An interview with Sir Paul McCartney

**Interviewer:** Hi Paul, It’s great to meet you! Thanks for agreeing to talk to us today.

**Paul:** It’s my pleasure. I’m always happy to give an interview.

**Interviewer:** How are you?

**Paul:** I’m good thanks. Things are still busy!

**Interviewer:** Let’s start by talking about your early life when you were growing up in Liverpool. Can you share some of your memories?

**Paul:** Sure, my birth name was James Paul McCartney and I was born on 18 June 1942 in Liverpool. My mother was a midwife and my father was a cotton salesman and jazz pianist with a local band so there was always music in the family. I had one younger brother called Mike and our childhood was very happy until my mother sadly died of cancer when I was just 14, this was obviously a very difficult time for my family. I loved music from an early age and knew what I wanted to become.

**Interviewer:** When did you meet some of your future band mates?

**Paul:** I knew George Harrison from Primary school and I met John Lennon at a church festival in 1957. John too had lost his mother at a young age, so we had much in common and bonded quickly and became friends. John had a band called the ‘Quarrymen’ and he invited me to join the band. This was the start of our partnership.

**Interviewer:** When did you realise you were part of something so special?

**Paul:**  Over the next few years, the band adopted the name, ‘The Beatles’. We made many changes to the personnel and by 1962 the line-up consisted of me, John Lennon, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. It wasn’t until we released our first single, “Love Me Do” in 1962 that we became very popular. I remember this reached number 17 in the UK charts but later in 1964, The single became a No. 1 hit the United States.

**Interviewer:** What would you say was your greatest achievement?

**Paul:**  The music business has been kind to me and I am fortunate to have won 21 Grammy awards, including 12 as a member of the Beatles I was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice, once as a member of the Beatles and secondly as a solo artist. My proudest achievement was when I was knighted by the Queen for my services to music in 1997, which really was something special!

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me about the break-up of the Beatles at the end of the 1960’s?

**Paul:**  Even though the band achieved phenomenal popularity and widespread success, the relationships between the band members became strained and we started having many disagreements. I decided to finally leave the Beatles in 1970. Shortly before I made my decision, John Lennon had told us privately that he was also leaving the band.

**Interviewer:** What did you do after the Beatles split up?

**Paul:**  I still wanted to continue making music and in 1971 along with my wife Linda McCartney and two other musicians, we formed the rock band ‘Wings’. We released several albums during the 1970’s and stayed together for the next ten years. My solo career began not long after that.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me about your family and past relationships?

**Paul:** Sure,I met my first wife Linda, in 1967 and married her two years later. I adopted Linda’s daughter from a previous relationship, and went on to have three more children. We were married until Linda’s death from cancer in 1998. In 2002, I married Heather Mills, a former model. We had a daughter but we sadly divorced in 2008. I have been married to my current wife Nancy, since 2011. Life is good!

**Interviewer:** Paul,Is it true you haven’t eaten meat since 1975?

**Paul:** Absolutely yes!My firstwife Linda and I were vegetarians for most of our 30-year marriage. We decided to stop eating meat after I saw lambs in a field as we were enjoying a meal of lamb in a restaurant! I have campaigned for the fair treatment of animals and animal rights for years. I also support several charities that fight against cancer.

**Interviewer:** Have you got any surprises up your sleeve for the future?

**Paul:** I can’t tell you too much, but I will appear in the film ‘Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales’! It’s due to be released in 2017!

**Interviewer:** Wow Paul, that’s something completely different! Thank you so much for taking time out to talk to us. It was really nice to meet you.