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A Moment in Time Capsule 1970: The Beatles Disband

Lead: It almost seemed impossible. A world grown accustomed to Beatlemania would have to reconcile itself to reality. In early 1970 the Beatles, the most popular rock group in history, broke apart.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Almost from their beginnings as a group in working class Liverpool, England and Hamburg, Germany, The Quarrymen, who later changed their name to The Beetles or the Beatalis or

Johnny and the Moondogs or Long John and the Beetles, or The Silver Beatles, but by August 1960, The Beatles, pushed the edge of rock music. At the core of the group were John Lennon, George Harrison, and Paul McCartney. Other artists had played with them, but they would emerge internationally soon after mid-1962 after they were joined by drummer and occasional soloist, Ringo Starr.

They often performed in Liverpool at The Cavern and there met music store owner, Brian Samuel Epstein. He became what McCartney later called, “the fifth Beatle,” a unifying force in their young careers and lives. As their manager from January 1962

to his untimely death in a drug overdose in August 1967, Epstein's style and determination helped shape the Beatles into a personal and international phenomenon with enormous popular and commercial success.

After his death, the group began the process of slow motion disintegration. Lennon later said, "I didn't have any misconceptions about our ability to do anything other than play music and I was scared...I knew we were in trouble then." Increasing tension within the group and diverging creative interests brought an end to their collaboration. They were last in a studio together in August 1969 finishing up *Abbey*

***Road.*” By mid-1970 they were beginning their separate journeys.**

Research by Tenzin Tsayang at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

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