The Beatles and Their Evolving Message

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In this micro-seminar, we will trace, album by album, the Beatles’ development as songwriters, performers, and recording artists. We will also follow the advancement of technology which they spearheaded.

The Beatles were arguably the most influential rock band of all time. Their meteoric rise to prominence and popularity in 1964 opened the doors for many other bands to do likewise. They recorded most of their catalog at one of the finest recording studios in England, Abbey Road, and had access not only to the best producers and outside musicians but also the most creative technical engineers in the business. As their careers grew, so did their creativity. As their ideas expanded, new recording techniques and effects were often invented on the spot to suit their needs. Hence they went from being a “pop band” to becoming an “experimental force.” Their interests grew from dance music to thematic music to musical theater and on to psychedelia. Eventually they returned to their rock and roll roots, but with astounding confidence and flare. In our time together we will trace the arc of their progress, listen to a lot of great music, and share some little-known stories about how some of it was accomplished.