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Concept Albums

By Gareth Shute

Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 198 x 129 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This book is the first indepth, critical account of the concept album from its highest creative moments to its most pretentious, flailing abominations. This work rediscovers the pre-history of the form in folk and country music, before covering its rise to prominence during the era of psychedelia and prog. It goes on to cover some of the most successful albums in the history of popular music, including - The Beatles Sgt Pepper s Lonely Hearts Club Band, The Who s Tommy, David Bowie s Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars, and Pink Floyd s The Wall. The lean years of the concept album are also discussed, especially the eighties when it was kept alive within heavy metal, before being subtly resurrected by the alternative and hip hop artists of the nineties. Now the concept album is back, with artists as varied as Green Day, Arcade Fire, Mastodon, and My Chemical Romance releasing conceptual work in the new millennium, as a way to keep the album format relevant in the digital era. This book reveals the subtle currents...



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The concept album is something that continues to span all music genres. Some tell a continuous story, while others use each song to contribute to an overall theme. Regardless of the path that is taken, the process can be arduous and has even been known to tear bands apart. However, the end result is usually pretty memorable. Here's our list of some of the more notable concept albums ever made. 1 of 25. "Pet Sounds" (1966), The Beach Boys. Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images. A lot of the albums here aren't true concept albums, which horrifies me to see them above this album which tells such a great story so clearly and with such musical virtuosity. The story and concept behind this album is incredible. Each song shows the thoughts of different people in a pursuit of reason. 6 The Beatles - Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. But the concept album really wasn't anything new. Frank Sinatra had already gotten there with albums like In the Wee Small Hours (1955), Sings for Only the Lonely (1958) and No One Cares (1959), each of which contained recurring lyrical and musical themes. Sinatra even returned to the format in 1970 with Watertown. Our below list of Rock's 20 Most Far-Out Concept Albums includes some of the most ludicrous, messy, weird and wild records, originating from all corners of the pop music globe.