

DAVID

PART
3

ANSWERS YOU!

Wow! Since we asked you to send in questions for David to answer, they've been pouring in day and night! You should see the look our postman gives us as he staggers in, bent double underneath about nine sacks of postcards!

Naturally, we can't ask David to answer all of them this time around, but we'll get to them all sooner or later! If you don't see yours this time—keep watching, okay?

Now, here's David!

Hi again!

I've just gotten back from Europe, and there are about a trillion things I've got to get caught up on, but when I saw this huge stack of post cards, I knew I'd better sit down and get to work! Wow, they've really piled up while I was gone! Nice to know that you're still interested.

The first question's from West Virginia.

WHEN YOU'RE WRITING A SONG, WHICH COMES MORE EASILY—THE MUSIC OR THE LYRICS? ALSO, DO YOU NEED COMPLETE SILENCE WHEN YOU'RE WRITING?

(Andie, W. Va.)

It sort of depends. Usually, the music is easiest because I usually get a melody in my mind first—it'll either just pop in when I'm thinking about something else, or I'll strum the guitar until a melody comes out of the chords.

Then I'll play it over and over again until suddenly some words will happen on a little piece of the melody that repeats over and over—and that's usually the title. If the title doesn't come for a long time, I'll just call the song anything that comes to mind until I have the real title. I guess other songwriters work the same way, because somebody told me that the Beatles took a long time to think of the words to "Yesterday," and they called it "Scrambled Eggs!"

Yes, I do need silence—at least, there can't be any music playing! I'd find myself lifting chords and melody without even knowing it! But after I've been working a while I get so into it that it doesn't matter if people are talking or anything.

WHAT KINDS OF TREES DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR NEW BACKYARD? DO THEY HAVE FRUIT ON THEM, AND DO YOU AND

SAM EAT THE FRUIT?

A Fan

There are a whole bunch of orange trees, and one tangerine tree (known as the "tambourine tree") and a lot of others—an avacado, a lemon tree, and some others that don't bear fruit. We go out in the morning and pick fresh oranges for orange juice, and Sam is always picking all sorts of fruit and mixing it up in that gruesome blender of his! I have to admit, he makes a juice out of oranges, lemons, and tangerines that is really good! We call it the "backyard blend!"

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION—THAT MAN DESCENDED FROM LIKE MONKEYS OR SOMETHING?

**Caroline Cruickshank
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