1970 and *Let It Be*
Hunter Davies, *The Beatles*, with a new introduction, New York: Norton, 2009 and

*Let It Be*

Released May 8, 1970
Originally conceived as *Get Back*, an album looking back to their roots
Designed in conjunction with a documentary film that would conclude with a live
concert, similar to *A Hard Day’s Night*.
Recording began in January 1969, but was suspended for about a year. In the
meantime, they released the tapes ("needed cash in order to afford breaking
up" [Riley, 291] and [Allen Klein] hired Phil Spector to create an album out of
the recording sessions.

Spector sent a copy of the final album and letter to each Beatle and George Martin:
That made me angry - and it made Paul even angrier, because neither he nor I knew
about it until it had been done. It happened behind our backs because it was done
when Allen Klein was running John. He’d organised Phil Spector and I think George
and Ringo had gone along with it. They’d actually made an arrangement with EMI
and said, 'This is going to be our record.'

EMI came to me and said, 'You made this record originally but we can't have your
name on it.' I asked them why not and they said: 'Well, you didn't produce the final
thing.' I said, 'I produced the original and what you should do is have a credit saying:
"Produced by George Martin, over-produced by Phil Spector". ' They didn't think
that was a good idea. --G. Martin

Spector's "Wall Of Sound" apparent on "Across The Universe," "I Me Mine," "Let It Be," and
"The Long And Winding Road."

"Let It Be"
released as single March 1970; guitar solo added for album
written by McCartney
Alludes to his mother, but other interpretations became more popular
Instruments include brass, organ (Billy Preston), piano, guitar, bass, drums, and
vocals (McCartney)
Key: C major
4 bar intro on piano, closes with IV – I / 2 chords per bar

VERSE:
2 chords per bar, piano accompaniment, gospel-influenced, same chord progression as intro:
When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom
HOOK:
Let it be (IV – I)

VERSE:
And in my hour of darkness
She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be (IV- I)

CHORUS
Add organ:
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
highest vocal (A) thus far / chord progression changed (C not F)
Whisper words of wisdom
Let it be

VERSE
Piano with drums, bass added
And when the broken-hearted people
Living in the world agree
There will be an answer
Let it be (IV – I)

VERSE
For though they may be parted there is
Still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer
Let it be

CHORUS
Add organ
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Yeah, there will be an answer
Let it be
Add brass
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom
Let it be

Instrumental break: Electric piano, organ, guitar

Organ, piano, bass, drums
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom
Let it be

VERSE
Add organ, bass, drums, and guitar
And when the night is cloudy
There is still a light that shines on me
Shine until tomorrow
Let it be [guitar]

I wake up to the sound of music
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be
There will be an answer
Let it be

Add brass
Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be
There will be an answer
Let it be [highest vocal note (C)]

Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom
Let it be [highest vocal note (C)]

Electric piano progression of 8 chords in 2 bars, same as used in instrumental break
21M.299 The Beatles
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