

[From Club Sandwich Volume 80](#)
Seth Zowader mastered this collection

THE MPL 25th ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION

Ring them bells and light those candles, because MPL has been in the business of music publishing for 25 years - and is celebrating with a very special set of exclusive CDs

In a world where a "Beatle" anniversary is never more than a few days away, it's sobering to realise that Paul's company MPL has now been in business for some 25 years. Based in New York and London, but with global concerns, MPL was established to represent Paul and Linda's work and form a management umbrella for their various activities. Increasingly, however, it has seen its name spread far and wide as a music publishing operation, to the point where MPL is ranked among the top five privately-owned independent publishing houses in the world.



While others in his position have elected to invest their capital in oil, minerals or other types of earthly exploitation, Paul opted to go into song publishing. Having never held control of his own compositions during the Beatles era, and so knowing how it feels to have a third party look after your publishing, he determined to establish himself as a decent music publisher, someone whom the writers or their descendants could trust to cherish their treasures.

In short, MPL's quarter-century in the music publishing business has been marked by considered acquisitions and sensitive, honest handling of the copyrights - now numbering some 25,000 titles.

Among the catalogues MPL has secured are Nor Va Jak (which includes many of Buddy Holly's songs), Desilu Music Corp (Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball's company), Arko Music Corp, Barwin Music Co Inc, Claridge Music Company, Conley Music Inc, Edwin H Morris & Company (a very significant catalogue of standards), Harwin Music Co, Jerryco Music Co, Meredith Willson Music, Morley Music Co, Remsen Music Corp, Winmor Music, Inc, Wren Music Co and, notably, Frank

Music Corp - a healthy body of songs composed by the great Frank Loesser.

And on top of all this, MPL publishes the hundreds of compositions written by Paul McCartney over the past 25 years: songs in every popular idiom that have won countless awards, received multi-million airplays, achieved gold, platinum and multi-platinum sales and been played to concert audiences around the world, as well as popular film and TV themes and classical work. It is somehow apt that Paul, frequently acclaimed as the greatest popular songwriter of the century, is himself the owner of many of the songs that compete with his as the pick of the bunch, and it is no less than remarkable that the man who brought 'Till There Was You' to a young audience for the first time has ended up looking after that song's publishing.

Indeed, a number of pieces that the Liverpool youngster and his eager band-mates played on stage in their formative Hamburg and Cavern Club days ('Buzz Buzz A-Diddle-It', 'Ain't She Sweet', 'Your Feet's Too Big' and others) are now part of the MPL catalogue.



Even more ironic is the fact that Paul's father led a jazz dance band that played some of the "MPL songs" around the ballrooms of Liverpool more than 60 years ago.

The McCartneys' was in all ways a musical house and Paul grew up in the post-war years listening to "MPL songs" played on the McCartney household piano and over the BBC airwaves. While Paul's own music is impossible to classify because it embraces such a diverse range of styles, it is clear that American tunes of the 1930s and 40s made a big impression, this influence surfacing in such McCartney songs as 'You Gave Me The Answer', 'Goodnight Princess', 'Gotta Sing Gotta Dance', 'Baby's Request', 'Honey Pie' and 'When I'm Sixty-Four'.

Also in the MPL catalogue are the songs that Paul, like all English children of the era, heard on the postwar ""wireless": 'The Inch Worm', 'The King's New Clothes' and 'The Ugly Duckling', Frank Loesser compositions for the film *Hans Christian Andersen*. Great songs all, from an age of (comparative) innocence.

Moving into the rock & roll era, MPL publishes an impressive roster of fine songs, led from the front by the hits of Buddy Holly - 'That'll Be The Day', 'Maybe Baby', 'It's So Easy', 'Not Fade Away', 'True Love Ways' and 'Peggy Sue', to name but a few - but also including *Billboard* number ones 'Sherry', 'Walk Like A Man', 'Big Girls Don't Cry' and more - plus, of course, the Paul McCartney hit collection.

Truly, the MPL catalogue is a living and breathing body of fine music. The great writers and lyricists are represented - not only Paul and Frank Loesser but Harold Arlen, Johnny Mercer, Jule Styne, Sammy Cahn, Harry Warren, Hoagy Carmichael, Jerry Herman, 'Yip' Harburg, Mack Gordon and many more. The great stage shows have a featured place in the MPL collection - *Hello, Dolly!*, *Mame*, *Grease*, *Annie*, *A Chorus Line*, *Mack And Mabel*, *The Music Man* and a host of Frank Loesser classics including *Guys And Dolls*, *The Most Happy Fella* and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (a title that certainly does *not* apply to MPL's tireless activity!). Songs that have been and continue to be sung by the great male and female artists and played by the great musicians and orchestra leaders are here too: 'One For My Baby', 'Baby, It's Cold Outside', 'Autumn Leaves', 'Sentimental Journey', 'Witchcraft' and, especially successful in the past 20 years, 'Unchained Melody'.

Now there is an opportunity to appreciate again 100 great songs of the 20th century, by way of *The MPL 25th Anniversary Collection*, a stunningly produced five-CD set that MPL's New York office has put together in order to distribute to its friends in the American motion picture, stage, TV, video, commercial advertising and electronic media businesses. There is little chance that the 100 recordings, owned by a wide variety of disc companies, could have been licensed for full public release, so the set has been produced strictly on a not-for-sale promotional basis and only a few thousand are being minted.

To mark the fact that one of the five CDs comprises end-to-end McCartney songs, 19 numbers recorded by Paul 1971-93, MPL's New York office has kindly offered *Club Sandwich* five sets of *The MPL 25th Anniversary Collection* to be given away, free, to readers.

All you need to do is send a postcard or sealed-down envelope, clearly marked "Silver Anniversary" in the top-left corner, to

The Paul McCartney Fun Club
POBox 110
Westcliff
Essex
SSO 8NW
England

and your name will go into a free draw to take place on 14 February 1997. Please do not use your entry to convey any other request or information, and note - very importantly - that multiple entries will result in disqualification: in order to be fair, we insist upon strictly one application per person.

MPL'S TOP 25 SONGS

1 Unchained Melody

(Zaret/North)

2 The Christmas Song

(Tormel/Wells)

3 One For My Baby

(Arlen / Mercer)

4 Till There Was You

(Willson)

5 Baby, It's Cold Outside

(Loesser)

6 Tomorrow

(Strouse/Charnin)

7 It's Beginning To Look Like Christmas

(Willson)

8 Live And Let Die

(McCartney)

9 (Ghost) Riders In The Sky

(Jones)

10 That'll Be The Day

(Holly/Allison/Petty)

11 My Love

(McCartney)

12 Hello, Dolly!

(Herman)

13 Not Fade Away

(Hardin/Petty)

14 Sentimental Journey

(Green / Brown & Homer)

15 Autumn Leaves

(Mercer/Prevert/Kosma)

16 Band On The Run

(McCartney)

17 Peggy Sue

(Holly/Allison/Petty)

18 Big Girls Don't Cry

(Crewel/Gaudio)

19 It's So Easy

(Holly/Petty)

20 Oh Boy!

(West/Tilghman/Petty)

21 Ebony And Ivory

(McCartney)

22 Luck Be A Lady

(Loesser)

23 I Love Lucy

(Adams / Daniel)

24 True Love Ways

(Holly/Petty)

25 I Am What I Am

(Herman)