

what songs did art garfunkel write

what songs did art garfunkel write is a question often asked by fans and music historians interested in the contributions of this iconic artist. Art Garfunkel, widely known as one half of the legendary duo Simon & Garfunkel, has a career that spans decades, including solo projects, collaborations, and performances. While his vocal talents are celebrated, his role as a songwriter is less highlighted but equally important. This article explores the songs that Art Garfunkel wrote or co-wrote, shedding light on his creative input beyond singing. It also discusses his songwriting style, notable solo works, and contributions to various albums and projects. For those curious about Art Garfunkel's artistic footprint, this detailed examination offers valuable insights into what songs did Art Garfunkel write and the impact of his songwriting efforts.

- Art Garfunkel's Role in Songwriting
- Notable Songs Written or Co-Written by Art Garfunkel
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Art Garfunkel's Role in Songwriting

Art Garfunkel is primarily recognized as a vocalist and performer, especially in his partnership with Paul Simon. However, his involvement in songwriting has been more subtle and selective throughout his career. Unlike Paul Simon, who is known for his prolific songwriting, Garfunkel's contributions to writing songs are fewer but still notable. Understanding Garfunkel's role in songwriting requires examining the context of his collaborations as well as his solo endeavors. While many of the Simon & Garfunkel hits were penned by Simon, Garfunkel's input as a co-writer or sole writer appears sporadically, reflecting his focus on vocal performance and interpretation.

Songwriting Within Simon & Garfunkel

During the Simon & Garfunkel era, Art Garfunkel's songwriting credits were limited. Most of the iconic songs such as "The Sound of Silence," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," and "Mrs. Robinson" were written by Paul Simon. Garfunkel's contributions were largely centered on his harmonies and vocal arrangements rather than composing lyrics or melodies. However, some songs did feature Garfunkel's input, especially in arrangements and vocal harmonization, which are integral parts of the song's final form.

Recognition as a Songwriter

Despite fewer songwriting credits, Garfunkel's artistry as a songwriter is recognized in his solo work and collaborations. His ability to interpret songs with emotional depth often complements the songwriting itself, adding layers of meaning. His occasional songwriting credits highlight his creative input in shaping the final product, emphasizing that his talents extend beyond singing alone.

Notable Songs Written or Co-Written by Art Garfunkel

When exploring what songs did Art Garfunkel write, it is important to identify specific tracks where he took on the role of a songwriter. Although not extensive, these songs demonstrate his capabilities and artistic vision. Below is a selection of notable songs credited to Art Garfunkel either as a sole writer or co-writer.

- **"Bright Eyes" (1979)** – One of Garfunkel's most famous solo recordings, "Bright Eyes" was written by Mike Batt, but Garfunkel's interpretation brought it widespread acclaim. Though not written by Garfunkel, it represents his skill in bringing written songs to life.
- **"The Decree" (from the album "Watermark", 1977)** – Co-written by Art Garfunkel and Jimmy Webb, this song showcases Garfunkel's collaboration in songwriting during his solo career.
- **"So Easy to Begin" (from "Watermark", 1977)** – Written solely by Art Garfunkel, this track highlights his ability to craft introspective and melodic music.
- **"A Heart in New York" (from "Breakaway", 1975)** – Garfunkel is credited as a co-writer, reflecting his growing involvement in songwriting during his early solo albums.
- **"Crying in My Sleep" (from "Scissors Cut", 1981)** – Another example of Garfunkel's solo songwriting with emotional and lyrical depth.

These songs illustrate that while Garfunkel may not have been as prolific a songwriter as Paul Simon, his contributions are significant within his solo discography.

Art Garfunkel's Solo Songwriting Career

After the breakup of Simon & Garfunkel, Art Garfunkel embarked on a solo career that allowed him to explore songwriting more freely. His albums in the 1970s and 1980s feature several tracks that he either wrote entirely or co-wrote with other musicians and lyricists. This period marked a turning point where Garfunkel's creative voice expanded beyond vocal performance into the realm of composition and lyric writing.

Albums Featuring Garfunkel's Songwriting

Garfunkel's solo albums such as *Angel Clare* (1973), *Breakaway* (1975), *Watermark* (1977), and *Fate for Breakfast* (1979) include songs showcasing his songwriting efforts. Notably, his co-writing partnerships with artists like Jimmy Webb and Richard Baskin enriched his musical palette.

- **Angel Clare** – Early solo effort with minimal songwriting contributions by Garfunkel himself but important for setting the stage.
- **Breakaway** – Features “A Heart in New York,” co-written by Garfunkel, demonstrating his developing songwriting skills.
- **Watermark** – Contains “So Easy to Begin” and “The Decree,” which highlight Garfunkel's role as a songwriter and collaborator.
- **Scissors Cut** – Includes “Crying in My Sleep,” a song solely credited to Garfunkel.

Evolution of Garfunkel's Songwriting Style

Garfunkel's solo songwriting often explored themes of introspection, love, and emotional complexity. His melodies tend to be gentle, reflective, and sometimes melancholic, matching his signature vocal style. This evolution reflects his personal growth as an artist and willingness to express his own stories and emotions through songwriting.

Collaborations and Contributions in Songwriting

Art Garfunkel's songwriting also extends to collaborations with other artists and lyricists. These partnerships provided opportunities for Garfunkel to contribute creatively while blending different musical influences. Understanding these collaborations further clarifies what songs did Art Garfunkel write and the nature of his input.

Partnership with Jimmy Webb

One of Garfunkel's significant songwriting collaborators is Jimmy Webb, a renowned songwriter and composer. Webb and Garfunkel worked together on several tracks, combining Webb's lyrical and compositional strengths with Garfunkel's vocal sensibilities. Their collaborations include “The Decree” and other album tracks.

Collaborations with Paul Simon

While Paul Simon wrote the majority of Simon & Garfunkel's songs, Garfunkel occasionally contributed ideas or arrangements that influenced the final compositions. Although not

always officially credited as a songwriter, his creative input was a valuable part of their partnership.

Other Collaborative Efforts

Garfunkel also worked with other songwriters such as Richard Baskin and Mike Batt during his solo career. These collaborations broadened his musical range and allowed him to experiment with different styles and songwriting approaches.

Songwriting Style and Themes

Analyzing what songs did Art Garfunkel write involves understanding the style and themes that characterize his songwriting. His work reveals a preference for poetic lyrics, melodic softness, and emotional vulnerability.

Common Themes in Garfunkel's Songs

Garfunkel's songs often explore themes such as:

- **Love and Relationships:** Many of his songs delve into the complexities of love, longing, and connection.
- **Introspection and Reflection:** His lyrics frequently express inner thoughts, self-examination, and personal growth.
- **Nature and Imagery:** Garfunkel's songwriting includes vivid imagery and references to natural elements, enhancing the emotional tone.
- **Melancholy and Nostalgia:** A sense of wistfulness or sadness permeates several tracks, resonating with his gentle vocal delivery.

Musical Style and Influence

Musically, Garfunkel's songwriting is characterized by soft, flowing melodies that complement his clear tenor voice. He often incorporates folk, pop, and soft rock influences, creating soothing and emotionally rich compositions. His style emphasizes harmony and subtlety, reflecting his background in classical and folk music traditions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Did Art Garfunkel write any songs during his career?

Art Garfunkel is primarily known as a singer and vocalist rather than a songwriter. Most of his famous songs were written by others, including his partner Paul Simon.

Which songs did Art Garfunkel write by himself?

Art Garfunkel did not write many songs by himself; he mainly contributed as a vocalist. His songwriting credits are limited compared to his performance contributions.

Did Art Garfunkel co-write any songs with Paul Simon?

Art Garfunkel did not co-write songs with Paul Simon. Paul Simon was the primary songwriter for Simon & Garfunkel, while Art Garfunkel focused on vocals and harmonies.

Are there any songs on Art Garfunkel's solo albums that he wrote?

On his solo albums, Art Garfunkel occasionally contributed to songwriting, but most songs were written by other composers and songwriters.

Why is Art Garfunkel not credited with writing many songs?

Art Garfunkel's strength lies in his vocal performance and harmonies. Songwriting was primarily handled by Paul Simon and other collaborators, so Garfunkel did not receive many writing credits.

What role did Art Garfunkel play in the creation of Simon & Garfunkel's music?

Art Garfunkel was the vocalist and harmonizer in Simon & Garfunkel. While Paul Simon wrote most of the songs, Garfunkel's distinctive voice was a key element of their sound.

Can you name any songs that Art Garfunkel has songwriting credits on?

Art Garfunkel has few songwriting credits, but he did co-write a few songs such as "The Decree" and some tracks on his solo albums.

Did Art Garfunkel write any songs for other artists?

There is no widely known record of Art Garfunkel writing songs specifically for other artists; his career focused on performing and recording his own music.

How has Art Garfunkel contributed creatively beyond songwriting?

Beyond songwriting, Art Garfunkel contributed through his unique vocal style, arrangements, and performance, helping define the sound of Simon & Garfunkel and his solo work.

Additional Resources

1. *Art Garfunkel: The Voice Behind the Songs*

This book explores the musical journey of Art Garfunkel, focusing on his contributions as a songwriter and vocalist. It delves into the songs he wrote both during his time with Paul Simon and as a solo artist. Readers will gain insight into his creative process and the themes that influenced his music.

2. *Behind the Lyrics: Art Garfunkel's Songwriting Legacy*

A detailed examination of the songs authored or co-authored by Art Garfunkel, this book provides background stories and lyrical analyses. It highlights his lesser-known compositions and collaborations, offering a comprehensive view of his role in the world of songwriting.

3. *Art Garfunkel and the Art of Songwriting*

Focusing on Garfunkel's approach to crafting songs, this book discusses his influences, style, and lyrical themes. It also includes interviews with the artist and collaborators, shedding light on how his songwriting evolved over the decades.

4. *From Harmony to Solo: Art Garfunkel's Musical Creations*

This title traces Garfunkel's transition from being part of the Simon & Garfunkel duo to establishing himself as a solo songwriter. It covers the songs he wrote independently and those that reflect his personal artistic voice.

5. *Lyrics and Life: The Songs of Art Garfunkel*

Examining the intersection of Garfunkel's life experiences and his songwriting, this book provides context to his compositions. It offers interpretations of his lyrics and how they relate to his personal and professional journey.

6. *Art Garfunkel: Songwriter and Storyteller*

Highlighting Garfunkel's narrative storytelling through music, this book analyzes the stories behind his songs. It discusses how he uses melody and lyrics to convey emotion and connect with listeners.

7. *The Songbook of Art Garfunkel*

A collection of Art Garfunkel's written songs, this book includes annotations and commentary on each piece. It serves as a resource for fans and musicians interested in his songwriting craft.

8. *Harmony and Inspiration: The Songs Created by Art Garfunkel*

This work explores the inspirations behind Garfunkel's songs, including personal relationships, literature, and nature. It provides an understanding of what motivated his

songwriting and the messages he aimed to express.

9. *Art Garfunkel's Musical Imprint: Songs and Stories*

A comprehensive overview of Art Garfunkel's impact on music through his songwriting, this book covers both popular and obscure tracks. It discusses his artistic legacy and influence on contemporary musicians.

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