

## John Lennon - Imagine (1971)

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01. *Imagine* 02. *Crippled Inside* 03. *Jealous Guy* 04. *It's So Hard* 05. *I Don't Want To Be A Soldier Mama* 06. *Give Me Some Truth* 07. *Oh My Love* 08. *How Do You Sleep?* 09. *How?* 10. *Oh Yoko!* Personnel: John Lennon – vocals, acoustic and electric guitars, piano, harmonica (10), whistling (3) George Harrison – electric guitar (6, 7), slide guitar (5, 6, 8), dobro (2) Klaus Voormann – bass (all except 2), upright bass (2) Nicky Hopkins – piano (all except 1, 4, 7), electric piano (7) Alan White – drums (1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10), Tibetan cymbals (7), vibraphone (3) Jim Keltner – drums (2, 3, 5) Jim Gordon – drums (4) John Barham – harmonium (3), vibraphone (9) King Curtis – saxophone (4, 5) Joey Molland – acoustic guitar (5) Tom Evans – acoustic guitar (5) John Tout – acoustic guitar (2), piano (uncredited originally) Ted Turner – acoustic guitar (2) Rod Linton – acoustic guitar (2, 6, 10) Andy Davis – acoustic guitar (6, 10) The New York Philharmonic (credited as "The Flux Fiddlers") – orchestral strings Phil Spector – backing vocals (10) Michael Pinder – tambourine (5) Steve Brendell – upright bass (2), maracas (5)

After the harrowing Plastic Ono Band, John Lennon returned to calmer, more conventional territory with *Imagine*. While the album had a softer surface, it was only marginally less confessional than its predecessor. Underneath the sweet strings of "Jealous Guy" lies a broken and scared man, the jaunty "Crippled Inside" is a mocking assault at an acquaintance, and "Imagine" is a paean for peace in a world with no gods, possessions, or classes, where everyone is equal. And Lennon doesn't shy away from the hard rockers -- "How Do You Sleep" is a scathing attack on Paul McCartney, "I Don't Want to Be a Soldier" is a hypnotic antiwar song, and "Give Me Some Truth" is bitter hard rock. If *Imagine* doesn't have the thematic sweep of Plastic Ono Band, it is nevertheless a remarkable collection of songs that Lennon would never be able to better again. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, [allmusic.com](http://allmusic.com)

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