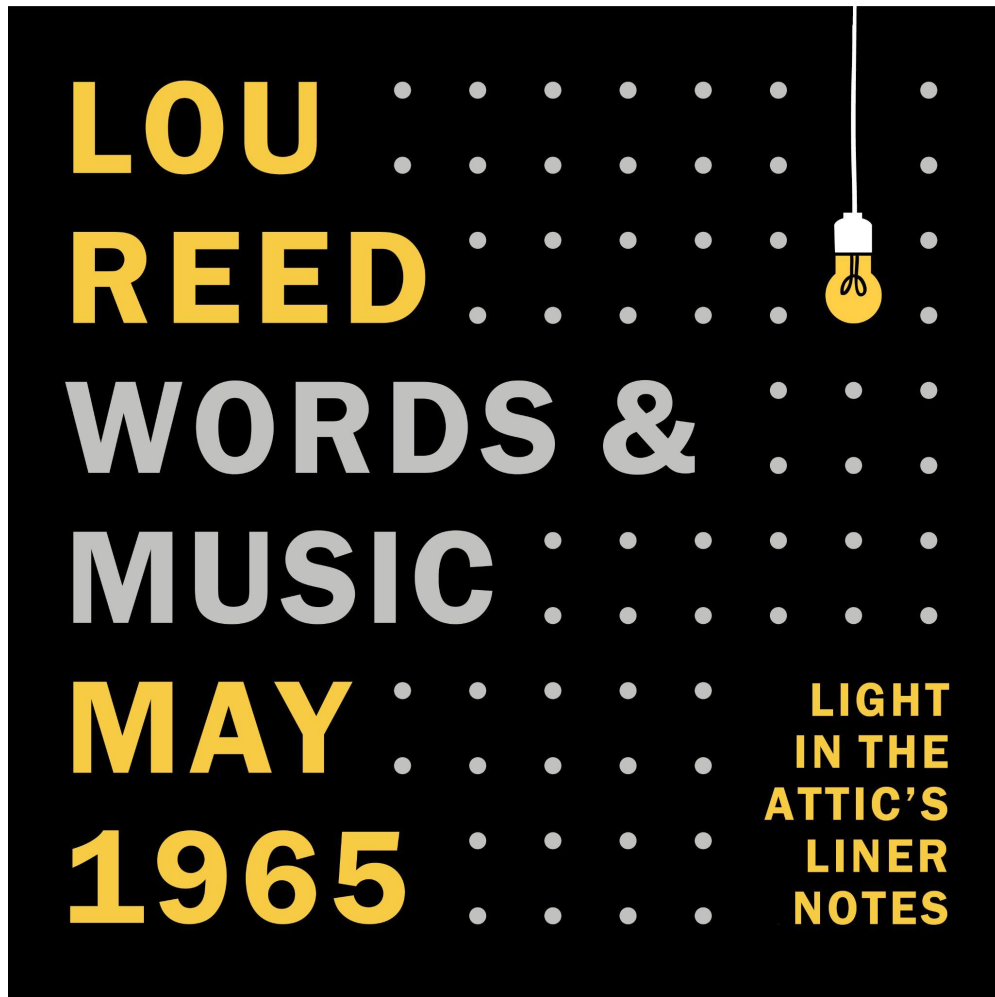


October 4, 2022  
For Immediate Release

**Listen to Light in the Attic, Dann Gallucci & Ruinous Media's *Liner Notes* Podcast  
On Lou Reed's *Words & Music, May 1965*, Hosted by TV On The Radio's Tunde  
Adebimpe**

***Words & Music, May 1965* Worldwide Listening Events Announced**

**Live Panel Discussion, Moderated by David Fricke, with Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed  
Archivists Don Fleming & Jason Stern, Audio Engineers John Baldwin & Steve  
Rosenthal, and Light in the Attic's Matt Sullivan, To Take Place at The New York  
Public Library for the Performing Arts on October 21st**



(Light in the Attic's Liner Notes Podcast Cover Art)

“...to listen to this demo is to witness rock history being born.” — *The New York Times*

"These are the earliest known versions of three of the Velvets' all-time classics, recorded around six months before the group formed, and represent a fascinating early document of just how much those songs changed before the world heard them." — *Variety*

"...some of rock's most beautifully pessimistic music." — *NPR's Fresh Air*

"With abundant surprises, 'Words & Music' is far more exciting than a typical demo release." — *Vulture*

"Unearthed after nearly 50 years, you can hear (and feel) the Velvet Underground taking shape in this compelling collection of lost demos featuring John Cale." — *The A.V. Club*

Last month, **Light in the Attic Records**, in cooperation with **Laurie Anderson**, digitally released the inaugural title in their ***Lou Reed Archive Series: Words & Music, May 1965***, "an intimate document of [Reed and John Cale] discovering a sound that would shape countless musicians and styles in their wake" (*Washington Post*). Showcasing never-before-heard material, including the earliest-known recordings of "**Pale Blue Eyes**" and "**Heroin**"—the latter described by *Rolling Stone* as "chilling and astonishing." In discussing the *Words & Music*'s lead single, "**I'm Waiting for the Man (May 1965 Demo)**," *The New York Times* writes: "For all the differences in the arrangement, though, what's remarkable is how complete Reed's vision of the song already is here, and how few changes he'd have to make to turn this unassuming blueprint into a countercultural classic."

As a companion to *Words & Music*, Light in the Attic, in partnership with **Little Everywhere** and **Ruinous Media**, today releases a special podcast, hosted by **TV on the Radio's Tunde Adebimpe**, offering listeners the chance to intimately experience the album through exclusive audio, archival materials, and interviews with many of the album's participants. Adebimpe sits down with **Matt Sullivan** (co-owner and founder of Light in the Attic Records) and Lou Reed archivists **Jason Stern** and **Don Fleming** to get their insights into how the tape was discovered and the songs were recorded by **John Cale** and Reed in the spring of 1965. Listen along as Sullivan, Fleming, and Stern share their appreciation and knowledge of these extraordinary recordings.

[\*\*Listen To Light in the Attic's Liner Notes Podcast: Lou Reed, Words & Music, May 1965\*\*](#)

Additionally, to celebrate the upcoming **physical release of *Words & Music, May 1965* on October 21st**, Light in the Attic is thrilled to announce a series of worldwide listening parties taking place at over 40 record stores around the globe. All events will be free, and a full list of participating stores is below.

***Words & Music, May 1965* Listening Parties:**

*- Thursday, Oct. 20 -*

**Sweat Records (Miami, FL)**  
**Resident Music (Brighton, UK)**  
**Jumbo Records (Leeds, UK)**  
**Stranger Than Paradise (London, UK)**  
**Rough Trade East (London, UK)**  
**Drift (Totnes, UK)**

*- Friday, Oct. 21 -*

**Seasick Records (Birmingham, AL)**  
**Heroes & Villains (Tucson, AZ)**  
**Balades Sonores Bruxelles (Bruxelles, BE)**  
**Deadly Wax (Newhall, CA)**  
**Arroyo Records (Pasadena, CA)**  
**Amoeba, SF (San Francisco, CA)**  
**Moldy Toes Records (San Clemente, CA)**  
**Boo Boo Records (San Luis Obispo, CA)**  
**Metavinyll (Santa Cruz, CA)**  
**Streetlight Records (Santa Cruz, CA)**  
**Odyssey (Ontario, CAN)**  
**Neurotica (Toronto, CAN)**  
**Twist & Shout (Denver, CO)**  
**WaxTrax (Denver, CO)**  
**Balades Sonores Paris (Paris, FR)**  
**Long Ear (Coeur d'Alene, ID)**  
**Reckless (Chicago, IL)**  
**Vintage Vinyl (Evanston, IL)**  
**HMV record shop Kichijoji (Tokyo, JP)**  
**HMV record shop Shibuya (Tokyo, JP)**  
**HMV record shop Shinjuku ALTA (Tokyo, JP)**  
**Vinyl Destination (N. Chelmsford, MA)**  
**Barely Brothers Records (St. Paul, MN)**  
**Vinyl Index (Somerville, MA)**  
**End Of All Music (Jackson, MS)**  
**End Of All Music (Oxford, MS)**  
**Salvaje (CDMX, MX)**  
**Harvest (Asheville, NC)**  
**The Fuzzy Needle (Wilmington, NC)**  
**Grapefruit Records (Omaha, NE)**  
**Psychic Records (Brooklyn, NY)**  
**Generation Records (New York, NY)**

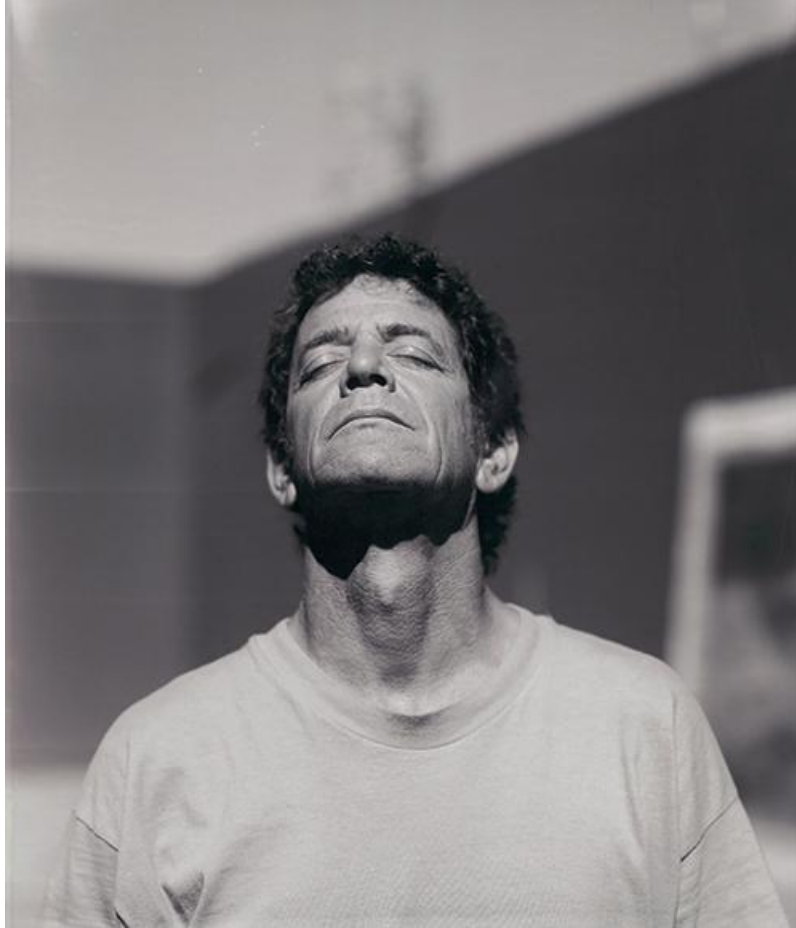
**Revolver (Williamsville, NY)**  
**Omega Music (Dayton, OH)**  
**PreAtomic Records (Corvallis, OR)**  
**The Government Center (Pittsburgh, PA)**  
**Wynylowa (Warsaw, PL)**  
**Pet Sounds (Stockholm, SE)**  
**Grimeys (Nashville, TN)**  
**Vinyl Tap (Nashville, TN)**  
**Hybrid (Corpus Christi, TX)**  
**End of an Ear (Austin, TX)**  
**Crazy Rhythms (San Antonio, TX)**  
**Tiny Record Room (Norfolk, VA)**  
**Autumn Records (Winooski, VT)**  
**Sonic Boom (Seattle, WA)**  
**Clone Shop (Des Moines, WA)**  
**Madcities Music (Madison, WI)**

– Saturday, Oct. 22 –

**In Sheep's Clothing (Los Angeles, CA)**  
**Black Dots (Buffalo, NY)**  
**Mosta Recordings (Singapore, SN)**

October 21st will also see a free, live listening party and panel discussion hosted by **The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts** with **Laurie Anderson**, Lou Reed archivists **Don Fleming** and **Jason Stern**, audio engineers **John Baldwin** and **Steve Rosenthal**, and Light in the Attic's Matt Sullivan, moderated by famed music writer **David Fricke**. Prior to the panel discussion, *Words & Music, May 1965* will play from 2:00 - 3:45pm in the **Bruno Walter Auditorium**.

[RSVP to Lou Reed: \*Words & Music, May 1965\* Listening Party Q&A](#)



(Photo by Julian Schnabel)

Released in tandem with the late artist's **80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations**, *Words & Music, May 1965* offers an extraordinary, unvarnished, and plainly poignant insight into one of America's true poet-songwriters. Capturing Reed in his formative years, this **previously unreleased collection of songs**—penned by a young Lou Reed, recorded to tape with the help of future bandmate **John Cale**, and mailed to himself as a “poor man’s copyright”—remained sealed in its original envelope and unopened for over 50 years. Its contents embody some of the most vital, groundbreaking contributions to American popular music committed to tape in the 20th century.

The centerpiece of the inaugural ***Lou Reed Archive Series*** release is the **Deluxe 45-RPM Double LP Edition of *Words & Music, May 1965***. Limited to **7,500 copies worldwide**, this collection was designed by multi-**GRAMMY<sup>®</sup>-winning artist Masaki Koike** and features a **stylized, die-cut gatefold jacket manufactured by Stoughton Printing Co.** Housed inside are **two 45-RPM 12-inch LPs**, pressed on HQ-audiophile-quality **180-gram vinyl at Record Technology Inc. (RTI) featuring** the only vinyl release of “**I’m Waiting for the Man - May 1965 Alternate Version.**” A bonus **7-inch**, housed in its own **unique die-cut picture sleeve** and manufactured at **Third Man Record Pressing** includes the only vinyl release of **six**

**previously-unreleased bonus tracks** providing a never-before-seen glimpse into Reed's formative years, including **early demos**, a **cover of Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right,"** and a **doo-wop serenade** recorded in 1958 when the legendary singer-songwriter was just sixteen years old. An accompanying **saddle-stitched, die-cut 28-page book** features **lyrics, archival photos**, and liner notes. Also included is an archival reproduction of a rarely-seen letter, written by Reed to his college professor and poet, **Delmore Schwartz**, circa 1964. The set includes a **CD** containing the complete audio from the package, **housed in a die-cut jacket**. A six-song digital EP, **Gee Whiz, 1958-1964**, also drops on **October 21st**, offering the above-mentioned bonus content.

**Words & Music, May 1965 (2xLP + 7-inch + CD Deluxe Edition) Tracklist:**

- 2xLP -

1. I'm Waiting for the Man (May 1965 Demo)
2. Men of Good Fortune (May 1965 Demo) \*
3. Heroin (May 1965 Demo)
4. Too Late (May 1965 Demo) \*
5. Buttercup Song (May 1965 Demo)
6. Walk Alone (May 1965 Demo)
7. Buzz Buzz Buzz (May 1965 Demo)
8. Pale Blue Eyes (May 1965 Demo)
9. Stockpile (May 1965 Demo) \*
10. Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams (May 1965 Demo)
11. I'm Waiting for the Man (May 1965 Alternate Version)

- 7-inch -

1. Gee Whiz - (1958 Rehearsal) \*
2. Baby, Let Me Follow You Down (1963/64 Home Recording)
3. Michael, Row The Boat Ashore (1963/64 Home Recording)
4. Don't Think Twice, It's All Right (Partial) (1963/64 Home Recording)
5. W & X, Y, Z Blues (1963/64 Home Recording) \*
6. Lou's 12-Bar Instrumental (1963/64 Home Recording) \*

**Words & Music, May 1965 (CD & Cassette Standard Edition) Tracklist:**

1. I'm Waiting for the Man (May 1965 Demo)
2. Men of Good Fortune (May 1965 Demo) \*
3. Heroin (May 1965 Demo)
4. Too Late (May 1965 Demo) \*
5. Buttercup Song (May 1965 Demo)
6. Walk Alone (May 1965 Demo)
7. Buzz Buzz Buzz (May 1965 Demo)
8. Pale Blue Eyes (May 1965 Demo)

9. Stockpile (May 1965 Demo) \*
10. Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams (May 1965 Demo)
11. I'm Waiting for the Man (May 1965 Alternate Version)
12. Gee Whiz - (1958 Rehearsal) \*
13. Baby, Let Me Follow You Down (1963/64 Home Recording)
14. Michael, Row The Boat Ashore (1963/64 Home Recording)
15. Don't Think Twice, It's All Right (Partial) (1963/64 Home Recording)
16. W & X, Y, Z Blues (1963/64 Home Recording) \*
17. Lou's 12-Bar Instrumental (1963/64 Home Recording) \*

***Words & Music, May 1965 (1xLP & 8-Track Standard Edition) Tracklist:***

1. I'm Waiting for the Man (May 1965 Demo)
2. Men of Good Fortune (May 1965 Demo) \*
3. Heroin (May 1965 Demo)
4. Too Late (May 1965 Demo)\*
5. Buttercup Song (May 1965 Demo)
6. Walk Alone (May 1965 Demo)
7. Buzz Buzz Buzz (May 1965 Demo)
8. Pale Blue Eyes (May 1965 Demo)
9. Stockpile (May 1965 Demo) \*
10. Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams (May 1965 Demo)

***Gee Whiz, 1958-1964 (Digital) Tracklist***

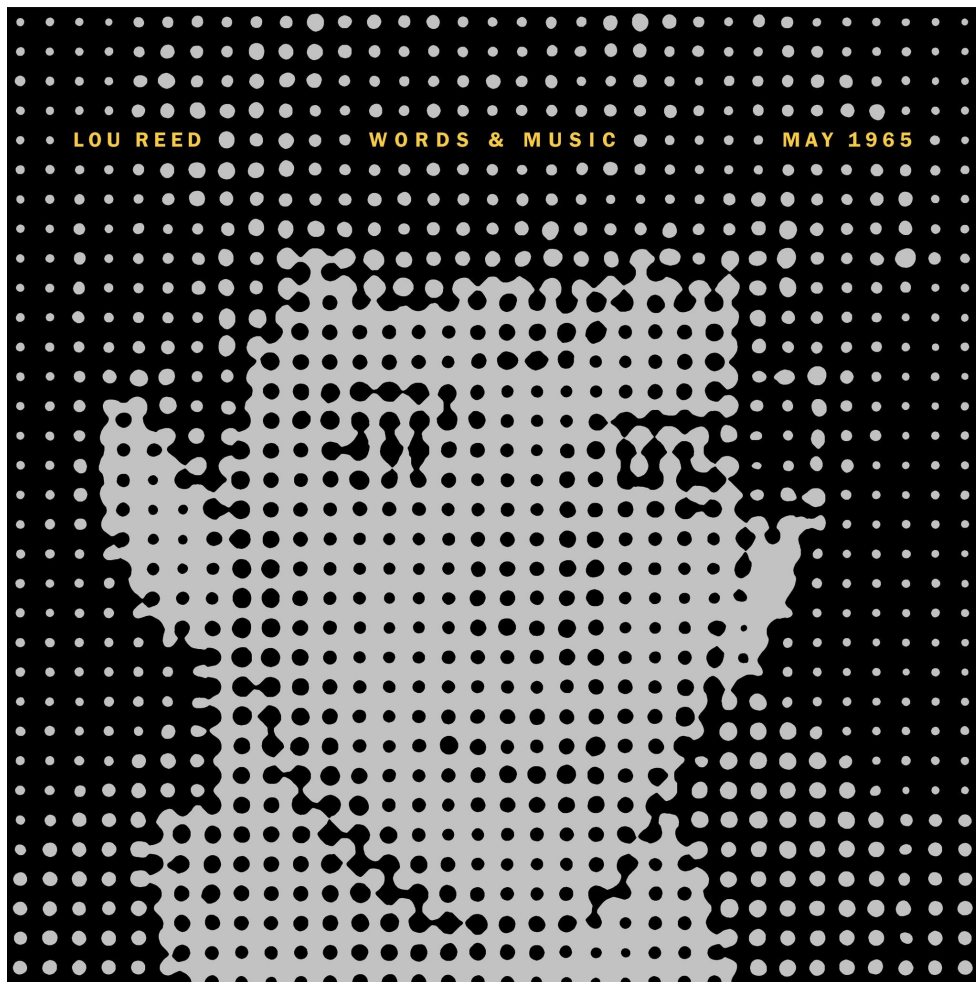
1. Gee Whiz - (1958 Rehearsal) \*
2. Baby, Let Me Follow You Down (1963/64 Home Recording)
3. Michael, Row The Boat Ashore (1963/64 Home Recording)
4. Don't Think Twice, It's All Right (Partial) (1963/64 Home Recording)
5. W & X, Y, Z Blues (1963/64 Home Recording) \*
6. Lou's 12-Bar Instrumental (1963/64 Home Recording) \*

\* Previously unheard composition

For those seeking an even deeper dive into Reed's legacy, **The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts** (which houses Reed's recently-unearthed recordings) is hosting a special exhibit, curated by Don Fleming and Jason Stern. ***Lou Reed: Caught Between the Twisted Stars*** chronicles the life's work of the songwriter, musician, performer, photographer, poet, and accomplished tai chi practitioner—as through the voices, images, and music of Reed and his collaborators. For more information, visit [nypl.org](https://nypl.org).

Throughout 2022 and beyond, Light in the Attic will continue to honor the music and influence of Reed through **the Lou Reed Archive Series**. Visit [LightInTheAttic.net](https://LightInTheAttic.net) or [LouReedArchive.com](https://LouReedArchive.com) to learn more, and stay tuned for forthcoming releases.

[Download hi-res images & cover art for \*Words & Music\*, May 1965](#)



*(Words & Music, May 1965 Album Artwork)*

Light in the Attic online:

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Youtube](#)

For more information, contact:

Sam McAllister | Pitch Perfect PR — [sam@pitchperfectpr.com](mailto:sam@pitchperfectpr.com), 773-942-6573

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