1981 Two thousand people attend a special memorial service for John Lennon held at the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool.

April 16, 1981 A section of Central Park, across from the Dakota, is renamed Strawberry Fields.

May 15, 1981 George Harrison's single, "All Those Years Ago," a tribute to John, makes in into the American top ten.

June 12, 1981 Yoko releases *Seasons of Glass*. The controversial cover features Lennon's blood-spattered and shattered glasses.

August 24, 1981 Mark David Chapman is sentenced to a minimum of twenty years and a maximum of life in prison.

October 28, 1981 *Lennon,* a musical play, opens in Liverpool. It opens off-Broadway in New York the following year, but soon closes because of poor sales. It opens in London in November 1985.

February 24, 1982 Yoko, accompanied by Sean, receives the Album of the Year award for *Double Fantasy* at the Grammys, held in Los Angeles.

December 16, 1983 Polydor releases the first posthumous Lennon recording, *Heartplay: An Unfinished Dialogue.*

1984 Ringo Starr narrates the animated British children's television program, *Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends* (known as *Shining Time Station* in the United States).

January 27, 1984 Polydor releases *Milk and Honey,* the Lennon-Ono follow-up to *Double Fantasy.*

March 7, 1984 Liverpool City Council passes a resolution conferring each Beatle with the Honorary Freedom of the City award.

March 21, 1984 Yoko officially opens Strawberry Fields in Central Park. Sean, Julian, and Mayor Ed Koch also attend the ceremony.

April 25, 1984 Liverpool's first official statue of the Beatles, by sculptor John Doubleday, is unveiled at the Cavern Walks shopping center. The following day, the Cavern Walks complex officially opens.

May–September 1984 *The Art of the Beatles* exhibition runs at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool. The exhibition attracts some 50,000 visitors.

December 1984 The Cavern Mecca, a Liverpool museum and information center, closes.

August 10, 1985 Michael Jackson acquires ATV Music, including 260 Beatles songs, for $47.5 million.

December 2, 1985 *John and Yoko: A Love Story* premieres on American television. Mark McGann plays John; Kim Miyori, Yoko.

1986 The Beatles Festival starts in Liverpool.

October 6, 1986 Harper & Row publish the first posthumous collection of Lennon prose and poetry, *Skywriting by Word of Mouth.*

November 30, 1986 *The Dream Is Over,* a ballet based on Lennon's music and written by Christopher Bruce, is presented on the London television arts series *The South Bank Show.* It later premieres at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London.

January 20, 1988 The Beatles are inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

September 30, 1988 Yoko unveils a star with Lennon's name outside the Capitol Records' Tower building along the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

October 3, 1988 Yoko's documentary, *Imagine: John Lennon,* opens in the United States; it opens in London at the end of the month.

May 1, 1990 The Beatles Story, a permanent Beatles museum, opens at the Albert Dock, Liverpool.

February 20, 1991 Yoko Ono accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award granted posthumously to John Lennon at the Grammy Awards in New York.

June 28, 1991 Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* is performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, with Carl Davis conducting, at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral to celebrate the orchestra's 150th anniversary. It was here, at the age of eleven, that Paul failed an audition to sing in the choir.

January 20, 1994 John Lennon is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

February 1994 The three surviving Beatles reunite to record additional music to several unfinished Lennon demos, with ELO's Jeff Lynne producing. The first new song, "Free as a Bird," premieres on November 19, 1995, as part of *The Beatles Anthology* television program on ABC in the United States and on ITV in the United Kingdom. The second new track, "Real Love," is released on March 4, 1996.

November 30, 1994 Apple Records releases a two-CD collection of early Beatles performances on the BBC, entitled *Live at the BBC.*

January 1996 The Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts (LIPA) opens in Paul McCartney and George Harrison's old grammar school. McCartney donates £1 million from his own pocket. The queen officially opens the building on June 7, 1996.

1997 Yoko Ono establishes the John Lennon Scholarship Program, which recognizes young songwriters working in any genre between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five.

March 11, 1997 Paul McCartney is knighted.

September 25, 1997 The FBI makes public all but ten secret files on John Lennon.

April 17, 1998 Linda McCartney dies from cancer in Arizona. She is cremated and her ashes scattered in Arizona and at the family farm in England.

March 15, 1999 Paul McCartney is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

October 16, 1999 McCartney's orchestral *Working Classical,* performed by the London Symphony Orchestra with the Loma Mar Quartet, premieres at the Liverpool Cathedral.

December 30, 1999 George Harrison and his family are attacked in his Friar Park estate outside London while sleeping by thirty-three-year-old Michael Abram, a paranoid schizophrenic and, ironically, fellow Liverpudlian, who is charged with breaking and entering and attempted murder. Olivia Harrison, his wife, sustains minor cuts to her forehead and wrists, but George is stabbed at least ten times and suffers a punctured right lung.

2000 The Beatles release a best-of collection, entitled *1,* that includes twenty-seven No. 1 Beatles hits. Within five weeks, it becomes the best-selling album of the year. Later in the year, the Beatles release *The Beatles Anthology,* which includes interviews with all four band members. The book goes straight to the top of *The New York Times* best-seller's list.

October 9, 2000 The world's first museum dedicated to the life of John Lennon opens on the anniversary of his sixtieth birthday in a suburb north of Tokyo. Yoko Ono, who opened the museum and donated most of the exhibits, notes that Lennon had a special place in his heart for Japan. "Japan was a very important place for John because John's son was half Japanese, but also we felt that we were somehow bridging the difference between East and West." Among the memorabilia are handwritten song lyrics, Lennon's first guitar, and a pair of his wire-rimmed glasses.

December 8, 2000 A bronze statue of John Lennon is unveiled in a Havana, Cuba, park on the twentieth anniversary of his murder in New York. Once denigrated as a decadent Westerner, the Cuban government honors the ex-Beatle as a "revolutionary" hero who was a constant victim of U.S. harassment.

September 11, 2001 Terrorist attacks take place in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

November 29, 2001 George Harrison dies from lung and brain cancer at the age of fifty-eight.

March 15, 2002 Yoko Ono officially opens a new £32.5 million passenger terminal to mark the formal renaming of Liverpool's airport to Liverpool John Lennon Airport and to unveil a bronze statue of Lennon by sculptor Tom Murphy on the upper level of the main terminal. The airport tag line seems appro-

priate, "Above Us Only Sky," a phrase from Lennon's classic song, "Imagine." The tag line and a self-portrait line drawing of Lennon appear everywhere, from the signs leading to the airport to the official airport carpets.

May 24–August 4, 2002 The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool sponsors the first comprehensive exhibition in Britain of Paul McCartney's paintings.

June 11, 2002 Paul McCartney marries Heather Mills. The couple announce they are seeking a divorce in May 2006.

January 2003 Police raids in England and the Netherlands recover nearly five hundred original Beatles studio tapes, recorded during the *Let It Be* sessions.

March 2003 *The Beatles Anthology* television series is released on DVD with additional bonus material.

2004 The film, *Let It Be,* is restored and released in DVD form as *Let It Be . . . Naked.* The album of the same name was previously released in November 2003.

February 8, 2004 The Beatles receive the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences President's Award at the 46th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles in honor of the fortieth anniversary of their arrival in the United States. Olivia Harrison represents George, Yoko Ono represents John; Paul and Ringo submit videotaped commentary.

February 24, 2004 Liverpool hosts its official George Harrison tribute concert at the Empire Theatre.

March 15, 2004 George Harrison is posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Olivia and Dhani Harrison accept the award on George's behalf.

April 2004 Beatles chronicler Mark Lewisohn signs a deal, reportedly for seven figures, with Crown to publish a three-part Beatles biography to be published over the next decade. The first volume will concentrate on the years 1940–1963, the second volume on 1964–1967, and the third volume on 1968 to the present day.

September 2004 The FBI is ordered to release the remaining John Lennon files.

October 2004 Mark David Chapman is denied parole.

October 2004 Revolution Studios announces a new film, *All You Need Is Love,* directed by Julie Taymor in which nearly twenty Beatles songs will be used to tell the story between an American girl and an English boy in the late sixties.

November 16, 2004 Capitol releases *The Capitol Albums, Vol. 1,* the first American release of *Meet the Beatles, The Beatles Second Album, Something New,* and *Beatles '65* in a boxed-set format.

February 6, 2005 Paul McCartney performs during halftime at the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida.

February 13, 2005 An all-star lineup, including Bono, Stevie Wonder, Norah Jones, Alicia Keys, Tim McGraw, and Brian Wilson, sing "Across the Universe" at the Grammy Awards held in Los Angeles to benefit tsunami victims and their families.

May 2005 Drummer Zak Starkey, son of Ringo Starr, joins Oasis for their summer 2005 concert tour.

May 31, 2005 Strawberry Field, which opened in 1936, closes after nearly seventy years of looking after Liverpool's orphan population. In 1984 Yoko Ono donated more than $120,000 to keep it open. Over the years, though, the preference for placing children with foster families reduces the need for orphanages.

July 2005 *Lennon,* a biomusical based on the life of John Lennon, opens on Broadway. It features ten actors, all portraying the singer at different points in his life. Thirty songs are featured, including two unpublished songs, "India, India" and "I Don't Want to Lose You," which Yoko Ono gave to writer-director Don Scardino. It closes on September 24 after only forty-nine performances.

July 2, 2005 Bob Geldorf organizes a series of free concerts at Hyde Park in London, at the Museum of Art in Philadelphia, at the Circus Maximus in Rome, and near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin to raise world awareness of poverty. The London performers include Elton John, Mariah Carey, Coldplay, Madonna, R.E.M., Sting, U2, and Sir Paul McCartney.

September 16–November 29, 2005 Paul McCartney tours North America, beginning in Miami and ending in Los Angeles, and including four sold-out concerts on September 30 and October 1, 4, and 5 at New York's Madison Square Garden.

October 2005 *Variety* names the Beatles the top entertainers of the last one hundred years.

June 18, 2006 The perenially youthful Paul McCartney turns sixty-four.

June 30, 2006 Cirque de Soleil's LOVE, a live theatre production of Beatles songs, opens at the custom-built Mirage theatre in Las Vegas with Sir George Martin and his son, Giles, as music directors. It features 360° seating, panoramic video projections, and surround sound, as well as radical remixes of Beatles songs.