

With love from me to you

Sir Paul's gift to Liverpool '08

As homecomings go, this was just about as good as it gets.

Sir Paul McCartney's triumphant return to Liverpool in June to join the Capital of Culture party was one of the highlights of the year and will live long in the memory of all who witnessed it.

Performing in front of 34,000 fans at Anfield stadium, the Beatles legend created pandemonium with classic after classic, and hit after hit from his remarkable repertoire.

They were all here, from Beatles classics, "Eleanor Rigby", "Drive My Car", "Got To Get You Into My Life" and "Long and Winding Road" to Wings' hits, "Jet", and "Live and Let Die",

Sir Paul also performed new songs but saved the best for last, with "Hey Jude" and "Yesterday" sending the crowd into raptures.

He even found time to indulge in the light-

hearted patter for which he is so well known, replete with touching references to his birth in Walton hospital, vignettes of 1950s bus travel, and early memories of the city where the band which fashioned pop music as we know it was born.

The performance was part of 08's premier music event, The Liverpool Sound. Incredible sets by support acts The Kaiser Chiefs and The Zutons worked the crowd into a frenzy before the arrival of Sir Paul on stage.

He didn't disappoint. This was the stadium concert to top all stadium concerts - the perfect gift to Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture.

And it reminded everyone that Liverpool's own musical superstar and songwriting genius remains as deeply affectionate and passionate about his home city as ever.



"When I was asked to do something to celebrate Liverpool being European Capital of Culture 2008, I accepted immediately. It's a great thing for the city. Over the last 10 years or so especially, Liverpool has really come back to its rightful place amongst cool cities of Britain so I think it's the icing on the cake that it got voted Capital of Culture. It's amazing when you think about it.

"It's just a very musical city with a lot of entertainment, a lot of wit and that distinctive style.

"I certainly still do feel very much a Liverpudlian. Even now, it's shocking when I think that I've lived down South almost twice as long as I lived in Liverpool. I don't notice that sort of thing because I go back all the time. I've got my ties to my old school, my brother and his family are there and I've got a lot of cousins, uncles and aunties, so I still have a lot of ties to the city and I love it. I just like going back there for all the memories and I always have a nice time when I'm there.

"I get a very down to earth reaction from people there - like I'm just one of their mates - and I like it like that. I wouldn't want to be some great god from high - I'd much rather just be one of the crowd and that's how it's always been, so I'm glad it's still exactly the same. I think they're proud of what we did as The Beatles and in the same way, I'm proud of the city that I come from.

"I just love Liverpudlian audiences because they're my people. We've got so much in common. To them, it's one of their lads coming to play and for me, it feels like I'm playing to my mates."

Sir Paul McCartney

