

Yes – Yes (1969)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Beyond And Before* (Chris Squire/Clive Bailey) – 4:50
02. *I See You* (Jim McGuinn/David Crosby) – 6:47
03. *Yesterday And Today* (Jon Anderson) – 2:46
04. *Looking Around* (Anderson/Squire) – 4:16
05. *Harold Land* (Anderson/Squire/Bill Bruford) – 5:40
06. *Every Little Thing* (John Lennon/Paul McCartney) – 5:40
07. *Sweetness* (Anderson/Squire/Clive Bailey) – 4:29
08. *Survival* (Anderson) – 6:17
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09. *Everydays* (single version) (Stephen Stills) – 6:20
10. *Dear Father* (early version #2) (Anderson/Squire) – 5:48
11. *Something's Coming* (Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim) – 7:05
12. *Everydays* (early version) (Stephen Stills) – 5:15

Personnel:

- Jon Anderson - lead vocals, percussion
- Peter Banks - guitar, vocals
- Chris Squire - bass, vocals
- Tony Kaye - organ piano
- Bill Bruford - drums, vibes

Yes' debut album is surprisingly strong, given the inexperience of all those involved at the time. In an era when psychedelic meanderings were the order of the day, Yes delivered a surprisingly focused and exciting record that covered lots of bases (perhaps too many) in presenting their sound. The album opens boldly, with the fervor of a metal band of the era playing full tilt on "Beyond and Before," but it is with the second number, a cover of the Byrds' "I See You," that they show some of their real range. The song is highlighted by an extraordinary jazz workout from lead guitarist Peter Banks and drummer Bill Bruford that runs circles around the original by Roger McGuinn and company. "Harold Land" was the first song on which Chris Squire's bass

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playing could be heard in anything resembling the prominence it would eventually assume in their sound and anticipates in its structure the multi-part suites the group would later record, with its extended introduction and its myriad shifts in texture, timbre, and volume. And then there is "Every Little Thing," the most daring Beatles cover ever to appear on an English record, with an apocalyptic introduction and extraordinary shifts in tempo and dynamics, Banks' guitar and Bruford's drums so animated that they seem to be playing several songs at once. This song also hosts an astonishingly charismatic performance by Jon Anderson. There were numerous problems in recording this album, owing to the inexperience of the group, the producer, and the engineer, in addition to the unusual nature of their sound. Many of the numbers give unusual prominence to the guitar and drums, thus making it the most uncharacteristic of all the group's albums. [Its first decent-sounding edition anywhere came with the 1997 remastering by Atlantic.]
---Bruce Eder, AllMusic Review

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