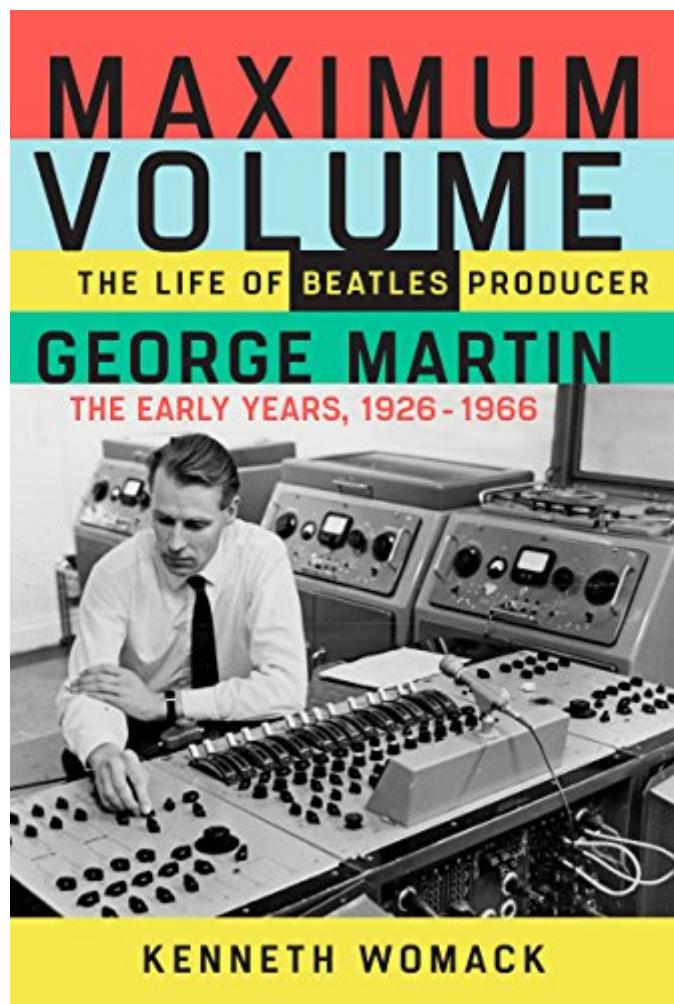


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# Maximum Volume: The Life Of Beatles Producer George Martin, The Early Years, 1926–1966



## **Synopsis**

Maximum Volume offers a glimpse into the mind, the music, and the man behind the sound of the Beatles. George Martin's working-class childhood and musical influences profoundly shaped his early career in the BBC's Classical Music department and as head of the EMI Group's Parlophone Records. Out of them flowed the genius behind his seven years producing the Beatles' incredible body of work, including such albums as Rubber Soul, Revolver, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and Abbey Road. The first book of two, Maximum Volume traces Martin's early years as a scratch pianist, his life in the Fleet Air Arm during the Second World War, and his groundbreaking work as the head of Parlophone Records, when Martin saved the company from ruin after making his name as a producer of comedy recordings. In its most dramatic moments, Maximum Volume narrates the story of Martin's unlikely discovery of the Beatles and his painstaking efforts to prepare their newfangled sound for the British music marketplace. As the story unfolds, Martin and the band craft numerous number-one hits, progressing toward the landmark album Rubber Soul— all of which bear Martin's unmistakable musical signature.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Ken Womack's book is the first substantial biography and assessment of George Martin, the famed Beatles producer. In this book, Womack describes Martin's working-class background and hardscrabble childhood in sober detail, noting that he had some "guardian angels" along the way who spotted his musical talent and helped him rise to the top of the music world. There is much information about Martin's early work with comedic artists like Peter Sellers and Spike Milligan creating "sound pictures" and of course, lots of information about Martin and the Beatles. Womack's book is immediately gripping with a telling of the first encounter between the skeptical Martin and the eager (and cheeky) Beatles at Abbey Road in June 1962, and overall he portrays Martin as someone who could be political and had his faults, but also possessed strong musical instincts and talents that helped him serve the artists and music he produced. Also valuable is how Womack traces the recording of each Beatle album and highlights particular songs, noting Martin's impact and influence, and explains how Martin and the Beatles grew together in pursuit of greater artistic expression. This first volume (of two) concludes when Martin turns 40 right before the Beatles recorded Revolver, and by the end one is amazed at how much he had accomplished by that landmark birthday. This book is highly recommended for any Beatlefan and anyone interested in the background and early career of the man who became one of the most famous record producers of all time.

A good read of the early years of the Beatles, one of the most influential groups in the rock genre. The Beatles were the first to do many things and they took chances, and it paid off for them in record sales and the 60's were their decade.

Outstanding and essential read on the "fifth Beatle" by the noted Beatle scholar!

Learnt so much about Sir George, his life and world. Womack's style is compulsive, he has a way with words making the reader turn to the next page and to the next and he is trustworthy. A must read.

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