The first concept album in the history of popular music, the soundtrack of the Summer of Love or 'Hippy Symphony No. 1': Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band is first and foremost the album that gave rise to ‘hopes of progress in pop music’ (The Times, 29 May 1967).

Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles commemorates the fortieth anniversary of this masterpiece of British psychedelia by addressing issues that will help put the record in perspective.

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Preface; ‘Their production will be second to none’: an introduction to Sgt. Pepper, Olivier Julien; ‘Tangerine trees and marmalade skies’: cultural agendas or optimistic escapism?, Sheila Whiteley; Sgt. Pepper and the diverging aesthetics of Lennon and McCartney, Terence O’Grady; Sgt. Pepper’s quest for extended form, Thomas MacFarlane; The sound design of Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band, Michael Hannan; The Beatles and Indian music, David Reck; The Beatles’ psychoclassical synthesis: psychedelic classicism and classical psychedelia in Sgt. Pepper, Naphtali Wagner; Cover story: magic, myth and music, Ian Inglis; Within and without: Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band and psychedelic insight, Russell Reising and Jim LeBlanc; The whatchamucallit in the garden: Sgt. Pepper and fables of interference, John Kimsey; The act you’ve known for all these years: a re-encounter with Sgt. Pepper, Allan Moore; ‘A lucky man who made the grade’: Sgt. Pepper and the rise of a phonographic tradition in 20th century popular music, Olivier Julien; References; Indexes.

Includes 2 tables, 6 musical examples and 5 musical figures

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