

## Massaging the Lyrics

Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney claims that after writing one of his favorite melodies, he struggled with finding the perfect lyrics.

Without clear direction, he penned the first words that popped into his head: “Scrambled eggs, oh baby, how I love your legs ...”

The Beatles went on to record many songs with silly lyrics – *Yellow Submarine*, *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* – but *Scrambled Eggs* was not one of them.

No, but this melody swirled in McCartney’s mind until it evolved into one of the most beloved songs of all time: “Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away.” The song has captured more airtime than almost any other in broadcasting history.



*Yesterday* was released as a single in the United States in September 1965. While it topped the American chart in October, the song also hit the British Top 10. *Yesterday* was voted the best song of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in a 1999 BBC Radio poll of music experts and listeners, and was also voted the No. 1 pop song of all time by MTV and *Rolling Stone* magazine the following year. In 1997, the song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

*Yesterday* is a melancholy ballad about the breakup of a relationship. The singer laments for yesterday when he and his love were together, before she left because of something he said. A twice-repeated verse proclaims: *Yesterday was such an easy game to play. Now I need a place to hide away. Oh, I believe in yesterday.*

The lesson for us?

Life is a lot like writing a song. We don’t always get it right the first time.

More often than not, we must massage the lyrics until we get them right. So don’t give up.

With patience, perseverance and reliance on the Holy Spirit, your life will become the beautiful piece of music God intends.

In the words of the popular Christian ballad by Casting Crowns, “Let my lifesong sing to You.” Let’s make it our psalm to a loving God.

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter