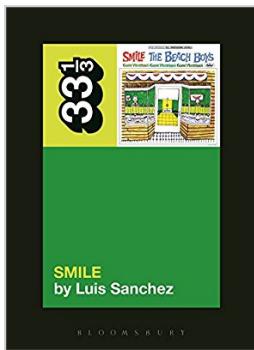


The Beach Boys' Smile (33 1/3)



By Luis Sanchez

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The Beach Boys' Smile (33 1/3) By Luis Sanchez

Smile is not merely a great unfinished album, but a living work of art that is all at once expansive, indeterminate, and resolutely pop.

In the early 1960s, The Beach Boys rose from the suburbs of Hawthorne, California to become emissaries of a post-war American dream that fused middle-class aspiration and mobility with images of youth. Led by dream master Brian Wilson, their music gave voice to a Southern California mythos and compelled an audience across the nation and beyond to live out their own versions of the fantasy. By 1966, the encroaching counterculture added new dimensions of creative possibility to popular music. Looking to revise and expand, Brian Wilson sought collaboration with a brilliant musician named Van Dyke Parks. Together they began work on *Smile*, an ambitious album of music that refracted The Beach Boys' naïveté into a visionary exploration of American consciousness. *Smile* edged so close to greatness it seemed destined to become one of the most significant musical advances of its time. But the story didn't end quite like this.

In this book of evocative essays, Sanchez traces the musical journey that transformed The Beach Boys from West Coast surf heroes into America's pop luminaries, and ultimately why *Smile* represents a tumultuous turning point in the history of popular music.

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Editorial Review

Review

“As the latest edition to the (unfortunately) obscure 33 1/3 series, *Smile* provides the cultural and historical background to one of rock’s most mythical records that almost never happened. Author Luis Sanchez begins with the unique nature of The Beach Boys: a teenage vocal group that streamlined their version of Southern California teen living directly into America’s consciousness. Sanchez details the popularity of surfing and surf rock as counterculture, how the Beach Boys were anything but counterculture and how they were able to convey such sincerity through their pop music in a way that anyone who listened could capture the carefree, suburban teen’s American dream. As their fame grew to an even level with counterculture rock stars like The Beatles and Bob Dylan, the Beach Boys risked exploring new territory in the realm of pop music, which eventually led to the creation of *Smile*. The main character behind all of this is the unassuming musical savant Brian Wilson. Sanchez explores the inspirations behind Wilson’s genius? from maniacally studying the work of Phil Spector to embracing, rather than rebelling against, the suburban lifestyle. *Smile* is a deep glance into the formation of pop music and one of its greatest minds.” *Justin Gallegos, SLUG Magazine*

“It is clear Sanchez has listened extensively to the Beach Boys and has a genuine fondness and musical interest in Wilson’s music. What is good about Sanchez’s writing is that it does not come off as fan-boy gush, nor is it full of musicological pedantry. He goes into detail, listening to the early surf and car music (1962-1964) and extracurricular productions and delineates what sets them apart and what points the way towards *Pet Sounds* and *Smile*.” *Robert Iannapollo, ARSC Journal*

About the Author

Luis Sanchez grew up in West Texas. He earned his PhD in Musicology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. His writing has appeared in *The House Next Door* and *Slant*.

Users Review

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Wilbert York:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book The Beach Boys' Smile (33 1/3) it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

Marline Deluca:

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