

Paul McCartney and Wings – Montreux 1973

Written by bluesever

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Disc 1: *1-Bip Bop 2-Smile Away 3-Mumbo 4-Give Ireland Back to the Irish 5-1882 6-I would only Smile 7-Blue Moon of Kentucky 8-The Mess 9-Best Friend 10-Soily*

Disc 2:

1-Intermezzo 2-I am Your Singer 3-Say You Don't Mind 4-Henry's Blues 5-Seaside Woman 6-Wild Life 7-My Love 8-Mary Had a Little Lamb 9-Maybe I'm Amazed 10-Hi Hi Hi 11-Long Tall Sally

1973-07-22 The Pavillion, Montreux, Switzerland

In 1971, Paul formed Wings for the primary purpose of getting back on the road. In fact, it became such a priority that he didn't want to spend a lot of time in the studio making an album beforehand. Paul and his wife Linda recruited former member of The Moody Blues, Denny Laine, to join Wings and also invited former players on the previous Ram album, drummer Denny Seiwell and guitarist Hugh McCracken. Denny Seiwell agreed to join, but Hugh declined. In September 1971, Wings recorded their first album, *Wild Life*, in just over a week, with the idea that the songs needed to be knocked out quickly and have the rawness and freshness of a live studio recording. In fact, most of the songs on the album were recorded in only one take.

By February 1972, Wings was on their first, albeit very short, tour. Discounting the fact that there was an ex-Beatle in the band, and instead taking the attitude that they were a new group and needed to start small and build themselves up, they did a series of concerts in several universities in the UK between February 9 and 23. Irish guitarist and former member of Gary Wright's band Spooky Tooth, Henry McCulloch, was added to the line up. The shows were for the most part impromptu and showing up unannounced, they would perform for whoever happened to be on campus. Paul refused to perform any Beatles songs on the tour claiming Wings would make it on their own merit. The closest they came to anything Beatles was performing the Little Richard cover "Long Tall Sally" which everyone knows had previously been covered by The Beatles, with Paul on lead vocals, in 1964. A second 1972 tour was made over the summer of 1972 with Paul, his family and band traveling all over Europe in a double decker

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bus. Between July 9 and August 24, Wings played 26 shows in France, Germany, Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Belgium.

Paul and his band got a little more serious or you may say “commercially-minded” on their second album, Red Rose Speedway, which was originally going to be a 2-LP set. Released on April 30, 1973, it went to number 1 in the US and made top 5 in the UK. The lead single “My Love” was also a chart-topper in America and peaked at number 9 in the UK. With the same 5-piece line-up, Wings followed up the release with another UK tour that took place between May 11 and July 10, 1973. By this time the set list included Paul and Linda’s recent James Bond theme composition “Live And Let Die” and a couple tracks with Denny Laine in the spotlight. The first of these was a 1964 classic he originally sang with The Moody Blues called “Go Now,” along with his more recent composition “Say You Don’t Mind.” There was also “Soily” and “The Mess” which were not released as studio recordings but exclusively for live shows. The Linda McCartney track “Seaside Woman” was also included along with Wings tracks from Red Rose Speedway, Wild Life and even some of Paul’s tracks before Wings from Ram and the McCartney album. This would be the last Wings tour before their first world tour that kicked off in 1976 and captured beautifully on Wings Over America. ---thebeatlesrarity.com

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