

# **The Beatles *Complete* Chord Songbook**

## ***Introduction***

Welcome to one of the world's greatest collections of popular music – the songs of The Beatles. Thirty years and more have elapsed since many of these remarkable songs were written and recorded, but their magic is undimmed. This book covers all the songs The Beatles wrote and recorded themselves, with the exception of instrumentals and Lennon-McCartney songs recorded only by other artists. To assist your enjoyment of playing these songs here are some tips:

## ***Shapes***

This book presents The Beatles' songs in a format designed for a guitarist singing the songs unaccompanied, or with others. For this reason chord shapes have been simplified where possible. The Beatles made frequent use of barre chords up and down the neck, as on songs like 'She's A Woman' or 'I Feel Fine'. These can get tiring, especially on an acoustic guitar, so easier shapes have sometimes been substituted.

## ***Capo***

Some of these songs require a capo. Numbers like 'Norwegian Wood' used a capo on the original recordings, while in other instances (such as 'our Mother Should Know' and 'Strawberry Fields Forever' a capo has been used to make playing in difficult keys easier.

## ***Tuning***

All the songs in this book have been transcribed in the same keys as used on the original recordings. However, The Beatles did occasionally detune their guitars when recording (for example 'Lovely Rita Meter Maid' used guitars with strings tuned down a semitone, and 'Yesterday' used guitars tuned a tone below concert pitch). Also note that if you are playing along with the record you may need to tune slightly sharp or flat on some songs. This slight deviation from concert pitch occurs for a number of reasons, including the fact that The Beatles experimented with 'vari-speeding' their tapes. Sometimes this resulted in a song whose key is pitched between two notes.

### ***Muting and finger – picking***

Players who wish to learn the correct finger-picking for songs such as 'Blackbird', 'Julia' and 'Here Comes The Sun' should seek out fully tabbed versions. The versions in this book are designed for strumming. George Harrison's Indian-influenced songs present a special problem since they do not have chords in the conventional Western sense. An attempt has been made to give a flavour of the melody. Therefore in songs like 'Within You Without You' and 'Love You To' try playing the suggested chords with a thumb and two fingers to avoid having to mute the other strings.