



# REVOLVER

## The Beatles (1966)



### POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Psychedelic rock influence
- Indian classical music influence
- Musique concrete influence
- Studio techniques
- Singer-songwriter styles.
- Unconventional elements in pop genre

'ELEANOR RIGBY', 'HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE', 'I WANT TO TELL YOU' AND 'TOMORROW NEVER KNOWS'

### STRUCTURE:

- Unusual bar lengths.
- Eleanor Rigby: Verses consist of main section 10 bars followed by 8 bar refrain
- Here there and Everywhere: Slow ballad, Altered AABA with 3 bar intro
- Tomorrow Never Knows: strophic structure, instrumental intro, instrumental between 3rd and 4th verse.

### RHYTHM, METRE AND TEMPO:

- Eleanor Rigby: strings in crotchets, vocal phrases: quavers in syncopation.
- Here there and Everywhere: Intro: free rhythm
- Tomorrow Never Knows: Continuous rock rhythm in common time, cross rhythms in vocals, syncopation, off beat entries and lombardic rhythms in instrumental solo.

### CONTEXT:

- The Beatles: British rock band who revolutionised pop music in the 60s.
- Early influences: Rhythm and blues performers like Chuck Berry
- Revolver: Had developed own unique style influenced by Indian classical music, avant-garde techniques (musique concrete), and psychedelic rock.
- Their producer George Martin had classical training which could be seen in musical arrangements.
- Studio techniques employed were groundbreaking.
- Many lyrics were written under influence of LSD and inspired by Eastern philosophy.

### HARMONY AND TONALITY:

- Eleanor Rigby: Mostly just 2 chords: C and E minor (1 A minor instance), slow harmonic rhythm, mild dissonance in form of appoggiatura.
- Here there and Everywhere: Remote key relationships: G major- Bb major, A section: Rising parallel ascending chord progression G-Am-Bm-C, B section: 4 chords moving from Bb major to C minor.
- I Want to Tell You: Extreme dissonance: E7 with minor 9th- reminiscent of Indian musical style, diminished chords, vocal appoggiatura, tonic pedal in coda.
- Tomorrow Never Knows: Continuous chords instead of chord sequence.

### SONORITY:

- Eleanor Rigby: String quartet.
- Here there and Everywhere: 'Barbershop' style singing, distinctively high vocal tessitura, mandolin produced by Lesley cabinet.
- i Want to Tell You: Call to prayer style chanting and various recording techniques.
- Tomorrow Never Knows: Strong Indian classical music influence: Tambura drone and sitar, tape techniques, loops, artificial double tracking, Lesley cabinet.

### MELODY:

- Eleanor Rigby: Diatonic in dorian mode, backing vocals have hints of aeolian mode (c natural), conjunct verse, refrain uses big leaps: 8ve and 10th.
- Tomorrow Never Knows: Mixolydian mode, blues scale on guitar solo, variation of pentatonic scale.